SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Head of School Dominic Stevens
Deputy Head of School Mark Turpin

House Captains
McGill’s Hanmeet Chawla
Beevor’s Mark Turpin
   Deputy Robert Bovington
Paull’s Ashis Gorecia
Kennedy’s Jonathan Weller
Leeman’s Jamie Ellis
Riding’s Stuart Bowyer
   Deputy Daniel Knapp
Girls’ Captain Geri Stenton

Captain of Football Dominic Stevens
Secretary of Football Dominic Griffiths
Captain of Hockey Mark Turpin
Vice Captain of Hockey Nicholas Lee
Captain of Cricket Mark Turpin
1st Keeper of Fives Daniel Knapp
2nd Keeper of Fives Hanmeet Chawla
Captain of Tennis James Ryman
Captain of Sailing Adam Hawes
Secretary of Sailing Simon Frais
Captain of Girls’ Sport Geri Stenton
Secretaries of Les Philosophes Laura McNicholas and
   Daniel Knapp

Secretary of English Society Ben Portnoi
Chapel Sacristan Rupert Thornton
Chapel Warden Alexander Orchard
Choir Secretary Thomas Weil
Head Chorister Charlie Ferguson
Library Praepostor Lizzie Watts
COMMON ROOM and STAFF NEWS

Changes in the Common Room have taken place throughout the year. Tom Hill took over as Head of English in January 2004, and at the same time we welcomed to the English Department Andrew Doan and Mike Dillon. Philippa Bradford started in the Modern Languages Department at the beginning of the Summer term.

Lara Andersen, our Virginia Fellow for the academic year, became a full-time member of the teaching staff in the English department from September 2004. The influx of new staff at the same time includes Mrs Louise Gall as Housemistress of Martinique’s, the Revd. Wealands Bell as School Chaplain, Tracey Layton is a part-time teaching PE and sport, in particular to the girls, while Stuart Mainwaring has also joined the PE department. Tim Whitehouse has come to teach Design and Technology and Patrick Herak has joined the Physics Department. We also welcome Robert Lawson to teach Chemistry and John Barnard teaching German, each on a part-time basis. Janet O’Hair has joined us from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in New York - she will be teaching in the Drama department while Joanna Frank is on maternity leave, and the Virginia Fellow for the year is Peyton Jenkins. Karen Grimblly came in to help out in the Business Studies department for the first half of the Christmas term.

Congratulations to

Stuart and Hilary Seaton whose son Gregory Peter was born in May 2004.
Joanna Frank and John Fleet on the birth of Maggie Helen in July.
Bob and Sue Collins who were married in April.
Paul and Anna Riordan whose wedding was in August.
Matthew Barrett who has announced his engagement to Debra Morris.
Tim Butterworth who became engaged to Gay Watkins in June.

The Assistant porter, Fred Richards, retired in October after several years at Aldenham, he has been replaced by Jim Mott who started work in March. Marios Neofotou took over from Paul Cooper, the Network Manager, in November and was joined by Rob Barugh as part of the ICT team from March to September. The gardens are now returning to their former glory under the tender supervision of Juliet Quarterman who arrived at School at the beginning of May. Two of our longest serving matrons Janet Hampson and Janet Caswell both retired at the end of the academic year - they will be very much missed especially by pupils in Paull’s and Beevor’s. Alex Myers who had been Estates Manager for the last few years left in June and was replaced by Neville Tomblin. We were also sorry to say goodbye to Bob Grange in August, he has been a stalwart member of the maintenance team for as long as most of us can remember.

We are sorry to have to report the death of John Woodrow OA and former Chairman of Governors. John died peacefully in hospital on 4th July. An appreciation of John’s work for the School can be found on pages 23 and 24 of the magazine.
Comings

McGill’s: Nils Gitt, Jan-Niklas Grum Kurzweski, Shunya Eikuchi, Valentin Kornier, Sam Wu, Jason Adebisi, Christopher Daniels, Daren Fletcher, Bradley Gerrard, Timothy Gourley, Chi Lok Ha, James Hudson, Gregory Lawrence, Matthew Liang, Avery Lin, Sebastian Potemkin, Lawrence Prax, Bill Xue, Jianyao Yin, Nalik Zakayev.

Beevor’s: Elliott Murray, Daniel Palmer, Andrew Zurn.

Paull’s: Lucy Bulkeley, Georgia Collino, Anna Cortes, Andrea Cordes, Cori Davis, Jennifer Gibson, Kate Haywood, Jennifer Kelshick, Joan Ko, Kana Koyama, Lucy Luff, Margaret Ma, Laura Neuper, Chloe Rawlins-Smith, Evocly Schluse, Dipan Shah, Rumit Shah, Claudia Speyer, Umdine Wei, Catherine Shi, Jake Arnold, Robert Blackman, Sebastian Batchewey, Callum Jenkins, Miles Mitchell, Paavan Shah, Jason Shaw, Saul Wise, Gavin Wolny, Nathan Wolny.


Riding’s: Nick Barker, Nayan Chand, Jun Min Choi, Rickin Duttani, Ashley Davis, James Galvin, Tom Inman, Suan Mok, Alex Murray, Daniel Quick, Richard Quitter, Benu Samaelos, Kristian Schuhmacher, Edward Seaman, Sebastian Talbot-Harworth, Nicholas Todd.


and Goings

McGill’s: Zubair Ahmed, Hammet Chawla, Andrew Kitchner, Dave Pun, Shahan Raji, Stagar Ruparelia, Voqiro Yapanchi, Jin Min Zuo, Hane Kornier, Denny Awe, Jun Il Choi, Harry Fijander, James Pearson, Scott Fineman, Bill Xue, Jackson Hughes, Bradley Gerrard, Chi Lok Ha.

Beevor’s: Jacob Chan, Adam Hazes, Robert Barington, Leo Leung, James Starr, Dominic Stevens, Mark Turpin, Matthew Whitehouse, Aastie Green, Simon Williard, Ricky Patel, Paul Carneiro, Ben Sage, Yan Qiji.

Paull’s: Ashir Grewa, Douglas Hamilton, Daniel Laming, Crystal Lin, Laura McNicholas, Kishan Patel, Tamsin Porter, Maya Robert, Kanal Shah, Gem Stinson, David Turton, Nicholas Vassinas, Lixiu Wei, Xian Xu, Andrea Cordes, Anna Cortes, Laura Neuper, Evocly Schluse, Umdine Wei, Gavin Wolny, Nathan Wolny.


Riding’s: Stuart Swer, Daniel Knapp, Yutaro Kotaki, Calvin MacNeill, Robert Michael, Mitul Patel, Vinod Patel, Herbie Taylor, Jason Elntrion, Lee Keaton, Adam Merritt, Arvind Mouhkin-Smith, Ben Pullerl, Syman Sanihgi.
In September Aldenham opened its doors to twenty Year 3 girls and boys - the first class of the new Prep Department. Half had risen through the ranks of Nursery and Pre-Prep; the others were new to Aldenham and by the end of the first week we could not tell which was which, as they blended into a delightful band under the ever watchful eye of Mrs Newbery. The newly created Preparatory School now encompasses the Nursery, the Pre-Prep Department and the Prep Department. Not surprisingly building work was one of the key notes of the Christmas Term. The extension to Wilson House was completed in time for the start of the school year in September, Year 3 briefly enjoyed the use of this new facility, before their move to the newly extended Martineau’s, and then Reception, our rising 5 year olds took over.

The modifications to Martineau’s furnished us with a large laboratory. The decision was made to keep this space as flexible as possible and it has certainly been used to its full potential: ICT suite, Science Lab, Food Technology Lab, Design Technology Lab, Art room and Assembly room. We also have our own school library and individual music practice rooms.

This new chapter in Aldenham School’s history was officially marked on 30th January, when Mr Neil Durden-Smith and Mrs Judith Chalmers joined us for our Opening Ceremony. This was a marvellous occasion, with a house full of dignitaries, Governors, Staff, Parents and Head-teachers from neighbouring schools. The children sang some specially commissioned songs to commemorate the occasion, and they were a great credit to the School as they performed them to the enthusiastic audience. Guests were treated to a tour of the new premises, as the children modelled some small group activities in each of the rooms and a special lunch was enjoyed in the Senior School to round the day off.

On the staffing front, we welcomed Mrs Fran Newbery to Aldenham as our Year 3 teacher. Her popularity and energy have been important factors behind the success of Year 3. We were sorry to lose Mrs Kay, our Year 2 teacher, and wish her well in the future. Miss Collins joined us after Christmas to take over Year 2 and in only two terms has shown herself to be a gifted teacher and great asset to the Department. We also wish Mrs Scott all the very best as she goes on maternity leave.

The year was packed with trips, visits, festivals and sporting activities. Indeed, inter-school sport has been a prominent part of the Prep School calendar. There were 15 fixtures in five different sports: soccer, tag rugby, hockey, rounders and cricket. All the girls and boys represented the School on a number of occasions and the matches were well supported by parents. High tea in the Dining Hall after home matches was a highlight for children and parents alike!

We introduced swimming, for every year group, at The Venue, Borehamwood this year. Even our youngest children enjoy travelling to the pool by minibus and we have a very supportive team of parents willing to help with all those top buttons and ties!

In October we held the first of termly theme days: ‘Knights and Dragons’ based on the story of St George. On these days the children take part in a carousel of activities including drama, music, cookery and art & crafts. We have since covered ‘France’ and ‘Ancient Egypt’. These have been wonderful opportunities for the children to immerse themselves in a topic.

There were many other occasions over the year when the children’s work and learning was made practical and tangible. We enjoyed special assemblies from guest speakers including authors, religious leaders and willing parents. Mrs Shah (Bhavin Yr1), wearing her traditional sari, enthralled the children with the story of Rama, Sita and Diwali and demonstrated some beautiful rangoli patterns. We were also very grateful to Mrs Sarwar (Adam Yr3) who explained the festival of Eid. We welcomed David English to talk about his books the ‘Bunbury Tales’, and of meeting the Queen to receive his M.B.E.

Harvest Festival was celebrated in the School Chapel. Each class gave a presentation and our gifts were divided between The Watford New...
Trust for the Homeless and the Crossroad charity. Supporting charities and making our children aware of those less fortunate than ourselves is always important. We were delighted with the response to our shoebox appeal - Operation Christmas Child. The children enjoyed filling shoeboxes with toys, colouring books, hats and gloves. These were for children in Romania who have only this box to open on Christmas Day.

The grounds were used regularly for nature walks and investigations. However, we undertook the most ambitious use of our campus, just before Summer half-term, when we held our Year 3 camping trip on Top Field. The 20 girls and boys camped out for the Friday night, enjoying a range of activities which included a barbeque, camp-fire and songs, as well as a night-walk and breakfast with the Senior School on the Saturday morning. This is the first of the residential trips which will form a programme of activities in the Prep Department.

We have also been on many visits during the year: including London Zoo, Woodside Farm, Clay Lane, St Albans and the London Transport Museum. Year 2 visited a variety of local places of worship and we all enjoyed the end of term trip to Legoland.

Our major productions this year were the ‘Shiniest Star’ which Pre-Prep treated us to at Christmas; Nursery’s: ‘The Snowman at Sunset’, and a specially written (by Mrs Newbery) dramatic performance of 'Christmas Around the World', performed by Year 3.

Throughout the year the children have been fascinated by the list of Headmasters of Aldenham School, which they scrutinise over lunch. It was particularly exciting therefore, when Mr Harman captivated the children with the story of Richard Platt at one of our assemblies and was brave enough to take questions: “Do you like being Headmaster?” He replied he certainly did - most of the time!

A full Clubs and Activities programme has been developed and has been very popular. These take place after school and enable the children to take part in Sport, Chess, Art & Crafts, Music and Drama.

The formation of ASPA-Prep, an extension of the Senior School Parents’ Association has also been a great success over the year. This very active body has organised a parents’ quiz, our own tea towel with self portraits of all the children and staff, a children’s disco and the Preparatory School Fete, as well as having representatives to welcome prospective parents on Open Days and other new-parent functions.

Visitation Day was a fitting climax to an exciting year for the Preparatory School, formally recognising that Aldenham is now a 2-18 school, which can offer that continuity of education. The realisation of this has been due to all of the hard work and success initially of the Nursery Department and subsequently the Pre-Prep Department. The fact that each successive step along the way to a full Preparatory School has resulted from parental support, is a wonderful and strong way

We also held our inaugural Spring Concert, where all the children sang and played a variety of solos and group pieces in front of a capacity crowd in the Senior School Recital Room.

for a School to grow. We look forward to having a Year 4 in September!

Mr P.S.Cheetham
Each academic year begins with a fresh roll of the Headmaster’s dice; early September was no exception as the new Martineau’s boys arrived for their first day. The new faces and characters, with their diverse innate qualities and formative experiences, rapidly got to know one another as the last intake to occupy the old building started to evolve. This process was catalysed by the Induction Weekend in Derbyshire, where a variety of challenges helped to cement the Beck, Griffin, Mason and Neale groups led by their captains and tutors. At this early stage Beck were outstandingly creative in the ‘rap’ competition, coming up with ‘We’re Beck, what the heck!’ as their punchy chorus. Ben Weinberg’s ‘beat boxing’ was equally impressive, but didn’t quite carry Griffin along as well as Beck’s chorus. Other talents to emerge on the weekend were Tim Roden’s facility with mental arithmetic and his ability to instruct three blindfolded contemporaries who were required to erect a tent. As the year progressed other latent talents came to the surface as the boys’ confidence grew and opportunities arose. A School talent contest suddenly gave us ‘Jamie Coote’s Magic Show’. His conjuring was appreciated by all for its entertainment and intrigue. Carl Rennie and David Bexon amongst others established themselves as serious musicians in a year when many 1st and 2nd form boys performed in the Beck and House Music Competitions as well as the Spring Concert. However, the most intense cauldron of creativity was arguably to be found in the Martineau’s Drama Evening kindly directed by Messrs Dillon and Dean. It was a high risk affair, full of improvisation and not the kind of thing that I would have the guts to attempt as a Chemistry teacher, but it was so inspirational. Groups of boys suddenly creating the essence of a space, such as a beach (randomly chosen by a member of the audience) demanded almost telepathic co-operation. As boys assumed new characters at a moment’s notice, quick wits, humour and a sense of the absurd were all in abundance.

This academic year has been like most others; a group of highfliers, including Rennie, Edbrooke and Chandler leading the way and our middle order striving to follow. For the middle order and those for whom academic success does not come easily, progress is to some extent dependent upon how well they co-operate and support each other. The 2nd form in particular owes much to their Captains for maintaining cohesion and driving the ethos which does so much to facilitate the academic success. Nic Demetriou, a moderately able mathematician with excellent communication skills, was often to be found constructively helping other boys with their mathematics prep. Co-operation such as this, together with the target setting which encourages pupils to take greater responsibility for their work, has done much to underpin the improvement in effort and attainment grades achieved by most students over the year.

School teams in football, hockey and cricket have flourished with most boys having the opportunity to represent the School at a level commensurate with their ability at least once. Basketball has grown in popularity and enthusiasm has remained strong under the influence of Rick Taylor. More inter-school fixtures are planned and success is likely to follow as a nucleus of experienced players develops. Participation in numerous other activities including chess, table tennis and softball has ensured that every pupil has had the opportunity to represent his House, and in
some instances, excel. Abramovich, in spite of his youth, emerged as one of the School’s finest chess players successfully competing in inter-school fixtures and next season he may well lead the Martineau’s chess players to victory against the senior Houses. Oliver Caplan’s single handed victory for Mason in the Table Tennis Competition was another memorable sporting moment. At the outset, he would certainly not have been favourite, but his perseverance and ability to play each shot calmly without being frustrated by flukes which went against him in earlier rallies was the key to his success.

Invariably there are goodbyes to be said, and the Second Form trip to Devon is, in part, about saying goodbye as the boys move up to the senior Houses. In spite of inclement weather and adverse conditions precluding one of the activities on safety grounds, it was probably one of the most memorable 2nd form trips to date. High jinks, of the type found in 1950’s fiction or Harry Potter, was the order of the day with most people getting soaked to the skin in water bomb or hose-pipe fights.

The departure of Miss Law for Australia at Easter left a massive vacuum. Her presence and consummate professionalism constitute only part of what she brought to Martineau’s. The kindness which she extended to all - pupils, colleagues and parents, will be remembered by many for years to come. Mr Langston’s decision to move on came as an even bigger shock. Throughout my time at Aldenham, he has been the driving force which has forged the Martineau’s ethos and created the team of people to take care of it. For those of us who have remained, we are all too aware of Martin’s legacy, and we will endeavour to continue his good work.

McGILL’S

Housemaster
Mr R.H.G.Jackson

Tutors
Mr T.R.B.Milton
Mr P.A.Riordan
Mr WFN.Pietrek
Mrs K.J.Abbott/ Mr A.Dean

House Captain
Hanmeet Chawla

Deputies
Shilan Raja, Saagar Ruparelia

Praes
Chris Bowden-Hawkins, Neil Dave, Duncan Fraser, Jan Niklas
Greim-Kuczewski, Oliver Rayne, James Rigby, Peter Shelton

With Dr Jackson and myself now ‘old hands’ of one year’s standing, the year began extremely smoothly. We were very fortunate indeed in the stability and experience of our tutor team - Mr Milton, Mr Pietrek and Mr Riordan. Mrs Abbott left at Christmas to move with her husband to Essex and, I am delighted to report, to have her baby. Her role as 3rd form tutor was taken over by Mr Andrew Dean. The year was a somewhat fallow one with respect to refurbishment and redecoration compared to the excitement of the previous year. However the year ended with the start of a major facelift for McGill’s which involved cleaning the external brickwork, renovation or replacement of the roofing tiles and renovation and painting of the windows.

No sooner had term started, or so it seemed, than the House Music was upon us. “I wish I could fly” may have been a huge hit for R Kelly (whoever he or she may be) but I think it is fair to say that it left the adjudicator underwhelmed. Yu Yagihashi stepped forward as the youngest soloist performing on the evening and played extremely well to win a very creditable third place.

I have been impressed with the determination of our House sports teams. Natural skill has often been lacking and I have to admit that we have not won too many matches. Despite this, commendable spirit has always been shown and our star players have been most impressive in inspiring the whole team to perform to its best. We did, however, come a very creditable second in the House Chess, and followed our win in the House Sailing last year with a second place this year in a very hard fought competition. The School play was a highlight of the year and many McGillians were involved both on the stage and behind the scenes.

The House Supper was a resounding success and it was marvellous to see the entire House together sit down to a tremendous feast provided as ever by the indomitable Mrs Tennant. The Leavers’ Supper and the House Barbeque at the very end of the year were similarly enjoyable events and provided ample opportunity for nostalgic anecdotes. Mr Milton, Hanmeet and I vied for the honour of consuming the largest quantity of Peking Duck. The famous 6th Form Bow Tie Evening gave the U6th an opportunity to demonstrate their social sophistication to the L6th but I’m not sure how many have successfully imparted the art of tying a bow tie. The willingness of the House and in particular its more junior members to participate in a number of social events showed fine evidence of the strength of House spirit.
Among the highlights of the year several stand out - the House trip to EuroDisney was a fantastic experience and one thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially my wife and I as we had a large number of babysitters to keep Emma and Sophie occupied during the Eurostar journey. McGill’s has now set the standard for house magazines with our glossy, colour extravaganza. Any contributions from parents are most gratefully received! We started what will be the long and expensive process of replacing the House Honour Boards lost to a fire in the house many years ago. These are an important historical record, containing as they did (and will do again) the names of each member of McGill’s House from 1888 until the present day.

On behalf of all the boys in the House I must conclude by thanking Hanmeet and the praes, the cleaners, the matron, the tutors and Dr Jackson for all their hard work and support this year.

With numbers having grown substantially, Mrs Morgan joined Miss Frank in tutoring the L6th while Miss Andersen joined as a resident tutor to help with evening duties. It has been another very successful year for Paull’s. Coming second to Kennedy’s by only half a point for the annual House Trophy Award says it all. We may not have won many individual trophies, but the House is strong, competitive, happy and thriving. We congratulate Phil Gregory whose efforts in javelin have made him a national competitor. Another second for Paull’s was in the quest for gold awards. Had the Seniors participated this award would have come to us, but the competition is for junior boys and we are proud of their efforts. Pupils have every reason to feel a sense of ownership in the House these days for their names appear on the newly completed boards. This was a huge job and we are grateful to Mr Kelly who was responsible. It is quite remarkable being able to read the names of every one who has been part of Paull’s since 1906. The Paull’s old boys are so pleased to have their names back on display.

The House Unison was the first competition of the year, with Paull’s coming third with a fantastic rendition of “Consider Yourself” from Oliver. The House sang with passion and enthusiasm and enjoyed what is for them a very nerve-wracking experience. The Ensemble also came third as did the Part Song Group. Both produced outstanding performances and, although it may seem unfair, we felt that they deserved more recognition for their efforts. Better luck next time.

Not long after, Christy went into renal failure which meant that Mr Kelly and I spent most of our time at Great Ormond Street Hospital with our daughter. The support of the School, Paull’s tutors, pupils and parents was heartwarming and vital both to the well-being of our family and the House. Mr Field and Miss van Heerden took the reins with confidence and ran the House in my absence. They prepared the House for the annual Christmas Dinner. It was a wonderful evening with much time spent congratulating pupils and staff on their efforts as a team. A representative from each year group made a speech about their
respective tutors - these were done sincerely and with a delightful sense of humour. Mr McAllister was guest speaker. He spoke highly of Paul’s and its achievements. Our House captain, Ashish Goricia, acquitted himself well, and his calm presence and sensible approach to problem-solving allowed him to perform his duties with maturity and judgment. Grateful thanks to Mr Field, the 5th form, the Seniors and the tutors for organizing the evening. Mr Kelly and I were able to attend and the time away from hospital was immensely enjoyed and appreciated by us both.

House football, hockey and cricket dominated the scene for the rest of the year. Paul’s was never short of willing players, but only the Junior Hockey team managed to win a trophy. The inter-house Cross country and the Athletics were well supported by Paul’s pupils with both the boys and senior girls making a sterling effort. This was the first time the girls competed in their own events and we are very proud of their contributions. Phil Gregory shared the Senior Victor Ludorum while Jennifer Kehlbeck won the Victrix Ludorum. Paul’s was not able to win overall, but individual performances were very pleasing and to a high standard.

Academically Paul’s is the strongest House and so it was no surprise winning the Senior House Effort Trophy. Several 6th formers received awards for scoring an effort grade of one. Other trophies were won by Paul’s - Senior Acting - Ceri Davis, Sailing - John Boothby, Andrew Wyatt and Simon Frais, and Senior Debating - John Boothby and Rumit Shah. Visitation Day provided a wonderful opportunity for parents, pupils and teachers to share in the achievements and to spend some time enjoying each other’s company in the House. It was a very successful day with picnic baskets in abundance. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the House Play competition. Our script was written by John Boothby and Ceri Davis and was set in the Big Brother House - rather topical!! The play went down well with the audience and we were unlucky not to win but the competition was of a high standard.

The year ended with the 6th form Farewell Dinner. This was a happy, yet sad, occasion in that we said many goodbyes. Mrs Janet Hampson retired as Matron, a position she held for many years. Her care for the boarders will always be remembered and treasured. We also bade farewell to Miss van Heerden who has returned to Zimbabwe, we wished Miss Frank well as she prepared for the arrival of her baby, and took leave of the U6th, and also Laura Neuper who returned to Austria.

Thanks to those who make the House so successful - the tutors who spend so much time giving advice, and encouraging their tutees to achieve the best that they can. Their unfailing support of the pupils is much appreciated and their willingness to take responsibility by being available for duties, functions and activities is an invaluable asset. And the pupils - without whom we would not have a House. Keep up the excellent efforts, we are proud of each and every one of you as you contribute in your own inimitable way to this great House!!
This year has been an incredibly successful one, with a lot of enthusiasm for inter-house competitions, particularly from amongst the older pupils. Before the Music Competition in the Christmas Term we held our own Kennedy’s Concert. It was good to see a large number of boys enjoying the evening and entertaining those parents who were able to come. The House Music Competition was an outstanding event for us as we won the coveted Unison cup by singing “Our House!” in truly spirited style. We won the ensemble, the Solo cup was won by Tom Weil on the marimba and the conducting cup was won by Jonathan Weller for his enthusiastic leadership of the Unison. We celebrated afterwards with a burger and hot dog party. Special thanks to Tom Weil for all his hard work helping organise and rehearse both these events. Many Kennedians took to the stage in the School production of *Guys and Dolls* - well done to all who took part but particularly to our House Captain, Jonathan Weller who took the key role of Sky Masterson. The Christmas Term also saw us winning the House Chess Tournament. The competition went right down to the wire and only ½ point separated Kennedy’s from McGill’s. Samuel Leong, Young Hwan Kim, Chris Cernuschi and Ross Rubin all kept their cool and played well in the final match. Ross Rubin earned his House tie for this and his contribution to the Astro League Football. Kennedy’s did extremely well with the Seniors winning the House Football Cup following a good spirited and hard fought final. The 3rd Form played in the House Astro League Competition, equipped themselves well throughout the competition, and came out winners. The 3rd and 4th form did well academically and won the House Effort Cup in the Christmas Term. Among the individual achievements Christopher Coulton had a score of 1.1, which is fantastic, and Freddie Waite got a perfect 1.0.

In the Junior House Debating Competition James Craig and Ben Howard equipped themselves well, arguing the case that learning foreign languages should not necessarily be compulsory. In the Junior Hockey we made the semi-finals, but sadly we were knocked out. The Senior Hockey in contrast provided an exciting competition. An eventual win by four goals against Beever’s in the final was justly deserved. Toby Morgan scored once and Rupert Emlenton-Smith scored a hat trick! It was a joy to see real team hockey being played with 100% commitment from all the team.

The House Cross Country run was quite an event. In the Senior competition it was a delight to see the boys trying hard and doing their best. Jonathan Shubert was first in the School and is to be congratulated upon his achievement. Adnan and Humair Rahimtula came in fourth and fifth respectively. We did not fair well in the Junior competition coming fifth overall, but there were some good individual performances, especially from Marcus Lansbury who came eighth. In the Lent term Richard Ripper was selected to play in the South-East England Hockey at U14, Richard Grun was elected Captain of the Junior Section of his Golf Club, and on a more academic front Jinhan Kim did well in the UK Mathematics Challenge and moved on into the next phase of...
the competition. Congratulations must also go to James Cornelius who was Confirmed by the Bishop of Bedford here in School.

In the Summer there was more success including Tom Weil's jointly winning the Beck Music Competition - well done to him and all the others from the House who competed. On the sporting front we got to the final of the junior cricket narrowly losing to Beevor's. On Sports Day we did well. The boys entered each event with a real spirit of determination. We lost the senior competition by ½ a point - ouch! We did bring home a lot of silverware with James Cornelius, Timothy Shelley, Jonathan Weller, Humair Rahimtula, Toby Morgan and Christopher Cernuschi each winning their events. Toby Morgan won the Victor Ludorum for his performance. The other victory of the day was in the tug-of-war - the seniors lost narrowly to Beevor's but the juniors won, also against Beevor's. Visitation Day went well, it was good to see a number of parents joining us in the House for their picnics. One of the features of the day apart from the formal presentation of prizes, where again the House was well represented, was the House Drama competition where we did well and won the prize for best play production. Toby Morgan and Christopher Cernuschi wrote the script and directed the play, and jointly were awarded the cup by the Headmaster at the last assembly of term.

As I write, the summer term draws to a close, and my task is to look back over the year and pick out the highlights. It seems to me to have been busier than ever, and once again the time has flown by. The House started with its biggest ever intake in the 3rd Year, with 17 new arrivals. They don't seem quite as timid now as they did on their first day!

Many thanks go to Stuart Bowyer, Daniel Knapp and their team of Praes for their efforts over the year. The House was led by a group of nice, polite young men and they gave a strong example for the younger boys to aspire to. Yutaro Kotaki took the inaugural 'Riding's Man of the Year' award for his cheerful determination in all that he did. Rob Michael and Vinesh Patel led the House average effort grades as they worked diligently towards university offers. My best wishes go to all our leavers as they move on to new things, be it College, University or a Gap Year.

The Christmas term saw Riding's reach the Junior Football final, but come a close second behind Beevor's. This turned out to be a sign of things to come on the sports field: we competed well, gave very good accounts of ourselves, but came up just short of overall victory. The Junior Hockey final even went to a replay before Paul’s could edge us out. Riding’s does not win the number of cups other Houses do, but as long as teams show spirit and determination for the 'blue and black' I will be very satisfied.

One tradition which we will be aiming to put right is our lack of success in the House music competition. Our rendition of 'Stand By Me' by Ben E King did not see us placed in the top three! Rob Michael played the flute in the solo competition and did very well against far more experienced opposition. Once again, however, I am not looking for stars, but for boys willing to say 'I’ll give it a go', to try their best in whatever field, and to grow in confidence from knowing that they gave their all.

RIDING'S

Housemaster Mr T.W. Butterworth
Tutors Mr M.A. Burley
Mr P.W. Stanbury
Mr S.P. Williams
Mr A.P. Stephenson

House Captain Stuart Bowyer
Deputy Daniel Knapp
The Cross-country at Easter saw Riding’s go into the junior race with high hopes. Indeed, Aaron Dombey won the individual race for the second year running, Edward Seaman was second, and James Egan and Daniel Quick both came in the top 10. Once again though we were pipped at the post by Beevor’s who had greater strength in depth. In the seniors the overall result was more modest, but good performances came from Shyam Sanghani, Ben Portnoi and Muhammedali Kassamali.

The year ended on a high for the House as the junior team took the junior athletics cup on Sports Day. Individual winners included Ed Seaman (High Jump and 800m), Daniel Schlesinger (Shot), but once again it was a team effort; Joe Livingstone, Michael Shamah and Tom Inman ran well (and with Ed, won the sprint relay). James Galvin came second in the javelin and Daniel Quick did well in the middle distances. In the Middles, Aaron Dombey was again joint winner of the Victor Ludorum (including a School record in the 800m). On the final day of term Aaron was the first pupil home in the Eros Run in a time of 1.45.50. The summer also saw the resurrection of an old tradition of the Riding’s / Leeman’s Golf Challenge. A number of parents joined boys and staff from the Houses to compete for a trophy previously played for in the 1990s. Unfortunately, Leeman’s took the cup, but it was a most enjoyable day (honour was upheld as Riding’s won the duel of the Housemasters!). I look forward to challenging PWB next year.

To conclude, it is of course right to applaud success. However, really we should be encouraging the effort, application, determination and urgency that bring success. Riding’s is full of these attributes, and I look forward to observing and recognising them in the months to come.

The first half of the Christmas term was spent preparing for the House Music. The Part Song group of Owen Davis, Alex & Edward Allen, Samir Mohamed and Jamie Ellis excelled themselves and won. The Ensemble came second and Jamie Ellis was narrowly beaten into second place in the Solo competition. Everyone gave a creditable performance of “I’d do anything” in the Unison. The Juniors were knocked out by Paul’s in the House Football, losing 4-3, having scored the first goal. Steven Toumbas and Joshua Edlington organised the team. In the playoffs we beat Kennedy’s and came fifth overall. The Seniors got through the first round against Paul’s but lost to a strong Kennedy’s side. In the playoffs we lost to McGill’s and came fourth overall. The Senior League Football team led by Dillon Bhikha won the competition, winning four of their matches and drawing one. Top goalscorer was Chucks Ohaeri (13) and Jonathan Parker was judged the best player. Leeman’s 3rd form struggled in the Astrotaf football competition and came fifth, the combined 3rd and 4th form team came fourth in the hockey league. Leeman’s won the Golds Cup by gaining the highest ratio in School for the term. Joshua Edlington won the Junior table tennis, and Hamid Johri the Senior. The pool champions were Matthew Wallace, Junior, and Jamie Ellis, Senior. The table football was won by Alex Allen and Jamie Ellis. At the end of term the tutors and 6th form enjoyed an evening at Borehamwood Bowling Centre, followed by a Chinese meal. Mr Ford narrowly beat Mrs Bounsall in the bowling!

Term ended with an enjoyable and successful Christmas supper. Dr Turner spoke for the Guests and the
cake was cut by Jamie Ellis and Hamoun Jamali, the youngest boy in the House. Academic awards were given to Owen Davis, Chris Droese, Salim Sharfaraz, Jonathon Day and Jamie Ellis. House Honours ties went to Owen Davis, Edward Allen, Andrew Mukerjee, Chris Droese, Chris Shram, Mark Uttley, Ayub Seedat, Jonathan Parker, Krishant Uka, Samir Mohamed, Chuck Ohiaeri and Dillon Bihika. Using photographs of Leeman’s boys in various House activities, Andrew Mukerjee produced a calendar, a copy of which was given to each pupil.

In the Lent Term we were knocked out of the hockey competition. However, the Juniors won the football league cup without losing a match. The team was captained by Louis Saragossi who played in goal and performed well in all of the matches. Top goal scorer was James Charnley and Louis Saragossi was judged best player. The 4th year Indoor football team, captained by Steven Tombokas, could only manage to come fifth. I was pleased that some Leeman’s pupils competed in the U.K. Mathematical Challenge - Krishant Uka, Owen Davis and Chris Droese were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively. In the House Fives our team captained by Andre Sharma was knocked out by Ridding’s. In the Chess Challenge Chuck Ohiaeri played creditably and was chosen to represent the School. We did not fare too well in the House Cross country, coming sixth in the Juniors and fourth in the Seniors. Ayub Seedat and Krishant Uka gave a good account of themselves in the Middle School Debating competition. They opposed the motion “Young people have never had it so good” and Krishant was judged best speaker. Owen Davis won the award for the best individual average effort grade for juniors in the School.

In the Summer Term. When the results came out I was pleased to see so many high grades at both GCSE and A level from Leeman’s boys. Jonathon Day and Richard Reeve-Young gained top grades in all their AS subjects and Alex Allen, Daniel Grossman, Salam Sharfaraz and Krishant Uka gained A* grades in many of their GCSEs. Congratulations to Krishant on being awarded an academic scholarship. The Junior cricket team won the league cup winning all their matches convincingly. Toby Bryan, Steven Tombokas and Hamoun Jamali got the most runs, wickets and catches respectively. Zahir Shah bowled well, giving away only a few runs. There were also some spectacular catches by Toby Bryan and Chris Droese. In the athletics competition the juniors, middles and seniors came 2nd, 6th and 4th respectively. The juniors in particular performed well and were unlucky to be disqualified in the relay. Toby Bryan won the triple jump and 1500m and was awarded the junior Victor Ludorum. Matthew Flynn won the discus and Melis Charalambous the 400 metres in the junior competition. Aadil Datta won the middle school discus. In the seniors, Arshmeet Sahni and Chuck Ohiaeri won the hurdles and 100 metres respectively. Overall Leeman’s competed well. Unfortunately the weather was dull on Visitation Day, so picnics were eaten indoors. The House play competition was in the School Hall where our play: “A Day in Buckingham Palace” was well received. The actors were Toby Bryan, Edward Allen, Matthew Flynn, Niraj Shah, Daniel Bryan and Hamoun Jamali, while Ayub Seedat, Chris Shram, Joshua Cautley and Zahir Shah, dressed as animals, caused havoc amongst the audience. In the charity football competition, the juniors were narrowly defeated by McGill’s during extra time in the final. In the Beck music, Jamie Ellis was joint winner of the senior competition with excellent performances singing and playing the saxophone. Edward Allen won the intermediate prize with another excellent performance on the piano. The Leeman’s versus Ridding’s golf match was played at Aldenham Golf Club in July. The teams consisted of parents, pupils and housemasters. David Charnley and Matthew Wallace scored more Stableford points than Ridding’s Daniel Quick and Ashley Doane, thus securing the trophy for Leeman’s. This is the first time we have won the
competition. Mark Uttley and Jonathon Day represented Leeman’s in the Eros Run on the last day of the term. Krishant Uka has been completing the Duke of Edinburgh silver award and Matthew Flynn is doing the bronze award.

This year the House Shield was awarded to the House gaining most points in all competitions throughout the year. About 38 in all. We came fifth but the difference between the houses was very small. Looking at the results, we need to improve in areas like the cross country and tug-of-war. At the end of term House Honours ties were awarded to Aadil Datta, Arshmeet Sahni, Steven Toumbas, Toby Bryan, David Charnley and Matthew Wallace. The House Captain’s award was given to Ayub Seedat.

I would like to thank the tutors for the unselfish way they have given their time to help ensure the House has run smoothly, and Jamie Ellis for creating an excellent House spirit.

**BEEVOR’S**

Housemaster  Mr D.B.G. Boothby
Tutors      Mr K.B. Jones
           Mr P.M. Dunstan
           Mr J.P. Stait
           Mr A Columbus
           Mr P. Spencer
House Captain  Mark Turpin
Deputy        Robert Bovington
Praes         Dominic Stevens, Adam Hawes

This was Beevor’s first year with no girls since their introduction in the 80s. Certainly the House felt less crowded as boys took up residence in what had been the girls’ wing but it was also undeniable that a certain something had been lost. However the House spirit remained as strong as ever and preparation for the House music was as thorough, and enjoyable, as ever. Once again Beevor’s were the bridesmaids in the Unison even though 5/6th’s of the school thought our rendition of ‘New York, New York’ should have won! Excellent performances in the Part Song and Solo were again unlucky not to win and mention must be made of Ed Newbery, Matthew Whitehead and Jacob Chan for all their efforts in preparation for the competition.

Jacob Chan captained the Senior League football team with real spirit and the third form Astro league players are to be praised for their commitment. Both those football teams suffered from a lack of numbers due to so many of the House representing school teams. Ben Griffiths and Jon Zane were leading lights in the junior hockey league where, once again, we were often short handed due to the number of Beevor’s playing in school teams. With so many playing school games it was no surprise that the two House football teams reached their respective finals. The juniors under the captancy of Tom Hall retained the junior cup whilst the seniors went down narrowly to Kennedy’s. For their outstanding efforts on the field Jamie Harris, Tom Hall and Ross Smith were awarded their House ties. The academic awards went to Sam Gilbert (Harris Cup for effort), Jon Zane (4th form effort), Tobias Parker (5th form effort) and Sung Min Sohn (6th form effort).

Archie McDonald (Beevor’s) on the Morocco trip in the summer
The first success of the Lent term was in the junior House debating where Daniel Andrews and Ben Griffiths represented Beevor’s, both of whom were awarded their house ties for their contributions to the House. The Indoor football team came second under the captaincy of Tom Hall.

Once again Beevor’s did the double in the Cross Country with the seniors winning by a huge margin with no fewer than ten runners finishing in the top twenty with James Ryman in 2nd our first man home. The juniors were somewhat surprising winners, given that our first in was Chris Snow at number 7, but it goes to prove that every member of the team can contribute to overall success.

The junior hockey team fell at the first hurdle and the senior team lost to Kennedy’s in the final. However revenge came the following day with victory in the final of the Fives. Simon Turpin, Jon Zane and Amar Vijh were awarded their House ties for their contributions, in particular in the final of the Fives. The academic awards were won by the same four boys as in the Christmas term!

Robert Bovington, Dominic Stevens and Mark Turpin were awarded their House squares, the highest House award given each year for outstanding commitment during their time in the house.

The summer term was full of success with the juniors winning the House cricket, the Middles winning the Athletics and the seniors being successful in Cricket, Athletics and Tug of war. Hady Al-Malazi shared the Best Speaker award in the Senior House Debating, and Chris Whitelock was Best junior actor in the House Drama. Once again Sam Gilbert and Sung Min Sohn won the Beevor’s best Junior and Senior effort prizes.

New Honours boards are needed in the Games room to record all the House successes. Much of the redecoration and refurbishment has now been completed and it is good to be able to report that the House is in excellent order both in terms of spirit, success and fabric!

SELF PORTRAITS

by Jasper Barush (Kennedy’s)

by Luke Moore (McGill’s)
LEAVERS

Martin Langston

Martin arrived in Aldenham in 1994 almost fresh from Loughborough University - he had taught for three years in Kent. He certainly brought with him a fresh and challenging approach to his PE teaching and even enjoyed dabbling in the more academic environment of the Biology Department. - Discuss! His talents were soon recognized and in 1996 he was appointed as the second Housemaster of Martineau’s House. He ran a tight ship insisting on the best from pupils and tutors alike - a hard taskmaster dedicated to education. As well as his Housemastering commitments Martin had his teaching and sporting workloads. He was an influential character in the PE department’s evolution through GCSE and A-level PE - a department with a burgeoning value-added reputation. Equally, Martin’s contribution to Aldenham cricket and hockey is the stuff of legend - not many games were lost and his coaching skills have left Aldenham sport the chance to improve further. Cricket tours to the Caribbean and India were organised and they were always sporting and social successes. Martin was very much a party animal - always excellent fun company. He is now off to enjoy his Saga gap year, taking up voluntary work in Guatemala. He leaves Martineau’s in excellent shape for their move and the whole school can be grateful for ten enthusiastic and committed years from a true schoolmaster.

Mr A.Galvin

Joanna Law

Joanna arrived at Aldenham, fresh faced and eager to put her language and teaching skills to good use, following her studies at Exeter and Cambridge. Little did she know the challenge that awaited her, delivering French and German to adolescent boys. As a teacher of French and German she quickly settled into her role and made an impact on her students and colleagues. She used her feminine charm to keep the Head of Department in check, a skill she has maintained through to the present day and in this subtle way influenced and helped shape the Modern Languages Department. In addition it has been admirable to watch the way that she has inspired, motivated and enthused her students and their parents in a curriculum area that many boys find very challenging and readily give up on. At Aldenham her CV was utilized to the full, the mention of shooting as an interest once while on holiday in Scotland made her over qualified to run the rifle range. She had worked as a chalet maid in France that suggested she would be ideal for helping on ski trips. As a female she had to be right for the post of coaching Girls’ games and because she expressed an interest in learning to somersault she became co-ordinator of trampolining. Having played tennis her expertise was also sought in that area and she helped to run school teams. Each of these challenges she rose to with energy, enthusiasm and a desire to do it right and she succeeded in raising the profile of each of these important aspects of school life. Joanna’s qualities as a tutor were evident from the start and she began her pastoral experience as tutor of Griffin, later moving to Beevor’s. However, within a year she realized the error of her ways and she returned to Martineau’s to take up the role of Assistant Housemaster. Her appointment made my life in school much easier and improved the support available to the pupils and parents. As with everything she made the role her own and put her stamp of quality upon it. Her skill, dedication and enthusiasm have won her the trust, loyalty and affection of her students and parents and she will be sorely missed. In another role Joanna has been a key person in helping develop the recruitment process and perception of the School by the wider community through her pivotal role during Open Day. Single handedly she has organized her ‘army’ of guides through their basic training and into active service with tremendous precision and attention to detail. This has made a tremendous difference to potential parents’ perception of the School and helped all of us to improve the quality and nature of our intake. I never realized that Joanna had a darker other side in all our years of working together, I also didn’t realize that we still shipped our miscreants to the furthest colonies - we all wish her well in her move to Australia.

Mr M.J.Langston

Kate Abbott (née Thomson)

Our very own Essex girl arrived at Aldenham in September 1997 to teach English and to be fourth form tutor in McGill’s. By the next year she had been enticed by Bill Waite to be resident third form tutor. The English department was in a state of flux, but it was obvious from day one that Kate was totally on top
of the job with great control and inspirational teaching. She was acting Head of Department for the academic year 1999-2000 and was eventually appointed Head of Department in September 2002. Her organisation and reforms, in conjunction with Steven Morris, made sure that the department was in excellent shape for the recent inspection, where it gained heavy praise. It was not all English - there were the McGill’s ski trips, her dedication in the shooting range, Colts tennis and even horse-riding as a Friday afternoon activity. Her renowned professionalism made her the ideal choice to oversee Visitation Day arrangements. The homing instinct, however, has prevailed - a move back to Essex with Dan and the prospect of a child to be born in that fair county. [Edmund Stuart was born on 31st May] Hopefully, there will be time to reflect on the great impact that Kate has made at Aldenham. 

A.Galvin

Peter Duddles
Peter arrived at Aldenham in September 2001 as a fresh faced young man. He was an instant hit with the staff, and reduced the average age of the department by almost 20 years. He was also on the right wavelength for communicating with the students, and on several occasions was mistaken for a sixth former! Peter proved to be ever willing and readily took on many commitments including Mr Galvin’s elder daughter, the U15 soccer squad and the organization of Visitation Day. One could always tell when Mr Duddles was in the Science block because of the cheerful sound as he belted out hits from the 60s and 70s; it transpired that he is an aspiring rock musician and regards teaching as a pastime until he is discovered. No doubt he will find plenty of groupies in the Physics Department at St Albans High School for Girls, his youthful enthusiasm will ensure his success in any field.

Mr R.A.C.Pomeroy

Sue van Heerden
Sue van Heerden arrived at Aldenham in September 2001 from Zimbabwe and doubled the leggy-blonde component of the English department. She took up residence in Beevor’s as girls’ tutor and became an instant success with her kindness and advice to the girls in her care. As well as her classroom teaching she became an important member of the girls’ games staff, although once she had been taken on a school skiing trip she changed her allegiance, and became part of the group who clamoured to take pupils for ski training on a Friday afternoon. When the girls moved to Paull’s in 2003 Sue went with them, and helped to make the change as smooth as possible for them all. She has now decided to return home - she spent many anxious months worrying about her family, and although her country’s stability has not improved, felt she would be happier being back in Zimbabwe. We shall all miss her, and hope she will have happy memories of the time she spent at Aldenham.

Reverend Stuart Seaton
Stuart arrived at School as ‘Assistant Chaplain and teacher of Religious Studies’. In his own mind, his calling to the Anglican priesthood would remain his first priority and this shaped his focus and efforts at Aldenham. He was dedicated to his role as assistant chaplain, preaching challenging sermons, effectively leading services and visiting the day and boarding houses regularly. Pupils looked forward to his visits as it meant another chance to question him about life the universe and everything. Stuart was always ready to present the Christian viewpoint and enjoyed this aspect of his work immensely. Stuart had a varied timetable. He actually wanted to teach the entire 3rd form, something some colleagues found difficult to understand! For him, however, this course meant the chance to present his own faith in the context of academic study, two of his great joys at once! This was even greater when he taught Philosophy of Religion to the Lower VIth. His superb and comprehensive knowledge of the subject, combined with an energetic and enthusiastic teaching style, meant the students loved to be taught by him. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at the School and contributed much whilst here. It was, however, to the full expression of his priestly vocation that he returned sooner than perhaps even he expected. He is now the parish priest of St Peter’s Church in Bushey Heath. We wish him, his wife and newborn son all the best.

Mr P.M.Dunstan
During the summer three members of the non-teaching staff retired from service with the School, having amassed over 78 years service between them.

The work of individual matrons tends not to be widely recognised but is always greatly valued within their particular houses by staff and pupils alike, and both Janets have carried out their work in a quiet, unassuming but highly effective manner.

**Janet Hampson**

Janet joined the staff of School House in 1980 at the time when it was a boarding house under housemaster Richard Wood. She was “poached” by the Pulmans to work for them when they took over Paull’s in 1987 and she remained there, assuming the matron’s duties in 1995. In her 24 years’ service Janet worked for three housemasters and one housemistress and saw Paull’s change from a boarding to a day house, take on Martineau’s boarders, and finally switch to girls’ boarding.

**Janet Caswell**

Janet joined the staff of School House in 1976 working for housemaster Richard Wood. In 1986 she took up part time duties in Paull’s where Richard Jones was housemaster, making the full transfer in 1987, when the Pulmans took over. Janet stayed at Paull’s until 1995, but with the change from boarding to day, she was lured to Beevor’s as Matron when the Boothbys took over. Janet worked for four housemasters during her 28 years’ service.

**Bob Grange**

It’s not often that one has the opportunity to stand beside Bob Grange and do all the talking but that honour fell to me at a party to mark Bob’s retirement after 27 years service. Joining as Maintenance Foreman in May 1977 Bob was a well known figure around the School working tirelessly to keep the plant and equipment running and accumulating and disseminating a wealth of knowledge about every aspect of maintaining its buildings. Bob’s key strengths were his ability to rise to the occasion in moments of crisis and to remain unfurled when his planned work schedule was turned on its head by one phone call from the Bursar. Bob retires in the knowledge that, in addition to spending time on his passions for vintage motor bikes and country music, there are a host of “little jobs” waiting in the wings to occupy his time.

**Mr A.W.C. Fraser**

Bridging the Gap

This year we had four Gap students from abroad working at Aldenham, they have each written an account of their experience.

**Chris Lazzari**

January 3rd 2004 - the start of the biggest change of my life. Leaving family, friends and home on a sunny, 38°C morning, and arriving in England at 6:30am after a 24 hour plane flight, to a foggy and wet -4 degree morning on January 4th. Dressed in shorts, t-shirt and thongs (sorry, FLIP-FLOPS.) as I got off the plane,
I received a few strange looks. Having visited Aldenham before, I knew what to expect physically, but I was still oblivious to the full horror of a classroom chockers of Aldenham boys - my innocence was short lived.

I've been kept busy - taking the U15 and U13A hockey sides with Mr Langston was probably my favourite part, with both teams doing extremely well, finishing 1st in two tournaments, while playing attacking and exciting hockey. I helped coach the U15As cricket with Mr Butterworth. These boys also tasted victory, at the Chester cricket tournament - playing very convincingly, with great team performances and brilliant individual highlights. The teaching and coaching aspect will help me no end when I start my degree in 2005, so THANKS to all the kiddies I've taught this year, and remember if I turn out to be a mean and nasty teacher, you're all partly to blame!

I have truly enjoyed myself here, visiting family in Newcastle, and holidaying in Scotland, Wales and France. At Aldenham, taking PE and Media classes, joining trips to EuroDisney and the Peak District, coaching cricket and hockey. I know that it will be hard to leave this place that has changed my life in so many ways. The staff here have been fantastic, and there is no way that we four would have made it this far without their professionalism, support and guidance. A big thank-you to Mr Jones, without whom we would have been at sea, even now!

Not to mention my fellow gappies. The life of a gappie is a gruelling one, and no one really understands, unless you experience it first hand. All of us are very different people, and I never thought I'd be such good mates with you all at the end of our time here, however it has united us and it's comforting to know that we'll stay mates and always be welcome in our respective homes and countries. THANK YOU!

William Kelsey

Venturing half-way across the world to be a gap student was always going to be a challenging and exciting prospect. The first few days passed in a daze of jet lag combined with homesickness. What struck me most when I arrived in January was how dark and dismal it all seemed. Total darkness at 4:30pm is something I had never seen before and I never want to experience again!

The first term I spent the majority of time helping in games and PE lessons. The second was the cricket term and I was involved with two teams - the U14As and the U13As alongside Messrs Langston and Irish respectively. By the end of the season I had become a master scorer and could reel off bowling figures and batting averages at will. Now, I am working alongside Mr Stephenson with the best of what Aldenham has to offer - the 1st XI footballers.

Being near London has opened up all of Europe, with transport links so accessible. I have seen bits of England, Ireland and Scotland, and crossed the Channel to France on a few occasions. The summer was the most enjoyable time - I went to the USA with fellow Kiwi Mr Columbus. After New York we ventured down to Philadelphia and met Miss Andersen. The three of us went south to meet Chris Freise (former Virginia Fellow) and experienced true American hospitality. We covered ten states in 3½ weeks making many friends. Then I was off to Athens to meet family and enjoy the Olympics. I had a cousin in the New Zealand men’s hockey team, so got to see a huge amount of the best hockey in the world as well as other events.

For me the year has been a huge success and I have not at any stage regretted my decision to come. It has been a massive learning experience and one of the most enjoyable periods of my life. I would like to thank all the staff, many of whom have become my friends and I wish them the best of luck for the future.
Chris Stevens
It’s not easy to travel to the other side of the world, and after being shoved around by hundreds of foreigners for 30 hours - I just wanted to get off the plane and sit still for a few seconds. I was told the first few weeks would be the longest, and they were. Not having any familiar faces was tough, and it’s always hard to learn new names, but when everyone is a new name – you get my point.

After trying to sleep in, (my first experience of jetlag) I was told of my position at School. My role is different to the other three as I work with the Network Manager, helping to maintain the School’s computer network. I help in the Design & Technology department (woodworking etc) and also take some ICT classes.

Holidays for a gappie are good. We are reimbursed for all food shopping (as long as Mr Jones doesn’t spot how much chocolate I buy) and can have as many friends visiting as we want. Of course there is the opportunity to travel, something I haven’t really taken full advantage of, but I was lucky enough to have my parents here in the UK for a few weeks - Scotland is fantastic, when you don’t have to pay for anything!! Also we have a car, which gets us to Tesco and back. It’s the second one we have been through as they are rather old bangers but I just hope it will last the rest of the year.

Jason Cheng
Everyone knows that times creeps by without your knowing it, that time travels fast when you’re having fun, but you don’t realise it till later.

During my stay I’ve spent most of my free time travelling in Europe - first to Paris one of the places I had always dreamt of visiting. In the summer holidays I visited Paris again as well as Fontainbleu with its magnificent chateau! Beoujolais for the wine tasting! Avignon - the city of the Popes, the French Riviera, Monaco and Monte Carlo. On to Pisa to see the Leaning Tower, the Romanesque cathedral and the Baptistery; to Florence, then Rome where I saw the Colosseum, the Forum, the Trevi Fountain. I climbed up St Peter’s Basilica. Then to Venice with St Mark’s Square and the gondola rides! Corfu and the Greek Islands, Vienna, Munich, Lichenstein, Luersne, Heidelberg, the Rhine Valley, the Swiss Alps and Amsterdam!!!

Doing a Gap year has given me the chance to have a break from studying and have more time to think about my future. I’ve grown up a lot, and got to know myself a lot better. Looking back over the year, I can honestly say I’ve made the most of it.

I want to thank Mr Jones for his guidance and support - he will be a great loss to Aldenham!

John Woodrow
I would like to pay tribute to the work of John Woodrow, and in particular to his tireless devotion to The Aldenham Boys’ Club.

Ex-officio I found myself Chairman of the Club in 1974, though in part responding to the call of John who was Secretary. The call was persuasive to say the least, coming from one who was so committed. John had been secretary for some years and had seen the Club struggle to maintain activities in the midst of difficult, largely financial, restraints. Those with any knowledge of the politics and economics of that time will know that problems pre 1974 were as nothing compared with the turbulent years which followed. These problems created special difficulties for the club.

John and I attended management meetings at the Club - a good opportunity to mix with the lads of Kentish Town, and later the lasses. We appointed youth leaders from the increasingly limited number of applicants, many of whom had political agendas which were entirely unacceptable to both John and me. Throughout it all John was a tremendous company; he remained constant in the pursuit of what he knew could be so worthwhile for the less fortunate young people of Kentish Town.

We had many a good laugh! When Mrs Thatcher came to power the deficit grants stopped. Any plans we presented had to be properly and formally documented with surveyors’ and architects’ plans, leading to inevitable delays. No longer could we put in a bottom line figure leaving us a little over to spend on the young people. Profilagacy of the early '70s became market forces of the late 70s, the Aldenham Club suffered very badly. Throughout this whole period John’s work was the nearest thing to altruism I have ever seen.

The Aldenham Boys’ Club was born of the philanthropy of OAs. John was their chosen representative, and they could not have chosen better. There will doubtless be others who recall this aspect of his life. He was a genuine and tireless worker on behalf of others. I have been privileged to know him and to work with him so closely in this one aspect of his contribution to Aldenham. We are the better for his like and the poorer for his passing.

Peter Boorman (Headmaster 1974–83)
John Woodrow - a tribute from the Headmaster

I worked with John in his capacity as Chairman for only a short time, since his illness meant that he had to relinquish those duties quite soon after I took office, but he continued to serve Aldenham as a governor and in many other capacities right up until his death, and I have had the privilege of seeing, at close quarters if only briefly, the depth and range of this remarkable man over these past five years. His life has touched mine as it has, in ways both direct and indirect, so many people who have been connected with this school over the past 50 years.

John arrived as a pupil at this place, which he loved so much and which featured so strongly throughout his life, in 1946. He was appointed a Governor in 1989, not long before his retirement from Norton Rose in 91. In 95 he succeeded Tony Button as Chairman, and with Stephen Borthwick he worked very hard to raise the profile of the School and to bring it into a healthy position after what had been a difficult few years. He was the first non-Brewer, and the first OA to be Chairman. He was instrumental in the very important Quatercentenary celebrations and did some of his most vital work for the School as Appeal Director. What the appeal achieved (a revitalised DT Centre, the ATP, the Music School, the opening of Pre-prep) was to put Aldenham well and truly back on the map both locally and farther afield.

My first official engagements as Headmaster were the opening of the Music School and the Pre-prep Department. Four years on and the decision to open the Pre-prep, taken when John was Chairman, can be seen as the first step on the path to the establishment of the Prep School, the provision on this site of education from 3 to 18, and the move to full co-education at Aldenham. This has all allowed for a growth in pupil numbers which in turn makes possible the kinds of building and development we can see in the School today. For this and many other reasons, John will surely go down as one of the most influential and important Governors and OAs, in the School’s long history.

The level of detail of John’s involvement with the school has been extraordinary. He was President of the OA Society from 1989-92, and Captain of the OAGS 94-95. There is the Letchmore Trust and the Friends of Aldenham School, groups which contribute to and embellish the School and for whom John was a crucial player. His life and work was about people, and his contributions to these groups were always focused on how they could help others. All the time, he was giving back to the School that had meant so much to him. Through his work on the OA War Memorial and Jukes Funds, John was instrumental in helping to make a tangible difference to the lives of many pupils here. These funds helped parents in hard times to send or to keep their children at Aldenham. They may well never know who it was that helped them, but through his tremendous hard work for others, John’s legacy lives on in this place in the form of lives transformed. There is hardly an aspect of this school that has not at some time seen John’s hand gently but firmly guiding it, and every person living and working here, whether they know it or not owes much to his dedicated service.

John was a true gentleman, in the best Chaucerian sense of the word. His combination of humanity, courtesy and firmness perhaps sums up for me John’s quintessential qualities. Great charm and helpfulness; generosity; a sense of humour and fun that permeated all he did. For John, diligence did not equal dourness; quite the reverse. He had, of course, that sharp legal mind that never missed a trick. I am delighted that the Governors agreed to the renaming of the Prep School building as a tribute to John. The name Woodrow will thus live long into the future for Aldenhamians of all ages to come, just as the legacy of John’s work among us is all around. Woodrow House is a perfectly fitting tribute to one who dedicated so much of his life and energy to those in this School who owe him so much. John will always be remembered in this place for what he has given back and enabled others to do. We are very proud and very thankful.

R.S. Harman (taken from the tribute delivered at the Memorial Service on 16th October 2004)
After the customary Chapel Service, the Chairman, John Wells, opened the formal proceedings by welcoming everyone to Visitation Day. He spoke of the exciting period of change in the school, with the opening of the Preparatory School in September 2003 and its move to permanent premises in January 2004. He also spoke of the current building work in progress - the conversion of the Near and Far old block to a new Martineau’s House due to be in use at the start of the next academic year, and the block on the site of the old shed which we hope to move in to in January 2005. Mr Wells also mentioned the enormous amount of unseen investment in the provision of IT around the site, and he ended on a note of optimism about the improved environment which would surely lead to an improved place of learning.

In his speech to parents and visitors, the Headmaster reiterated the Chairman’s words that we are in a time of change. He too mentioned the opening of the Preparatory School and what a successful first year it had been. Mr Harman also spoke of the changes still to come - the introduction of girls into year 7 from September 2004, and the conversion of the new base for Martineau’s pupils. He thanked staff and pupils for the tolerance they were showing over the disruption caused, in particular by the new classroom block being built next to the Library. Despite all these changes the Headmaster assured everyone that Aldenham would keep its philosophy of real education, and that we would continue to draw on centuries of tradition. He spoke of the commitment of staff who, by giving up some of their evenings, weekends and holidays extend the pupils’ education beyond the classroom and he mentioned many of the trips both in this country and abroad which you can read about in this magazine. Successes in sport, both team and individual, were mentioned, as well as musical and acting achievements. The Headmaster mentioned that Mr Stead would be handing over the Chaplaincy at the end of the year to concentrate on running Kennedy’s House, he also paid tribute to those members of the Common Room who left during the academic year (appreciations of all of these will be found in the Aldenhamian). Mr Harman thanked the leaving sixth formers, in particular the School Officials, and commended them on their loyalty both to the School, and to one another, he wished them well and hoped they would return some day to see for themselves the changes and improvements which had been made. He then introduced the guest speaker - Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of Imperial College.

After presenting the prizes Sir Richard Sykes said a few words. He mainly directed his speech to the leavers telling them what a pivotal role education would continue to play in their lives, how a good university would furnish them with an all round education and prepare them for our rapidly changing society. Knowledge, Sir Richard believes, is the new currency and success depends on the acquisition and correct usage of knowledge. Today life is more complex and uncertain than it has been for any previous generation with legal and ethical dilemmas, and he ended by saying that he hoped the leavers would gain the compassion and respect needed to help them make the right decisions, and that he believed that true success comes from personal fulfillment.

The School Captain, Dominic Stevens, thanked Sir Richard, and went on to say how much he had enjoyed his five years at Aldenham and how he believed that, not only had the school given him a great start, but also introduced him to many friends whom he would know throughout his life.

After the formal proceedings, pupils, parents and visitors went to Houses for their picnics, as the weather was not fine enough to be outside. During the afternoon the House Drama competition was held in the School Hall, and there were also several displays and exhibitions to see which were enjoyed by everyone.
### PRIZES

#### Upper Sixth Form
- **AHPA Prize for Deputy Head of School**
  - Mark Turpin
- **Business Studies Prize**
  - Mark Turpin
- **Archer Thomson Prize for Mathematics**
  - Xerox Xo
- **Lewis Evans Prize for Physics**
  - Xerox Xo
- **Hawke’s Prize for Mathematics**
  - Frederick Wake
- **Sam Pollard Prize for Sciences**
  - Crystal Liu
- **Donald Parren Prize for the arts**
  - Daniel Knapp
- **English Prize**
  - Daniel Knapp
- **Theology Prize**
  - Daniel Knapp
- **Staff Prize (1939-45)**
  - Harriet Tabor
- **OA Prize for Service to the Community**
  - Laura McNicholas
- **Howard Prize for History/Jonathan Miller**
  - Dillon Bhikha
- **Theatre Studies Prize**
  - Jonathan Waller
- **Kenneth Hooper Prize for Chemistry**
  - Rinal Shuk
- **Survivors Prize for Biology**
  - Sanjay Vara
- **Physical Education Prize**
  - Gers Stenton
- **Senior Art Prize**
  - Robert Buxton
- **Ellis Music Prize**
  - James Ellis
- **Advanced Beck Music Prize**
  - James Ellis
- **Music Prize**
  - Tom Wells
- **Choir Prize**
  - Laura Watts
- **Information Technology Prize**
  - Dillon Bhikha
- **Design Technology Prize**
  - Aiden Gervais
- **Geography Effort Prize**
  - Douglas Hamilton

#### Lower Sixth Form
- **OA Prize for Service to the Community**
  - Toby Morgan
- **English Prize**
  - Ceri Davis
- **Geography Prize**
  - Ceri Davis
- **History Prize**
  - Ceri Davis
- **Theatre Studies Prize**
  - Ceri Davis
- **Theology Prize**
  - Jonathan Day
- **Dymock Prize for Work Experience**
  - Jonathan Day
- **Slam Prize for Physics**
  - John Beetham
  - Margaret Ma
- **Slam Prize for Chemistry**
  - Margaret Ma
- **Slam Prize for Mathematics**
  - Margaret Ma
- **Physical Education Prize**
  - Duncan Frawley
- **Modern Languages Prize**
  - Lucy Laid
- **Psychology Prize**
  - Lucy Laid
- **Biology Prize**
  - Richard Renouf
- **Prize for Girls’ Sport**
  - Jennifer Keilbuck
- **Business Studies Prize**
  - Jennifer Keilbuck
- **Information Technology Prize**
  - Simon Cune
- **Design Technology Prize**
  - Edward Burton-Hilton
- **Art Prize**
  - Jack Alexander
- **Savoy Prize for Biology**
  - Owen Davis
- **Literature Prize**
  - Owen Davis
- **Theology Prize**
  - Owen Davis
- **Prize for Girls’ Sport**
  - Laura Neuper

#### Fifth Form
- **Geoffrey Bolt Prize for Sciences**
  - Sharfaz Salim
- **History Project Prize**
  - Sharfaz Salim
- **Geography Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Math Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Physics Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Chemistry Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Biology Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Environmental Science Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Math Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Chemistry Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Physics Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Biology Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Geography Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Information Technology Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Musical Arts Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan
- **Business Studies Prize**
  - Alex Adenegan

#### Fourth Form
- **Drama Prize**
  - Ricky Flax
- **Design Technology Prize Project**
  - Connor Woodley
- **Chapel Prize**
  - Anmol Bhatia
- **Fourth Form Prize for Achievement**
  - Michael Doll
- **Fourth Form Prize for Effort**
  - James Craig
- **Fourth Form Prize for Progress**
  - Ruth Medina
- **Panther Stanners’ Award**
  - Daniel Andrews
- **Junior Art Prize**
  - James Laurus

#### Third Form
- **Intermediate Beck Music Prize**
  - Eduard Allen
- **Third Form Prize for Achievement**
  - Owen Davis
- **Third Form Prize for Effort**
  - Simon Gilbert

#### Headmaster’s Prize
- **Martinussen’s**
  - Maurice Clift Prize for Debating
  - Craig van Straten
- **4A Prize for Achievement**
  - Adam Chandler
- **2B Prize for Achievement**
  - Rajo Ito
- **2B Prize for Effort**
  - Toby Slad

#### Preparatory School Prizes
- **Year 3 Prize for Effort**
  - Alex Morley
- **Year 4 Prize for Effort**
  - Gigi Starr

During the afternoon the following prizes were awarded at the House Drama Competition:

- **Maxwell Watten Prize for Play Production**
  - Toby Morgan
- **Randall Prize for Senior Acting**
  - Cari Davis
- **Randall Prize for Junior Acting**
  - Christopher Whitcher

Also awarded this year were
- **Maurice Clift Prize for Senior Acting**
  - Hady Al-Mila
- **Randall Prize for Martinussen’s Acting**
  - John Beetham

Each Preparatory School pupil received a medallion to commemorate the opening of the new Prep School.
3rd form trip to Brewers Hall

When we arrived at the Hall we entered and walked up a spiral staircase, into a large corridor with paintings and ornaments on the walls. We were led into a huge hall with portraits of past presidents of the Brewers' foundation. At one end of the hall were ten emblems of schools sponsored by the Brewers' Company, including Aldenham's, and the Brewers' which had three barrels of beer and three sheaves of barley.

The procession entered led by the Beadle, followed by the Chairman of the School Governors, who is present Master of the Brewers' Company, and the Headmaster. The Master gave us a talk on our founder Richard Platt, and on what the Brewers' Company is all about. He told us that when the School was founded in 1597 the pupils couldn’t drink water because it was poisonous and so they were given watered down beer instead.

We then filed up to the Master to collect our ‘beer money’ - this special coin is worth about £5.00. After the presentation we looked at the artifacts held at Brewers' Hall which include the original royal charter. It was a very interesting and thought provoking experience and I enjoyed the morning very much.

James Boothby (Kennedy’s)

Paris 2003

This year’s 4th form and above, gathered at Waterloo on the day after the end of the Christmas term for a combined trip to Paris. After a three hour journey we arrived at our Parisian hotel and were immediately taken on an open-bus tour of the city and introduced to its famous monuments. After dinner, some of the braver students even went up the Eiffel Tower with the ever-patient Mr Stait.

The second day was a chance for the Art students to fatten their sketchbooks as we took a guided tour through the Musée d’Orsay where we all admired works of artists like Manet and Monet. However, even more impressive was the visit to Versailles, an elaborate chateau on the outskirts of Paris. After dinner that evening, we all enjoyed an evening cruise on the River Seine where we saw the architecture of Paris floodlit and at its finest. Needless to say, we all returned to the hotel exhausted.

On Sunday we spent the morning at the Louvre where we saw, amongst other things, Leonardo's Mona Lisa. The French students benefited greatly from seeing a film in the Imax cinema, where the surround vision screen kept the less linguistically able of us entertained as well. Dinner was followed by a panoramic view over Paris from in front of the grandeur of the Sacre Coeur.

The final day was guaranteed to be a crowd pleaser - shopping at Galerie Lafayette - which was ideal so close to Christmas!

We all want to thank Mr Stait and Miss Razzak for organising such a fantastic time for the 21 Aldenham students who went. (In particular their negotiation of the Paris metro was a particular feat which had to be seen to be believed). The trip turned out to be a marvellous end to a long Christmas Term, and was greatly appreciated by everyone who took part.

Laura Neuper and Maya Robert (Paull’s)

Sixth Form Dinner

This year’s 6th form dinner was held in November. After a reception in the Library where we were entertained by a performance artist, there were fireworks on the top field before we all went across to the Dining Hall. We had a delicious meal, and afterwards Miss Carole Peters spoke about her job as a documentary director. It was an amusing and informative talk which was much appreciated by her audience.

After Dominic Stevens, the School Captain, had said a few words of thanks the evening came to an end. Enormous thanks go to Mr Spencer and to Mr Haigh-McLane of the catering staff, for giving us another splendid evening.
The Music Department continues to flourish and our practice rooms and ICT provisions are in constant use. Over 170 students have instrumental lessons and are involved to some extent in the life of the department. As usual the whole School was involved in the House Music Competition and everyone entered into the spirit of the evening superbly. An excellent display of technical proficiency from Tom Weil won the solo category for Kennedy’s, who were also awarded the Part Song and the Unison cups. Leeman’s prevented a clean sweep by winning the ensemble section with a very rehearsed and polished performance.

The choir has given up a lot of time and worked hard this year. Their performance at the Remembrance Service in November was fantastic and they were supported by the brass group who also surpassed themselves. The choir and brass group also led the worship in the Carol Service. The standard was again very high and all five anthems performed by the choir were excellent. There was an equally good performance in the Confirmation service in which they led the hymn singing and sang the Mass setting and an anthem. Various ad-hoc groups have been formed throughout the year including two rock bands and a small chamber group which played brilliantly for the opening of the Prep School.

The Orchestra and band continue to attract new members and have performed some difficult works this year including The Great Gate of Kiev by Mussorgsky and the Highlights from Harry Potter. The various concert soloists included Simon Frais with the Rondo from Mozart’s 4th Horn Concerto, “Reviewing the Situation” from Oliver by Ricky Flax, two excellent baritone solos from Jamie Ellis and Edward Newbery, and an exciting performance from Andrew Wyatt playing some Benny Goodman. Members of the orchestra and band were involved in the production of Guys and Dolls which required a huge amount of rehearsal time as the score is incredibly difficult. Despite the difficulties, our young musicians worked hard and gave a stirring performance on all three nights.

The spring term was largely devoted to finishing coursework for five examinable areas and Instrumentalists from all years have helped with recordings for the Music Technology groups. There was an evening rehearsal each week for the Spring Concert and students should be congratulated for their selfless contribution. The concert, which took place at the Watford Colosseum, offered a wide range of music including a movement from Bach’s A minor Violin Concerto played by Yu Yagishahi, a new piece for marimba and orchestra composed by Tom Weil, Hall of the Mountain King by Grieg and a selection from Mancini’s Magic. The crowning moment of the evening was the last movement from Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with Jamie Ellis singing the bass solo and the whole School joining in with the final main theme - Ode to Joy. Being able to perform these works in such a magnificent hall brings these occasions to life and provides a memorable evening for all.

The Beck music competition held in May was adjudicated by Grayson Jones from St Albans School. He was very complimentary about the performers and gave sound advice throughout. The overall joint winners were Thomas Weil and Jamie Ellis - an excellent result bearing in mind the tremendous amount that these two have contributed to music in the School over the past few years. The other winners were Carl Rennie, Edward Allen and Simon Frais.

The Pupils’ concert, which contained a wide range of solos and small ensemble items, was particularly enjoyable. The performances ranged from works by Mozart, Susato, Vivaldi and Saint Saens through to Bernstein, Loesser and Finzi. The choir made their usual contribution to the Confirmation service, as well as combining with Choral Society rehearsals for the Spring Concert. Three boys - Jamie Coote, Aurie Green and Joshua Edlington took solo parts in a special concert with the Bushey Symphony Orchestra in a work called ‘King Leo’ in the presence of the composer - Cecelia McDowall. She was very impressed with their professionalism and the hard work that they had put in, and they represented the School exceptionally well. The same can be said for Michael Dell, Simon Frais and Andrew Wyatt who performed a short recital at St Paul’s Church in Bushey during the Easter holiday in aid of the Church Mission Society. Simon Frais has also been awarded a place at the Junior Royal College for next September.

Overall, it has been a lively and vibrant year with outstanding contributions from many of our students.

Mr J.R. Wyatt
Early on Monday morning of the February half-term, 17 eager pupils arrived at the Aldenham car park, about to depart on a memorable trip. We boarded the coach and headed for the airport and a plane, landing in Moscow at 6pm. Natalia, a middle aged woman, who looked the typical stereotype of a Russian, was our guide and Sergei, our driver who, although he spoke not a word of English, fast became a favourite. We drove to Hotel Izmaylovo through the amount of snow you associate with a ski resort. On the first night we just relaxed after a long day travelling as no one really wanted to have too extravagant a night, well almost no one!

After a good night’s sleep we rushed downstairs enthusiastic about the day ahead. Breakfast was a surprise - not the bog standard hotel breakfast but an array of exotic foods such as spicy meatballs, lettuce, beetroot, chips, pasta and more. Perhaps the biggest shock was the idea that instead of having a pancake day in Russia they have a whole pancake week…genius!

We headed off slightly late and drove beside the Moscow River to our first stop - Red Square, a truly beautiful sight. Every wall was decorated by beautiful architecture. Having admired St Basil’s Cathedral and the outer walls of the Kremlin we visited the tomb of Lenin, where we saw his embalmed body which has been lying in state for over 80 years. Behind this we saw graves of many famous Russians, such as Stalin. Next a tour of the fabulous Kremlin and to a number of Cathedrals all decorated in equal amounts of intricate splendour, illustrating the true style of the Tsars who designed them. We also visited the Tsar’s cannon and bell. This was our first real experience of the weather - a cold breeze cut across the ground and soon every scarf was done up, every hood raised and every pair of gloves tightly pulled around every pair of cold hands.

After visiting a museum on the Russian Revolution and other wars, we went to a small restaurant and had what we were soon to learn is the standard meal, a piece of meat with potatoes or chips, this was repeated nightly with only slight variations. On our way back to the hotel we stopped at a spectacular viewpoint on Sparrows Hill, where we could see the whole of Moscow laid out before us and as it was dark it was a really beautiful sight, with the lights shining. Back at the hotel we had a relaxing night, some went bowling but it was mostly a night for everyone to get to know one another. After this the group really started to gel.

The second morning was our last in Moscow. We set off dressed as typical tourists, with a lot more layers than the day before, and walked to the flea market. After some serious bartering we returned to our hotel with an assortment of what can only be described as very lovely hats in all shapes and sizes. The Russian hats were definitely something that the group appreciated both for their warmth and style, because there is no shadow of a doubt that we all looked fabulous in our hats, whether synthetic or real.

With our bags packed and loaded on the coach, we drove to the KGB Museum which has only recently been opened for non-Russians. We saw some very interesting objects and heard an impressive talk. After lunch we visited a World War Two museum and were shown around by a very well spoken tour guide. His grasp of English and pronunciation were very impressive, which helped us appreciate the exhibits. Most especially the twenty-seven million hanging chains which represent all the Russians who died in the war.
On to dinner at a restaurant, and then to a theatre for some Russian folk music and a show, which we all enjoyed and will not be forgotten quickly. We then visited a metro station which was really exquisite. We had a quick walk next door that took us to our station where we got on the night train to St Petersburg. We found our individual cabins, each holding four, and after the excitement of actually being on an overnight train we all settled in for the night. The night train was a very interesting experience to say the least.

We reached St Petersburg at seven in the morning and were met by our second guide Galina, who lacked the friendliness of Natalia but was full of enthusiasm. St Petersburg seemed a much colder but cleaner city - it had very little pollution and was a nicer place than Moscow.

After a quick visit to the Hotel to shower and get ready for the day, we took a coach tour around the famous sites of St Petersburg. We saw the Winter palace, the frozen Neva River, St Isaac’s Cathedral, the Aurora (a ship symbolising the Russian revolution) and Nevsky Prospekt. We then visited the Yusupov palace where Rasputin was murdered.

After a quick lunch inside the former Winter palace, now the Hermitage, we went on a tour of the museum. In the evening we again played bowing then went to a disco where almost all of us got into the spirit of the holiday and had real fun. During the evening we saw Mrs Morgan display her magical moves while the younger teachers endeavoured to dance with as much rhythm.

The group woke early and went on a long journey to Pushkin, to see the Catherine Palace. Inside, the Palace is stunning with decorations created by Tsarina Catherine the Great. The décor was something that I have never experienced and I doubt that I will again outside Russia. The detail is impossible to explain, it is such a visual experience. After this we returned to the centre of St Petersburg to see a memorial to the siege of Leningrad.

This was a short stop before lunch after which we intended to visit a graveyard where many important Russians were buried. Unfortunately the coach broke down but the morale of the group made sure that no one stopped laughing for the hours that the coach was crippled. The evening was quiet, with lots of people playing pool. We all headed to bed early so we would be up at 4am to catch our plane home. After two planes and fourteen hours of travelling we all arrived safely at Aldenham School.

Thank you very much to Mr Pietrek, Mrs Morgan, Miss Andersen, Jacqui and most especially to Mr Columbus who put a lot of time and effort into the tour. It was and still is most appreciated.

Ben Portnoi (Riding’s)
The trip to Italy began not with a bang, but a whimper. We rolled out of bed at two in the morning. Then it was hauling suitcases through the rain and dark towards the waiting coach. We were led by Mr Dunstan, calm and poised like a warrior going into battle, and the mighty Mr Jackson, legend in his own lifetime. Mr and Mrs Stead, and the School nurse and her daughter came too. After an uneventful flight, we were swooping over green fields towards Rome. We made our way to our hotel, naive tourists in the pickpocket capital of the Western world. With no time for an outing, we were crammed into rooms in groups of four, waiting eagerly for dawn.

Light broke over the city, and ham and cheese rolls saved certain Aldenhamians’ lives. We tramped over the cobbles to the Piazza Navone, or “Square of the Traders”, where the order of the day became sitting in cafés sampling a selection of drinks and watching the world go by. When this lost its fun, there were shops, stalls... and frauds. It was Scott Ackerman who first fell victim. Innocently accepting the shady-looking man’s offer to show him a new trick, he found his hands tied together, and had to pay a large amount of money for the clever prankster to release him. Warning everybody else turned out to be the manly thing to do, as only a short time later a classic “damsels in distress” scenario emerged. Ben and Toby hurtled to the scene, and dragged the girls to safety before they could suffer humiliating entanglement. The rest of the day we explored the grandeur of Rome, its teeming crowds and fantastic ice cream parlours.

The next day was dedicated to the Vatican, the city within a city, where the Catholic Church has its headquarters. The sights here were the most spectacular of the trip, as we entered St Peters and scaled the stairs to the top unaware that Mr Dunstan had just bought everyone passes for the lift. We gazed in wonder at the Sistine Chapel, only slightly annoyed by the staff’s constant, hopeless attempts to keep the steady flow of tourists quiet. We gazed at the dais where, in only a few days’ time, the Pontiff would say Easter Mass in front of millions worldwide. We played Top Trumps in the places of the great.
Day Four was the climax of the Roman experience. We visited the Colosseum, besting the tackily dressed centurions on guard at the entrance. We stared at overgrown rubble, which I found unimpressive compared to Gladiator, something I felt compelled to quote from as long as I was on the site. We took a trip on Rome’s subway, leaving from an oddly beautiful underground station. There was a moment of panic as the doors threatened to close and leave some of the group stranded, but Mr Jackson chose that moment to justify his heroic reputation and with a roar of effort, bodily heaved us all onto the train. The day ended with restauranteering (I was rapidly becoming sick of pizza). But the highlight was a visit to the Spanish Steps. The sweeping steps, crowded with locals and tourists, stretched down to the fountains and shops. It was here that we discovered the Roman practice of buying roses for ladies. The girls’ rooms were soon choked with shredded petals. (So I’m told). We left Rome after some delays next day, and set off for the Bay of Naples; after a stopover at the catacombs, ancient hiding place of the first Christians. It was almost homely for a warren of draughty tunnels filled with the bones of centuries-dead believers. Afterwards, we reached our hotel, very luxurious but a little further out than we had expected. One swift arrangement of transport later and we were off into the town of Sorrento. Though filled with the tackiest gift shops on the planet, it had some advantages, like the ultimate ice-cream parlour.

Day six was one of the highlights of the trip, as the bus wound its way to the ruins of Pompeii. Yet the most exciting aspect of the trip wasn’t the miraculously surviving buildings or the preserved bodies of the volcanoes’ victims. It was when the crowds parted and Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen walked past, looking hassled. Perhaps he was stressed by the public; perhaps he wanted to give the place a makeover. Whatever, he vanished around the corner and the moment was lost. Later the bus heaved itself up the slopes of Mount Vesuvius, so we could have the privilege of having half a volcano in our collective shoes, to stare down into the foggy depths of the crater.

The early morning of this day is worth mentioning because of Rupert’s unplanned piano recital, which got him spontaneous applause. Then we raced on to Herculaneum, the other place destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius. It was, if anything, even more impressive, an intact section of the ancient world. The day was Classics themed, as we then moved on to the local museum, for the elite group of Classics students to study the statues, pottery and assorted artefacts on display. The perfect muscle tone of the marble statues overawed when compared to my own scrawny form. That night we went back to Sorrento to sample the Mediterranean night life...and ice cream.

This day, our eighth, was the long drive. The bus rumbled along the cliff-tops, the surrounding landscape a vista of blue and green. Ben talked for three hours. I know this because that was exactly how long the journey lasted. We visited Amalfi, a small coastal town with its spectacular cathedral and I fought the language barrier in order to buy more camera film. But most importantly of all, we went to Paestum and saw three spectacular temples, to Ceres, Neptune and Hera. That night, we were unable to go back to Sorrento, so we had to resort to desperate measures for entertainment - football. Having mastered the art of getting out of a hotel quickly, we were homebound on schedule. Tired, sore and with a new, soon to be broken, resolution never to eat pizza again, I headed home. It was a great trip and thanks must go to Mr Dunstan and Mr Jackson for organising it all.

Peter Shelton (McGill’s)
This trip was open to 3rd and 4th formers to undertake an arduous two weeks hiking in the Atlas range, with the chance to experience a very different culture. In the end, along with Mr. Langston and myself, there were ten boys up for the challenge and it was one they will long remember. The group was Martin Jackman, Rob Lee, Michael Dell, Rahul Vyas, Richard Thomas, Ed Clow, Niraj Shah, Michael Shamah, Archie McDonald, and Victor Tobi.

Once they had registered they needed to work on fundraising and fitness, which was going to be crucial once we arrived in Morocco. There was also the need to prepare themselves when it came to packing. School was able to help where students were lacking certain items but unfortunately we were not able to provide one of the boys with his own personal washing machine (he was clearly expecting one since he arrived at the airport with tablets to do his laundry!) The journey itself went without a hitch. When we arrived in Marrakech we spent our first night at the Hotel Farouk before setting out the following morning towards Imli from where we would start our expedition to the summit of Jebel Toubkal, the highest point in North Africa.

For two nights we stayed in a Moroccan house whilst we acclimatised to the altitude and terrain. We were already at 2000 metres above sea level so it was important that the boys became used to the altitude. They also became accustomed to rather different toilet facilities with the need to wash in the nearest stream (which was freezing!) rather than being able to enjoy the luxury of a warm bath or shower. After acclimatising we set off to Toubkal. We had another day of hard trekking and a night’s camping at about 3000 metres before our actual summit attempt. Setting up tents where the ground is covered in rocks and it is very hard to get pegs in was no easy task, especially when mules, sheep and goats were quite happy to roam through the campsite.

At Sam we were off to the summit of Toubkal. It was a hard ascent, windy and steep in places and always going up!

Scree caused some difficulties with footing. In the end we split into two groups. Our guide, Brahim, actually ended up carrying some of the boys’ rucksacks to help them, but I have no idea how he managed to continue himself with what appeared to be such consummate ease. The first group made good time and about an hour after we arrived the others appeared. There had never been any doubt that for some of the boys this was going to be an extremely difficult challenge. I had not expected the whole group to make it to the summit but, even with a lot of help, every one of them did. The looks on their faces as they reached the summit were testimony to just how hard a struggle it had been. I felt great relief and a sense of pride in the boys who had worked as a team and accomplished a genuinely difficult objective. Our next challenge was to get down safely.

Without Archie McDonald I think Niraj Shah would still be at the top of Toubkal today. He was fantastic and helped Niraj through some very difficult terrain. When Archie got tired, one of our other guides took on the role and tried to piggy back Niraj down the mountain but this was not very successful as he found it hard to hold on. We discovered why he was having such difficulty when he admitted after sometime that he couldn’t see where he was going! We were also joined throughout our climb by a dog which attached...
itself to us whilst we were at base camp. There was a spiritual feeling to his presence since he stayed with us, as if guarding and protecting the group, always close to those at the rear as if making sure they would get down safely. And we did, although we were confronted by a hail storm to make sure that it wasn’t too easy for us!

After another night at base camp we made our way back to the village. It was without incident except when one of the boys, lagging a little behind the rest of us, was encouraged to catch up. He was not the most well co-ordinated member so we warned him not to trip over when catching up, but he was flat on his face only 3 seconds later!

Back in the village we had access to a shower and even beds. Those of us feeling a little more adventurous went to something akin to a Turkish bath. Quite an experience!

On day 7 we ventured back to Marrakech. We used the time to have a quick look at some of the city gardens, do some much needed washing, take a shower and get another good night’s rest. For dinner we also indulged ourselves. For the past week we had eaten a rather narrow range of meals and the boys were dying for something familiar. Cue pizza. It went down a treat with us all.

Then off we headed to M’Goun, another region of the Atlas Mountains. It was a 7 hour mini-bus journey to a very remote area of Morocco. Whilst the area around Mount Toubkal had been bare and harsh the M’Goun region is quite different. This was something of a cauldron with temperatures rising as high as 46°C. This forced us to change our itinerary and stopped us from climbing M’Goun Massif since access to water would have been difficult making the expedition dangerous. Instead we trekked through the valleys which had difficulties and challenges of their own. We saw more of the local communities, and as we walked through several of these villages it was like going back in time and witnessing a culture from hundreds of years ago. It was a real privilege to see these communities and we were often overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of the people we met. The trekking was still very hard and there was never a day when we weren’t hiking several miles, much of it uphill. The conditions were also tough on the team as we were camping so there were some sleepless nights courtesy of barking dogs and braying mules. Nevertheless, one thing that always impressed me was the general spirit of the team. The boys all seemed to get on well with each other and worked together without seeming to succumb to frustrations or lose their tempers.

There were plenty of new experiences. They were treated to the traditional Moroccan meal called a Tashin. Some of them were not so happy to discover that one of the meals we had consisted of a rabbit that many of them had been petting only a couple of hours earlier. After a week in M’goun the boys seemed ready to make their way back to civilisation. Our time there had been very tough and demanding because of the heat, and many of them were genuinely exhausted. So it was back to Marrakech for one last time (another 7 hour journey). This time we stayed in the old part of the city, right beside the famous market place. The market consists of several narrow streets where traders sell all manner of goods and there was also the main square itself. During the day, the square was host to the snake charmers. They were a rather tragic sight, their fangs having been pulled out, and they looked to have little zest for life left in them. By night, the square was transformed into a heaving food court and a whole range of different entertainments. As I walked past one gathering I peered over the shoulders of the people to see a small ring in which two young boys were beating the living daylights out of each other. I hasten to add they were not any of our students!

Then back to England, to showers and large comfortable beds!

I enjoyed taking the boys to Morocco and I feel privileged to have seen some of them responding to adverse conditions and rising to the challenges presented to them. It proved to be a very physically demanding couple of weeks (take note if you are thinking of coming on future expeditions) but I think it would be impossible for anyone not to have been affected by what they had experienced. The Moroccan people do not have the luxuries that we so readily take for granted yet they demonstrate a contentment that one rarely sees in England. The trip was not only a valuable experience as a physical challenge but it was also an experience of a very different and very rich culture and I trust and hope this was not lost on the boys.

Mr WPN Pietrek
On a Summer morning at the end of August three lower sixth formers, eight Year elevens and two members of staff gathered in Kennedy’s car park at six o’clock to go to Egypt.

The group, which was led by Mr Maguire ably assisted by Mr Pomeroy, are all members of the sub-aqua club and were going to the Red Sea in Egypt. An early start meant a lot of tiredness, however the excitement meant everybody was raring to go and dive! From Gatwick Airport we flew to Sharm El Sheikh, a holiday resort at the northern tip of the Red Sea. It consists of lots of posh hotels, amazing diving and that is about it! It is in the middle of the Sinai Desert and very barren and quite boring.

We arrived at about eight o’clock Egyptian time, so it was quite late and everybody was quite tired after a long day travelling. Once out of the airport - which took a long time with visas and landing cards - we got on a coach which was to take us to our home for the next week, the luxury dive boat “Orchid”. Once we arrived at the boat, we met Tito, our host for the week. He was the sort of First Mate! Accompanied by his able crew, who were all Egyptian, we set off for our first dive site Rass Katy where we stayed for the night. Once we arrived there we moored up and set up our diving equipment, we then unpacked and after a long day we went to bed.

Our first day of diving was quite a relaxed one; to sort out our buoyancy and weights etc. We got to know our instructor, Marco, and our divemaster, Muhammad who were to lead us in our diving for the week. Marco was really there to do the advanced open water course so he was only there for about three days. Five boys and Mr Pomeroy did that course and all passed with flying colours. On the three days that we had to do it, apart from having to do the written knowledge reviews, we had to do a drift dive, a boat dive, a navigation dive, a night dive and a deep dive. All of which involved specialist skills to gain the award. On day one we did two dives and a night dive, so it was a good introduction to the Red Sea. We dived in Rass Katy for the night dive as if you do a night dive you should always be somewhere where you have dived before.

The second day consisted of four dives and that was when we got a big part of the course completed. We went looking for sharks in Jackfish Alley but sadly didn’t find any. We then went up to Rass Um Sid and did another dive there to look at the beautiful coral which was an excellent compromise! We finished off with a night dive at Tembel which was exciting for all of the advanced open water divers as it was the first dive as qualified divers! Another excellent day with beautiful Egyptian food to finish it off and then a good movie - we couldn’t ask for more. The next day was in preparation for the day after, which was when we would do the “Thistlegorm”, one of the top ten dives in the world, and a very hard dive, which meant you had to be quite competent in scuba diving. So, day four of diving and day five of the trip was going to be our most challenging as we were going to dive the HMS Thistlegorm. It took us about an hour to locate the wreck as there is nothing to mark it on the surface, however we found it and got ready to dive. It was sunk with lots of cargo on it as it was transporting vehicles! So at the bottom of the ocean there were steam engines, motorbikes, lorries and cars. It was an incredibly surreal but amazingly successful experience.
In fact we did another dive from the boat, this time on the stern as the first dive was on the bow. This proved to Mr Maguire that we were all really quite good divers! So after Thistlegorm we made our way back nearer to Sharm El Sheikh where we did another two dives including a night dive.

Our last day of diving was an extra special one as we saw a TIGER SHARK. This was the outstanding experience of the trip as we were very lucky to see such a shark in this area. We saw it by the Jackson reef. During the day we made three other dives, on Woodhouse Reef and Thomas Reef. We then went on to Tiran Island in the evening and then came back for more delicious food including a cake made especially for us, and listened to real Egyptian music. It was stunning! The next day we were due to leave the boat and so we did two quick dives of which the one in Ras Um Sid was absolutely exceptional and beautiful, a wonderful way to end the trip. Throughout the trip we saw fish such as barracudas, stingrays, tuna fish and many exotic fish. After we had completed the dive we packed very quickly and had lunch, then left the boat in Sharm El Sheikh after saying goodbye to all the crew.

We were all very tired and went to the Cleopatra Hotel where we were to stay for one night to gain back our normal level of oxygen after breathing in a lot of oxygen during the trip. Our final night in Egypt was pretty uneventful and quite quiet. The final day was spent sleeping and by the pool, swimming and resting after a very tiring week. In the evening we flew back to Gatwick - arriving back at School at about three o’clock in the morning, all wide awake!

The whole trip was superb, the diving, the food, the country, the people, everything. Huge thanks go to Mr Pomeroy for taking us to Egypt but the biggest thank you has to go to Mr Maguire who put so much effort into organising the whole trip and who was the man who made it all run smoothly. Thank you from all of us for a week none of us will ever forget.

Simon Frais (Paul’s)
Last year’s production of “Guys and Dolls” was particularly impressive, for which credit must go to the tireless efforts of Miss Frank, helped by an especially impressive cast. The play ran smoothly and effectively, and in watching it, it was clear that a huge amount of time and energy had gone into making it a polished performance.

The lead roles were suitably dominating, and the songs were handled well. Jonathan Weller, Daniel Andrews, Ceri Davis and Andrea Cordes (mistress of the tortured facial expression), all proved their capabilities, with Ceri in particular demonstrating formidable acting ability. Andrea overcame the fact that English was not her first language and launched into both her lines and her songs with zest and determination. None of the stars showed a flicker of fear in singing challenging solos, and are all doubtless headed for greater things. However, the production did not just consist of a few shining examples backed up by a lacklustre crowd of extras. The supporting actors were not poor or even mediocre and indeed the entire cast was, without exception, excellent. Special mention must go to the following: Chris Whitelock, who amazed with his singing talent and confidence, Freddie Riley, who made an understated performance out of a minor role, Lizzie Watts, who made an excellent mother figure, Jamie Ellis, whose singing was as powerful as ever and Dominic Stevens, whose presence on stage came dangerously close to overshadowing everybody else, stopped only by the eagerness of his fellow actors to match his performance.

The dance routines were performed slickly, the hours spent under the guidance of the choreographers, Mrs Hall and Mr English, certainly proved worthwhile, and the ease with which the performers became sleazy gamblers or dazzling molls rather than self-conscious pupils was astounding. The boys were utterly convincing, but it was the girls, with their bravery and willingness to take part as the Hot Box dancers, who stole the show.
Les Philosophes

As always at Les Philosophes, there were some exceptional and thought provoking topics discussed during the year. On two evenings a term members of the society meet in the Stott room of the Library to listen to a presentation and then engage the guest speaker in a lively debate over a glass of wine. This year was of course no exception. As usual there was a mix of outside speakers and members of staff.

The first talk was given by Mr Dunstan on an area of personal interest obvious to anyone who has stepped into his classroom. His presentation on 'movies that matter' comprised of clips from films old and new and highlighted their importance and influence on modern issues. Films such as "Twelve Monkeys" from his private collection were shown to illustrate philosophical input into filmmaking - issues of fate, destiny and free will.

We next met at the Christmas Social evening where we were lucky to have a performance by an intriguing and rather interesting 'mind magician', Ian Carpenter. He performed tricks to the audience and then showed the extent of his talent by moving into close-up magic as we were unsuspectingly sitting down to eat. Even Mr Seaton, the sceptic, was baffled by his card tricks and mind reading abilities.

The next two visitors to the school were more what the society is used to. The first was a presentation by Keith Civval (Director of Scripture Union) on "Messianic Judaism: Continuity or Discontinuity". Here we were given a different perspective of an unfamiliar branch of the Jewish faith. The next was an eagerly awaited talk on J. R. R. Tolkien and his most famous series of books "The Lord of the Rings" by Colin Duriez. This included facts about the author's life and works and also clips from the then unreleased third film in the series: "The Return of the King."

The last official talk came from Rev. Seaton and was entitled "Why we should believe in God." I can say with some certainty that no other talk has caused quite as much controversy. The questions after the talk and the debate they sparked lead to an enjoyable and thoughtful evening for all, believer and atheist alike.

The last event was the summer garden party held in the 6th Form Common Room due to the unpredictable weather. Here a selection of material was read by staff and pupils alike. Followed by a meal and a glass of wine - this proved a success which summed up the year. Laura McNicholas and I stepped down as secretaries of the society, confidently handing over to Jenny Gibson and Peter Shelton for next year.

Dan Knapp (Riding's)

Middle School Debating

During the Lent term five houses did battle, armed only with their verbal skill and wit, for the House Debating title. Daniel Andrews and Ben Griffiths led Bover's to victory as best House with their vivid and convincing description of the dire state of youths' lives in times past compared to today. In opposition, Ayub Seedat (Leeman's) reminded us of the evils of technology and the dangers it posed for us today. His partner, Krishant Uka illustrated the point with reference to the fashion and music industries, and did this so humorously that he was awarded Best Individual speaker. On the subject of bringing up bilingual children, Ben Gilbey and Robert Blackman (Pauli's) touted the benefits of multicultural learning, while James Craig and Ben Howard (Kennedy's) insisted on the impracticalities and pointlessness of such programmes.

The debate ended with Rupert McNeil and Nilay Sanghrajka (Riding's) presenting their arguments, and answering questions on their conviction that "Foreign players should be banned from the Premiership for limiting the development of English players and clubs". Each debate was well prepared and delivered, and congratulations must be given to each of the pupils for the amount of hard work involved.

Miss L.M.Andersen

Self portrait by Charles McKendrick
English Society Continues to Scare

This year has seen the continuation of some excellently chilling events to support the pupils’ preparation for their Gothic paper. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Ben Portnoi there has been a variety of evenings. To begin with Mr Hill tried his best to scare the society into submission by providing a history of Gothic and Horror cinema. This was followed by a nervous viewing of the work of director Tim Burton, one of Gothic cinema’s greatest proponents.

The thrills continued into the Lent term with a truly gruesome ‘Villainous Debate’. Nick Schindler, Jonathon Day, John Boothby and Peter Shelton all fought well for their villains, which included the ring from ‘Lord of the Rings’. Bill the Butcher from ‘Gangs of New York’ and werewolves. Ultimately our four fava beans and a nice Chianti won through with Peter Shelton winning the debate with Hannibal Lecter from the Thomas Harris Trilogy.

Other highlights of the literary year included the return of Daniel Rosenthal to deliver a series of workshops to the society focusing upon the translation of Shakespeare to the cinema. From ‘The Tempest’ to ‘Escape from the Forbidden Planet’ pupils were treated to a remarkable range of interpretations of these age-old texts.

The Society looks forward to next year with the promise of a residential visit to Stratford-Upon-Avon amongst the proposed highlights.

Sub Aqua Trip to Tenerife

In October half-term members of the Sub Aqua club, along with Mr Maguire and Mr Fleet, took a trip to Tenerife. We stayed at a comfy hotel, with a dive centre on site, on the water side. We went diving every day - first we completed our Open water PADI diving course, and then progressed to do our advanced open water course.

When we were diving we saw a large variety of species of fish, sea crustaceans and vast amounts of volcanic rock. Unfortunately we couldn’t do our wreck dive because of bad weather conditions. One of the highlights of the week for me was the catamaran cruise where we sailed alongside whales and dolphins. We are now looking forward to our next trip in the summer holidays - to the Red Sea.

Robert Lee (Paull’s)

Senior Debating competition

Towards the end of the summer term with AS exams behind them, members of the L6th form took part in the Senior Debating competition. Three motions were debated the first being “That this House believes the proposed identity cards are an infringement of personal privacy.” Kennedy’s was represented by Nick Schindler and Toby Morgan who proposed the motion, they were opposed by Jonathon Day and Richard Reeve-Young of Leeman’s. The second debate was between Hady Al-Malazi and Rory Campuz of Beevor’s who patriotically advocated that London should be allowed to host at the Olympic Games in 2012. Riding’s (Ben Portnoi and James Graham) gave a spirited argument against the motion. The final debate was between Paull’s, John Boothby and Rumit Shah, who proposed that tertiary education in the UK should be funded by the state, and Peter Shelton and James Rigby of McGill’s who opposed the motion with wit and flair.

All the debates were meticulously researched and well presented. The adjudicators, Mr Jones and Stuart Atkins (OA) awarded best debate overall to the Paull’s House team, and best speaker was awarded jointly to John Boothby and Hady Al-Malazi.

One lunchtime during the Lent term we were lucky enough to welcome Natalie Kirby to talk to members of the sixth form about her gap year. Natalie spent a year from 2001-2 in Israel with a Zionist group. Her time was divided between Jerusalem where she attended classes in Hebrew, Israeli history and culture and spent time doing voluntary work, and in the north of Israel where she taught English both in a school, and to adults. The talk was very well attended and several people asked questions afterwards - it was a fascinating insight into life lived under strict security measures, despite which she is anxious to go back and work in Israel as soon as she graduates.

Elliot Murray and Rahul Vyas in Tenerife
Life in and around the Chapel has remained as active as ever this year. I have been pleased with the number of Aldenhamians who regularly show their commitment to their faith in Jesus by worshipping at the Eucharist each week. It was good to have a number of boys making their commitment to God through the sacrament of Confirmation and to have Bishop Richard Inwood, the Bishop of Bedford, to take that service here in School.

The year was characterised by the usual rhythm of regular weekly services, both for the whole School, and for those who wished to worship at the Eucharist. In addition we gathered as a School community on Remembrance Sunday when our preacher was The Revd Alison Adam who is the director of the Bloxham Project; at Christmas for a Carol Service; on Ash Wednesday for the Ashing Ceremony and Eucharist; on Ascension Day for an Eucharist and on Visitation Day for a celebration of the life of the School and the Commemoration of Benefactors. At all of these services the Chapel choir, under the conductorship of John Wyatt, contributed significantly and skilfully to the worship, and the Brass group, in addition to the organ played by Colin Hughes, often accompanied the singing. We are grateful to all those who offer their talent to enhance our worship in this way.

The running of the day-to-day work and planning for the big services has been assisted enormously by the School Sacristan, Rupert Thornton, his deputy, Alexander Orchard and the other servers. Rupert steps down as Sacristan at the end of this academic year to concentrate upon his duties as House Captain of Kennedy’s. Alexander has agreed to take over next year and see the new Chaplain into his work. I am very grateful to all those who serve and help in the running of the Chapel in whatever capacity - it is a team effort.

I have been pleased this year to see an enthusiastic and growing Christian Union developing from an initiative by a number of Sixth form pupils including Lizzie Watts (P), John Boothby (P) and James Eighty (M) which led to a number of pupils meeting each week under Fr Seaton’s watchful eye for lively discussions, prayer and fellowship. It was particularly pleasing to see them taking over one of the regular morning Chapel services and confidently and courageously leading the worship and speaking about their faith.

Fr Stuart Seaton left Aldenham at the end of the academic year after five terms’ faithful service. His scholarly sermons will be greatly missed by the School community. His carefully measured and honed addresses spoke of a clear and coherent faith. His pastoral care and academic assistance will also be sorely missed. Fr Stuart was collated and installed into the parish of St Peter’s Bushey Heath where he is now Vicar, and it was good that a number of Aldenham people were there to support him, Hilary and Gregory on that occasion.

Following the announcement of Fr Stuart’s impending departure I decided that, after ten years as Chaplain, it was time to relinquish this particular responsibility. I had been both Chaplain and Housemaster of Kennedy’s for two years and I strongly felt that I wanted to concentrate upon the House and my teaching in the next period of time, and exercise my Christian ministry through this role in School. I also felt that it was time for a new broom to come and take the work of the Chapel forward.

Revd A.M. Stead
POETRY

Moonshine

You swift cunning bats of the night
Be guided away by bright light.
You silent grass snake slithering through the
glade,
Be gone to find another prey.
For our Fairy Queen with her crown,
Is weaving magical dreams.
Moonshine watch over our Queen,
Shine strong and gently all night long.
Heather moss fern and woodland rose,
Soothe our fair lady to sleep.

Centipedes, millipedes, worms and slugs
Crawl away back to dark places.
Badgers, wise owls, deer and mole
Offer warmth and safety to our Queen.
High above night owls, robins and wren
Sing softly to send you to sleep.
Moonshine watch over our Queen,
Shine strong and gently all night long.
Heather moss fern and woodland rose,
Soothe our fair lady to sleep.

Earwigs, moth and stag beetle
You are not welcome here.
Raven, rooks and magpies
Fly away to guard your treasure.
For fairy dust, starlight and moonshine
Guard our lady tonight.
Moonshine watch over our Queen,
Shine strong and gently all night long.
Heather moss fern and woodland rose,
Soothe our fair lady to sleep.

Luke Quine (Martineau's)

My Lullaby

Now Titania Queen of the fairies
Forget about the rotten berries
Go to sleep
And count sheep
Forget about the bad things
And bring in the good dreams
La la la la
Go to sleep we won’t go far
Lu la la la
We won’t let the cows go moo
Go away you rotten snails
And please do not fail
You horrible worms
Keep away with your germs
Just let her sleep
And don’t even peep

La la la la
Go to sleep we won’t go far
Lu la la la
We won’t let the cows go moo
Let her dream of days to come
Where fairies play and have fun
Not of things
That evil brings
In the dark of night
Which could give her a fright
La la la la
Go to sleep we won’t go far
Lu la la la
We won’t let the cows go moo

Jordan Silver (Martineau’s)
Euro Disney

Half asleep, we reluctantly woke up to the sound of Mr. Jackson ringing the bell. We stumbled down to the games room where we had a quick breakfast and were ready to leave at 6:30am. There isn’t much to report about the journey apart from everybody had a good snooze. Before we knew it, we had arrived in France. The first thing we noticed was the openness and serenity of the French countryside. We arrived at the Explorers Hotel at around midday. The hotel was great; it had a swimming pool, a games arcade, numerous shops and a large play area - it was made for Aldenhamians. Well aware that we only had one and a half days to explore Disney Land Paris, we wasted no time in getting to the park. There was a buzz of excitement in the air, and no one could wait to experience the atmosphere! The place was packed full, it is SO popular! Once inside, we split into groups of about four to wander about unaccompanied by a teacher. Immediately we entered the park, you could tell that this was going to be an experience to remember! The people were friendly, the buildings imaginative and the whole place was just outstanding! To cap it all, not one single drop of rain fell. Attractions such as “Space Mountain” or “Indiana Jones” (which is basically a roller coaster going backwards) were the most popular among the McGillians. Enthralled by the magic, on the second day the group unanimously voted to go back instead of visiting the Disney Land Studios - (a decision we don’t regret). All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and had a marvellous time. Thank you Aldenham School for the opportunity.

Dammy Awe and David Ellis (McGill’s)

Footballer’s Review of the season

The 1st XI had an encouraging season. We were a young team with only two upper 6th formers, and so had a slight disadvantage when we played against other schools with older players. We started the season slowly as we had several new players from overseas in the squad. It took a while for everyone to get used to how each person played, and there was a language barrier in some cases as well. After a while the side began to settle and we started to play as a team. The opposition was very strong in some cases and we did well to get the results we did - the big disappointment for me was our early exit from the Cup. Towards the end of the season we were playing some very good team football and the results bear this out. We won five of our last six games which was pleasing for everyone involved, and next season should be a successful one.

Dominic Griffiths (Beevor’s)
During the Easter Holidays, sixteen AS Geography students sacrificed six days of lie-ins and going out with friends so that they could study for a general geography skills exam and put all the class theory into practice. The destination for this adventure - Devon!

On the way we stopped at Cheddar Gorge and Wookey Holes to examine the limestone landscape (karst) and go through the theory of how they had been formed. After a rather strange tour through the cavern system (and a mirror maze) we continued to our hotel in Ilfracombe, where the girls were very distressed to find that they had no signal on their phones - something which is of paramount importance on a Geography fieldtrip! The week was eventful with excursions and mini-projects each day, and then hours and hours and hours of work in the evenings - if anyone thought Geography was easy they were very wrong!

On Tuesday we made our way to Braunton Burrows to map sand dunes. The funniest thing was seeing the boys trying to run up Flagpole Dune, then keep sliding back down! The girls on the other hand took the more intelligent and elegant approach and simply went round. We then started our 2km ‘trek’ over sand dunes and slacks and through brambles. We reached the coast, and then split into groups to map the transect back to the mini-bus, measuring wind speed, gradient, vegetation coverage and soil depth. It was going well, until an adder decided to block our path!

After I screamed, it hissed and slithered away and we eventually made it back to the mini-bus in one piece. We then spent the afternoon clambering over wave cut platforms at Croyde Bay and walking round a spit and salt marsh at the Taw-Torridge estuary. In the evening we had to complete numerous case-study and investigation sheets; so much for night life in Devon!

Wednesday involved an extremely long ride into Cornwall, where we visited the Eden Project. After a tour round the Tropical biosphere with a rather eccentric guide we went back into Devon and on to Dartmoor. Not equipped for stormy weather at all, we started to map a transect of the Tor - then the mist came in and it started to rain heavily. Mr Maguire thought it would be rather “fun” to take us back to the mini-bus via a marsh - we got absolutely soaked and we were definitely not impressed. We were all very cold and tired when doing our work that evening, although it still did not stop us from complaining.

Lynmouth was our destination on Thursday where we walked up the East Lyn (with a gradient of one in four!) noting all the management schemes put in place after the flood of 1952 to prevent future disasters. When we reached the East Lyn and Farley Water confluence (Watersmeet), some of us enjoyed a well deserved cream tea before getting into our waterproofs and wellies and wading into the river - luckily the weather was good! We measured the rivers’ velocity, width, depth and bedload, being very careful not to be the first person to fall in. Once we had finished this, we went up to Trig Point on Exmoor where we posed for the customary ‘team photo’ and examined the catchment area which the river drains.

We then carried out a river cross-section near the source area, before going down to the Lyn estuary and completing another cross-section. This one was much more dangerous due to the faster velocity and increased depth of the river, so only a few people ventured in, under the very careful supervision of Mr Maguire and Mr Pulman. We were all very proud of Nick when he ‘dived’ into the river so photos could be taken - we seemed to be another tourist attraction on Lynmouth! After this, we went for another well-deserved cream tea in the town before returning to the hotel and even more case study and investigation sheets.

Friday saw the best weather of the trip and we got to enjoy it standing in Barnstaple’s CBD doing land use surveys, pedestrian counts and environmental quality surveys and asking any shoppers who we could persuade to stop and talk to us to complete questionnaires. We obviously did not
appear too scary as some did actually agree to do so. We also went into the three smaller villages of Croyde, Braunton and West Down and completed function surveys and questionnaires of the local inhabitants to establish breaking points and spheres of influence for Barnstaple, Braunton and Ilfracombe. We returned to the hotel to undergo the most intense working session of the week, finishing very late in the evening!

We started our homeward journey on Saturday and much to our relief it did not involve case study or investigation sheets! We arrived back at school in the early afternoon, absolutely exhausted and looking forward to enjoying the last two lie-in of the Easter Holiday.

Even though we moaned almost continuously (well, the girls did!), in retrospect it was a good week and we did actually enjoy ourselves. We would all like to thank Mr Maguire, Mr Pulman and Mrs Laughton for putting up with us and helping us to prepare so intensely for our Geography Skills Paper. Hopefully when the results come out in August all their (and our) hard work will have paid off!

Ceri Davis (Paull’s)

THE GLOBE THEATRE

The trip to the Globe, under the overall guidance of Mr Pietrek, left School around 12:30. We travelled to London by minibus and the Tube. After arriving in central London we immediately began to make our way to the Globe Theatre. Or rather - we tried to find our way to the Globe. Eventually, after stopping a few times to get our bearings, we righted our course and walked on. Crossing the Millennium Bridge we got our first view of the Globe. We were running a little late so we hurriedly entered the theatre, arriving just in time for the beginning of Shakespeare’s play, Richard II. This being a trip and not a play review I’ll limit myself to saying the play had excellent moments of both comedy and tragedy, was very authentic and well acted. It also helped me to understand why, after so many years, Shakespeare is still so popular. The theatre itself was very evocative of Shakespeare’s era. Mr Pietrek wanted us to experience how authentic Shakespearian audiences would have watched the play, and we were ridiculed for not standing up to watch the play like true groundlings. Though, after two hours of sitting on a hard wooden bench, I began to wish I had. The play itself ended in true Shakespearian fashion, the highlight being King Richard dying after fighting single handedly against seven assassins. After the play we made our way back to School, everyone having thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It really brought home to all of us the skill and imagination of one of the world’s best-known playwrights, even more so after viewing it the way Shakespeare intended. I personally came back to School ready for a peaceful evening. This idea was shattered when I remembered there was an English Society meeting that night. There is no rest for an English student!

Jonathon Day (Leeman’s)

THEOLOGY LECTURE

This year’s Theology lecture was given by Peter Williams of the Damaris Trust. He is a professional Christian apologist, who specialises in the Philosophy of Religion. One of his published works is entitled ‘The Case for Angels’ and it was this case that he came to present to the audience. Students and staff were treated to an enthralling academic lecture in which Peter Williams carefully constructed and outlined why belief in God is credible and how it follows that belief in Angels is simply an extension of this position. His thesis provoked many questions, was entertaining and academically challenging. His book is now in the school Library for any who wish to take the debate further!

Mr P.M. Dunstan
HISTORY DAY OUT

On Monday 21st June, 1A and 1B ventured out to Stansted to investigate Mountfitchet Castle and Norman Village. The moment you walk into the site you are entering a time warp which takes you back 900 years to 1066 and the death of Edward the Confessor and the Norman Conquest.

There were two main areas to explore. The first contained many workers’ dwellings, such as a candle-makers, a woodcarvers and a weavers. It also had a chapel, a whipping post and a pillory and stocks.

There was an area of torture and punishment where people would have had their heads or their limbs chopped off. It did not look very pleasant! Flour was ground on a grinding stone outside and many different kinds of animals were kept for food and skins.

While we were there a goat escaped and it took a while to capture it and bring it back. Unfortunately the catapult was not working as this would have made it easier to get it back into its pen!

There was a well-guarded gate from the peasants’ area to the King’s House which formed the second main area. It included an armoury and a banqueting hall where the Royal Family enjoyed more than the cheese sandwich that we were provided with for lunch. The walls were decorated with tapestries. The King’s bedroom was surprisingly small; I would never have fitted the junk from my bedroom into it!

There was an animated model on the turret of the King’s House that repeated the words, “Who goes there? You cannot pass this point! What is your name?”

Next we took a coach and drove the short distance to the ancient Roman town of Verulamium. After lunch we visited the Roman Museum. We were given a quiz and trekked around the museum to find the answers. There were practical things to do such as building bridges and organising the sizes of coins. There were many rooms displaying mosaics and excavated items. There was even a room full of well-preserved human bones explaining the Roman theories of after-life.

It was a great day and the best part was taking 107 photos, a chicken managed to get into every other one!

Jamie Coote (Martineau’s)

The coach trip from Mountfitchet to the Roman Museum at St Albans took about an hour. As soon as we arrived we had our lunch, there was a shop right next to the park where we picnicked and a lot of people went in there to get drinks and sweets. After lunch we all set off to the museum.

In the Museum we were given worksheets with questions on the exhibition. I think the whole of the first form really enjoyed it because there were loads of new things to learn - like how the houses were made, how people were buried, the different tools which were used and much more about Roman culture. After a good look around, and trying to finish the worksheets we all went to the Roman shop. There were a lot of nice artifacts to do with the different types of Roman life. When we left the shop it was really sad as it was time to leave and the coach was ready to go. The trip back to school took about half an hour - everyone was tired so it was a peaceful journey!

The whole of the first form had a great, and informative day and we would like to thank all the teachers for taking us to the different places.

Christopher Taylor (Martineau’s)
Eros to Eros Run

As usual, the runners poured into the Yard, bright and alert (or should that be stumbled, bleary eyed?) ready for a quick stroll up the Edgware Road. The weather was ideal, cool but dry, and the buses carried the thirty intrepid souls to Piccadilly Circus.

First runner home this year was Aaron Dombey in a very impressive time of 1 hour 45 minutes - the first time for a number of years a member of the School has finished so far under the two hour benchmark. Second home was another pupil, Jon Shubert, just two minutes later. OAs Allan Phillips and Ian Harvey followed in joint third place in 1 hour 54 minutes.

Provided all the promised sponsorship money is handed over, the run this year should raise some £1500 for the School charity.

Charity Committee

The past year has been an active one for the Charity committee. Through the good services of Mrs Lynsey Blackman (parent) and the Elstree and Borehamwood Rotary Club, the committee chose the Overcomers Childrens’ Home in Kenya as their ‘cause’.

The Overcomers organisation is seeking to build a school for orphans of Aids parents in Kenya. The organisation has been promised land by the Kenyan Government but they need to erect buildings on the allocated site very soon, or they will lose the land.

The committee organised various fund-raising activities - chapel collections, fortnightly burger bars etc and in the course of the year the amount raised and sent out was over £1000.

The River Ver

Clad in our shorts and wellies, we started the day with a briefing from our teachers - Messrs Maguire and Collins. After being divided into two groups we set off to the first of our three sites. We had only got as far as Radlett when we realised we had forgotten something and had to turn back! During the day we were to go to three different sights along the River Ver, at each site one group measured various aspects of the meander while the other concentrated on a straight section of river. We measured bedload size and angularity, the velocity at different depths across the width of the river, and so on. We measured and took different readings using the specialized equipment belonging to the Geography Department - calipers, stripey poles and a measuring tape!

Overall, the day turned out to be very enjoyable, and somewhat eventful! All we have to do now is table our results and produce our coursework!

Robert Lee (Paull’s)

The Tudor Stuart Day

The Tudor Stuart day was divided into separate parts. First we discussed what it would be like to live in those times, and the routines of the people, to keep track of what was said we were given sheets to remind us. Then we went into groups of four and were given a script of the opening scene of Macbeth - with the three weird sisters. After rehearsing in our group we performed our individual versions of the scene.

Next we did an exercise with Mr Butterworth - this was matching various achievements by famous people to their dates. We did this in groups, and then discussed the answers. After break we watched the film “To kill a king” - this is about Fairfax, Cromwell and King Charles and his execution. It included all the trials and tribulations of the time. All together it was a well constructed and well produced modern (to my surprise) film.

In Mr Pietrek’s room after lunch, we studied Discovery and Exploration and the perception of life in those times. We learnt about Christopher Columbus and his voyage to America and Sir Isaac Newton’s discovery of gravity. We also had in-depth discussions about the people of the time and their explanations as to why natural disasters had occurred.

The day ended with our performing short sketches for Mr Columbus about various topics like love and marriage, crime and punishment, and life in the country.

Paul Simmons (Martineau’s)
James Rigby (McGill’s) whom we mentioned last year was looking for Go-kart sponsorship, has provided us with an update on his racing career:

“I now have my National B racing licence having completed a week of intensive tuition at the Silverstone Driving School. The course started with an introduction from the chief instructor who told us how the week was going to be tiring, testing and exhilarating. The first thing we did was take the written part of our ARDS (the test to gain a racing licence). Although not as hard as I expected it did leave me wondering what was to come. My thoughts were answered as our instructor took us to the pits where five Lotus Elises were parked. Once we were strapped in, it was engine on and straight onto the track pushing as hard as we could with the instructor in the passenger seat giving us hints on how to improve. We were driving on the southern circuit doing about 120 mph down Hangar Straight and after about ten laps drove back into the pits to let another pupil take the driving seat. We moved from the Lotus to an Audi A4 on a skid control rig to induce oversteer allowing skid control techniques to be learnt. Then on to the single seaters with a seat fitting and our first chance to practise the heel and toe technique needed to change down the gears at speed. The day finished with a debriefing and being told that it would get tougher from here on in!

For the next two days the course continued with various sessions in the Lotus, the skid car and the single seater improving our control in each as we progressed. The third day finished with the practical part of our ARDS test. Now up to speed on the track I had to put together five consistent laps talking through everything I was doing while also executing the perfect racing line and gear changes. Luckily I passed, which gives me my car racing licence. On the last day there was a race meeting with a practice session, timed qualifying much like Formula One, and the race. Somehow I managed to get the fastest lap time which gave me pole position for the race. I made a good start creating a commanding lead on the cars behind. However after the first few laps a problem appeared with my gears while accelerating out of a corner, and eventually I had no third gear at all, this meant I had to go straight from second to fourth increasing my lap times significantly. As I could not accelerate out of the corners as well as the other cars I lost my lead and fell to the back of the field. Even after this setback the overall experience at Silverstone was amazing and I gained a huge amount of driving skills and technique. The school apologised for the mechanical failure of my car, and afterwards the manager said I should have won the race easily as I was the quickest driver, and he recommended that I should enter for the Silverstone Racing Scholarship in November. This on its own was enough to encourage me to push forward in my transition from karts to cars and it was very satisfying as well knowing that the school regarded me as a quick driver.”

James has been given a year’s membership to Silverstone, with his own Silverstone pass giving him free entry plus guest passes! James still needs sponsorship as he graduates from Go-karts to cars - if anyone can help, please contact him at School.
FOOTBALL

1st XI  Mr A.P. Stevenson

With so many new players it was no surprise that the season was slow to start. Despite the encouragement of getting to the quarter finals of the ISFA sixes it took 5 matches before recording the first win of the eleven a side season. There were some encouraging performances against some of the strong sides on the southern circuit. The harsh lessons of giving away the ball and then allowing silly goals were soon learned as the defence marshalled by the captain Dominic Stevens and new boy Kunith, tightened considerably. A narrow 2-1 loss to the OAs gave the team great confidence as they embarked on a run of 5 wins from the final six matches, losing only to Charterhouse 2-1 in a tight game. The Rahmintula twins are excellent and skilful forward players, and Griffiths and Aslanyan provided consistency in the mid-field, while Woolley in goal was a steadying influence. We say farewell to Dominic Stevens and Jonathan Weller after three years of sterling service. I hope that the team will be more successful next year since many of the current crop will return for another go.

2nd XI  Mr A. Galvin

Injuries and the demands of the 1st XI produced an unsettled team throughout the season with the inevitable effect on results. The main problem was the early injury to captain Mark Turpin - we missed his stabilising influence in defence, although Ben Portnoi and James Starr produced their normal heroics. There was, Rupert Embleton-Smith apart, a distinct lack of goalscoring potential about, although three goals in the second half against Ardingly (3-0 down at half time) were the highlight of an enjoyable season.

3rd XI  Mr R.P. Collins

The 3rd XI had a difficult season usually facing fitter and more skilful opposition. It is to their credit that they persevered and never gave up. Their commitment was second to none. Arshmeet Sahni led by example on the field and his speed over ten yards did pose problems for defenders. Player of the season was Duncan Fraser who was outstanding as the last line of defence. Chris Cernuschi missed most of the season through injury, but his return to central defence made a real difference as he dealt with all aerial threats. For 2004 the target must be to return to basics - short simple passing and tight marking.

4th XI  Mr P.W. Bounsall/ Mr A. Columbus

The 4th XI had a strong season. They were a talented group of footballers and a pleasure to take away to other schools. The results were a mixed bag, but overall we experienced a series of great wins, the odd loss and a thrilling draw against Wellingborough to finish the season. This was a talented side that did not always apply themselves positively and intelligently especially when one or more goals behind. However, four wins and one draw is a creditable performance. The Captain Andre Sharma (who was given the ‘best player award’) always set a good example challenging for the ball and distributing effectively from mid-field. Similarly Jerome Scott-Blount, Vishal Patel, Robbie Peluso and Alex Brown showed flashes of skill in each match. Up front, the forwards tended to waste chances by holding on to the ball too long and letting the defence regroup. James Bilotta and Sam Callan played solidly at the back. Dammy Awe always gave of his best and as the season went on his confidence increased and he was given the ‘most improved player’ award, along with David Charnley who, when in goal, saved the side from losing by bigger margins. Ben Frais also kept competently in the first half of the season.

U15A  Mr C.S. Irish

It was a very good season, improving on most of last year’s results. It was very nearly a great season, but fresh injuries always prevented us fielding the best eleven players at the same time. Tom Hall and James Egan each captained the side superbly whenever called upon. We had pace and ability up front in the form of R. Smith and S. Toumbas but they rarely played well in the same game. Smith scored 14 and Toumbas 12 goals. The defence was held together by A. Domby and T. Hall. J. Reuben looked to be becoming a good
player before he broke his arm and had to miss most of the season. S. Kutateledse, from Germany, was a
welcome addition to the team, and on his day was a very good attacker. J. Larkin was consistently good in
goal, with only one comedy error (against Wellingborough!) all season. Well done to all those who played.

U15B
Mr P.D. Duddles
As is usual with the B team in any year group, the same side rarely played twice. Josh Tobiansky proved
to be an excellent captain and mid-fielder and put 100% into every game. The side remained unbeaten for
the first five games of the season until Eton broke our record. This seemed to dent our confidence for two
or three games, but the season ended on another winning streak. Players who stand out include Kristos
Lambert, Beau Samuelson and Freddie Broome up front, Josh Martin on the left wing had excellent pace,
and Zac Glassman in defence was very strong. I wish them luck for next season.

U14A
Mr N.D. Pulman
They tried, they tried very hard in fact. Despite the ten defeats they were only ‘out of their depth’ in one
match; many other results were not true reflections of the balance of play. The lack of any real ‘presence’
in attack meant that we did not score goals in anything like the amount that our work rate would have
justified, so ‘schoolboy errors’ proved very expensive.
Mark Collier captained the side and won many midfield battles with Daniel Quick as his main ally. Edward
Seaman and Sam Kaye were very strong in the heart of defence and should be a solid foundation for all
future teams, particularly with Matt Wallace and Saul Wise competing for the goalkeeping position behind
them. Toby Bryan with 14 goals was the outstanding forward and will be seeking a partner next year!
This team will improve and give their long distance supporters more to smile about!

U14B
Mr J. Maguire
Another outstanding season for the U14B. The entire season was summed up in our final game against
Wellingborough. The defence, led by Nick Todd, appeared water-tight, but then for no apparent reason
would briefly fall apart. Fortunately Saul Wise, the goalkeeper, also noticed this trend and would be on
hand to save the day. The midfield especially Palmer and Cornelius, battled hard and over-powered
oppositions with physical challenges, providing excellent ball for the attack. If the aim was maintaining
possession in the opposition’s area then we had it cracked, unfortunately the aim is goals! These were hard
to come by; even against much weaker opposition. That said, Jamali and Charnley did accumulate good
statistics and led us on to a very impressive record. Well done to all - it will be hard to match next year.

U13 A
Mr A.P. Stephenson
The season started with a disappointing loss to Aldwickbury and ended with a deserved defeat by Highgate
who on the day were too strong. In between this talented bunch of players played such flowing and exciting
football, scoring goals a plenty and missing many more! The team benefited from many players having
experience of this level from the previous year. In Copley, Pincus and Weinberg there was a constant threat
on goal whilst Day, Cook and Ben-Ari at the back provided a solid foundation. Williams and A. Smith in
midfield were the model of consistency and Grant was a reliable stopper. They were well supported by
Horn, S. Smith, Ellis and Bratt. I hope this group continues to work hard - they have the ability to be a
successful group in the senior school.

U13B
Mr C.S. Irish
It has been a successful season with some very good results against some quality opposition - most notable
were the 4 goal wins over Quainton Hall and Orley Farm. Joshua Cuby was outstanding up front, scoring
over 20 goals in nine games. He was ably assisted by Elliot Bird and Jamie Eaggell who both showed good
pace when going forward. The defence was held together by the captain James Massing whose cover
tackling at the back was relentless. Well done to all those who played a part in this very enjoyable season.

U13C
Mr M.J. Langston
This was one of the most successful seasons ever for an Aldenham C team and the quality of football
played by the team was at times outstanding. The key to their success was a very athletic and committed
defence. This prevented other teams getting behind our defence and made the team more secure. In attack
a good partnership developed between Tyerman and Baker and they were supported by some excellent
wing play from Silver and Tomlinson. Edbrooke captained the team exceptionally well and offered the team a good balance with his strong left sided play. The team effort, commitment and energy was outstanding and with continued improvement in their touch and control they will go on to enjoy their football and do well in future years.

HOCKEY

1st XI  Mr T.R.B. Milton
This year the 1st XI was an exceptionally young and inexperienced side with half the team drawn from the 5th form. Thanks to a positive attitude and a willingness to train hard, they came on vastly over the term. I must thank Mark Turpin who has been an exceptional captain leading by example both in matches and training, and Jon Weller whose 'up and at em' attitude in goal did much to enthuse the team with self belief. We say goodbye to them this year together with Rishan Patel who has been a quietly effective left back for the last three years, and Freddie Waite who emerged this season to show his full potential. They will be hard to replace but there is a considerable pool of talent coming through behind them. Alec Aslanyan, Conor Woolley, Ed Newbery, Ben Ireson and Phil Gregory, all 5th formers, have had outstanding first seasons in the team. Provided the same work ethic and enthusiasm is maintained, the potential exists for a very good side to emerge over the next two years. The whole squad has been a pleasure to coach and they have been excellent ambassadors, representing the School with dignity and pride. I am looking forward to seeing them continue their development next year.

2nd XI  Mr C.S. Irish
The 2nd XI played a consistently good style of hockey this season. In most of their games they dominated possession and had pace in abundance going forward with Toby Morgan, Rupert Embleton-Smith and Julian Anyiam-Osugwe. Unfortunately the team lacked a regular goal scorer and this was our downfall in most games. Daniel Knapp captained the team with enthusiasm and loyalty. The team played and trained well all year and it is very pleasing to know that the core of the team will still be with us for another two years.

3rd XI  Mr M.W.D. Barrett
We started with a difficult fixture which pitted us against a very strong Haberdashers’ U16A team. Having lost the game heavily, we then lost our captain and goal scorer, Toby Morgan, to the 2nd XI. In our second match the team put in a confident performance against Mill Hill and it is a mystery how we did not score more than one goal. This was our finest hour with exceptional commitment from James Rigby, strength and skill from Miles Edson and good leadership from the captain James Graham. Unfortunately we could not repeat this performance in our final game and we lost to an unbeaten St Albans team 3 - 0, despite having the better chances.

U16A  Mr M.W.D. Barrett
The U16s played some difficult fixtures this term against strong opposition and were unlucky to lose two games by goals in the last minute. The most notable performance was at Bishop’s Stortford where the Aldenham team played some super hockey and took a well deserved lead before being over-run in the final few minutes. Conor Woolley as captain, Ben Ireson and Alec Aslanyan were particularly outstanding throughout the season.

U15A  Mr M.J. Langston
This has been an outstanding season with the team not only winning the majority of their matches and the Southgate H.C. 7s tournament, but also making huge improvements to the quality of their play. Defensively they became more resolute and organized which formed the foundation of the good season. In
patches in every game the team played some very fast, high quality, hockey and, in the game against Bethnal Green this was sustained for the whole match - hence the 11 - 0 score line. A tremendous team spirit and determination was evident throughout the season and different individuals made outstanding contributions. Tom Hall led the team well as captain and I would commend and thank them all for their effort and achievement.

U15B Mr D.S.Watts
This was a squad of intelligent and talented players. Not surprisingly many found themselves called on for U15A duty during the season. Their only failing was that they were slower to wake up to match speed than the opposition. This often left them fighting to stay in contention rather than exerting the control of which they were capable. Such was their spirit that their opponents were often more grateful for the final whistle than we were.

U14A Mr T.W.Butterworth
This was a very positive season for the U14A team. Results proved that they were a very capable team, and there was certainly a good improvement in team play during the season. In fact the team did not meet any truly superior opponents, the defeats coming when Aldenham underperformed against athletic, yet limited opposition. In some cases, individual players still have improvements to make, but in the main, the team worked hard. The key players were Ripper, Collier, Wallace and Snow, and the most important issue was their passing. When they moved the ball quickly, they cut teams to pieces, but when they dribbled too much, play became too congested. Other players to improve during the term were Choi in goal, Seaman, Mitchell and Palmer. Sam Kaye proved a reliable defender and a good captain, and Sheldon was the chief source of goals up front.

U13 Mr M.J.Langston
After the promise demonstrated by this squad last year, they have continued to develop their skills and understanding of the game. It was a season of good performances but also some frustrations, such as losing narrowly to both Watford GS and St Albans in keenly contested games, and, whilst unbeaten in the Southgate 7s tournament, this was not enough to win it outright. James Massing and George Day progressed through to final selection for Hertfordshire at under 14 level, and several other players have come close to this standard. Twenty players have represented the team this year and it bodes well for the future.

U12 Mr T.R.B.Milton
After only one season of hockey it is already clear that this group of boys contains great potential. The midfield trio of Marc Collier, Ross Bratt and Elliot Ilatt proved a match for anyone, whilst Chris Taylor in goal was ever reliable and capable of outstanding saves. Jasper Gruenewald is developing into a tenacious defender and Josh Cuby at centre forward, has the instincts of a poacher. I congratulate the whole squad for their enthusiasm and willingness to learn new techniques, and their success in winning all six matches in the end-of-term Seven-a-side tournament comfortably to win the tournament, was an accurate reflection of the talent within the squad.

CRICKET

1st XI Mr A.P.Stephenson
This was an excellent season with some good individual performances and consistent team efforts. There were no out-and-out stars but every member of the team was able, and managed, to influence a game at some point of the season. The overall record, of played 12 won 4 drew 6 lost 2 with 4 abandoned, reflects the influence of the British weather. Of the drawn games I think 4 would have been won as we were certainly in the box seats. The loss to Chester by 2 runs in the Festival was as exciting as it was heart
breaking. (But well played Duncan!) The defeat of UCS on the final standard showed maturity and a level of cricket that has not been seen at Aldenham for a few years. The future is bright! This was a side dominated by fifth formers skillfully lead by Turpin. For the record Woolley topped the batting averages and aggregate, closely followed by Karani (a model of consistency) and Sharma. Frais and Ireson showed promise with the bat and Thakrar was a great No 8!!!. Gregory hits the ball further than he throws the javelin. This was an exciting batting line up and worth watching next year. On the bowling front Thakrar developed into a fine opening bowler and his namesake has potential as a left armer. Sharma is a good leg spin bowler who conjured up an improbable win over Westminster. We say goodbye to Mark Turpin and Jonathan Weller after three years excellent service whilst the others return to the fray next April!!

2nd XI Mr M.A. Burley

In stark contrast to last year, this season was curtailed by the weather so that we were reduced to three matches which were a few weeks apart from each other. This did not enable any of the players to settle into form, nor the team itself to settle into a regular squad. A most encouraging start was made against Westminster with sound batting against a varied attack. Our bowlers then got amongst the wickets early on from which the opposition never recovered. Kunal Shah and Edward Newbery took three each, only dogged resistance by a lower order batsman preventing all the wickets falling, and the whole fielding performance was good. At John Lyon and UCS runs were harder to come by but too few batsmen had the concentration to stay at the crease and build an innings. Against John Lyon, Edward Newbery showed what could be done with a spirited 40, supported by Adnan Rahimtula, and against accurate bowling from UCS only Dominic Griffiths and Alex Brown offered any real resistance. Bowlers with lack of practice had difficulty defending modest totals. Despite this playing record the squad is one of some talent which will hopefully manifest itself next year. This year we say goodbye to Hanmeet Chawla, Hamid Johri, Kunal Shah and Dominic Stevens after sterling service over the last few years. We have valued their contributions. As always, well tried everyone, and well done in keeping to the spirit of the game.

U15A Mr T.W. Butterworth

This was a very positive season for the U15 team. They were beaten only twice, by strong sides from Watford Grammar and UCS, and had the better of a draw against Mill Hill. All other games were won. The team worked hard to play as a team, with improved fielding and energy on the field and the spirit amongst the players was good. The highlight of the season was the Chester Festival, when Aldenham brought home the trophy after victories over King William’s School, Isle of Man, King’s School Chester, and Liverpool College. The boys handled themselves very well both on and off the field, and several comments were made from outside the group about their excellent behaviour. The star performances came from Amar Vjih, who compiled impressive scores of 140*, 99, 88* and 78*. He strikes the ball with power, and though he had some lower scores too, once set, he punishes bowling. He was also the most incisive bowler, following up his century against Chester with figures of 4-11 in 8 overs. Against John Lyon, Edward Newbery showed what could be done with a spirited 40, supported by Adnan Rahimtula, and against accurate bowling from UCS only Dominic Griffiths and Alex Brown offered any real resistance. Bowlers with lack of practice had difficulty defending modest totals. Despite this playing record the squad is one of some talent which will hopefully manifest itself next year. This year we say goodbye to Hanmeet Chawla, Hamid Johri, Kunal Shah and Dominic Stevens after sterling service over the last few years. We have valued their contributions. As always, well tried everyone, and well done in keeping to the spirit of the game.
U15B  Mr P.M. Dunstan
This has been an excellent season for the U15 B team. The team has worked hard to improve all the key areas of fielding, bowling and batting. Particularly, we have focused on building partnerships when batting. This has led to an admirable situation where the first three batsman have won the game for us on several occasions, ably supported by some excellent bowling figures to set up the victory. Simon Turpin captained the side effectively, and led by example taking catches as wicket-keeper and batting well at number three. Aadil Datta, Jonathan Larkin and Adam Caesari all bowled very well, each of them taking six wickets in a match. They also batted solidly and showed commitment in the field. Ben Griffiths fielded and batted exceptionally well. Having scored 67 not out, he was promoted to play for the 15As. Although there were several excellent individual performances, cricket is definitely a team sport. It would have been impossible to win the matches so convincingly if it were not for the committed support of the rest of the squad. These team members turned out week after week, stayed committed in the field and were pleased to play the game - even if it meant that they did not get a bowl or bat. This is an admirable attitude and is to be commended. Several of the early matches were cancelled due to poor weather or the opposition not providing a side. However, the U15Bs convincingly beat Highgate, Mill Hill and Berkhamsted. It was disappointing to lose the last match of the season to UCS.

U14A  Mr M.J.Langston
The season promised much as the winter nets had gone well and the team had a good balance to it in the bowling department. However, the first three weeks' matches were all washed out and games that we would have been well fancied to win were cancelled. When we did start the season finally we discovered that in this age group there are a lot of very strong individual cricketers and in several games these players made the difference, particularly with the bat. In our team we never managed to build partnerships of any significance and it usually meant that one person scored the majority of the runs in any innings. It was pleasing to see Sheldon, Wallace and Wise all make big scores, but in isolation this was not always enough to win us the game. Our bowling attack had a nice balance, but again, individuals performed well on a day, but not the collective unit. This squad of players has a great deal of potential and with continued application to improve their techniques and further work to develop their concentration they will become an outstanding team. It has been a pleasure to work with them, and I would like to wish them all the best for their cricketing futures.

U14B  Mr W.P. Pietrek
The U14Bs had a very successful season. The team began with a victory over QE Barnet by 114 runs - a splendid start! Victories followed over Aldenham U15Bs, Haberdashers', Berkhamsted, John Lyon and Highgate. It was most disappointing that, after such a wonderful season we actually lost to UCS in our final game. The team demonstrated an excellent team spirit throughout the season. Three players in particular deserve special mention: Rahul Vyas captained the team and led by example, Jasbir Grewal bowled magnificently and Rob Blackman batted and kept wicket with great steadfastness and was deservedly the player of the season.

U13B  Mr M.J.Langston
The key element of Under 13 B is improvement and learning about the game. Both of these happened dramatically with this squad of players, as the season progressed. The final game against Quainton Hall demonstrated the improvement individuals had made to their batting and bowling techniques and all round understanding of the game. They grew in confidence as the season progressed and in particular Alex Horn's contribution as wicketkeeper and opener should be recognised. His ability to apply himself and concentrate for extended periods helped him to make several outstanding contributions. The bowlers progressed well and improved their consistency and reduced the number of extras being bowled. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I wish them all the best in their cricketing futures.

GIRLS’ GAMES
In the Christmas term the 6th form girls went to the Venue at Borehamwood for aerobics. They also played hockey and, in October, we organized an inter-house mini tournament. There were four excellent teams who showed great determination to win, in the end captain Maya Robert led her team of Laura McNicholas, Georgia Collins, Anna Court and Jess Le to a deserved victory.
After Christmas the girls took part in a course to gain a certificate in martial arts and self-defence. This was held in the Dance studio in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The course covered the five main ranges of self-defence: Kicking; Punching; Elbows and knees; Anti-grappling (defending against overpowering while standing and preventing being thrown to the floor) and Anti ground fighting (defending while...
on the floor). They also thoroughly enjoyed playing netball and we were able to make up two teams - one of which played against Northwood College and although they were defeated 17-14, they played a very mature game.

In the summer they played golf - we have some natural golfers amongst the girls and they all made steady progress. They also had rounders and athletics and they participated confidently in Sports Day. We have some naturally talented sportswomen who will be good role models for the lower 6th and our first intake of 11 year old girls. It has been an exciting and productive year.

Mrs J. Harris

SAILING

O to sail in a ship!
To leave this steady unendurable land,
To leave the tiresome sameness of the streets
the sidewalks and the houses,
To leave you O you solid motionless land, and
entering a ship,
To sail and sail and sail!

(A Song of Joys - Walt Whitman)

The beginning of the academic year saw a large group of third formers start to sail. Enthusiasm, interest and fun were much in evidence and it is to their credit, and to the club's continued well-being, that despite the onslaught of autumn few showed 'fair weather colours' and most continued "to sail, sail and sail" throughout the year. Thus not only were we able to put out a 1st VI, for whom James Rigby, Nicholas Schindler and John Boothby exceeded the optimism expressed last year, but also fixtures were arranged for a Junior team. In the summer term partly due to weather cancellations and A Level exams, the junior squad sailed more matches than their senior counterparts and, more importantly for the future of Aldenham Sailing, some, notably Joshua Oommen, Alastair Armitage-Brain, Ben Coyne and Andrew Wyatt acquitted themselves really well when called upon to stand in for those seniors who were on study leave. But, as with any team they too depended on a good developing nucleus of sailors whose lack of experience - at the moment! - was more than made up for by enthusiasm and a serious determination to do their best. The importance of this was not only witnessed during their crewing for the 'helm' races but also for the 'crew' races where the relatively inexperienced sailors still played a crucial role for, as our results show, most matches, with the exception of Charterhouse and Tonbridge, were very close affairs and were, in most cases, won or lost on the third race.

Once again the Inter-House Sailing Competition was held on Visitation Day and the minibus service ensured that a large number of visitors and parents saw some exciting sailing during which the unfancied team of Paull's (John Boothby and Andrew Wyatt combining really well together) led from the start and, but for a mistake over the course, would have completed a clean sweep of races.

The Thames Valley Championships fell foul to the weather, which was a dominant summer term feature in presenting most matches with very light winds to race in, so we weren't able to defend our Bronze shield and, surely with this year's senior team, improve on last year's result.

Sadly Nicholas Schindler, who partnered James Rigby last year, was not available for Itchenor this year. This was more than a great shame for I am certain, given the evidence of his sailing, he could have done well. James Rigby returned to Ichenor but with a new partner in John Boothby. Though drawn in many different directions by responsibilities, which cut practice and training times during the year, they did do well partly due to three really intensive training days before the championships. But as always they were competing with schools far more used to sailing on tidal waters and in winds stronger than the usual Aldenham reservoir breezes! Despite this they managed to maintain a position in the top half of a very competitive field and finished a creditable 24th out of 50 boats. Hopefully their arms can be twisted to return next year along with a second Aldenham crew but the campaign and training will start very early this time. It is about time we really put ourselves back in the top places.
In the past with the exams starting earlier and with very short summer terms quite a few of our traditional fixtures have been lost but more and more schools are joining us in sailing throughout the year and thus the Autumn term and latter part of the Spring term is virtually full for weekly fixtures so the seniors will regain most of their traditional (and new) fixtures. Though this is excellent it has put enormous pressure on our six boats and more worryingly, when there are home matches there can be no general teaching or coaching sailing, so there is a dangerous balance between involving, or not as the case may be, the new sailors.

A plan to augment our present fleet with new dinghies has received some encouragement. New boats are even more important if sailing can extend, as it ought to, to the Preparatory School and, with growing numbers, involve the girls either into a mixed or girls’ team. Such ambitions are not lighthouses, as opposed to castles, in the sky but strong possibilities considering that Aldenham is a recognized sailing school where the activity is rightly seen as a unique and very attractive part of the school ethos.

At the end of the year we bade farewell to two members of the club. Adam Hawes has been Captain for four years and Stuart Bowyer has been his uncomplaining crew for most of that time. They leave Aldenham Sailing with plenty of exciting ‘wind’ for James Rigby as Captain and Simon Frais who continues the often unnoticed but appreciated work as Secretary. “To sail and sail and sail!”

Mr M.J.Field

**TENNIS**

After losing the first two weeks of play because of non-seasonal (or should we now say seasonal?) weather some tennis was played!

At the Senior level we knew this would not be an easy season purely because of a lack of available players. Despite their big examination commitments Charles Perrin and James Ryman again showed they are both promising tennis players.

Lower down the school there are a number of good prospects. Marcus Lansbury and Jason Adebisi have a good range of shots, knowledge of tactical play and a desire to win. Adebisi is one of the few schoolboys I have seen who can manage the Pete Sampras style “slam-dunk” smash. Daniel Quick and James Charnley are not particularly stylish players but they will win a lot of matches; they have a manifest wish to get on with the game and will probably wear down many opponents. They, and some others, could well form the basis of some good tennis teams in a few years time.

My thanks to Mr Stait for his assistance, and to James Ryman, our captain, for his support.

Mr D.W.Goodearick

**ATHLETICS**

This year’s season had many individual highlights, particularly the achievements of Phil Gregory. In the Hertfordshire Schools’ Championships Aaron Dombey performed well in the 1500m as did Ross Smith in the 200m. Aurie Green won his Triple Jump final, and Phil Gregory comfortably won the Javelin competition with the second longest throw in the country for the season. The achievements of Phil Gregory continued beyond that trial and during the Summer he had the honour of representing his country: Aldenham School managed to field fourteen athletes at the trials, signalling real depth to the squad of the future.

Mr T.M.Hill
JUDO

Team: M.Jackman (Capt.), B.Tovey (Vice-Capt.), Y.Osawa, R.McNeil, M.Leong, J.Xue.

A team of six attended the Independent Schools' Judo Tournament in March entering the Junior and Intermediate sections. Only the captain and vice-captain had any experience of competition; two of the team were new to Judo in September, and the other two had been progressing well for the last eighteen months. For most the occasion was a learning curve, coming up against stronger and faster opponents. Nevertheless they put in spirited performances without being overwhelmed and battled well to avoid quick losses. Martin Jackman was not on form but did win one fight, with Yujiro Osawa winning his first fight convincingly but losing out after that. The real success, however, was gained by Ben Tovey who, having been caught early on in his first fight, went on to win his next two and a Bronze medal in the junior section. All this team should be well prepared for better success next year after this experience.

The end of the summer term saw the retirement of our coach, Dick Knighton, after twenty-two years' service. Until he was plagued by back problems this last year he had been a very active coach, demonstrating every move clearly, attending to every detail and demanding high standards. He will be greatly missed and leaves with the proud record of every Aldenham team he has coached gaining at least one medal at the Independent Schools' Tournament, as well as their gaining medals in county competitions. We wish him all the very best and thank him enormously as we welcome Mike Player to take his place from September 2004. We hope that there will be a good take up of boys, and even girls, and that present players of all standards will remain committed right up to senior level to bolster the team.

Mr M.A. Burley

ETON FIVES

Hanmeet Chawla and Danny Knapp represented the School at the Rossall School All-England Tournament. They won the Plate competition, with good wins especially against pairs from St Olave's, Lancing College, and Oakham.

Aldenham again hosted the Abbey Tournament for Senior players. We entered three pairs, none of whom got through to the final stages, though the performance was not at all bad - between them they won 5 out of 11 matches played in the pools.

In the National Schools' Championships, held this year at Highgate, we entered three Senior pairs, one U16, and four U15. Success was variable - only Chawla and Knapp from the Seniors, and Nish Raveendran and Ricky Patel from the U16s, got past the pool stages. Between them Senior pairs won 4 out of 9 pool matches, and the U15s 8 out of 16.

In the Aldenham House Competition Beevor's won the final against Kennedy's.

A good number of boys continue to play and enjoy the sport. Time of course remains a big problem. These same boys are often heavily committed elsewhere, not least in the area of other sports. To maintain this important and traditional Aldenham game I am grateful for the help of certain individuals: Gordon Whitehead, for his consistent support and example; Josh Rose, for assisting me with the extra Friday afternoon sessions, Mr Cockerill for his work with Martineau's boys, and Mr Fraser and other Heath Club members, for welcoming some of our boys.

Mr D.W. Gooderick
BASKETBALL

This season has seen basketball go from strength to strength. At Junior Level in particular, pupils have enjoyed some impressive successes against challenging opposition. The highlights of the season, for both teams, have included two trips to play in London Schools’ tournaments at the Stadium of the Kinder London Towers at the National Stadium, Crystal Palace. Both days provided some excellent basketball as well as the opportunity for the pupils to play on a Premiere League Court. Pupils also watched the London Towers play after their tournament had finished. Both teams enjoyed success, winning well over half their games. Once again captain Douglas Hamilton scored the lion’s share of the points throughout the Senior Team’s season.

Special thanks must also be made to Mr Rick Taylor, Managing Director of the London Towers, who has enabled our trips to take place, as well as providing some invaluable coaching to both teams.

Mr T.M.Hill

CROSS COUNTRY

This year this event was back in its usual slot at the end of the Easter Term. Despite the building work, the race covered almost exactly the course as has been the case in previous years. The weather was particularly kind, the going was good underfoot, and the sun was shining so the temperature was very pleasant for spectators without climbing too high to be unpleasant for the runners.

Neale won the Martineau’s team race, and the individual winner was Tobi Caesari, closely followed by Jack Baker, Luke Kelly came third. Beevor’s were first in the Juniors’ team race, while the individual winners were Aaron Dombey, Edward Seaman and Robert Lee. In the Seniors’ race the team winners were Beevor’s, while the individuals were Jonathan Shubert, James Byman and Jan-Niklas Greim-Kuczowski.

Mr T.A.Ford
On Saturday, after surviving a very turbulent plane flight and a very twisty mountain road, twenty-seven boys and eight staff members arrived at Les Menuires, a lovely ski resort nestled among the peaks of the French Alps. We spent the rest of our first day taking care of the essentials: settling into our rooms, fitting our skis, and learning the basics of French waiters’ slang (Shua!). Despite patches of green showing through the piste edges from the hot April sun, Sunday morning was filled with excitement as we separated into groups for skiing lessons. By mid-afternoon, the experienced skiers had found their rhythms well enough to skilfully navigate the increasing slush. Meanwhile, the beginners learned the snow-plough and the thrill of accelerating down a mountain. On Sunday evening, we familiarised ourselves with the shops in the town, especially the pizzeria/crêperie nearby, which received countless visits over the week.

With another warm day on Monday, we explored our valley and worked on developing our muscles. The night was spent watching ‘Big Fish,’ a surreal movie that received mixed reviews.

On Tuesday, the snowboarders and several staff decided to tackle the Three Valleys run - a massive day spent skiing from Les Menuires to Meribel to Courchevel and back again. The distance was long (seventy miles being Josh Cuby’s guess), and the weather was difficult (whiteouts and sleet); but the banana splits and the feeling of accomplishment after seven hours of skiing were fantastic! The snow started in the afternoon, and became one of the most popular subjects covered during the collective postcard writing that evening.

The overall accumulation of eight inches provided beautiful powder for skiing on Wednesday. After lessons, everyone went up the bubble lift together for a group run down our valley. With a little help from the staff and David Tross, even the beginners were able to complete a tricky red run! In the evening, we braved cold winds for a toboggan race in which four 2nd formers won the first round of the competition, to the 4th formers’ chagrin.

With cloudless skies and perfect snow on Thursday, the advanced skiers set off to tackle the Three Valleys run, while several other groups descended into the valley of Val Thorens on the other side. The conditions were unbeatable, and the snow-filled clouds only moved in once we had taken over the ice-skating rink that night. A battle over Chris Kelly’s Guinness hat ensued, with fearless skiers turned fearless skaters, although their falls hurt a bit more.

Friday, our last day of skiing, had come too quickly. The weather had taken a turn for the worse and many of us were tired, but not ready to give up, so we skied as long as we could. Later, our boys turned into lovely housemaids as they vacuumed and tidied their rooms, with just enough time to hit the town for one last shopping spree.

We said goodbye to our restaurant, rooms, and resort on Saturday morning, but our ski-toned muscles wanted one last run down the pistes instead of several hours of bus and plane rides. At last, after a very successful week, we arrived at the Martineau’s car park, passports in hand, and salopettes packed away…until next year!
After Jackson Pollock by Kunal Inamdar (Leeman's)

by Kieran Bruce (McGill's)
**TEAMS and RESULTS**

**Football**

**1st XI**  Mr A.P. Stephenson  

**2nd XI**  Mr A. Galvin  

**3rd XI**  Mr R. Collins  

**4th XI**  Mr P. W. Bounsall/Mr. A. Columbus  

**U15A**  Mr C. S. Irish  

**U15B**  Mr P. G. Duddles  

**U14A**  Mr N. D. Pulman  

**U14B**  Mr J. Maguire  

**U13A**  Mr A. P. Stephenson  
C. Grant, D. Cook, M. Weinberg, D. Day, D. Ben Arie, G. Copley, A. Smith, B. Smith, A. Williams, S. Ellis, J. Horn, B. Pincus.

**U13B**  Mr C. S. Irish  

**U13C**  Mr M. J. Langston  

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**1st XI**  
City of London D 1 - 1  
Kimbolton L 1 - 2  
Bradfield L 1 - 6  
Chigwell W 2 - 5  
Wellingborough W 4 - 1  
St Bede’s L 0 - 6  
Forest L 1 - 5  
Ardingly D 2 - 2  
Eton L 0 - 6  
Cornwallian School L 0 - 2  
Grange (ISFA) L 1 - 4  
Oke L 1 - 2  
Woolley W 3 - 0  
Highgate L 1 - 3  
Wellingborough W 2 - 0  

**2nd XI**  
Kimbolton L 2 - 0  
Chigwell W 2 - 5  
Wellingborough W 4 - 0  
St Bede’s L 0 - 6  
Forest L 1 - 5  
Ardingly D 2 - 2  
Eton L 0 - 6  
Cornwallian School L 0 - 2  
Grange (ISFA) L 1 - 4  
Oke L 1 - 2  
Woolley W 3 - 0  
Highgate L 1 - 3  
Wellingborough W 2 - 0  

**3rd XI**  
Kimbolton L 2 - 3  
Chigwell W 2 - 0  
Wellingborough W 4 - 0  

**4th XI**  
Bradfield L 0 - 6  
Chigwell W 2 - 1  
Wellingborough L 2 - 5  
Forest W 4 - 0  
Ardingly W 2 - 1  
Eton L 1 - 4  
Wimbledon L 1 - 2  
Highgate L 1 - 8  
Westminster W 2 - 1  
Charterhouse L 0 - 7  
Wellingborough D 3 - 3  

**U15A**  
Kimbolton L 0 - 6  
Chigwell W 2 - 1  
Wellingborough L 2 - 5  
Forest W 4 - 0  
Ardingly W 2 - 1  
Eton L 1 - 4  
Wimbledon L 1 - 2  
Highgate L 1 - 8  
Westminster W 2 - 1  
Charterhouse L 0 - 7  
Wellingborough D 3 - 3  

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**Teams and Results**

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<td>Forest</td>
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Hockey

1st XI

2nd XI

3rd XI

U16

62
**Cricket**

**1st XI** Mr A.P. Stephenson

**2nd XI** Mr M. A. Burley

**U15A** Mr T. W. Butterworth

**U15B** Mr P. M. Dunstan

**U14A** Mr M. J. Langston

**U14B** Mr W. P. Pietrek

**U13B** Mr M. J. Langston
H. Sarwar (Capt), T. Caesari, D. Cook, G. Day, J. Domboy, C. Ferguson, M. Harris, T. Mashru, J. Massing, A. Smith, E. Blatt, W. Collier, J. Greenough, A. Horn, A. Choudhry

<table>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Sailing** Mr M. J. Field

**Seniors:** from A. Hawes (Capt.), J. Boothby, S. Frais, M. Harron, J. Oommon, J. Rigby, R. Thornton, N. Schindler and A. Wyat.

(Autumn Term)
- Tonbridge: L, 3
- Lancing: W, 2
- Haileybury: W, 2
- Charterhouse: L, 3
- Charterhouse: L, 3
- Harrow: W, 2
- Merchant Taylors: L, 1

(Summer Term)
- Bradford College: L, 1
- City of London: W, 3
- Haileybury: W, 2
- Brentwood: D, 2
- Harrow: W, 2

**House Sailing Competition:**
- **Winners:** Paul’s, John Boothby and Andrew Wyatt
- **Runners-Up:** McGill’s James Rigby and Adam Sullivan

Ichenor Nationals Schools’ Sailing Championships: James Rigby and John Boothby 24th out of 50.
**Eton Fives**  
Mr D.W. Gooderick  

Under 16: R.Patel, N.Raveendran  

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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>L 0-2</td>
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<td>Queen Elizabeth Barnet</td>
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<td>Berkhamsted</td>
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<td>L ½2½</td>
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<td>Westmeister</td>
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**Tennis**  
Mr D.W. Gooderick/Mr J.P. Stait  


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**Sports Day**

Sports day was a roaring success this year as once again the weather was very kind to us. Many records were broken and in some cases smashed and it was great to see the senior girls competing in a structured competition for the first year.

At the Martineau’s age group the competition was dominated by David Cook and James Massing, both from Griffin house. Respectively they won 3 and 2 individual events each and each broke 2 school records. They were both members of the Griffin 4 x 100m relay time which smashed the previous record. Farouk Ismail also performed well in the field events, doing the double and winning both the Shot and Discus.

In the junior events Toby Bryan was awarded the Victor Ludorum for breaking the triple jump record and winning the 1500m. James Cornelius ran very well and won both the 100 & 200m. It was the middle age group that was the most keenly contested and of the highest standard. Ross Smith did the 100 & 200m double. Aaron Domby did the 400 & 800m double, breaking the 800m record and he also won the high jump. The outstanding performer of the day and winner of both the middle Victor Ludorum and Kelly Cup was Phillip Gregory. He won the hurdles, broke the Shot Putt record and then smashed the school javelin record by over 18m with a colossal throw of 64.18m.

The senior Victor Ludorum was deservedly won by Toby Morgan of Kennedy’s. James Ryman also performed exceedingly well on the track doing the 800 & 1500m double. The girls’ events were dominated by the outstanding Jennifer Keilbock, who won most of the field events and the coveted Victrix Ludorum. Claudia Spreyer’s performances were extremely noteworthy, especially her track events.

Mr C.S. Irish