The Coeducation Issue
Winter 2014
There's something rather off-putting about tub-thumping proselytising when it comes to the virtues of single-sex or co-educational schools, and I steer clear of it: I don't see the evidence of deep scars in the cheerful parents I meet of their schooling with or without the opposite sex, and I wouldn't expect to, so, when it comes to Open Mornings, all I'll ever say about the merits of one system against the other is that well-run schools of whatever complexion have happy children; parents, however, who see their child's education through the prism of their own experiences, be they happy or tortured, are different, and must follow their gut instincts when it comes to school choice. But this anniversary of the arrival of girls at Highgate's Junior and Senior Schools in 2004 is a different matter: it's part of our story, and it is right that we should celebrate the triumphant and joyous success that has been the experience of Highgate co-education.

Of course, I wasn't in at the beginning: John Mills, Chairman of Governors, and Richard Kennedy, my predecessor, guided those who took the decision and prepared for and introduced the change, with tactical and market-efficient clarity and foresight. Charlotte Avery, Highgate's first female pastoral deputy, was part of a crack team who welcomed and integrated the first generations of girls in the Senior School, while Mark James, as Principal of the Junior School, shepherded the first arrivals to reach Cholmeley House; Richard and Charlotte recount those early days in this edition.

From where I sit, things are of course so very different: 46% of our pupils are girls and in Years 7, 8 and 9 (first, second and third forms in 'old money') there is a 50:50 ratio of boys to girls. While some parents new to Highgate need to be reassured that co-education works, those of us learning and teaching here can be brought up short by the very question: co-education is what we know and it's the way we have got to know each other; all our relationships, our friendships, our growing up, have taken place in a setting where girls and boys have always been present. When the timetable throws up an all-girl or all-boy class, that is the oddity. But what are the differences then?

I think there are two. First, because we're conscious of the inequality and stereotype that walk through the school gates, of how girls and boys can arrive expecting to conform to others' ideas of what it means to be a girl, to be a boy, we know we have a duty to challenge blinkered thinking (at best) or sexist thinking (at worst) precisely because out there, in the 'real world', opportunity and fairness are still parcelled out according to gender. I believe that today's Cholmeleians leave equipped and empowered to create a fairer world. Second, those same leavers have forged long-lasting, genuine friendships between girls and boys which see through but draw on gender: the relationships they go on to make will, I know, be the richer for that. So, while I'm not sure what the chroniclers will say about Highgate's move to co-education in, say, 2065, ten years on, there's little doubt that we are a happy, harmonious and wonderfully irreverent community which owes a colossal debt to the thoughtful authors of the biggest and best change in Highgate's history!
We find out what our first cohort of girls has been doing since they left Highgate.

**News** Lord Hill Takes Top Post at Brussels
Jonathan Hill has been made Britain's Commissioner for the regulation of financial services

**News** Self-Esteem, Sanity and the Adolescent Years
Emma Thompson chairs our first conference on good mental health

**News** Boris Johnson Delivers Oration
Boris Johnson talks to Year 11 on 'Politics and the Past'

**Feature** All Change at Highgate
The Chairman of Governors, John Mills, describes how the decision to go coeducational was taken

**Feature** Sex, Gender and Highgate School
The Student Editors talk to the Head Master, Adam Pettitt, about how he sees Highgate developing as a fully coeducational school
Jonathan Hill, Lord Hill of Oareford (NG 1973) has been appointed Britain’s next European Commissioner with a major economic portfolio which will involve the regulation of banks and financial services. The move is seen as a good one for Prime Minister David Cameron, who feared being punished by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker after he tried but failed to stop the federalist Luxembourger from getting Europe’s top job in July.

‘I think it’s great for the United Kingdom to have someone right at the heart of the European Commission, the European Union, making sure that financial services industries can go from strength to strength,’ commented the Prime Minister.

Jonathan welcomed the ‘great responsibility’ of running a powerful new Commission department that will reshape a ‘sector of fundamental importance to the European economy.’

‘My starting point is that there is much work to do to ensure we have stable and well regulated financial markets,’ he said.

However, the Conservative peer, a former PR man and close friend of Mr Cameron, faced hard questions from the Commission over his qualifications for the job and over Britain’s commitment to Europe, with a referendum promised for 2017 if the Tories are victorious in the next election. It was only at a second hearing that he won endorsement by a committee of the Commission by 41 votes to 16.

Jonathan, who currently leads the House of Lords, is seen as someone who will take a tough line in negotiating with the EU, in line with David Cameron’s strategy to renegotiate Britain’s membership of the EU if he wins the next election. Britain is also fearful that any EU regulation of the financial services sector could lead to the loss of London’s preeminence as a world financial centre.

In an interview with The Daily Telegraph about his new role as European Commissioner, Jonathan commented: ‘I am not a reluctant conscript. It is true that I loved my time at the House of Lords which is a fantastic institution filled with wonderful people. The fact is that having thought about the importance of this job, the pivotal role that it will play, the crucial time in the history of the EU and also of Britain, it is a fantastic opportunity to be involved and I would be mad not to do it.’

Jonathan opened the School’s new Charter Building in January 2012, where a commemorative plaque now hangs.
Philip Jordan (MG 1974) was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Year's Honours in January 2014 for distinguished service to the Metropolitan Police Service.

As a Detective Chief Superintendent he managed the security operation for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He has now taken the post of Senior Programme Manager for the Lord Mayor of London, Fiona Woolf CBE and holds the ceremonial position of City Marshal.

‘For a third of my career I was in plain clothes, so the ceremony and visibility of the role is fairly new to me’, he commented. The biggest challenge of the new role, he finds, is developing levels of expertise in new and different fields.

‘One of the things I have to understand is the offshore trading of the Renminbi, the Chinese currency, clearly a subject new to a police officer.’ He supports the Lord Mayor on domestic and overseas visits, following what can be a fairly punishing schedule. Often she attends up to twelve engagements in one day. He relishes, however, the ‘sheer variety of the work.’

Some of his duties have to be performed on horseback, which, as a novice rider, he confesses to finding ‘fairly terrifying’.

Prior to this, Philip worked for 31 years in the Metropolitan Police, leaving the Service as a Detective Chief Superintendent in Specialist Operations.

After a secondment to Thames Valley Police, in 1998 he joined Special Branch to work on the International Squad heading up the Middle East Desk and then later the International Intelligence section. During this period, he was involved in many counter-terrorism and counter-espionage operations. He later became Head of Special Branch Protection.

Philip has been responsible for the security of many visiting Heads of State and Heads of Government. His expertise has been used to help capability building in many nations, including Iraq and Afghanistan. From June 2007 – May 2010 he was head of the Prime Minister’s protection team.

He has led the UK protection operation for many major summits and conferences, including the G8 in 2005 and the 2009 G20 summit. In 2010 he headed up the protection operation for the Papal visit and in 2011 was the Protection Coordinator for the wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

More recently, Philip was project manager for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games VIP Protection Project.

He has fond memories of a very busy time while at Highgate. ‘It was sad to see the news about Peter Knowles as he was the master that unlocked the secrets of chemistry for me then fostered so well by Mike Morelle and Andy Szydlo’, he recalls. ‘Chemistry Club was relatively new then and in an era before Health and Safety really took hold, we were fairly free to ‘develop our practical chemistry’ skills in any way that was deemed safe. Around 5 November, this was often dominated by helping Andy Szydlo preparing homemade fireworks, some of which we tested off the roof of the Science block! Fencing dominated my sporting time under the very strict tutelage of Prof Akos Moldované but he prepared us to do well in the sport later in life. The other fond memory is of Revd. Peter Stone who was always on hand with supportive and wise words especially following a disappointment.’

In his spare time, Philip enjoys walking, choral music, supporting Barnet Football Club and has represented Great Britain in fencing, albeit most recently as a veteran. Philip is married to Judy and they have three sons.  

Philip Jordan in his ceremonial robes of office as Programme Manager for the Lord Mayor of London, Fiona Woolf
Michael Welbank is Awarded the MBE for Services to Local Government

Michael Welbank (EG 1944) was awarded an MBE by the Queen at the beginning of the year for services to Local Government and the community of North West London.

Michael is the former Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee and was re-elected last year as the Independent to the Court of Common Council of the City of London Corporation for the Ward of Billingsgate.

‘I have been fortunate in receiving some awards and prizes but the award of an MBE was for me in old age the most gratifying recognition of my efforts, with an Investiture undertaken by Prince William’, commented Michael.

Michael was at Highgate during the war years, and remembers three teachers vividly: ‘The free-thinking Freddie Fox who managed brilliantly to awake my consciousness to the issues of the world,’ Kyffin Williams, ‘another, not exactly fitting the orthodox schoolmaster image but a brilliant teacher. For me the Art School provided the entrance to a new exciting world; it was always open, making it a welcome refuge from the classroom’ and Theodore Mallinson. ‘He was a one-off. I have never met any other man who radiated such good humour and such enormous enjoyment of life. For him life was for living.’

After Highgate he chose to train as an architect, graduating from the Bartlett School at University College London. Before that came two years National Service, commissioned in the Royal Artillery and posted to the British Army of Occupation of the Rhine, followed by five years in the Territorial Army.

Following graduation, he had positions in the LCC, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The second, lasting some twenty years, was with the consultancy Shankland Cox of which he became a director.

Later, he was appointed the Chief Technical Adviser to the Governor of Port Said for the planning and reconstruction of that city, a project financed by the British Government and UNDP. This of course had some strange twists to it because it was the destruction caused during the Suez war of 1956 with British military participation which was now being rebuilt. ‘Our Egyptian colleagues delighted in pointing out the various places in the city where they had manned emplacements to fight the invading British Army’, Michael remembers.

In the third phase of his career, he worked in the UK, mainly in the field of physical infrastructure such as the Channel Tunnel, HS1, Heathrow Express, Terminal 5 and major road and rail projects. Many of these came about through Private or Hybrid Bills and he spent many months giving expert evidence before select committees of Parliament or at Planning Public Inquiries. And it was at this time he was elected President of the Royal Town Planning Institute and a little later elected to be Master of his Livery Company – the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects.

After the death of his wife of forty years in 2002, he came to the end of his professional life but the possibility of being elected to the Common Council of the City of London Corporation presented itself; he stood and failed in two by-elections but was successful in 2005 in being elected for the Ward of Billingsgate. He was re-elected in 2009 and 2013 and is now the Ward Deputy.

At present, Michael is Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee which has a wide portfolio with work that comes under much public scrutiny and involves ongoing relationships with the GLA, the Mayor of London and TFL. ‘I find it stimulating and a privilege to be involved with shaping the future of this business and financial world city set in an historic environment with an amazing mix of entertainment and cultural facilities together with a resident population of 9000 – all within the ‘square mile’, he commented.

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Adam Jogee is the youngest-ever Labour councillor elected for Haringey

Adam Jogee (FG 2010) is the youngest ever Labour councillor elected for Haringey in this year’s local elections. Will this be the start of a political career for the twenty-two-year-old, whose interest in politics began at the precocious age of 16?

Adam has been elected to the Hornsey Ward as the youngest councillor to date for a four-year term, having previously been elected to the Haringey Youth Parliament in 2006. Adam has found his early days in the post ‘exciting but very demanding’. His responsibility is the Haringey Cabinet advisor for Libraries – more of a battleground than usual with the recent cuts.

His interest in politics began as a 16-year-old when he was elected to the Haringey Youth Parliament. He then went on to stand for Labour in Highgate mock elections and reminisces about holding a House of Commons-style debate across the pews in the School Chapel. This was an early defeat for Adam, with the Conservative party coming out on top with 283 votes to Adam’s 213. He went on from Highgate to read History at SOAS and since then has continued campaigning in his local area, adopting the slogan ‘From Hornsey, For Hornsey’. This May he was successfully elected a councillor. Adam also works as a parliamentary assistant to the Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Diane Abbott, who was Shadow Public Health Minister until a recent reshuffle.

As a young politician, Adam is keen to bring politics to a younger audience, and he has campaigned to lower the voting age. Perhaps he hopes he has helped pave the way for other young people to stand for local elections in Haringey, though he would be too modest to say so. Adam is aware of the common perception that people who enter politics at a young age are often dubbed ‘career politicians’. Ultimately he feels that it is dangerous to cast aspersions on younger politicians, as young people represent a considerable proportion of the electorate.

Adam tells us that his supportive and politically-involved family has been instrumental in helping him get elected. He says that his best piece of advice for aspiring politicians is to ‘have a thick skin’, especially in this age of the 24hr news cycle when the public scrutinise our politicians more than ever. On top of this he adds the burden of being hardworking and genuine, a tall order for many, if not for this talented and energetic youngster. However, he also acknowledges that it is important to keep a balance and maintain a busy social calendar and is a dedicated Manchester United supporter.

Adam is the most recent of a number of well-known politicians to have attended Highgate, including Charles Clarke, the former Home Secretary, along with Lord Frank Bowles and Anthony Crosland, important Labour figures. Is Adam motivated to follow in their footsteps? He says he would like to pursue something in the political arena once his four years as a Haringey councillor come to a close. However, for now he is content at the local level which is more manageable and where he can ‘make an impact on people’s lives’.

Sholto Gillie (13TL)
Major General Henry Woods has been made a member of the Royal Victorian Order for his work as Director of the St William's Foundation, a charitable organization based in York. Henry helped draw up the essentials for an awards ceremony which is attended annually by HRH the Duke of York, who presents the awards in his name. The Royal Victorian Order is awarded personally by the Queen for services to the Sovereign or the Royal Family.

In 1997 the Duke of York visited a housing estate in York which was a model of how to involve the local community in sprucing up housing stock, fences, flower beds and caring for their environment, commented Henry. ‘HRH was very impressed and said to me: ‘How could this be replicated?’ I was then both the Director of the St William’s Foundation and Vice Lord Lieutenant of the County. I was able to pull together a Steering Group and work out a plan for applicant schemes, recruitment and briefing of assessors and the essentials for an Award Ceremony’, he added.

Henry Woods has had a distinguished military career, seeing service in many different theatres of war, including Normandy, Korea, Egypt, the Rhine, Aden and the Persian Gulf. When he retired in 1980, he was General Officer Commanding the North East District. Previously, he held other senior posts including Military Attaché in the USA and Commandant of the Royal Armoured Centre, Dorset.

He was awarded the Military Cross in 1945 and the MBE in 1964. He recalls joining Highgate at Westward Ho! in 1939, ‘after a long rail journey and a poor night’s rest on straw palliases in the Golf Club locker room. Accommodation and food improved as things settled down while our classroom was a cafe with Walls ice cream posters in the windows. I achieved the rank of Sergeant in the CCF which was incorporated into the Home Guard on the latter’s formation in 1940. Eventually I commanded a Vickers Machine Gun Detachment in a pillbox on the Westward Ho Burrows.’

After Highgate, Henry gained an Exhibition at Trinity College Oxford, to read Modern History for four terms and matriculated in January 1942. In May, he received orders to go to the Primary Training Unit at Beverley and complete a basic course and from there he went to the wartime six month course at Sandhurst. The salute at his Passing Out parade in March 1944 was taken by General Eisenhower, then Supreme Allied Commander Europe and he was commissioned in the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, a tank unit.

Henry recalls: ‘In June 1944 my Regiment mobilised for service as follow-up reinforcement for the British Second Army fighting in Normandy. We crossed the Channel overnight and landed on 19 July, and joined 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats). I took part in the last phase of the Battle of Normandy, the pursuit into Belgium, operations to clear the Scheldt estuary and the pursuit to the Kiel Canal across Northern Germany. I was wounded in early April, treated in hospital in Brussels and given sick leave at home, arriving in London on VE Day. Post-war we formed part of the British Army of the Rhine/ Northern Army Group (when NATO was formed).’

Henry has also undertaken considerable work for charity. From 1980-87, he formed and headed the Centre of Industrial and Educational Liaison to involve Industry more closely in raising the employability of young people in Yorkshire. From 1986-1999 he formed, and was first Director, of St William’s Foundation, a charity modelled on St George’s House, Windsor and from 1997-2012 he co-founded with HRH The Duke of York the community initiative whose aim is to nourish and give awards to any activities which improve the community’s quality of life and involvement. ‘Looking back on a full life of service to the Crown, some of it was fun, some of it was scary and some adventuresome. At least I can say hardly any of it was boring’, Henry commented.
Sir Andrew Burns to Head the Bar Standards Board

He is currently the UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues and Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Andrew succeeds Baroness Ruth Deech QC at the Board, whose six year term of office as Chair will finish at the end of 2014. He is due to serve for an initial term of three years, starting from 1 January 2015.

Andrew brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience from his career in the diplomatic service, and education, finance, and cultural sectors.

Andrew commented: ‘I am very excited at the prospect of leading the BSB through the next stage of its journey to becoming a more modern and efficient regulator. I am committed to working with the Bar to help it modernise and flourish in the face of change, while maintaining quality standards and safeguarding the client.’

The Board hears cases of professional misconduct by barristers – recent cases include sending violent and sexist emails, inappropriate cross-examination of witnesses and embellishing cvs with fictitious details.

Andrew's career as a diplomat has included some top postings. He has been British High Commissioner to Canada (2000-2003), British Consul-General in Hong Kong and Macau (1997-2000) and British Ambassador to Israel (1992-1995). Other important roles include the final International Governor of the BBC, Chairman of Royal Holloway, University of London (2004-2011), and Chair of the Committee of University Chairs (2008-2011).

Andrew currently chairs Hestercombe Gardens Trust and the International Polar Foundation-UK and is a Governor of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.
West End Success for Playwright

Ben Ockrent’s *Breeders*

Young playwright Ben Ockrent (EG 1995) has been having success both in the theatre and on television. Ben — whose father was the Broadway producer, Mike Ockrent — has already achieved success with writing for the TV series *Waterloo Road, Material Girl* and *Younger* had a play screened on BBC1 this autumn. *The Visitor* is the story of a family in leafy middle-class London suburbia who adopt a black boy from a working class background. One night, he is approached by his biological sister, who inveigles her way into his life with disastrous results.

Ben’s first play, *The Pleasure Principle*, was staged in 2007. His latest, *Breeders*, was performed at the St James’ Theatre this autumn, starring Tamzin Outhwaite. It’s a topical comedy about a single-sex couple trying to have a baby. Andrea and Caroline are desperate to have a child. They opt for artificial insemination, and Andrea suggests that her brother, Jimmy, would make the ideal sperm-donor for Caroline’s baby. She goes further, and suggests they move in with them. Complications arise, some predictable, some not. ‘What keeps the play afloat’, wrote Michael Billington in *The Guardian*, ‘is Ockrent’s sparky dialogue. It’s a promising play with a touch of the Peter Nichols in its ability to wring laughs out of domestic tribulations.’ It’s a topical play, which demonstrates Ben’s ability to create convincing characters, edgy dramatic situations and hilarious dialogue.

Ben’s seven minute short play, *Dust*, starring Alan Rickman and co-written with fellow OC Jake Russell (GH 1995), was nominated for a BAFTA. A critic wrote: ‘*Dust* is a beautifully shot subversive short film, playing on society’s fascination with the loner stalking us from the shadows. The deviant. The sociopath predator who stares at our children from a distance, eerily, and for nefarious purposes. And yet, with *Dust*, writers/directors Ben Ockrent and Jake Russell have taken the trope and flipped it in marvellous ways. Indeed, it takes one of our most wholesome of children’s stories and gives it a predatorial edge that I refuse to spoil.’

Ben has recently been working on the National Theatre’s Connections Festival, where ten writers write a play each, which is produced by casts from the National Youth Theatre, with the best enjoying a run at the National for two weeks next summer. Ben is keeping a busy schedule, as he is also writing a new play for a Broadway producer and developing two original new comedy TV series ideas in the UK and a TV series and feature film in the States.
Sir Pritpal Singh’s School
Selected for Good Practice in the 2014 Parliamentary Review

Drayton Manor High School, whose Headmaster is Sir Pritpal Singh (SH 1996), has been selected as an example of good practice in education in the 2014 Parliamentary Review. Pritpal, who was knighted in 2005 for services to education, was recognised as the Head Teacher of the Year in London for 2014.

Drayton Manor, in Ealing, west London, received academy status in 2011. It currently educates 1600 students from ages 11 to 19. The last Ofsted report rated the school as ‘outstanding’ and described Pritpal as having ‘strong, clear vision’ and remarked on the school’s ‘dedication to students’ well-being and success’.

‘We are adept not only at preparing our students for examinations but also at building students’ confidence so they are well prepared for their future lives. The school is proud of its long-standing record of students progressing to top universities and trades. Every year the vast majority of our students go to university. Our school motto is Nec Aspera Terrent – adversity is no deterrent – and perfectly sums up the ethos of the school’, comments Pritpal.

Drayton Manor, one of Highgate’s partner schools, is proud of its links with Highgate, and pupils from Drayton Manor have joined in recent OC Business Section careers events, including the media event at Highgate and the recent visit to the Barclays headquarters at Canary Wharf.

‘We are very grateful to Highgate for working with our students and staff offering opportunities that widen aspirations and develop wider skills. Some of these include: practice interviews for Oxbridge candidates; the Chrysalis Summer School for high-achieving Year 12 students; the partnership programme with Arcadia which provided three Year 12 students work experience placements; Maths GCSE revision classes; assisting A Level Maths students with STEP Papers and teaching Drayton Manor staff on how to give Oxbridge-specific advice and guidance.’

‘We look forward to continuing our relationship with Highgate as it’s of such benefit to Drayton Manor. We were delighted that our reference to Highgate was included in The Parliamentary Review 2014, added Pritpal.

Drayton Manor has recently opened a new building for the arts, design and technology, allowing the school space on the previous site of these facilities to build an all-weather playing surface.
Conductor Jan Latham-Koenig (HG 1966) has won the Golden Mask Award for Best Conductor for Novaya Opera’s production of Tristan and Isolde. The awards are the Russian theatre awards for outstanding achievement in drama, opera, operetta and musicals, ballet, contemporary dance and puppet theatre. Jan is one of only two non-Russians to be awarded the prize in its nineteen-year history. One Russian critic wrote that Jan: ‘conquered the jury with a powerful reading of the score.’ Since 2011 Jan has been Artistic Director of the Novaya Opera, Moscow, and as such is the first British-born conductor ever to have held such a pivotal role at any Russian opera company. Also, at present, he is Artistic Director of the Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM, Mexico City and the Flanders Symphony Orchestra, Bruges.

In April of this year, Jan achieved a tremendous success at the Coliseum with the Novaya Opera’s production of Borodin’s Prince Igor. Comments from critics were enthusiastic:

‘This was a big, vibrant production of a problem opera’ wrote one, and ‘Jan Latham-Koenig draws great immediacy and often virtuosic playing from his orchestra’ wrote another. In an article titled, Russia Conquers

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Britain – With Music, a critic commented: ‘Jan Latham-Koenig, is outstanding, matching what is overwhelming overkill for the eye with a lustrous and dynamic charge.’

Jan studied at the Royal College of Music in London and started his career as a pianist. But in 1982, he decided to devote himself wholly to conducting. He has performed with all the leading European orchestras. From 1989 to 1992, he was music director of the Orchestra of Porto, which he founded at the request of the Portuguese government.

In 1988, he made a sensational debut as an opera conductor with Macbeth at the Vienna State Opera and became its permanent guest conductor from 1991, giving about one hundred performances. He now regularly conducts in the world’s leading opera houses, including Covent Garden, the Opéra National Paris-Bastille and the operas of Berlin, Hamburg, Rome, Lisbon and Santiago in Chile.
Daniel Start’s Hidden Beaches

Daniel Start (MG 1986)’s latest book in the Wild Swimming series – Hidden Beaches has been published to enthusiastic reviews.

The Daily Mail commented: ‘With their stunning white sands and crystal-clear turquoise waters you could be forgiven for thinking these beaches are on an idyllic tropical paradise. But amazingly each of these incredible seaside landscapes is in Britain – and they’re among the country’s best-kept secrets. The hidden locations of 400 hard-to-find beaches have been revealed in a new book by travel writer, Daniel Start.’

‘I left Highgate in 1991,’ Daniel writes, ‘and the highlight of my time there were the numerous trips to the School cottage in Snowdonia (Cerig Pryfaid). The first visit involved the mapping of the river Dwyfor along the Cwm Pennant, including a lot of swimming and water fights on a lovely hot summer day. My classmates and I enjoyed the trip so much we all decided to join the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, so that we could spend more time hiking and camping in the beautiful surrounds.’

‘After three years at Cambridge (studying Neuroscience), some time in international development and a period kidnapped in the jungles of New Guinea – I decided to rekindle my passion for rivers and North Wales. I moved to live on a hill farm in Snowdonia and started writing and researching Wild Swimming, a guide book to the most beautiful places to swim in the rivers, lakes and waterfalls of the UK. Cwm Pennant features, of course, and looking back, those times at the School cottage were clearly some of the founding moments in my life. The book did very well and since then we have written a few more books, about the UK’s Hidden Beaches, Wild Swimming in France, and a guide to the Wild Places of the West Country.’

‘I am now married and living in a village outside Bath, in north Somerset, at the confluence of two lovely swimming and canoeing rivers. My daughter is three and we now run our own little publishing company (Wild Things) and publish books about camping, cycling, swimming and general exploring. One of the books, Lost Lanes, is by Jack Thurston whom I was at Highgate with, and who was part of the original Cwm Pennant river trip. It has done very well!’

He was part of a group of British researchers who were held hostage by Papuan tribesmen in the remote province of Irian Jaya... When negotiations for their release collapsed, the half-starved hostages found themselves in the midst of a brutal armed conflict...

On 12 July this year, a documentary was broadcast telling the story of Daniel’s kidnapping in 1996. He was part of a group of British researchers who were held hostage by Papuan tribesmen in the remote province of Irian Jaya. Working deep in the rainforest, the young scientists were preparing to return home after a peaceful two month mission, when they were betrayed by a trusted local colleague and taken prisoner by an angry group of armed freedom fighters. Now pawns in a violent political struggle between the rebels and the Indonesian military, weeks turned into months as the group was marched ever deeper into the impassable terrain. When negotiations for their release collapsed, the half-starved hostages found themselves in the midst of a brutal armed conflict, which resulted in the murder of some members of their team. Featuring dramatic reconstructions, footage taken by the Red Cross during negotiations and compelling interviews with the survivors, which featured Daniel and his parents, this fascinating special presented a harrowing personal account of the terrors of jungle captivity.

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Daniel Start (MG 1986)’s latest book in the Wild Swimming series – Hidden Beaches has been published to enthusiastic reviews.

The Daily Mail commented: ‘With their stunning white sands and crystal-clear turquoise waters you could be forgiven for thinking these beaches are on an idyllic tropical paradise. But amazingly each of these incredible seaside landscapes is in Britain – and they’re among the country’s best-kept secrets. The hidden locations of 400 hard-to-find beaches have been revealed in a new book by travel writer, Daniel Start.’

‘I left Highgate in 1991,’ Daniel writes, ‘and the highlight of my time there were the numerous trips to the School cottage in Snowdonia (Cerig Pryfaid). The first visit involved the mapping of the river Dwyfor along the Cwm Pennant, including a lot of swimming and water fights on a lovely hot summer day. My classmates and I enjoyed the trip so much we all decided to join the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, so that we could spend more time hiking and camping in the beautiful surrounds.’

‘After three years at Cambridge (studying Neuroscience), some time in international development and a period kidnapped in the jungles of New Guinea – I decided to rekindle my passion for rivers and North Wales. I moved to live on a hill farm in Snowdonia and started writing and researching Wild Swimming, a guide book to the most beautiful places to swim in the rivers, lakes and waterfalls of the UK. Cwm Pennant features, of course, and looking back, those times at the School cottage were clearly some of the founding moments in my life. The book did very well and since then we have written a few more books, about the UK’s Hidden Beaches, Wild Swimming in France, and a guide to the Wild Places of the West Country.’

‘I am now married and living in a village outside Bath, in north Somerset, at the confluence of two lovely swimming and canoeing rivers. My daughter is three and we now run our own little publishing company (Wild Things) and publish books about camping, cycling, swimming and general exploring. One of the books, Lost Lanes, is by Jack Thurston whom I was at Highgate with, and who was part of the original Cwm Pennant river trip. It has done very well!’

He was part of a group of British researchers who were held hostage by Papuan tribesmen in the remote province of Irian Jaya... When negotiations for their release collapsed, the half-starved hostages found themselves in the midst of a brutal armed conflict...

On 12 July this year, a documentary was broadcast telling the story of Daniel’s kidnapping in 1996. He was part of a group of British researchers who were held hostage by Papuan tribesmen in the remote province of Irian Jaya. Working deep in the rainforest, the young scientists were preparing to return home after a peaceful two month mission, when they were betrayed by a trusted local colleague and taken prisoner by an angry group of armed freedom fighters. Now pawns in a violent political struggle between the rebels and the Indonesian military, weeks turned into months as the group was marched ever deeper into the impassable terrain. When negotiations for their release collapsed, the half-starved hostages found themselves in the midst of a brutal armed conflict, which resulted in the murder of some members of their team. Featuring dramatic reconstructions, footage taken by the Red Cross during negotiations and compelling interviews with the survivors, which featured Daniel and his parents, this fascinating special presented a harrowing personal account of the terrors of jungle captivity.

Daniel Start has published a new book on Britain’s best beaches for swimming.
Protecting the Public’s Health

Anthony Kessel (HG 1977) was appointed Director of International Public Health at Public Health England in 2013. He is also an honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Here, he describes the challenge of protecting the public’s health.

In spring this year, news began to emerge of a possible outbreak of a severe infectious disease in western Africa. Reports and data from the ground were soon telling the story of an epidemic of a highly contagious virus with significant numbers of deaths. By this summer, as has been well covered in the media, we know we were dealing with the largest recognised outbreak of Ebola virus, confined primarily to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Although Ebola has a mortality rate of 50 to 90%, the risk to the UK population is very low since, by the nature of Ebolas infectivity (it requires close contact with bodily fluid); an outbreak in a western country with a good public health system should be relatively straightforward to control.

Public health is about protecting and improving the health of the population, and in the UK we have one of the best public health systems in the world. I work as Director of International Public Health at Public Health England (PHE), this country’s national public health organisation, an executive agency of the Department of Health comprising around 5,500 staff, many of whom are doctors, nurses and scientists.

In close liaison with the World Health Organization and the governments of the affected countries in western Africa, PHE has been heavily involved in managing the present Ebola outbreak. At the time of writing this piece, we have had a number of staff stationed overseas at the heart of the epidemic and are scaling up our plans to support Sierra Leone. People outside of public health often seem surprised that anybody would wish to go to work in a country and place themselves at such risk. However, this is part and parcel of international public health work, and there were many more staff wishing to go than we are able to accommodate.

Working in international public health represents career progression over a number of years. After schooling at Highgate from age seven until leaving in 1983, I then studied medicine at King’s College, London followed by a philosophy Masters degree at Cambridge leading to a doctorate in philosophy of medicine, before returning to clinical practice. As well as spending time as a GP, I trained in the medical speciality of public health after which I took various posts, leading to Director of Public Health for Camden in London. Following five years in Camden, I took a national role in 2009 at the Health Protection Agency – at the time the country’s national public health body, where I also led the international work – before transferring to PHE in 2013.

Although some of the international public health work that I lead for PHE is indeed around responding to outbreaks, incidents and humanitarian disasters (such as Ebola), most is more developmental – that is, around supporting countries with less resources and poor infrastructures to build up their public health systems and capabilities. For example, early in 2014 I was part of a high level UK visit to Pakistan, focused on assisting their government on polio eradication and developing strong childhood immunisation programmes across the country. We have projects supporting governments in Uganda and Kenya around developing their new national public health agencies, and I recently spent time in Trinidad connected with enhancing microbiology laboratories in the 24 Caribbean countries. Meanwhile, other global health issues such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change are perhaps the most significant and challenging of all.

While it is a privilege to be involved in international public health work, it has been a real pleasure over the past few years to become involved again in Highgate School. My daughter, Leone, is now in Year Nine and is the illustrator of my first children’s book, The Amazing Adventures of Perch the Cat; we had great fun doing readings at the Junior School when the book was published last year. I very much look forward to engaging further with the breadth of Highgate school life over future years.”
Two young OCs, Hugo Raymond (TL c/2006) and Adam Newby (SH c/2000), have recently won coveted Yellow Pencil Awards for their work in design. Hugo Raymond and his partner Edward Yau, who both graduated with a BA (Hons) in Graphic Design at Ravensbourne, have won a Yellow Pencil Award from the Design and Art Design (D&AD) British Council Exhibition. The brief asked students to create a bilingual identity for the British Council’s Dressing the Screen exhibition.

In their context-driven project, Hugo and Ed focused on the high-fashion and moving image nature of the exhibition through physical graphics, way-finding, web presence, brochure and print design.

Ed and Hugo also received invaluable feedback from their student peer group at Ravensbourne. The graduates are particularly proud of the fact that the typeface which they applied in their project was licensed exclusively to them. The typeface used was from a Copenhagen-based foundry called e-Types and the font is called Berlingske.

In Edward and Hugo’s view that feature made their work stand out even more. ‘Winning and even being nominated for the D&AD award was a complete surprise,’ said Hugo. ‘Ed and I worked on the project and its formation under the guidance of guest lecturers, which helped to iron out any doubts. Our success is a testament to the way the graphic design course has been taught at Ravensbourne.’

Adam Newby ditched a career in finance ‘to try and do something a little more creative and less depressing’. He won a scholarship to the School of Communication Arts 2.0 (the most awarded advertising school in the world) from last September to July for a one-year course in creative advertising. His scholarship was awarded for his You Control Me project, where he let go of his life for three weeks, and subjected himself to instructions from Facebook and Twitter. ‘The brief set by the school was ‘to solve a problem in your life’. I’m a total control freak. So I lost control over my decisions’, commented Adam. ‘That was an interesting three weeks in which I waxed my entire body, went peroxide blonde and travelled to Brussels and back blindfolded. The whole experience was perversely rather liberating once I stopped trying to control everything and embraced the uncertainty and the unknown.’

While at the school he and his partner entered the Design & Art Design New Blood Awards, intended to help identify the rising talent in design and advertising, winning the nomination for Sky TV. ‘Which is pretty good considering it’s an international competition with each brief receiving hundreds of entries’, commented Adam. ‘The winning teams receive yellow pencils, which are the symbol of D&AD. While there, I ran into Hugo Raymond. It was great to see another Cholmeleian doing well in a similar field. I am certain Hugo is going to do brilliant things in design, and hopefully we can collaborate in the future.

Since then I have been on placement at 4Creative (Channel 4’s creative agency). We have offers from among others Wieden+Kennedy, BBH and AMB BBDO, three of the best agencies in London if not the world. Our portfolio has been selected as one of the twenty best globally by Cream (an annual competition which introduces the best graduate creative teams, and individuals worldwide, to the creative directors of the world’s leading advertising agencies and creative businesses). Moving forward I’m looking to secure a job at one of these top agencies and creating the best creative work possible.’
Hugh Robertson (CH 1956) has begun a successful second career as a writer after retiring from the law. His trilogy, *The Fools’ Crowns*, is based on the drama of the abdication of Edward VIII set against the backdrop of the rise of Nazism. Two volumes in the trilogy have been published to enthusiastic reviews.

Hugh’s interest in history began at Highgate: ‘My interest in history was dormant until in the fifth form we were privileged to be taught by Alan Palmer’ commented Hugh. ‘Our special subject was daunting – the history of pre Great War Europe. Palmer had recently published what was to become only one of the outstanding works of his long literary career, a study of the Balkans. His depth of knowledge and enthusiasm brought the subject alive and we were fascinated. The following two years leading up to A-Level with the incomparable ‘Freddy’ Fox, who really did clean the blackboard with his socks was a very different but equally fascinating experience.’

After a successful career as a corporate lawyer, Hugh has retired to Spain, where his interest in history has developed into a second career as a writer. ‘I was fascinated by certain aspects of the events leading up to the Second World War’, commented Hugh. ‘Alan Palmer’s teaching had made one realise the complexity of issues that could plunge the World into conflict.’ ‘As an eleven year old I had been taken to Lennoxlove House, the home of the Duke of Hamilton. Naturally I was ghoulishly fascinated by the death mask of Mary Queen of Scots but, also it was then that I first heard about the flight to Scotland of Rudolf Hess.’ ‘Many years later my wife told me about an anomaly concerning the history of a well-known London building. It struck me that there was the basis for a thriller and I started casually researching in spare moments. This was a slow process pre-internet, particularly as some of the material had to be sourced abroad. Pressure of work saw the project pushed to the bottom of my priorities and in a rare spring clean I threw away my research.’

‘A post-retirement project that I had been engaged in after retiring to Spain came to an end and I decided to write. I chose the genre of ‘faction’ because I knew that there were so many gaps in verifiable material concerning the story that I wished to write. Within reason I could let my imagination run to cover events, meetings and even liaisons that were suspected or hinted at.’

‘Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson are at the centre of the story both before and after his abdication. Their story is illuminated by characters and events both actual and imagined as the world drifted into war. Whilst the research and writing is hugely enjoyable, the process of becoming a published writer is daunting. I decided to become an independent writer and self-publisher which is not as difficult as it sounds once you have identified the right team.’

‘I am now working on the third book in the series and have planned the fourth. If someone could teach me how to master ‘social’ media I might even be able to market them!’
Harry Lobek (HG 1999) has just landed a plum acting role in the National Theatre’s UK and International Tour of War Horse until February 2015. “It’s a pretty big job for me and one that has come a little bit out of the blue after five years of knocking on doors and writing letters. Before this I was very much on the verge of packing in the acting and had retrained as a sommelier,” commented Harry. ‘Acting is a fantastic job when you have work, but unfortunately the work is varied and often hard to find. Retraining as a sommelier gave me something else to focus on that I really enjoyed. I was working at Pollen Street Social, Jason Atherton’s Michelin-starred flagship restaurant in Mayfair. The hours were long, often 10 am to 11pm, but I learnt lots and got to taste some real wine icons – bottles that if I continue acting I will never be able to afford! Some customers wouldn’t think twice about spending £3,000 on a Domaine Romanee Conti. It then becomes very important that I have to taste the bottle first before it gets to the table! Lucky me.’

Harry is currently at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay and returns for a nine-week stint at the Lowry before travelling to South Africa for three months. “The show has been incredibly successful ever since its premiere at the National in 2007” Harry added, “winning Olivier and Evening Standard awards as well as huge critical acclaim in the States. After this tour, the show will have played internationally in seven different countries at 97% audience capacities, which is practically unheard of in theatre and especially a show running for this length of time. I believe it will become a staple for years to come in a similar vein to Les Miserables or The Lion King.”

If you haven’t seen the show I have to stress how lifelike these puppets are. The work and amount of detail that goes into the performance is truly incredible and allows the audience to focus entirely upon the horse.”

“I’ve joined the tour with 6 months left. We are currently at the Lowry theatre until 21 September and after a brief stint in Stoke, we travel to South Africa for three months. Handspring, the puppet company, are based in Johannesburg and it will be the first time the show has ever been shown there. The puppets are the real stars of the show and so this part of the tour is seen as a bit of a homecoming.”

If you haven’t seen the show I have to stress how lifelike these puppets are. The work and amount of detail that goes into the performance is truly incredible and allows the audience to focus entirely upon the horse. This is due to the clarity of the emotions portrayed by the puppeteers. You always know what Joey (the horse) is feeling or thinking.’

‘I’m loving the tour. The cast and crew are fantastic. There are over fifty of us touring the show so you can really appreciate the scale of the production. I’m very proud to be involved in a seminal piece of theatre and one that I will remember fondly for the rest of my life.’

‘Hopefully I can keep this combination of wine and theatre up for a while. That would be nice!’
They say ‘never go into business with a friend’, so I decided to pick two. I met my dear friends Bill Wu and Oli Friend at prep school before coming to Highgate with Oli and allowing Bill to opt for the life of an Eton scholar instead (clearly the wrong option, but each to their own, I suppose). We are now all taking a gap year together and we decided to launch our business, The Dynamic Tutoring Network.

DTN is a tutoring agency, where we find tutors and match them to parents looking for tutoring for their child. It might seem strange for us to choose to start a tutoring agency in North London, an area notorious for its reliance on private tutors, but we think that we’ve managed to find a gap in this heavily-saturated market.

We have always thought that students would greatly benefit from having an academic mentor who was closer to their age, since a smaller age gap facilitates communication and relatability more easily. Often, when a student is struggling, it is not another adult they need in their life, but a younger role model with whom they can feel completely at ease with, be that asking a question about something they do not understand academically, asking about school life in general or just having a chat. That is why all our tutors are high-achieving Sixth-Form students, who provide all-round academic mentorship and, by using their recent experience, help younger students get the most out of school life. This is what we believe sets us apart.

Something I remember fondly from my early teenage years is my Mum trying to persuade me, often using various tones of voice, to practise my violin. This is something many parents have to deal with and so, in addition to our Academic Mentors, we also have Music Practice Companions to help if a student is finding practice difficult, struggling for inspiration or just needs extra help preparing for an exam. We also have one-on-one sports coaches who specialise in sports ranging from football to fives to boxing.

We believe that being a tutor really helps a Sixth-Former’s growth too and our tutors seem to have found being part of DTN rewarding. When I asked Tom, a tutor from St. Paul’s School, what it was like to be a part of DTN, he said, ‘It is brilliant to be a part of Dynamic Tutoring Network. I am enjoying passing on my knowledge to younger students and helping them improve, and it is also really helping my own development. To be seen as a role model and a friend to my tutee, and seeing them improve every week, is very rewarding.’

It has been a great experience for us three too, particularly at this stage of our lives. The process has not been without its challenges but we are proud of what we have achieved so far. We are looking forward to expanding and improving DTN, and more importantly, to keep on learning. If any OCs reading this have any sage advice for us or if you think that we can help you, we would love to hear from you, and you can reach us through our website www.dynamic-tutoring.com.

Jamie Powe (KG c/2014)
**Development Office Report**

We welcomed a new member to the team this September. Emily Clarke, a History graduate from St Peter’s College, Oxford is our new Development Officer, who joins us from a fund-raising consultancy background. She will be working with our Development Director, Salima Virji, on soliciting gifts and legacies and managing donors.

We wish our new President, Rupert Redesdale (KG 1983) and Deputy President, Jon Polledri (SH 1987) the best of luck in their new roles, and thank the Immediate Past President, Adrian Grumi (KG 1983) for all his work in helping to bring the School and the Cholmeleians closer together.

A new Executive Committee has been set up to help organise the business of co-ordinating between the School and the Society, and regular meetings are held in the Duke’s Head pub in Highgate, run by Tarik Nashnush (GH 1979).

Kaya Burgess (EG 1998), the Deputy Diary Editor of *The Times*, gave the inaugural Highgate Summer Lecture as a part of last June’s Summer Festival. Kaya spoke of his life as a feature writer, which included dressing as a hobbit and drink-driving (not at the same time, fortunately, and the drink-driving was under the supervision of the police, to demonstrate the dangers of driving the morning after the office party.) In the afternoon there was a dedicated OC champagne and strawberries tent, well-attended by those joining in the fun of the Fair.

We have had some excellent regional lunches at Oxford and at Bournemouth, ably organised by Tony Pawley (WG 1986) in June and at Uckfield in October, organised with his usual flair for detail by Peter Burrowes (FG 1945) who has already got a provisional date for next year’s lunch of Monday 5 October in the diary!

The OC Sporting Section has been attracting a young and lively crowd, assisted by some more senior (but no less lively!) players...

The Third Tuesday Club, who meet at the Café Rouge in Highgate on the third Tuesday of every month, celebrated a significant milestone this May, when they were joined by Head Master Adam Pettitt to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of John Kitson (WG 1937), the co-organiser of these events. The Third Tuesday Club is open to all OCs and new members are welcome.

OC sportmen have enjoyed excellent cricket and football dinners and we have had very successful Five-A-Side Football competitions in September and December, with a younger crowd reliving their goal-scoring days on Highgate’s hallowed turf, followed by beer and chips. More are planned. The OC Sporting Section has been attracting a young and lively crowd, assisted by some more senior (but no less lively!) players, as you can read in the excellent reports provided by Robert Phillips, who has done great service as Golf Club Secretary these last twelve years, and the evergreen and indefatigable John Zani.

The Business Section, led by Jon Polledri, and helped by David Newman (QG 1979) organised a very successful visit to Barclays’ Headquarters in Canary Wharf, hosted by James Della Porta, a Highgate parent. A Medical Event was also well-attended, with partner schools well-represented. Any younger OCs who are interested in careers seminars and networking are welcome to join the OCBS, and we’re always glad to hear from anyone with expertise in their profession who is able to offer help to pupils and younger OCs.

When you read this, 2015 will be nearly upon us, and I do hope that you will be able to join us for one of the many celebratory events we are holding, particularly the service at St Paul’s on 1 May, followed by lunch at Merchant Taylors’ Hall. Our new School/OC Museum will open its doors in January, and I hope you will come and look round, and be inspired to rummage through the attic and see if there’s any material you can contribute. I wish you all the best for the New Year, and look forward to seeing you at Highgate.

Simon Appleton
The Chairman of Governors, John Mills CBE, and his fellow governors took the decisive step of making Highgate a fully coeducational school, ending 440 years of single sex education. Here, John recalls the thinking behind this change.
Richard Kennedy describes the beginning of coeducation at Highgate very well. Looking back, though, it is worth emphasising that it was not a change made in isolation. In the later 1990s Highgate was facing a great deal of change. Externally, it was obvious, at least to me as the newly-installed chairman, that pressures in society for gender equality – or should I say equivalence – were rising. It was evident from talking to many parents, notably those who had daughters in the Pre-Prep who couldn’t move on through the School, that this was something we needed to address. Internally, we were facing life for the first time purely as a day school, after the end of boarding in 1998 (which itself was driven in considerable part by changes in society and pupils’ and parents’ preferences).

Crucially, though, we were contemplating change in the context of success. Pupil numbers had risen significantly in the 1990s under Richard’s leadership and the financial position of the School was stronger than it had been for a long time. There was, I recall, a very clear sense that the time was ripe for change, and for seeking to establish a renewed ‘vision’ for Highgate for the start of the new century.

There were several factors in play. First, as Richard indicates, there was the problem of being unable to offer places in the Junior School to Pre-Prep girls. The loss of potential business apart, unable to offer places in the Junior School to Pre-

Secondly, we were coming to the view, that it was time to change the principal entry point into the Senior School from 13 to 11. This was not only about the growing maturity of years 7 and 8 in the Junior School, whose members were ‘ready’ for Senior School, but also because we were probably over-dependent on a few feeder prep schools for non-Junior School entry into the Senior School and had little opportunity to broaden our market into the state primary leavers.

Thirdly, it was clear that we needed to broaden and modernise our sixth form offer, both in order to retain pupils after GCSE and to attract new ones.

And fourthly, these were routes to recruiting the best teachers, male and female, at a time when it was harder than ever to find top-class graduates not allured by City or ‘dotcom’ careers.

Raising standards, our prime objective, was manifestly more attainable if we recruited pupils from the whole market and at ages that matched people’s needs.

We worked on this steadily and thoroughly in 2000 and 2001. The Governors were in ready agreement on enabling girls to enter Year 3, moving Senior School entry to Year 7 and broadening sixth form recruitment; and we had the resources and will to plan the improvements and changes to our buildings and facilities in order to allow these things to happen within a few years. To begin with, though, the Governors were not wholly united on coeducation throughout the whole School. We analysed and debated the issues at some length, for it seemed to me to be essential that for such an important decision we were united. The market research we commissioned in 2000 was fairly decisive in this regard because the message from existing and prospective parents was very clearly in favour of full coeducation and we found that the separate issues of school structure which we had been examining were in practice both desirable and inseparable. Any remaining unease melted away and we were able to announce in September 2001 that our new aim for Highgate in the new century was indeed to become the leading independent coeducational school in North London.

What mattered most in this decision-making? First and foremost, it was excellent analytical support from Richard Kennedy and his senior team, each of whom had had previous coeducational experience. We were able to see the educational and business advantages, and be assured as a board that we had the means and resources to deliver the decision if it was taken. We were not flying blind. Secondly, we had good evidence of what parents, and pupils, actually wanted of Highgate, looking forwards. This evidence base was powerful and important. Thirdly, we realised that change, if taken on, could not be a half-hearted thing. The ‘new’ day school was facing a challenging and competitive market and we had to adapt to that while preserving all that was good and strong about Highgate. And fourthly, the Governors worked well together as a board, recognising the significance for Highgate’s future of the decisions they were charged with taking.

Thirteen years on, those decisions certainly were, in my opinion, the right ones for Highgate, and it is satisfying to have played one’s part in them. The School has been transformed as a result and it has, I believe, made it much easier for us to continue to be ambitious about further change and improvement in every part and aspect of the School’s endeavours. Moving to coeducation and enlarging the Senior School to include Years 7 and 8 were not straightforward things to do, and it could have been easy to put things off and focus on the threats rather than the opportunities. While, properly, we weighed the threats and the risks, I am glad that the opportunities box was the one that got the tick. It has brought benefit and added opportunity already to many hundreds of young Cholmeleians, and we are still only a seventh or eighth of the way into the 21st century!
Revd Rachel Weir succeeds Paul Knight as the School’s Chaplain

Revd Rachel Weir has been appointed as the first-ever female chaplain in the Highgate School’s 450 year history, following the retirement of Revd Knight, writes Alice Elwood. Although she readily admits she has big shoes to fill, she boasts a distinguished CV.

After studying Economics and Law at Newnham College, Cambridge, Rachel went on to practise law as a barrister. She was ordained in 2007 after studying theology at Heythrop College, London, having given up her career in the law. Her aim was to explore Christianity further and find a way to ‘connect a sense of God with the doctrines.’ Prior to taking the position at Highgate, she was chair of WATCH, ‘Women and the Church’ and spent four years campaigning on issues of gender equality in the Church of England, in particular the ordination of women bishops.

Although a female chaplain is not a new concept nationwide, with female chaplains at schools such as Sherborne and Birkenhead, it is certainly new to Highgate. Rachel said that it is ‘a huge privilege and responsibility’ to be appointed the first female chaplain at Highgate. She hopes, however, that, in time, people will cease to dwell on her gender and see her simply as their chaplain.

This is her first appointment as a school chaplain, having previously served in a parish in Oxford. She was attracted to Highgate not only because it was founded with, and still holds, strong Christian values but, first and foremost, because of the people she met during the selection process, Revd Knight in particular.

Alongside her works Revd Nick Lamb, who was appointed in 2013, also a former parish priest. Though there is a clear division of labour with Nick being responsible for the Junior School and Pre-Prep and Rachel for the Senior School, they collaborate wherever possible in their ministry.

Rachel is married to Andrew, a neurologist, and is mother to three teenage children: Jemima, Ben and Naomi. She believes the experience of having children has given her insight into how to do her job here.

Rachel’s impressions of the School in the first few weeks have been very positive. She enjoys the ‘diversity of the pupil body’ and the way in which we ‘seek to live together as a community using Christian values.’ And while she maintains traditional Christian practices and has instituted new daily morning prayers and a weekly Eucharist, she is also keen to continue with Revd Knight’s approach of seeking to include everyone, whether of the Christian faith, another faith or no faith at all.

Not the smallest mark of her successful integration into the School is be found in the staff common room at Saints’ Club, the weekly Friday 5pm social gathering, instituted, and hosted by Revd Knight for so many years.

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The numbers of teachers energetically conversing and drinking wine with Rachel already a clear indication how accepted she is as chaplain, confidante and friend. We wish Rachel every success in her new role.

Alice Elwood (13FG)
Early in the Michaelmas term, Oscar-winning actor Emma Thompson chaired the School's first conference on good mental health. The packed event in the Dyne House Auditorium, entitled: A beginner’s guide to self-esteem, sanity and the adolescent years, ran through the day with a range of speakers tackling issues such as adolescent brain development, sleep and well-being and the perils and positives of the internet as an influence on young people.

Two Year 13 pupils, Sophia Parvizi-Wayne and Amber van Dam, who have spoken with great courage in public previously about their experiences with anorexia, opened the conference with a call for greater understanding and education around such issues in schools. Emma Thompson commended them on their stance, saying that ‘injuries of the mind must be treated with the same skill as injuries of the body.’ She told the audience how impressed she had been by Sophia’s wry observation with regard to anorexia: ‘you don’t see a bunch of people following a girl on crutches with a broken leg, shouting ‘Walk! Walk!’

Another panellist, psychologist Linda Papadopoulos, talked of the importance of encouraging resilience in our children as a defence against anxiety and other forms of mental unease. She cited studies that found that ‘grit’ is a more reliable predictor of success than a person's IQ. Encouraging that resilience, she said, would involve parents being clear that they want to help their children, not judge, avoiding criticism and helping them to think critically – getting them to apply a kind of mental sun-screen when it comes to the barrage of commercial and media information to which most children are subjected on a daily basis.

In the afternoon session, Russell Foster, Professor of Circadian Neuroscience at Oxford University, shed fascinating light on the differences between adolescent sleep patterns and those of their (censorious) elders. Suggesting that there is a two-hour difference between when a teenage wants to go to sleep/get up and when a 50 year-old does, he recommended good sleep practice for adolescents, including not using electronic devices or bright lights for 30 minutes prior to bed-time and seeking out natural light in the morning to help the body wake up.

During the question-and-answer sessions at the end of both sessions, it was clear that the audience was very positive about the experience and keen to know more. In his concluding words, Head Master Adam Pettitt reiterated his call for a ‘five-a-day’ equivalent to be observed in mental as well as physical health, commenting, ‘I hope this conference marks the beginning of a belt-and-braces approach to good mental health, and becomes as routine as health and safety or child protection in schools. It’s too important not to be.’

Verity Smith
Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, captivated Year 11 with his talk ‘Politics and the past: how the study of the ancient world has affected my political views’. Extemporising on his chosen theme, Mr Johnson sought to explain and defend contemporary political practices with reference to the values of fifth century Athens, always with his characteristic wit and irreverence and not always without political bias.

He began with an account of Athens’ critical recognition of the individual, quoting Protagoras ‘Man is the measure of all things’, and describing the birth of democracy in Athens as ‘the first time ordinary people could take decisions’. He referred to images on the Parthenon Frieze, pointing out there were no kings or Pharaohs, thus proving the Athenians’ hatred of dictatorial rule. Such values, he maintained, are clearly at the heart of our own political system.

After reading from Pericles’ funeral oration in Thucydides, he proposed it was so modern it could be taken as a statement of democratic principles today. Never failing to link the past and present, he did not lose the opportunity, when quoting Pericles on the primacy of the rule of law in Athens, to point out that that crime had dramatically fallen during his tenure as Mayor of London.

He next tied together ancient and modern by suggesting London mirrored Athens in its becoming a centre for culture and free trade, achieved through its policy of welcoming immigrants. He suggested the festivals in Athens involving competitions which encouraged artists to strive for the highest standards were mirrored in London’s own great variety of festivals.

Furthermore that Athens’ decision to build a substantial new harbour, the Piraeus, following the Persian wars, showed their understanding of the importance of transport infrastructure, ‘which’, he continued provocatively, ‘has clear implications for our own aviation policy.’

Mr Johnson drew one final comparison between ancient and modern. Challenging the audience on their linguistic knowledge (‘Come on, who here does Greek?’) and managing to elicit from several erudite pupils the meanings of the terms ‘anabates’ (‘one who gets on’) and ‘apobates’ (‘one who gets off’) (apologies to purists for the transliteration) he asserted that just as the rapid getting on and off of a chariot was an essential skill in fifth century Greek warfare, so the same process of embarkation and disembarkation was essential in London today—on the Routemaster.

Pupils were clearly engaged by Mr Johnson’s talk and posed him some intelligent and daring questions, including: his views on the new high speed rail link between London and Birmingham, the holding of a referendum to determine Britain’s position in Europe, and, from Nirwan O’Shea, whether he was still of the opinion that he would ‘rather be writing saucy novels than be prime minister.’

Two final questions led him to outline a very optimistic vision for Britain’s future: London was still the world’s largest financial centre, was a world leader in technology and was not, he claimed, blighted with the ‘challenging urban environments’ and ‘terrible pollution’ of other capital cities. He insisted his own ambitions stretched no further than Mayor of London, which he termed ‘the best job in British politics’ as it gave him the opportunity ‘to do great things in the most beautiful city in Britain.’

James Morrow
The summer term of 2014 saw the second year of an exciting new tradition at Sir Roger Chomeley’s School at Highgate, the democratic election of the Heads of School and their deputies by Sixth Form pupils and by the staff, write Niusha Bonakdarian (13NG) and Melanie Jehan (13NG). This year, unlike last, the alternative voting (AV) system was used to elect the pupils to these positions. The new heads of school are Lily Bracken (13KG) and Jacob Green (13HG).

The election process for the Heads of School began some weeks before the poll, when all pupils in Year 12 had the opportunity to run for one of the twenty-five positions as School Prefects. Jacob calls the process ‘nerve-wracking’ and says: ‘It was an exciting atmosphere, because nobody knew what was going to happen and because the competition was very close.’

As well as being interviewed, candidates were given a rating by their subject teachers with the highest-scoring pupils being awarded the role. Following this, the chosen prefects who wished to run for the roles of Heads of School were chosen using the new AV system; this system asks voters to rank the candidates in order of preference, and awards the roles to those with the highest percentage of votes (though only if those votes form over 50% of the total). Pupils got readily involved, and the polls saw about a 75% turn out!

We congratulate Lily and Jacob on their new roles, which they welcome with enthusiasm; Lily refers to her ‘incredible excitement’ on assuming this new position. They see their new roles and responsibilities as varied: ‘to attend school events such as open days, school concerts and productions, to set an example to the younger pupils, and to introduce external speakers at the School.’

In addition to their aim of ‘encouraging pupils to get stuck into the extra-curricular activities that the School offers’ the pair fundamentally ‘act as a direct bridge between the senior staff and students’ and see this responsibility as crucial. ‘I think that letting the teachers know what the students are thinking, such as the sorts of things that they want to change and the things they like will be the best way to enact our roles.’ Nevertheless, they do not act alone for they have the assistance of the School’s Deputy Heads: Elizabeth Belin (13WG), Anna Crucefix (13FG), Richard Footman (13FG) and Benedict Reed (13EG); together they form a highly supportive team.

Certainly if Jacob’s spectacular red shoes give us any indication of what to expect, we cannot wait to see what their terms of office might bring!

Niusha Bonakdarian (13NG) and Melanie Jehan (13NG)
This term saw the launch of Highgate School’s new High Performance Programme (HPP) for the development of the School’s gifted sportsmen and women, writes Sophia Parvizi-Wayne (13 WG). This programme, devised by Kelly Johnston, a current member of the SpEx (sports and exercise) staff and former international basketball player, aims to identify pupils with exceptional sporting potential and help them excel, possibly even competing at a professional level.

HPP is merely one facet of Highgate’s new and rethought SpEx philosophy, which aims to make sport and exercise more accessible to every pupil, whatever his or her interests. There are currently 39 pupils from years 9-13 who have been selected for the first phase of the programme on the basis of their physical and psychological attributes, but Miss Johnston is keen to point out that membership is not fixed: ‘Pupils’ progress is continually monitored in sport and exercise lessons and matches or races, and, most importantly, help them balance their sporting requirements with their academic needs. Most athletes don’t realise how demanding sport can truly be, not only physically but mentally. These mentors are there to support the students and enable them to flourish without the added stresses that come with the sport.

Crucial to the programme are the mentors pupils are allocated to assist in their development. These mentors, who all come from high-achieving sporting backgrounds, including two former international professionals and the former strength and conditioning coach of the New Zealand Olympic team, help the students organise their training schedules and matches or races, and, most importantly, help them balance their sporting requirements with their academic needs. Most athletes don’t realise how demanding sport can truly be, not only physically but mentally. These mentors are there to support the students and enable them to flourish without the added stresses that come with the sport.

As an athlete who has competed on the international stage for England, you can only hope that a school would be able to produce such a programme. With regular talks on topics ranging from nutrition to psychology in addition to sessions on strength and conditioning, Highgate may well be producing a number of national, or even international athletes over the next few years. The programme can already boast semi-professional footballers, national real tennis champions, national swimmers and runners in addition to many other talented athletes. What the future now holds for these gifted athletes is very exciting.

What’s more, everyone seems very excited about the programme. Having asked some younger students what they thought of HPP, I met with enthusiastic responses such as ‘awesome’ and ‘exciting’. These students aspire to be the best, to perform on the world stage and most of all to engage in the welcoming sporting community that is Highgate School.

Sophia Parvizi-Wayne (13 WG)
Imogen Ryan beat off stiff competition to secure a coveted place on a summer course in Ludwigshafen am Rhein, writes Sholto Gillie (13TL). Imogen was selected from a field of 80 entrants thanks to the outstanding essay she submitted explaining her interest in the course. Together with 20 other students in the UK she spent two weeks in the town in south-western Germany with an exchange partner improving her knowledge of German language and culture. Imogen stayed with the Clemens family and her very friendly exchange, Cornelia. She shared conversation with the family over meals. Staying with the Clemens family was a huge help to her German. Imogen said, ‘I’ve definitely improved. I was much more fluent by the end of the two weeks.’

The two weeks were structured with lessons in the mornings, and free time in the afternoons. The classes took place at the school of her exchange partner, the Scholl-Geschwister Schule in Ludwigshafen. They had one English teacher, teaching them German grammar, who had come with them on the course from the United Kingdom. These lessons were accompanied by classes with two teachers from the school who led lessons in German culture. Imogen recalls a very interesting lesson about the Scholl siblings (after whom the school is named), prominent members of White Rose, a non-violent resistance movement in Nazi Germany. They also had classes in what translates most accurately as ‘political correctness’ which entailed discussions of literature and film influenced by discriminatory and racist ideas.

In the afternoons Imogen and her twenty companions were able to explore the nearby towns of the Rheinland. She visited Mainz, the capital of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, where the Gutenberg press originated in the 1450s and the first books were printed using moveable type. Imogen was also given a tour of the famous Heidelberg Schloss, a castle which is among the most important Renaissance ruins in the region, as well as a boat tour on the River Neckar through the beautiful city of Heidelberg. This history lesson was of course accompanied by all-important shopping, and lots of it. Imogen also enjoyed the Germans’ high spirits following their victory in the World Cup, which she and her exchange partners watched tensely.

Imogen thoroughly enjoyed the programme and highly recommends it to other pupils studying German, not only because of all she learned but because of getting to know so many of her fellow students from all over the UK. Indeed, saying goodbye at the airport was an emotional moment. She is particularly close to her exchange, Cornelia, and they are in regular contact as pen friends. A reciprocal exchange has already been planned for 2015. Gut gemacht, Imogen! (Well done, Imogen!)

Sholto Gillie (13TL)
This summer saw yet another highly successful trip to the Highgate sponsored Great Lakes High School in Uganda, writes Seline Naqi (13HG). The objective of the annual visit, involving 13 students and 3 members of staff was teaching at the school as well as delivering supplies, checking up on the students and seeing how the school has been developed with the money raised by the Sponsored Walk. After an eight hour flight and ten hour bus journey we arrived at The Mountain Gorilla Lodge in Kirima. Eventually arriving at the school, after yet another long bus journey, we were greeted by Dr Hamlet Mbabzi, director of CHIFCOD, and treated to an enthusiastic display of traditional song and dance. We joined in but our efforts to incorporate our own Western moves into African dance were received with shrieks of laughter.

The days that followed meant that we were briskly thrown into our teaching duties; suddenly the work ahead seemed daunting. However, once we entered the classrooms, the pupils greeted us as their teachers with enthusiasm and our anxiety immediately dissipated. We taught lessons on topics ranging from Mandarin and Polish to Biology and even ventured to discuss the question ‘What makes us human?’ The fervour for learning within all the children was contagious and made us all the more enthusiastic in our own efforts.

Alongside teaching in the High School we were lucky enough to visit local primary schools. Arriving at these schools we were overwhelmed by hundreds of excitable children. Being able to walk back to our lodge hand in hand with these pupils, hear their stories and sing their songs was not only a very emotional experience but also instilled within us a collective sense of pride. The trip concluded with two days in the Queen Elizabeth National Park where we gripped our binoculars with delight viewing elephants, lions, leopards and countless African cobs.

On our last day of teaching there was a celebration in honour of the time we had spent at the school. We had successfully warded off large insects, gritted our teeth through cold showers and hiked steep mountains. We had accomplished much in our teaching and in providing resources and strengthening our relationship with this international school.

The journey back to London allowed us time for reflection. The pupils we were teaching were considerably ahead in their studies of Science, Maths and Economics. We couldn’t help but think where they would be in a world of equal opportunity. The discussions that followed focused around the words ‘community’ and ‘culture’. Highgate’s connection with Great Lakes High School connects one community to another and whilst only some pupils are able to make the journey, the bond is extended through letter exchanges, fund-raising and the Sponsored Walk. We hope to continue to raise money for the Great Lakes High School and maintain our strong links with it. It was humbling to see how much these pupils had achieved, and this should make us reflect on whether we really make the most of our own far greater opportunities. 

Seline Naqi (13HG)
Highgate achieved record results at A2 Level with 73.8% grades in the A -A* band, placing it 25th in the national ranking of independent schools. Further records were set in the A* and A*-B band (28.7 and 93.1% respectively). Some subjects fared particularly well: an A* grade was achieved by nearly half the candidates in English and Economics (21 and 18 out of 43 respectively). The results for Art were exceptional with 6 out of 7 candidates obtaining the top grade.

AS results were also strong with 62% of grades an A and 84.5% a B or higher. Again there were more subject-specific success stories: straight As were achieved in Latin, Greek, German and Further Maths and Chemistry and History saw impressive figures of 70% and 80% A grades respectively.

At GCSE Level, 9 pupils achieved straight As, with a further 15 pupils achieving As in all subjects but one. Highlights included Art, Physics and Mandarin with 80, 86 and 88% A* grades. Among those pupils in the straight A group were the Remo twins, James and Daniel who can boast 22 As between them. They describe their reaction on opening their results envelopes simply as one of 'relief', a sentiment shared by Billie Esplen and Eleanor Burke, also in this select group. When asked the secret of their success, Billie replied it was no secret, but just down to consistent hard work and perseverance over the two years of the GCSE course.

These results are just the most visible aspect of a broader academic philosophy at Highgate, which has seen the introduction of new initiatives and refining of existing ones. Critical Method, itself a Highgate innovation, has been extended into Year 13 in the form of Critical Independence. These two programmes are designed to address the paucity of critical thinking skills in Sixth Formers nationwide identified by University admissions tutors. Critical Independence develops pupils' independent research skills and gives them opportunities to go beyond the syllabus and explore revolutions in politics, music, science and art.

The Scholars' Trips Programme, now in its second year, offers the academic scholars throughout the school a broader education by making them more aware of the rich cultural scene in London, and further afield.

The School continues to establish a reading culture, underpinned by the belief that the ability to read thoughtfully and critically is crucial not only to academic success, but also to intellectual independence and open-mindedness.

Finally, this year has seen Highgate bring itself squarely into the technological era with the implementation of the HERO e-learning platform giving pupils and staff new opportunities for teaching and learning through electronic media.

It is no surprise that this stimulating academic environment should yield such results. In the end though, this level of success could not have been reached without exceptional work from the pupils and they are to be congratulated once again on all they have achieved.

James Morrow
Sam (13NG) Georgie (12EG) and Anna (10EG) Willis continued their extraordinarily successful run in the sport of real tennis. At the Junior British Open, the blue riband event of junior real tennis worldwide, Anna and Georgie were both crowned national champions, winning the girls’ competitions for their age group, and Sam was runner-up in his category.

Both girls had acquitted themselves well earlier in the championship, playing for the first time in the U16 and U18 categories, even when facing opposition from older boys. Georgie won three of her four matches and only narrowly failed to progress to the later stages. In the girls’ competition, her win in the final was decisive, underlining her supremacy in the sport even at this level. Anna likewise emerged overall victor, though after a harder-fought match.

Sam had great success behind him coming to the championship, playing for the first time in the U16 and U18 categories, even when facing opposition from older boys. Georgie won three of her four matches and only narrowly failed to progress to the later stages. In the girls’ competition, her win in the final was decisive, underlining her supremacy in the sport even at this level. Anna likewise emerged overall victor, though after a harder-fought match.

Sam had great success behind him coming to the championship, having won the U18 category of the French open in April. Nonetheless, his progress through the more competitive British Open was exceptional. Not only did he emerge the victor of his overall group, but he went on to defeat both the second and third seeds to make the final, losing only to last year’s defending champion, a near professional level player. Sam, who was not expected or expecting to get through to the quarter finals was overjoyed with the whole day. ‘That was my last junior competition and I’m really pleased with how it went.’

The Willis’ success is all the more impressive given how little they train. Although Sam has been playing since he was 9, encouraged by his father, and Georgie since she was 10 or 11, they only average 2-4 hours a week of practice. Georgie had not played at all for the two months preceding the competition.

There is no doubt real tennis is not a mainstream sport. The scarcity of real tennis courts (Sam says there are maybe only 16 clubs where one can play in the whole country) and the expense of the equipment (special racquets and balls are required) mean there are relatively few involved in the sport. Asked if the scarcity of competitors detracted from their achievements, Sam responded ‘No, definitely not: there are fewer players but they are all very passionate about the sport.’

Sam is certain more people should be involved, and that the game has much to offer, especially in comparison with the more familiar version of tennis. ‘When I play lawn tennis, I find it boring: there are basically only 4 shots; real tennis is a much more intelligent game; it’s so much more complex; there are so many more tactics you can employ.’ Georgie agrees: ‘You have to think so much more; everything has to be calculated.’

Unfortunately, the Willis’ future in the sport is uncertain. Sam, who is planning to study medicine, says that since many universities do not have courts nearby, he may not be able to continue. Georgie envisages the same problem: ‘If I go to Oxford or Cambridge, I’ll carry on playing, but otherwise not – there aren’t the courts.’

Whatever the future may hold, there is no doubt all three are to be congratulated once again on their exceptional achievements in this undeservedly overlooked sport.
News

The Cholmeleian Winter 2014

Pupils from Highgate won places on summer engineering courses at leading universities. Ann Norman (12SG), Leif Tomasson (13WG), Frederick Marquand (12SH) and Patrick McCabe (11WG) attended residential courses on Biochemical, Nuclear and Railway and electronic engineering at University College London and the Universities of Birmingham and Southampton as well as the National Nuclear Laboratory.

These courses provided pupils with the opportunities to learn about cutting-edge theories and key challenges in these industries, including state of the art railway transport systems and the development of life-saving medicines. Ann, Leif, Freddy and Patrick all showed great initiative in independently identifying these courses, in no way associated or promoted by the School, and gaining places on them. One casually remarked: 'It wasn’t recommended to us by our teachers; I just found it on the internet.'

Courses offered a range of activities including lectures, master classes and practicals. Highlights included pitching ideas for the disposal of nuclear fuel in a dragons’ den type scenario, designing and building a 1:30 scale operational locomotive and designing, building and programming a fully autonomous robot.

All courses were organised by the Smallpeice Trust, an independent charity which promotes engineering as a career, aiming to attract young people and show them what it’s like to work in this field. In the words of Yuhong Zhou, organiser of the Biochemical engineering course: 'The courses are an excellent way of showing our most capable young people the attractions of a fascinating career. I hope these students now have a feeling of what it’s like to live, work and study at a top ten university.'

Courses not only improved students’ scientific knowledge but also more transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and time management. Courses included social activities such as a film night, bowling trip and formal dinners where students had the opportunity to share their experiences and discover more about careers in the various fields of engineering.

Course organisers are full of praise for the attendees. Yuhong Zhou states: 'These enthusiastic young learners were totally engaged in the activities working with their team and displayed a real passion for meeting challenges and solving problems.' Dr Kevin Stenson, CEO of the Smallpeice Trust was similarly effusive: 'over the five days it was great to see the students really beginning to think like engineers.'

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Ann, Leif, Freddy and Patrick were themselves very enthusiastic about their experiences: ‘My favourite part was working with the bioreactor, and being a given a tour of UCL’s laboratories’. ‘The practical was best: we got to crash test a train.’ All four were in no doubt that their courses were both enjoyable and worthwhile, and when asked whether they would recommend them to others their collective answer was a resounding ‘Yes!’

James Morrow
Showtime at the Roundhouse

On a balmy Sunday evening in June, Camden’s Roundhouse was the setting for Highgate’s first Summer Festival Show.

The former engine shed proved an ideal space for showcasing the best of the year’s music, drama and recitation. In spite of intense rehearsal over the weekend, the young performers gave their all in an energetic evening which opened with a catchy number from *West Side Story*. There was a preview of *Gulliver’s Travels*, with a cast of over thirty pupils from younger years; house drama winners Kingsgate’s extract from *Our Country’s Good*; an entertaining scene from *Tartuffe* with Tim Roberts in creepily lecherous form, and a gruesome and compelling extract from *Medea*, with Jake Morris’s Jason confronting his unrepentant wife, Medea, played with murderous dignity by Liliana Talwatte. The music, like the drama extracts, showcased the exciting range of music and drama at Highgate, with orchestral, instrumental and vocal pieces, from Midgate’s *Jazzy Blue Rondo à la Turk* to the Chorale’s prizewinning *The Battle of Jericho*, which fittingly concluded the evening as a tribute to their success in winning the Choir of the Year Competition. The Junior School were represented too, with their recital of *The Rose* which drew a huge ‘aah!’ of appreciation from the audience.

The winners of the Lyttelton recitation competition also took us on a varied journey, from the tongue-in-cheek *Be Kind to Your Turkeys this Christmas*, recited by Charles Junior Duah, to two very accomplished recitations of Sylvia Plath by Gaia Wise and Sean Lennard Berney. Lastly, Tom Stephens, the senior winner, gave a recitation of Marvell’s *To His Coy Mistress*, which perfectly captured the poem’s mix of sensuality and pathos. Adam Pettitt praised the young performers and spoke of how the idea of the Festival emerged from a day out in Edinburgh to watch the School’s performance of *The Tempest*.

In the interval, Festival Friends enjoyed a champagne reception on the Roundhouse terrace to thank them for raising money for a Festival Bursary. ‘It was a huge challenge to keep the rehearsal schedule on track,’ said Festival Organiser, Jenny McLoughlin, ‘and at times we wondered if it would all come together. But it was worth it when we heard the wild applause from the crowd.’ Responsible for behind-the-scenes logistics, Patrick Johnston commented: ‘there was as much to organise off the stage as on it, but it all went smoothly and enjoyably on the night.’

The show was preceded by a Summer Fair on the Saturday (in association with the Junior School and Pre-Prep HSPA), with a line-up of classic cars, hog roast burgers, candy floss, a champagne and strawberries tent for visiting OCs and stalls selling everything you could think of. For the first time in years it didn’t rain and parents and children enjoyed strolling across Senior Field in the summer sunshine.

Kaya Burgess (EG c/2003) a *Times* journalist gave the first Festival Lecture, a fascinating insight into the world of the feature writer. Kaya has found Middle Earth in Watford, drunk-driven with the police, learned to swallow dive and discovered the living relatives of World War One casualties. Kaya also revealed how the industry is changing in the digital age, and gave advice on how young OCs could get into the profession.

Lower School Prizegiving relocated to the Library was a more traditional if shorter affair, with staff wearing academic dress and the Middle School Athletics at Allianz Park included some outstanding performances.

The Boys’ 800m was the best quality race of recent years, won by Victor Ludorum, Oliver Light (10NG), with Westgate the overall winners. Helped by generous doses of summer sun, Highgate’s first Summer Festival created, as Adam Pettitt hoped it would, a sense of merrymaking and celebration, and will be a looked-for item in next year’s calendar.

Simon Appleton
Ten years after girls first joined the Senior school, Highgate has welcomed Beth Belin (13WG) as its first female WO2 Sergeant Major in the Combined Cadet Force. Even when she joined in Year 9, Andy Thomson, the Officer Commanding, commented that she stood out from the rest: ten years ago, although ‘healthy numbers’ of girls joined the CCF, they didn’t often take on leadership roles. Beth has proved that this is no longer the case. ‘Beth just seemed to be a natural born leader,’ says Mr Thomson.

‘Even in Year 9 she got involved in everything. As she went up, people just tended to listen to what she said.’

Beth’s involvement in the CCF began four years ago. ‘I had the choice of either Duke of Edinburgh or the CCF’, she commented. ‘It seemed to me at the time that you got to do everything in CCF that you would on DoE but it was just cooler. There are always awful field days and exercises where it pours with rain and you lie in a puddle for several hours, but those are the exceptions. On the whole I’ve really enjoyed it.’

The CCF summer camp, attended by various numbers of Highgate students every year, trains cadets in military skills, shooting and adventurous training (‘That’s my personal favourite,’ adds Beth), before the week culminates in a 24-hour exercise away from the camp, where the cadets get to apply all the skills they’ve developed over the week. This past summer, Beth took on the leadership of a platoon attack. Army soldiers come to oversee and train the cadets each year, and their reaction to the new Sergeant Major, according to Mr Thomson, was exceptional. ‘The soldiers were just astonished by Beth’s approach,’ he says. ‘They were just in awe. They said even regular soldiers sometimes aren’t that good.’

‘The soldiers were just astonished by Beth’s approach,’ he says. ‘They were just in awe. They said even regular soldiers sometimes aren’t that good.’

So what does this milestone mean for the Highgate branch of the CCF? It is now a female-dominated group (approximately 55% of the current group of cadets are girls), but Beth and Mr Thomson attribute this to separate causes. ‘I think girls perhaps enjoy it more,’ says Beth. ‘There’s a real group spirit between all the girls, regardless of year. The Year 12 and 13 girls are like the mums of the younger ones and we know each other really well.’ Mr Thomson accredited this more to Beth herself. ‘I think we’ve got more girls now because of her. They really see her as a role model.’

The decision to appoint a female Sergeant Major, while a huge step forwards for Highgate in terms of promoting gender equality, was not an active resolution. ‘It was quite an easy decision,’ says Mr Thomson. ‘I couldn’t think of anyone else. She’s the best thing since sliced bread.’ However, it is obvious that Beth’s appointment has been an important milestone. ‘I think people are making a big deal about it because there’s a really big history of CCF at Highgate and there’s a lot of tradition surrounding it,’ she says. ‘People are celebrating the CCF more than anything I’ve done.’

Beth may be the first girl to become a Sergeant Major at Highgate, but with more and more girls rising up through the ranks, she is by no means the last.

Liliana Talwatte (13SG)
September 2012 saw the start of the Year 3 Junior Strings Project in the Junior School. The scheme follows a specially-devised scheme of work, which draws upon the principles of the Kodály Method of musicianship and is supported using repertoire by Sheila Nelson.

Encore! Members of the Year 3 Junior Strings Project

A significant proportion of former JSP pupils are now continuing their instrumental studies in violin, viola, cello and double bass

The initiative was set up by Jonathan Murphy (Head of Instrumental and Deputy Director of Music) with a view to nurturing and building on existing musical talent through the playing of an orchestral stringed instrument; since November 2013 it has been run by Ruth McCreath (Head of Junior Music). In the scheme all Year 3 pupils receive a small group string lesson as part of the Music curriculum, where each lesson is taught by one of the dedicated team of specialist instrumental teachers and the pupil given an instrument to take home for the year. Every term pupils take part in their own JSP concert, the first being an ‘Open Lesson’ where parents and carers are invited to watch a typical JSP lesson and gain an insight into the Kodály Method.

The summer performance took place in Dyne House Auditorium, and this year pupils from the Pre-Prep were also invited to watch the concerts. This project is proving extremely popular and successful. A significant proportion of former JSP pupils are now continuing their instrumental studies in violin, viola, cello and double bass through having individual lessons at school, and have gained excellent results in ABRSM exams and music competitions outside school.

Ruth McCreath
To celebrate the 450th birthday of the Bard, Year 2 performed Shakespeare Rocks for their end of year and end of Pre-Prep show. Having worked on A Midsummer Night’s Dream and had a whole school assembly on Shakespeare in the Lent term, Year 2 already had a sound knowledge of the world’s greatest ever playwright. This inspired and motivated them to put their all into this musical comedy production.

The director of The Rough Shakespeare Company had found the Bard’s diary on eBay for £1.99, so his company decided to dramatise selected entries for the audience. We began when a young Will was less well known but was determined to become rich and famous. Later, with said fame and fortune, his fans chased him through the streets of London to get his autograph. We met Richard ‘Burley’ Burbage, the lead actor in The Lord Chamberlain’s Men auditioning several men dressed as women as well as women dressed as men dressed as women hoping to get into the company. Queen Elizabeth, hounded by Tudor paparazzi painters, made an appearance and we saw the Globe Theatre built. We found out why The Scottish Play is not referred to by its real title and, after the Globe burnt down, we met two young lovers called Romeo and Juliet who inspired Shakespeare to rename his romantic tragedy, Roger and Janet, with the title we know today.

The cast all worked as an ensemble performing some difficult dialogue and mesmerising musical numbers, including rap, ballads and rock ‘n’ roll often accompanied by complicated choreography. Shakespeare Rocks was a fantastic showcase to round off these seven year olds’ careers in Highgate Pre-Prep.

Clive Smith

Fire Brigade Visits Pre-Prep

Sirens sang and hoses splashed when the fire brigade visited the Pre-Prep last week. We were delighted to welcome the firefighters from Hornsey Fire Station as part of our project Ourselves and Other Important People. The children have been learning about people who help us in our community and the important roles they have. Over the course of several visits each class had a session with the fire brigade so that they could learn about their job and could see and test out some equipment.

The fire fighters told us about their uniforms and how they are designed to keep them safe with some children competing to see how quickly they could try on the firefighters’ boots and protective clothing. Everyone had the chance to test the firefighters’ incredibly powerful hose and spray the grass outside the Mills Centre. They were shown the vast array of tools and pieces of equipment that the fire fighters might be required to use on their ‘shouts’. The children were able to sit inside the cab of the fire engine and try on helmets and breathing apparatus.

The children asked interesting questions, including ‘How can fire fighters go into buildings that are on fire?’ and ‘What other types of calls do firefighters go to, other than to put out fires?’ Not only were they excited to learn all about and try on the fire fighters’ protective clothing, they also found out that the fire brigade often rescue people after car accidents and sometimes even have to help cats that have become stuck in trees!

The children were enthralled by the visit; not only did it bring their learning to life, but inspired them to think about their own future, and how they could help people in their local community.

Julie Metcalfe and Sarah Fleming
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

IT’S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF HIGHGATE’S FIRST GIRLS. IN THIS FEATURE, THE CHOLMELEIAN FINDS OUT THE DIFFERENT AND CHALLENGING CAREER PATHS THEY HAVE PURSUED SINCE LEAVING HIGHGATE.
MEGAN BAMBER
Fate has brought me to the Lake District after leaving University. In my time up here, I have been involved in many creative ventures, whilst being able to enjoy this beautiful part of the country. I currently manage an old country pub, settled within the national park, in a truly idyllic setting.

Over the past few years I have been doing some freelance website design work and architectural consultancy jobs. Yet these roles tie me to a desk, to which I cannot be settled. Recently I have completed a few commissions for beautiful crochet items that have engulfed all my free hours. I enjoy this very much. After a visit to WoolFest in Cockermouth earlier this year, my inspiration for wool and crochet has expanded and so I have been learning new techniques and patterns that have enabled me to develop my work. At the show I met many artists, weavers, knitters and spinners alongside the vast amounts of different types of wool and techniques, even meeting some of the rarer breeds of sheep and alpacas from which they originate. I never seem to be able to say no to learning a new skill. I have recently taken to needle felting! I also still work with wire, my love for which began at school.

HANNAH GOLDIE
I left Highgate and went straight to Oxford; I’d intended to take a gap year and go to a ‘fun’ university, but the coercion/incredible support of my teachers at school led me to an offer to read PPE at Worcester College and I couldn’t turn it down. It was a great decision – although the switch from science A levels to a social sciences degree was a tough one. I learnt more at University than I ever could have imagined, not least about how much work you can get done if you put your mind to it!

In my last year at Oxford I gained a place on the Civil Service Fast Stream, and was assigned to the Department for Education. However I managed to defer my start date for a year. I then volunteered and travelled before taking up post in October 2010. I worked on Free Schools, in the Ministers’ Offices and in policy and research. Alongside this, I enrolled in a one year community leadership training course, subsequently taking on posts on an Operations Committee for a large children’s charity, and on a steering committee for a Comic Relief-funded teacher training programme in Ghana. Last Autumn I left Whitehall to join Social Finance, a social investment intermediary, working on children and education projects.

ALICIA GAWORSKA
After leaving Highgate I spent six months stacking shelves at M&S to fund a trip to save the biodiversity in the Caribbean sea and travel the world. I then went to Bristol University to study Biology. Whilst extremely enjoyable, the idea of working away in a laboratory just didn’t appeal. A talk from BBH, an advertising agency, persuaded me to get a spot of work experience and that summer I spent a couple of weeks at BBH and M&C Saatchi.

After graduating, I spent three months on Channel 4’s work experience programme in the Strategy department where I mixed brand positioning with trips to the Big Brother house. Another stint of travelling later, I started work at Engine, a collection of communications agencies, on their graduate scheme. I then transferred to Engine’s advertising agency, WCRS, to work on a number of brands including Bupa, Betfair and notonthehighstreet.com. That’s where I am now, mingling business with art and long lunches (or not). Find me at @aliciagaworska, FB, LinkedIn etc.

SUSIE BROWN
It’s hard to believe it has been ten years since that first day in the Sixth Form Common Room that Highgate School had made such an effort to turn into something the girls would feel at home in! Two years at Highgate flew by and after leaving the school I went off to Exeter for three years to study Geography, spend lots of time by the sea and avoid the infamous ‘cardiac hill’ that Dr Lewis had warned me about. As everyone always tells you, university went by too quickly and then I was back home in north London and into the world of work. In keeping with the Geography stereotype, I decided to work in transport. I joined TfL’s graduate training scheme after university and spent a couple of years moving around the organisation working on projects such as Barclays Cycle Hire or ‘Boris Bikes’ and planning for the 2012 Games. I have just completed a part-time MSc in Transport Planning and now work in the TfL cycling team on infrastructure projects including the new Superhighways that cross London and the Central London Cycle Grid.

FLORA BOURNE
Since leaving Highgate after travelling around a large part of Asia, I finished my medical degree and began working as a junior doctor in Hull. I have recently moved to Manchester and started my training as a GP.

I ‘learnt more at University than I ever could have imagined, not least about how much work you can get done if you put your mind to it!’
MINA GOSPAVIC

Highgate was a wonderful school to be part of and throughout the two years I spent there, I had such supportive, open and friendly teachers and I also made a fantastic group of friends who I’m still very much in touch with. Being part of the first cohort of girls wasn’t as terrifying an experience as one might initially think, but I believe that because there was such a small group of us, this helped us to form strong bonds!

During my time at Highgate I studied Art, Maths, English Literature and Biology and I tried to get stuck into a variety of extracurricular activities when I had the time. I have fond memories of our small swimming team waking up far too early to swim at the Mallinson’s before school, the luncheon time film screenings in Dyne house as well as the slightly gruesome but fascinating rat dissections in Biology Soc. I really loved my A Level subjects and when I decided that I wished to study architecture, I was given a lot of encouragement and preparation, particularly by my art teachers.

‘Highgate was a wonderful school to be part of… I had such supportive, open and friendly teachers …’

Daunted by the length of the course, I skipped my gap year and I studied my Bachelor’s degree at Nottingham University. Many students from Highgate also came to study here so it wasn’t very alien to me! I worked for a year as an architectural assistant before I returned to London to complete my Master’s degree in architecture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. Since then, I have been working on large residential and university projects for a large, London based practice called Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios. In my spare time I exhibit my own artwork and architectural drawings at the Royal Academy of Art, the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and even at Highgate’s Mills Centre a couple of years ago. I’ve also taught students looking to study architecture as part of Open City’s ‘Accelerate!’ scheme and I’ve recently won the Observatory Competition to design a mobile artist’s studio in the South West of the UK.

RACHAEL GOWDRIDGE

After finishing at Highgate, I went on to Leeds University to study Contemporary Art Practice. It was actually the same course as Alice Lewis (WG) and the two of us lived together throughout our years at university. After graduating, I did a Masters in Interior Design at Chelsea College of Art & Design, from which I graduated with a Distinction.

‘I think one of the strongest feelings I get when reflecting about Highgate is a sense of it having a really special community spirit,...’

After my Masters, I went travelling around North America and the South Pacific islands, before ending up in Western Australia where I lived and worked for 18 months. When I returned to the UK, I did a design internship with the late David Collins at his studio in West London. Here I got to assist teams working on prestigious projects such as the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Doha, Café Colbert in Sloane Square and the Alexander McQueen retail stores. After my internship, I got a position as an Interior Designer with my current consultancy which is a little corporate and a little creative at the same time. It’s more than held my attention so far, but I know that we are all proud to be the pioneers of co-ed schooling at Highgate and I wouldn’t change a second of it for anything.

ELAINE HO

It’s hard to believe this year marks ten years since stepping through the doors of Central Hall. Life hasn’t slowed down since then. After leaving school, I dived headlong into a degree at Cambridge in Modern Languages. This took me on to my next step – three years in Berlin where I worked for a non-profit company called Agape, helping students answer questions about life and faith. For a change of pace, I then went into subtitling. I translated everything from German film archives to French documentaries on Siberian wolves and remote Nordic rock festivals. Since landing back in London, I’ve been working at a brand and innovation consultancy which is a little corporate and a little creative at the same time. It’s more than held my attention so far, but we’ll see where things take me yet...

‘It’s hard to believe this year marks ten years since stepping through the doors of Central Hall’...
KATHRYN HOOPER
I graduated from Nottingham University in 2010 after taking a gap year where I spent some time in Florence learning Italian and studying History of Art! I studied Industrial Economics there after a great introduction to Economics at Highgate School!

After this, I have taken a slight U-turn and just qualified in July as a speech and language therapist. I studied on a postgraduate course at City University. I have recently started my first paediatric job as a speech therapist, working with preschool children and going into schools.

Obviously the inclusion of girls has proven to be a great success! I feel like a pioneer!!

JULIA LERNER
Since finishing university, I have worked in London, Switzerland and am currently working in Moscow. I am head of the international department in an auditing and consulting company, as well as senior consultant focusing mainly on risk management.

In terms of the ‘mountains that I have climbed’, I actually have climbed Mt. Island Pick in Nepal, which is 6200 metres, and more recently have taken up surfing.

ALICE LEWIS
After finishing at Highgate I went on to study Contemporary Art at Leeds University where I graduated with a first. After ‘uni’ I took some time out to travel with a friend – spending 5 months in South America, Australia and South East Asia. That was a fantastic experience and I am hoping especially to go back to South America – hopefully in the not too distant future! Back in London, I took a job on the editorial team at a small publishing company where I stayed until recently when I moved jobs to take up a role as a production executive at Guardian News and Media.

I had very happy times at Highgate and will never forget my years there.

HAZEL KENT
I had some of my best and most enjoyable years during my time at Highgate. The friends I made have remained my best friends and I now in fact live with two of them! After leaving Highgate in 2006, I went on to study a Politics BA at Nottingham University. I had a great three years there and it was definitely helped by the fact that a large percentage of our year also went there! After completing my degree, I went on to study the Graduate Diploma in Law (law conversion) at BPP. That was an intense year but then to make things harder I decided to complete the Bar by studying the Bar Professional Training Course and was called to the Bar in 2011. I went straight on to work for the International Department of Coram Children’s Legal Centre. This work involved consulting with big donors including NGOs and governmental organisations to implement international law and policy worldwide. After a year, I decided to move to the Family Department as a caseworker and I now represent clients with family and community care issues, generally all legally-aided. Most of my clients are very vulnerable individuals and from varied backgrounds. I now occasionally do my own advocacy for clients at the Central London Family Court, which although terrifying, is incredibly fulfilling.

I had some of my best and most enjoyable years during my time at Highgate School. The friends I made have remained my best friends and I now in fact live with two of them!’

EMMA MIDDLETON
I dropped out of Durham after a year and decided to train as a chef. I trained at Leith’s School of Food and Wine for a year and since then have worked all over the place. I worked in street food at Borough Market and South Bank selling scallops. I did a season on yachts in the Caribbean and most recently I worked at Ottolenghi, where I was head chef of their Kensington shop. I am now going back to uni to give it another go. I want to work in business and the food industry so I am going to study at Pearson’s College on the Strand. Hopefully I will graduate this time and will be a billionaire foodie by the time I am 30.

KATE LEDIGO
Having first completed a gap year, I graduated with a first class degree in Politics from the University of Sussex in 2010. One of my dissertations, on the socio-demographic make-up of the Conservative Party, won the Gladstone Memorial Prize and is published in the University library. Following my graduation, I worked for a year in corporate communications and research.
‘I am delighted that my Highgate legacy lives on; my three younger brothers (two current, one recent leaver) are referred to as ‘Kate’s brothers’ despite their superior intellect and sporting ability.’

Before gaining a Graduate Diploma in Law. Equipped with some legal knowledge, I spent a year working for Cherie Blair’s legal strategy consultancy before joining the business development team at Mishcon de Reya where I work with the Private Client and Family Departments.

Still living in North London (vitality within walking distance of the Emirates!) I am a regular visitor to the pubs of Highgate. I am delighted that my Highgate legacy lives on; my three younger brothers (two current, one recent leaver) are referred to as ‘Kate’s brothers’ despite their superior intellect and sporting ability.

With little exciting gossip myself (I am still unmarried and childless) I am looking forward to some shocks at our 10yr reunion, and possibly a rousing close and still in touch. Some great friends and we are all very close already. I made some great friends and we are all very close and still in touch. 

KEISHA NARAIN

After Highgate, I took a gap year. I worked and saved to go travelling which consisted of voluntary house building in Guatemala, and backpacking around South East Asia, an unforgettable year equipping me with experience and maturity to embark on University, and life in general after school. Highgate offered such solid support for all their students in the lead up to, and during that transitional year.

I studied Film and Media in Manchester, a few of the best years of my life. Given the industry, however, it was a difficult time to find paid work. Through one contact I have since been modelling in the fashion industry, where I have lived and travelled between London and New York, Australia, Paris and India. I’ve been lucky enough to land some international campaigns, shoot with some of the top photographers, and feature in international magazines like Vogue, Elle, Harpers and Grazia. I still enjoy seizing the opportunities my career brings, but I know that modelling won’t last forever. At this point I am exploring and investing in entrepreneurial ideas so that I can gradually begin the next chapter of my life.

‘I had a great experience at Highgate (it frightens me to think that far back already)...I made some great friends and we are all very close and still in touch.’

I had a great experience at Highgate (it frightens me to think that far back already), and although the desire for a Girls’ Football team failed, and our Netball team didn’t triumph in the league as we hoped...we integrated and excelled well across the curriculum thanks to the support of the teachers and acceptance of the boys. I made some great friends and we are all very close and still in touch. 

OLIVIA OSBORNE

After I left Highgate, I read Biological Sciences at the University of Exeter. In my first year summer holiday I spent a month and half in the Honduran jungles where I was a biodiversity volunteer carrying out tasks from taking gecko saliva swabs to rediscovering a beetle species. Probably the fondest memories of my university time was a trip to the Bahamas as part of a Coral Reef Field Course. In my last year of university I got a taste of research and I got interested in laboratory work.

‘In my first year summer holiday I spent a month and half in the Honduran jungles where I was a biodiversity volunteer carrying out tasks from taking gecko saliva swabs to rediscovering a beetle species.’

As a result, after university I decided to do a PhD at the University of Exeter as I thoroughly enjoyed the world of research and they had just opened state of the art aquarium facilities. My PhD is in Ecotoxicology, specifically nanoparticles. My project revolved around testing these nanomaterials on the zebrafish, a very versatile, remarkable model organism. My PhD fortunately got me travelling/presenting around the world from Europe to Canada and doing some great science outreach work with schools.

After my PhD I got a job as a postdoctoral research scholar at UCLA (University of California Los Angeles) at CNSI (California Nano Systems Institute). I really like the UCLA environment — it is a beautiful campus university, and obviously LA is good fun with mountains and beach close by!

As for hobbies, I love travelling, I still keep up with my artwork and working on my music (haven’t got anything sorted since the move) but during my PhD I was in a piano ensemble, a jazz a capella group and I am in a duo band. 

TAMARA SCHMIDT

Since leaving Highgate, I studied English Language and Literature at Birmingham University. I managed a couple of campaigns for student union elections, and fired up by this, and my involvement in the Union council I decided on graduating that politics was the career for me. Six months of interning at Labour Friends of Israel, while absolutely fascinating, showed me that I might need to postpone that dream in order to start earning some money. I fell into a career in media planning by accident, due to a recommendation from a friend, and have spent the last three years working in the media — my current role is as an international media planner, which is great fun, interesting, and highly sociable and it gives me the opportunity to travel.

‘I’m very much interested in laboratory work.’

TheCholmeleian Winter 2014
NATALIE ROE

After leaving Highgate I headed to Paris for a gap year to improve my French. Paris was a great experience and really prepared me for university. In particular learning to not only fend for myself but to look after and control three screaming children!

‘Geography was one of my favourite subjects at Highgate, mostly because of the great support and encouragement from the Geography teachers.’

Geography was one of my favourite subjects at Highgate, mostly because of the great support and encouragement from the Geography teachers. I decided to continue with the subject and hope that Exeter University would live up to my high expectations of what Geography had to offer! Fortunately, it did. It was also great to get out of the big city for university and breathe the fresh country air. I focused on social Geography whilst at Exeter, which led me to do work experience with the Home Office in drug strategy. I was interested in particular in being involved in national policy and helping people and so continued my studies in this area, heading to LSE to do a Masters in Social Policy and Planning.

On completing my Masters, I went to work in press and communications for Addaction, a national drugs and alcohol charity. The particular highlights here were writing and researching for high profile policy reports and running events during the party conference season. After two and half years with Addaction, I wanted the chance to work on communications at a national level, and earlier this year I joined Healthwatch England, the consumer watchdog for health and social care. Here, I work on the communications and marketing for national health and social care campaigns.

IMOGEN PELHAM

After Highgate I took a gap year in which I worked in Fine Art insurance in Lloyd’s of London for Hiscox, and then went on to study English Language and Literature at UCL. After graduating, I got a job at Aitken Alexander, one of the top literary agencies in the country, at which I’m now a literary agent building a list. In the last year, one author I represent was shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize, and another won the Costa Short Story Prize.

AYUMI SHIMIZU

Some of my ‘fond’ memories consist of water-fights and snow-fights in the Common Room to creeping into the crypt underneath the chapel one night, to the boys being in uproar after they discovered the girls’ toilets offered potpourri! Other more sensible memories consist of Mr Fisher kindly checking up on me to see whether a few of the boys in my chemistry class were bullying me after one rowdy class session (of course not, boys will be boys), to being slightly frightened of attending Mr Wilne’s math class due to his tendency to suddenly direct questions at you and not moving on till you answered correctly. These experiences I like to believe were character-building in some way or other, preparing me to face the world outside the Highgate gates.

‘Some of my ‘fond’ memories consist of water-fights and snow-fights in the Common Room to creeping into the crypt underneath the chapel one night...’

EMMA TULLOCH

Since leaving Highgate I have had a year out (worked in the Wrestlers followed by travelling around Southeast Asia, Australia and South Africa), followed by studying medicine at Newcastle, from where I graduated in 2013. I am now working in the District and General Hospital in Newcastle for foundation years, currently in A&E. I Hope to do some more travelling next year and then at some point start speciality training (not sure of what yet!)

‘VERY fond memories of those couple of years at Highgate. Lovely bunch of teachers and pupils. Managed to have a good laugh as well as passing the exams! Can’t believe it’s been 10 years!’

VERY fond memories of those couple of years at Highgate. Lovely bunch of teachers and pupils. Managed to have a good laugh as well as passing the exams! Can’t believe it’s been 10 years!
To say that Highgate enjoyed its finest ever year of music in 2014 would not be an overstatement. After the 2014 Lent term, when audiences were captivated by the Orchestral Concert at Sloane Square, West Side Story, and the Jazz Orchestra’s Soho gig, it seemed that music at Highgate had reached its zenith. Yet, on the 22 June, Highgate @the Roundhouse set the bar even higher in preparation for this year’s 450th anniversary events. This event showcased Highgate’s finest musicians in varying guises, ranging from the vast Chamber Orchestra, performing Bartók’s Romanian Dances, to Richard Footman’s (13FG) solo performance of Clarinet Concerto, 2nd movement by Copland. The houses who had enjoyed victory in the year’s music competitions also performed to a fantastic reception. Jamie Powe’s (KG 2014) slick arrangement of Troublemaker/Misery sounded as energetic in June as it did when first performed at the House Vocal Competition, while Midgate’s Blue Rondo à la Turk retained its swagger and swing, with seamless changes between rhythmically complex sections and the traditional jazz feel that Midgate is now renowned for.

In between Highgate @ the Roundhouse rehearsals, the Jazz Orchestra performed at the Summer Fair. The ensemble carried the momentum on from their remarkable performance in Soho to entertain a crowd from across the entire foundation. Classics such as Birdland, by Weather Report, and Isfahan, made famous by Duke Ellington, were performed, with Dan Hilton’s (13HG) lyrical playing on the latter greatly impressing the crowd. The modal Kind of Bluegrass, influenced by Miles Davis’ album Kind of Blue, allowed Hal Knight (13EG) multiple solo moments, which he rose to accordingly, while the band’s last piece, Azulito, offered a formidable foot-tapping finale. Ben Huston’s (MG 2014) improvised solo on this tune was stylish and slick, while Theo Hurford’s (13SH) trombone solo added further excitement. While Highgate’s instrumental playing was spread across the evening, the vocalists opened and closed the night to stunning effect. The months of hard work and rehearsals had paid off in the Lent term, and the cast of West Side Story regrouped for a final hurrah at the Roundhouse. The cast exploded onto the stage at the beginning of the evening, performing a medley that perfectly encapsulated the beauty and excitement of Bernstein’s masterpiece. Particularly impressive were Cameron Burt (12TL) and Matilda Mills (12SH), who showed maturity and sensitivity in their roles as Tony and Maria. The Chorale later closed the evening...
with a performance of Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho (arr. Moses Hogan). Recently crowned winners of Songs of Praise Choir of the Year 2014, as televised on the BBC, Highgate’s most esteemed choir brought the evening to a close with a fantastic rendition of their signature piece. The BBC’s Gareth Malone labelled the Chorale’s performance ‘rhythmically very exciting’, and the rhythmic intensity was maintained at the Roundhouse, as they received a warm reception from the awestruck audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the high calibre of musicality displayed at the event that evening. The success of Highgate @ the Roundhouse was down to the unerring commitment of pupils and staff alike, and, in particular, the management skills of Jenny McLoughlin and Patrick Johnston, the evening’s producer and director respectively.

Highgate @ the Roundhouse ended the year in spectacular fashion, and the momentum was continued at the start of the Michaelmas term. The annual House Vocal Competition took place in September in front of a huge crowd crammed into the Mallinson Sports Centre, creating an undoubtedly partisan, but also supportive, atmosphere. Following weeks of frantic rehearsals and months of diligent preparation, every house did themselves proud; unfortunately judge Simon Sharp could only award victory to one house. Third and second places were awarded to Fargate and The Lodge respectively, whose choreography, in both cases, managed to add to the overall performance, and not distract from the singing. Victory, though, went to Eastgate, and their outstanding arrangement of Ed Sheeran’s I See the Fire, overseen by Georgina Lloyd-Owen (12EG) and Ben Reed (13EG). Not only was the standard of the pieces performed in the final incredibly high, but those who played in the preliminary rounds also played to an extremely capable level. The ten finalists ranged dramatically in age, instrument, and type of piece, and the judge’s selection reflected the variation on show.

As Mr Pettitt duly noted in his closing speech, this year’s house singing saw more soloists than ever before seize their moment on stage, and Andre Tejuoso (11EG) was no exception, providing a beautiful a cappella solo to set Eastgate on their way to a deserved victory.

As well as masterminding Eastgate’s House Vocal triumph, Georgina Lloyd-Owen also arranged a charity concert in aid of the National Youth Orchestra which raised £1,250. The musicians involved included Georgina herself, who has recently been accepted into this year’s National Youth Orchestra, as well as members of the MusicWorks, and the Royal Academy. Composers whose works were performed included Schubert, Schumann, and Mendelssohn, which resulted in an hour and a half of joyous chamber music on a Sunday afternoon.

Highgate’s jazz band, taking a rest from their demanding schedule, were treated to a performance from OC Richard Jones at the end of what proved to be a hectic first month back in the autumn. Richard, who is coming to the end of his postgraduate course in jazz piano at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, performed a selection of tunes from his final degree recital with his trio. He covered artists such as Ornette Coleman and Keith Jarrett, and inspired Highgate’s own up-and-coming musicians.

At the close of the first half of term, the Solo Music Competition took place. Not only was the standard of the pieces performed in the final incredibly high, but those who played in the preliminary rounds also played to an extremely capable level. The ten finalists ranged dramatically in age, instrument, and type of piece, and the judge’s selection reflected the variation on show. Howard Ionascu, Director of Junior Academy, awarded third place to me, for my performance of Charlie Parker’s classic Confirmation, while Einav Grushka (9MG) was ranked second for her mature and confident rendition of Wedding Day at Troldhaugen by Edvard Grieg. The overall winner was Georgina Lloyd-Owen, though, whose superb performance of the first movement of Lalo’s cello concerto deservedly took first place, and whetted the audience’s appetite for the upcoming Orchestral Concert.

Sam Coade (13 MG)
Beckett was a stunning evening of theatre made up of extracts from six of his plays including *Waiting for Godot* and *Endgame*, performed in the last week of the Summer Term. It is rare to see this playwright's work performed by such young actors – the cast was drawn from Y7 to Y10 – and such casting, as well as the splicing together of excerpts from several of Beckett’s famously difficult-to-perform plays, carries a large dose of risk. Director Guy Woolf and his cast, however, captivated the audience from the moment we stepped into the Drama Studio, where the set – comprising a bed raised on a platform and a tree sculpted out of wire – was strikingly lit through a haze of smoke. The actors delivered Beckett’s lines with intelligence and conviction, allowing the audience to savour the multiplicity of meanings that Beckett’s extraordinary writing presents. Woolf’s selection of scenes, and the ingenious way he allowed them to run into each other without pausing, allowed the audience to see a common thread in Beckett’s work, the idea of something having been lost, and of the characters being burdened by a hazy recollection of a traumatic past.

In the world of Beckett’s writing, the present moment is a void in which the human impulse is to search for, and perhaps create, meaning. A measure of the actors’ success in this performance was that they managed to amuse the audience as much as they enthralled them in Beckett’s nihilistic realism, both through the delivery of lines and through cleverly worked out physical routines. Particularly memorable moments include James Rodgers’ passionate monologues, spoken at furious pace and with a haunting tone of voice. Ruth Louis (Estragon) and Amy Walpole (Vladimir) pitched their scenes from *Waiting for Godot* perfectly, finding comedy in their characters’ tragic situation. In an extract from *Endgame*, Maxim Uys’ characterisation as Clov showed a maturity beyond his years and confirmed that he is an actor of great promise, and Seb Maskrey was almost unrecognisable as the decrepit but domineering Hamm. Marko Andrejevic and Harriet Howarth were hilarious as Nagg and Nell from the same play and their entrances, bursting from two wheelie bins in clouds of talcum powder, will live long in the memory. Making up the ensemble, Vivika Martini, Adem Corney and Noga Inspector are no less worthy of mention. The critic Vivian Mercier wrote of *Waiting for Godot* that ‘nothing happens, twice’. In drawing on six plays, yet never letting the tension drop for a second of the performance, one could say that in this production nothing happened, six times. Isn’t that something?

Tim Hyam
Gulliver’s Travels

It can be an enormous challenge to create more than one location on a stage, let alone locations where the actors have to shrink to six inches small and grow to 72 feet high, but the cast of *Gulliver’s Travels* were unfazed by this task. Under the direction of Ms Hale, Mr Hyam and Mr Powell, the thirty-three-person cast pulled the audience into the fantastical adventures of Dr Lemuel Gulliver with charm and ease. Those who played the six-inch-tall Lilliputians spoke through toy soldiers to show Gulliver’s awesome size; the seventy-foot-tall people of Brobdingnag addressed a tiny mannequin as opposed to the actors who played Gulliver. The use of the toys gave the show a childlike feeling of wonder, and provided the ever-present ‘sense of adventure’.

The constantly-energised ensemble also worked to create the wonderful settings. The Star Tavern, from which Gulliver tells his tales, had a feeling of unbridled curiosity and at times, cruel mockery; the court of Lilliput was full of laughter and light-hearted competition; while the danger present in Balnibarbi was made very obvious by the threatening persona taken on by the chorus.

Jack Jeffreys, one of the nine actors to play Gulliver, led the audience through the various stories that Gulliver has lived through with a straightforward stoicism that kept them intrigued. Each of the actors who played Gulliver, from all three years, brought something different to the role; there was the frantic worrier trying to provide for his family; the desperate man trying to escape from his giant captors; the over-confident Laputan ambassador realising that he might be in danger and, by the end, the absolutely delirious wanderer who finally questions reality when he realises that he’s engaged in conversation with a group of horses.

Among the cast were other characters with various distinct, memorable personalities. The Emperor and Empress of Lilliput, played by Lochie Springett and Millie Dickson, made a delightfully comic couple of a somewhat bumbling old fool and his weeping, whining wife. Yoel Mulugheta, playing the Farmer of Brobdingnag, was an excellent schemer, hunting for new ways to make money. And Louis Pettitt created a wonderfully flamboyant, hugely entertaining Presenter of Lilliput, cueing the audience’s reactions to the court’s limbo competition.

This production of ‘Gulliver’s Travels’ brought to the surface the completely mad and bizarre nature of so many parts of Jonathan Swift’s story…

Tim Hyam
Studying Art in Y13 enables pupils to devise their own ‘Personal Study’ Unit. This consists of an investigation into a selected aspect(s) of others’ art, craft or design and is presented as an essay that works in conjunction with – and directly impacts upon – their practical work. We encourage our pupils to connect their initial ideas to the subject they hope to study at university. This increases the opportunity to engage with an area of personal interest and will often become an area of discussion during university interviews. The essay title may derive from a problem they want to solve, a quotation or a specific technique they wish to explore. This article reflects upon the A Level Summer Exhibition and reveals the diverse and thought-provoking concepts that act as the backdrop to each of the pupils’ final artwork(s). This year every pupil was asked to provide a synopsis of their investigation which was installed alongside their final piece.

**Marina Nimmo**
Director of Art

### Chloe Marquand

**The Power of The Sky:** How do artists create mood and atmosphere in painting through their depiction of the sky?

(Oil on Canvas 120 x 170cm)

On the top of Primrose Hill at twilight, the lights of ‘The BT Tower’ and ‘The Shard’ fluoresce through the threatening fog. As the viewer gains familiarity with the landscape, the colours on the horizon slowly reveal themselves through the fog clouds. Amongst the colourful mist lie small and stark red lights spots which encourage the viewer to come closer to the canvas. At this intimate distance, the viewer’s eye-line is swamped hauling them into an ineffable calm moment.

### Annabel Kipnis

Exploration of the distortion of statistics: How to encourage the viewer to question what they see with reference to Florence Nightingale, Edward Tufte, Esther Stocker and Yoken Teruya.

(Installation: Back lit film projection / acrylic mirrored Perspex)

Initially intrigued by the demographic contrast I had experienced in different boroughs of London I decided to study accompanying statistics for these boroughs, aiming to portray the data in a visually stimulating way. However, whilst I was rigorously visiting the boroughs of Barnet and Hackney gathering data visually as well as from database sources, I came across a conflicting view within my research. I began looking into the manipulation techniques Fox News and politicians use to distort statistics as well as recent scandals such as Kent Police ‘altering’ crime statistics. I questioned the reliability of my own data sources in response to these findings aiming to reflect this within my work. I hope to indicate a sense of confusion within this particular work, the viewer should question and go about interpreting what they see with caution, ultimately reflecting how statistics can be manipulated as well as how they should be perceived.

### Jennifer Landesberg:

‘I am not who you think I am, I am not who I think I am; I am who I think you think I am.’ – Charles Horton Cooley

(200 x100 tracing paper screen with double film projection)

The video installation intends to show the audience how other people’s perceptions of us can help shape who we are whilst also displaying how the projections (not literally) of other characters onto my own helped to uncover the hidden traits within my ‘self’.
Arielle Martin
How have artists explored distorted depictions of the human figure? (Film)
My starting point for this project was sketching the skeletal form of the human back as I am fascinated by that area of the body. Photographing my subject’s back drew me to use photography to document this project. As I was attracted by the idea of using a form of animation, I used stop-motion photography to bring my photographs to life. My final piece is a stop-motion film, showing three forms with their backs facing us. There is a lack of facial features in this piece which means that the viewer cannot communicate with the model or know what their thoughts or feelings are. The body twists and turns into different positions, obscuring the body in such a way that makes it difficult for the viewer to know what is being seen. The artist Bill Viola inspired me to use dark lighting and by doing so, bones and muscle structure in my model’s back were accentuated. As the subject moves, the skin on the back folds, creating pockets of light and dark. There is a strong contrast between the darkness and the model’s pale skin.
Marina Mylonadis:
‘My Personal Perception of the Relationship Between Humans and Architecture’
(Oil on paper)
My work represents the relationship that I believe exists between humans and their built environment in our modern culture. I chose to express the harmonious coexistence between architecture and people and how it plays a significant role in our interior mind state to the extent where a room can portray the psychological state of a person. In order to unify the two I combined the structural, geometric lines associated with construction of interior spaces with the more organic and fluid lines of the human figure. The figure is in a neutral, relaxed state seated on a chair in a room, undisturbed by the angular shapes formed by the room.

Anna Eaves:
How can space portray a sense of presence and character?
(Installation)
‘Going Places’
Another cigarette ash television serial filled advert analysing cupboard starving front room filling tea slurping mind chewing brain burping carpet picking pots watching room gleaning toilet flushing night, with nothing to do I think I’ll paint roads on my front room walls to convince myself that I’m going places.
By Lemn Sissay

Gemma Rutter
‘How can light be manipulated to have a psychological effect on the viewer?’
(Installation)
Fascinated by the sun and the colours it paints the sky at sunrise and sunset, I decided to explore the topic further by rigorously investigating the physics of light. After researching the works of Newton in the late 1600’s, I became intrigued by the idea of refracting light through a prism, a mechanical object used in science which separates white light into its constituent hues. I then carried out a number of experiments in which I recorded different subjects through the prism (both stills and video) and discovered the mesmerising imagery produced when light was shone onto moving water ripples and was captured in video form through the prism. The imagery works best when the kinetic energy of the water is presented as it is fundamental in adding a meditative element to the work and the constant, rhythmic movement greatly enhances the hypnotic effects of the variegated visuals.

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Wilfred Edward Surplice

This World War II plane, ‘The Contrary Mary’, bears the shield of Highgate School next to that of another. The pilot was Wilfred Edward Surplice who was a Highgate pupil between 1927 and 1932.

He and his navigator attached the shields to the plane in 1942 and added underneath their motto ‘VINCO’ (to win/to conquer), a pun on Surplice’s nickname ‘Wing-Co’.

After leaving school, Surplice joined the RAF and, as Flight Lieutenant, was involved in operations in Waziristan for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his efforts between 16 December 1937 and 31 December 1938. During the Second World War he rose to Wing Commander and Group Captain in the 295 Squadron. On 18 September 1942 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his part in the Dieppe Raid, an attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe. He piloted the leading aircraft of a formation of bombers detailed to release smoke bombs to screen the landing troops on the beaches near Dieppe. The bombs were dropped with such accuracy despite anti-aircraft fire that he was awarded the medal for bravery and skill. Surplice was sadly killed in action on 3 November 1944 while flying a Stirling Mk IV called ‘Shooting Stars’. At 6.56 in the evening the plane ran into bad weather over Norway and incurred severe icing to the engine. The crew bailed out when the plane became unmanageable. Surplice stayed and tried to gain control of the plane. He died when it hit a mountain near Rjukan at Skarfjell in Norway. He is buried in Oslo Western Civil Cemetery. Posthumously, on 31 July 1945, he was awarded the Netherlands Flying Cross.
Charlotte Avery is Head of St Mary’s, Cambridge. In 2003 she was appointed to Highgate as Deputy Head (Pastoral), with a brief to oversee the implementation of coeducation. Here, she looks back at those early years.
Charlotte remembers the early days of coed as ‘an engaging time; fun but exhausting’. There was plenty to think about to adapt a school with four centuries of male tradition to get ready for girls: the curriculum, the games programme, the uniform, the refurbishment of facilities, the menu in the Dining Hall and...the lavatories!

Ahead of the girls’ arrival, new girls’ lavatories were built by the Dining Hall and on the main site, which became a focus of envious comment by the otherwise tolerant boys. These splendidly-appointed facilities had mirrors and pot-pourri, while the boys had to put up with their ancient urinals. In the end, the boys were promised and delivered an upgrade too.

After much discussion, it was decided in liberal North London fashion, that the girls’ dress code was to be smart casual, rather than business suits, but the length of the girls’ skirts became an issue and Charlotte and Jessica Morelle, the only female housemaster at the time, were left to fight the battle of the rising hemline, while some boys raised the question of fairness since they perceived that their own dress code was far more rigidly enforced.

The food in the Dining Hall was already good, but a salad bar and vegetarian options were added. Less easy to change was the ancient tradition of tray-banging when someone dropped something. Charlotte was tasked with changing this rather public-school practice, but admitted in the end that she couldn’t.

She was also given the task, ahead of the girls arriving, of breaking the news to the Cholmeleians at the East Anglia OC reunion lunch. She set off feeling ‘like a lamb to the slaughter’ but found that the Cholmeleians were curious, supportive and indeed were rather jealous, wishing that girls had been around in their day!

Public school pranks made the management team nervous that the girls would feel intimidated, but they adapted quickly and it was anyway hard to predict or prevent some of the more imaginative transgressions. Charlotte recalls that, when the gates allowing pupils to cross Southwood Lane were locked for health and safety reasons, the pupils responded by waiting until the management team were in a lengthy meeting in the Head Master’s House, then padlocked the gate in the middle of the tunnel under Southwood Lane, stranding several classes during lesson changeover time! Frustrated workmen had to get industrial bolt cutters to remove the sturdy padlock, while Simon Brunskill and Pierre Pillet got industrial bolt cutters to remove the sturdy padlock, while Simon Brunskill and Pierre Pillet were left to sort out the ensuing chaos.

Charlotte believes the changes brought huge benefits. ‘The School broadened its curriculum, with the introduction of subjects like History of Art and Philosophy, and the development of the Mills Centre into a centre for art and design was introduced partly for the benefit of the ‘new look’ coed School. Teaching and learning altered for the better, too, with a ‘more collaborative and less didactic’ style of teaching, and Charlotte believes, the girls helped to civilize the atmosphere, with their maturity, focus and stronger work ethic. Charlotte points to improved examination results as proof of this. She also thinks that coed enriched the extra-curricular life of the School, with drama being the main beneficiary. She has also been impressed with the girls’ willingness to get involved in once male-only domains, like the Chapel Choir and the CCF. In spite of this, Charlotte recalls the old, single-sex Highgate with affection. ‘Some of the most brilliant students I have ever taught were in my all-boy classes. I hadn’t taught all boys before, and it was a revelation and a joy, and I’m still in contact with boys from my first A-Level class.’

‘Now I’m a headmistress I’m often asked about coed versus single sex and my answer is that it’s not about whether single sex is better than coed, it’s about the nature of the school. Highgate was a very fine school when it was an all-boys school but I think it has become an even finer, indeed brilliant, school as a result of going coed.’

Simon Appleton

‘TEACHING AND LEARNING ALTERED FOR THE BETTER, TOO, WITH A ‘MORE COLLABORATIVE AND LESS DIDACTIC’ STYLE OF TEACHING.’
Last summer saw a Highgate Cricket 1st team travel to Sri Lanka for a successful tour combined with community outreach. The first block fixture saw Highgate gain wins across the board against Chigwell with 1st XI captain Jamie Powe and Sri Lankan centurion Ferdy Hunter amongst the runs. A very successful season followed, culminating in Highgate winning the Middlesex Under 19 cup.

The Under 15A side made a promising start to the term and such is the talent in this age group that several were promoted to the 1st team. Tom Waine, Jack Bruce and Daniel Marshall all became 1st team regulars with Sam Hoar and Josh Friend also making their 1st team debuts mid-way through the season. Jack Bruce went on to play for Middlesex 2nd XI and also made his debut for the Middlesex 1st XI against Oxford University – a very promising start to what we hope will be a bright future in County Cricket!

In a rain-affected season the U15B cricketers played four matches and won three. Sam Huston hit 84 in a boundary-laden innings against Chigwell. The bowling attack of Tom Stewart and Bruce Allinson made light work of the opposition’s top order and Highgate limited the opposition to just 74. Aldenham were dismissed in the same style with Sam Tansey hitting a half-century to lead Highgate to victory.

The Under 14A side have had some impressive performances and have demonstrated a real team spirit. This has led to them scoring 808 runs in only six matches, and taking 45 out of a possible 60 opposition wickets! Highlights were totals of over 200 against Chigwell and in the first round of the County Cup. This included 120 not out for James Hopkins, who came in to bat on the third ball of the innings, after an early dismissal! Captain and wicket-keeper Dempster Fawden led by example scoring a number of 50’s.

Highlight of the Y7 cricket season were excellent wins versus Chigwell and Fortismere. This is a very knowledgeable bunch of players, including the ‘wheels’ of fast bowler Josh Avigdor and the batting of ‘hawk eye’ Henry Everitt! Fielding drills by our professional Sanjay kept our teams sharp in the field. An enjoyable season for Y8 so far. Results have been mixed, but we are heading towards the last rounds of the Middlesex Cup! Harry Jenkins and Tom Dickson have been star players, whilst Toby Steiner has captained the B team very well. Highlights were Mr Evans’ new sunglasses, and Mischa Rocklin’s amazing hat trick in the Cup! 🧢

5 athletes (3 girls and 2 boys) qualified from the Middlesex Schools Championships at Harrow to represent their County at the forthcoming English Schools Championships in Derby.

The Middlesex Cup Winners: The 1st XI captained by Jamie Powe enjoyed a very successful season, culminating in Highgate winning the Middlesex Under 19 cup.
Athletics

Athletics has continued its re-growth in both popularity and strength, and this is in no small part due to ever-increasing avenues for competition across the age ranges. We are still in the Hertfordshire League and the U14 boys in particular have shown strength across the events, winning 2 out of the 4 meetings that they have attended. This has been because they have been able to build on Highgate’s traditional dominance in the middle distance races, by ensuring high standard performances in the more technical field events.

A number of performances have seen our athletes achieve personal bests which have given them good standings nationally. Special mentions should go to Terence and Dempster Fawden, Oliver Light, Cecily Turner and Phoebe Littler who have consistently produced excellent middle distance times, as well as Andrea Guariglia, Zara Deery, Olivia Hirschfield, Josh Avigdor, Joe Jacobs, Sophie Boehler, Isaac Biney, Ton Blackshaw and Charlie Knowles who have excelled in the sprints and field events.

The pupils’ commitment has been rewarded by notable results in the Borough Championships with them winning the Y8 Girls, Y9 Boys and Girls Haringey titles. These successes coupled with some great individual performances saw a record number of 23 athletes from Highgate selected to represent Haringey at the Middlesex Schools’ Athletics Championships. Many of the athletes recorded personal bests on the day and there were podium finishes for the following: Gold medals for Terence and Dempster Fawden (3000m and 1500m respectively), Oliver Light (800m), Cecily Turner (1500m); Silver for Phoebe Littler (800m); Bronze for George Pugh (300m), Patrick Henderson (Pole Vault), and Minna Griffiths (75m Hurdles). The season culminated with two pupils being selected to represent Middlesex at the English Schools’ Athletics Championships: Sophia Parvizi-Wayne who won a Bronze medal in the Senior Girls’ 3000m, and Oli Light who was 6th in the Junior Boys 800m. Great achievements by two potential future stars who are ranked in the top 3 for their events in the UK.

The results augur well for the future of Highgate Athletics!

Tennis

The U14/15 Tennis Team. Daniel Vishnik (centre, front row) is one of a group of promising young players who have gone from strength to strength this season.

U12, U13, U14, U15 and U18 tennis pairs were fielded for the first time this year. With wins against the Harrodian and Haileybury, Girls’ tennis looks set to go from strength to strength. Julia Meyer and Lara Bolton-Patel were stand-out players from the U13s.

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The boys have played fixtures against APS, Mill Hill and UCS and have notched up a number of impressive singles and doubles wins. This was due in no small part to the strength of the junior players and special mentions should go to Marko Andrejevic, Daniel Vishnick, Sam Tansey and Ingimar Tomasson. Ingimar has been going from strength to strength as part of an outstanding Middlesex team.
After eight years as captain of the Old Cholms Cricketer Cup team, Richard Moxon has stepped aside, though importantly he will remain as a playing member of the team. The players voted on his successor and Jamie Whybrow was the overwhelming choice as his replacement with Jack Atchinson as vice-captain. We wish both Jamie and Jack well in next year’s competition where the side has a tough away fixture against Sherbourne Pilgrims in the 1st round.

The Cholmeleian 1st XI

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Jack well in next year’s competition where the side has a tough away fixture against Sherbourne Pilgrims in the 1st round.

This year we were beaten by a strong Cheltenham College side and unfortunately we were deprived of the services of Tom and Will Nicoll, Charlie Yorke-Starkey and Nick Brand but it provided an opportunity to blood impressive new young players: (Luke Masefield, Nick Friend and Freddie Mills). The OC league 1XI was again under the stewardship of Sam Khalique. He showed the way with some outstanding bowling performances as well as his tactical astuteness as captain. Full details of the league players’ statistics can be found on the OC website. He was well supported by some fine batting performances from his elder brother Arsalan Khalique as well as Jamie Whybrow, Ian Sanderson and Jules Schlagman. Support bowlers Arthur Barker and Nader Bawani also put in a number of impressive performances.

The OC league 2nd XI, having lost last year’s skipper Ollie van den Broek through work commitments abroad, were skippered by the experienced Ross McCaskill who ensured the team played with freedom and in a relaxed, enjoyable style. The batsmen could have performed better for him, but nevertheless, there were impressive all-round performances from Dom Gibberd, Marlon McCaskill and Dan Sherry (with both bat and ball) while both Rory Blackshaw and Fais Azam were the pick of the bowlers throughout the season. We have been delighted also to welcome recent school leavers Magnus Pierre, Bilal Ahmed and Eddie Tse, all of whom have played with impressive enthusiasm and no little ability.

In February 2015, the OCs will, once more be playing in the Cricket on Ice competition (19 to 21 February) on the frozen lake in St Moritz in the rarified atmosphere some 3000 feet up in the Swiss Alps (!) We currently have a full team, and all OCs are very welcome to come and lend their support (and do some skiing... and après skiing (!) in this delightful relaxing ski resort). If anyone wishes for any more details please drop me a line jzani@btinternet.com.

John Zani (WG 1966),
Old Cholms Cricket Club Chairman
The Cholmeleian 1st XI

The season began with the OCs bringing a number of teams to the School to participate in a 5-a-side tournament: an excellent opportunity to improve fitness before the league season started and to get to know some of the schoolboys who will, hopefully, soon be part of the OC football set-up.

The energetic combination of Alex Oldershaw and his deputy Dan Sherry are again at the helm of the 1st XI this season. They have put special emphasis on encouraging recent school leavers, such as Oli Friend and Dan Nikolopoulos to join the squad. The team’s excellent run-in at the end of last season gives optimism for this year’s campaign. Last year’s Player of the Season, Josh Grant, as well as Matt Brown, Louis Benjamin, Sam Argebant, and midfield general Luke Davey have been at the heart of the team this season.

Our 3rd XI are again skippered by Dave Emery who is showing all his guile in gathering together a team of youth and experience. The Young brothers (Dom and Russell) are key to his side’s progress, as are the experienced Omar El-Sherbini, Michael Spiro and Miles Brown.

At the time of writing, our 2nd XI under the stewardship of wily Matt O’Brien are top of their division, playing free-flowing football that would grace the Emirates (though not Stamford Bridge)!

Anyone wanting to join the playing squad is asked to please get in touch with 1st XI captain Alex whose email is Alexanderoldershaw@googlemail.com

John Zani (WG 1966)
Our year started as usual with a very enjoyable Annual Dinner at Lord’s Cricket Ground although the attendance was much reduced from previous years. Our main speaker was His Honour Judge Richard Hayward who gave a very enlightening and amusing account of his experiences as a judge. The main competition of the year is the Halford Hewitt and we had the disappointment of a heavy defeat to Aldenham in the first round. Unlike Highgate, Aldenham has some very good young new recruits to their team and this was the difference between the teams.

Our Spring Meeting at Hendon Golf Club was well attended and the morning singles round proved very successful for Ian Blackman who won both the Scratch Cup (76 gross) and the Merton Jones Cup for handicaps under 12 with 36 points. Brian Rata won the Tiger Cup (over 12 handicap) with 34 points and also the Seniors Cup (strokeless age). The HF Edwards foursomes cups were won by Ian Chamberlain and Kim Harris during an afternoon interrupted by a violent thunderstorm.

The Horns of Highgate (a competition run by Highgate Golf Club at which Cholmeleians are invited to participate) was won by Micky Tudor with a fine net 72.

At the Bernard Darwin Trophy (Halford Hewitt format for over 55 year olds played at Woking Golf Club with the first 16 schools participating in the Hewitt forming the line up) we defeated Westminster in the first round before losing 3-0 to the always strong Charterhouse in the second round. We are at least winning our first round matches, which was not the case when we first participated in this event.

Our Autumn meeting took place towards the end of September and we played three excellent courses. The Trewby pairs cups were contested at Ferndown Golf Club and John Riddell-Carre and Robert Phillips were the winners very narrowly from Ian Chamberlain and Anuj Anand. The singles competition was played at Parkstone Golf Club and the Scratch Cup was won by Charlie Sturt (gross 83) on the a count back from Robert Phillips on the same score. The Johnston Cup was won by Robert Phillips as was the Holdstock Salver which is for the best aggregate for the Spring and Autumn meetings. The Seniors Salver (stroke less age) was won by Peter Barnes.

Our AGM was held at Parkstone Golf Club after play and a number of new appointments were made. Peter Barnes was elected Chairman in succession to Mike Gadsden who has stood down following ill health. Robert Phillips has been Secretary for the past 12 years and he has handed over this important role to Charlie Sturt, who will bring a new approach and younger viewpoint to the role. Our Captain for 2014/15 will be Gerald Wingrove and Vice-Captain, John Riddell-Carre.

New members of all abilities are very welcome to join our very active Society and should contact Charlie Sturt at charliesturt2000@yahoo.co.uk.
Highgate’s transition into a successful fully coeducational school in every year group is complete. There are no current pupils who experienced a boys-only Junior or Senior School. How was the change achieved?
The first step on the road, though neither known nor expected at the time, was the foundation of the Pre-Prep in 1993. I was sure that parents would not want their children age just 3+ to be educated in a boys-only environment and so we decided to seek Charity Commission approval to amend the School’s Scheme of Governance to admit pupils of both genders. The Pre-Prep was hugely oversubscribed from the start and the first girl to register was Mary Matthias, who had been born in the month I started as Head Master. But for the next ten years girls had to leave Highgate when they reached age 7.

In Summer 1999 the Governors, under the new chairmanship of John Mills, considered a paper I wrote about the School’s priorities for the years ahead, especially the need to review the appropriate structure for the School, including consideration of coeducation. Pupil numbers had already grown by almost a quarter to 1,065 since my appointment and, to accommodate the expected further growth of several hundred, there were significant practical issues of space to be addressed as part of the review. Market research was commissioned and in Autumn 2000 a number of round table discussions were held for staff with Governors. From these emerged a new mood of confidence that Highgate could and should be ambitious in its aspirations and bold in making the important changes required to meet them.

There were many unknowns: would enough girls of sufficient quality be found in the early years? would current parents and pupils, and Old Cholmeleians, support a move to coeducation? how would our feeder prep schools, and Channing, view the change? Why did we eventually decide that coeducation was right for Highgate? First, we wanted to extend the choice available to parents and students, many of whom had been making clear that while there were plenty of good single sex schools in North London the choice of first-class coeducational schools was much more limited. At no time did we argue that single-sex education is inferior, just that it is not right for every child nor what every parent wants. The market would decide if our decision was sound. Second, we believed that the special qualities of what Highgate offers, academically, pastorally and outside the classroom, should be available for the benefit of both girls and boys, and that we could help both groups to become better adults, parents, employees and leaders of the future if they were educated together.

The public announcement was made on 5 October 2001 that the 2004 entries to both the Sixth Form and the Junior School (at age 7) would be mixed, and that Highgate intended to move to full and equal coeducation throughout. The Senior School would start at age 11, while retaining a 13+ entry. The numerous letters of support (and only a tiny number expressing regret) accompanied widespread press and media coverage, including a full page report in *The Evening Standard*; I and two boys were interviewed live on *BBC London*.

The hard work now started, to ensure that the changes would be introduced smoothly and effectively, and we never regretted spending almost three years on the preparations.
Staff paid numerous visits to other similar coeducational schools and the Bursar, Sean McGeeney, did a magnificent job of ensuring that new, high quality cloakrooms, changing rooms, a dance studio and other facilities were created. The Principals of the Junior School, Mark James, and the Pre-Prep, Julia Challender, planned the necessary transition for younger pupils while Deputy Heads Mike Buchanan and Katy Ricks, with Jessica Morelle as Senior Tutor, prepared for a mixed Sixth Form, alongside Pastoral Deputy Head Mark Hanley-Browne, who chaired the Steering Group. Q&A documents were written and many parents’ individual questions and helpful ideas were considered: what would the dress code? the sports provision? the mentoring arrangements? Robert Wilne meanwhile oversaw the plans to transfer Years 7 and 8 to the Senior School.

The impending change first seemed real when girls attended Open Morning visits for the first time in 2003 (to the great interest of the boys whose year group they would be joining), and then participated in the Sixth Form selection arrangements. By Christmas the 24 girls who would form the first Year 12 cohort in 2004 had been chosen, and there was no doubt of their ability to gain the necessary GCSE grades. Welcome postcards were sent from pupil ‘buddies’ and a welcome Summer barbeque helped encourage friendships and calm any nerves. New Deputy Head appointments included Charlotte Avery, who would have pastoral oversight of the first girls.

For just that first year, 2004-05, the girls were assigned to be members of only six houses (EG, FG, NG, SG, SH, WG). In the first few days of term there was further press interest and throughout the year milestones were recognised, whether the first girls’ sports team, first girls in the CCF, first mixed overseas visit and first prizes and promotions to Prefect. Only now, ten years on, can we see with hindsight how fundamentally the School has changed for the better.

Richard Kennedy, Head Master 1989-2006
The Visit of Gordon Brown to Open the Sir Martin Gilbert Library

I was particularly interested to note the Head Master’s comment that the visit of Gordon Brown was the first by a British PM to Highgate. I believe this may be wrong as I recall a visit by Clement Attlee to the school around 1962 or 1963 when he had lunch with the then Head Master Alfred Doulton in the School Dining Hall. The HM would occasionally have a guest to take lunch with him and would tell us who the person was. Whether Attlee had any other business at the School on that occasion I do not know.

Please keep up the excellent work you and your team are doing! The Highgate Chorale’s success on BBC recently was a delight to see.

Gordon Crofts (SH 1959)

The March 1955 edition of The Cholmeleian records: ‘There is little doubt that the 1954-55 XI is better than that of the previous season and therefore can claim to be the best Highgate XI in living memory. The chief reason for the success was the fine combined play of the side as a whole and the splendid spirit.’

I would be interested to know what the School 1st XI Football goal scoring record now stands at? I was fortunate to play in the successful 1954/5 side, coached by Howard Fabian, who at the end of the season advised me I had broken the previous record by scoring 40 goals, out of 76 I believe the team scored, in the 17 games I played in, being injured for the away fixture against Brentwood. In 1958 five of us were members of the first OC side to win the Arthur Dunn Cup.

The March 1955 edition of The Cholmeleian hints, this was a somewhat controversial win in the Ensemble section, but clearly John’s work had delighted the adjudicator, Prof Westrup of Oxford University.

Brentwood. John was certainly not averse to having fun with his music and our practice sessions were at times quite light-hearted. Around that time a pianist called Russ Conway had a number of hit singles in the pop charts – John could entertain us by playing the piano in just the same style as Russ Conway – quite effortlessly with no practice and no music to read. It was a pleasure to have known him.

Nigel Raeburn (H 1955)

Memories of John Tavener

In 1960 I was a member, with John and four others, of the Heathgate Ensemble entry in the annual House Music Competition. We played a piece John had written called Divertissement – as I recall it was a lively composition including the use of bongo drums – hardly the normal style for this competition. Despite me being a very mediocre flautist, our ensemble won that section of the competition by some margin (67 marks against the second placed House on 59) which significantly helped Heathgate to win overall. As the report by Edward Chapman in the May 1960 The Cholmeleian hints, this was a somewhat controversial win in the Ensemble section, but clearly John’s work had delighted the adjudicator, Prof Westrup of Oxford University.

Our group had practised hard for the competition, including some practice sessions in the holidays at a studio in St John’s Wood owned by members of John’s family. I believe. I recall cycling there from my home in Southgate. John was certainly not averse to having fun with his music and our practice sessions were at times quite light-hearted. Around that time a pianist called Russ Conway had a number of hit singles in the pop charts – John could entertain us by playing the piano in just the same style as Russ Conway – quite effortlessly with no practice and no music to read. It was a pleasure to have known him.

Nigel Raeburn (H 1955)

A photo of John Tavener (at the piano) playing Divertissement in the house music competition. Other players (left to right): Nigel Raeburn, Tony Schwanner, Alan Harding, Jonathan Green and Ham Ritchie

Best Football XI Ever?

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John Fawcett (Field House 1945/GH 1949)

Howard Fabian (left) coached possibly the best Highgate XI ever. In this picture his success at playing and coaching Fives is recalled.
Flying the Highgate Pennant

This email was sent to me by my good chum Dr DA (Alastair) Ingram (FG 1959) (His nickname at Highgate was ‘Bill’). He spends most of his time in his narrowboat cruising England’s canals. He had this chance meeting with an OC and ex-staff member. Alastair flies an OC pennant on his boat which is probably why they met!

Shaun Coles (NG 1959)

Just met 80 year old on towpath, Peter Andrews. He was at the Junior School when doodlebug landed on senior field in 1943. He said that when V1s were active, a member of staff was posted on the roof of the science block with binoculars and if he spotted one then he pressed an alarm bell and everyone ran to the shelter. He also phoned a direct line to the Junior School so they were always a bit late getting the warning. Peter went to Imperial College and then returned to Highgate as a physics teacher in 1961 for 18 months. He has made my day by returning from his flat with the 1961 Blue Book!

He was in Northgate as he lived at Whetstone.

We’re still out cruising and only have email for an hour while we’re in The Plough at Braunston.

Bill

A Letter Home During the War

Dear Daddy,

I am now back at school, sweating away at very hard lessons in the top form of the Junior School. As you know, maths used to be my worst subject, but now with Mr Sörensen teaching it, it is my favourite.

The Flying Bombs have been up to their tricks recently. We have had to come down to the shelter twelve times in four nights, and then we still have to get up at 07.30am. Last Friday Mummy met me in the village and we had a swell feed in the village tea shop. Yesterday the Juniors watched a match, the Senior School vs. St Mary’s Hospital, and we won 9 – nil.

The lessons in 1a are awfully hard, and I missed two weeks’ school, off sick, therefore my report, which I am enclosing, is none too good. Sorry himself said I will have to study two and a half times as much as the other fellows. I am in the Cholmeley football team, and am doing well at P.T.

Love from

Michael.

XX

Does anyone recall this occasion?

Jean Boyce sent in this picture of a trip to Versailles taken by George Sellick

Michael Dean’s letter recalls wartime Highgate

Michael Dean (né Joseph (TL 1944) has sent in this letter to his father, written during wartime.

Cholmeley House
Bishopswood Road
Highgate
N6

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NB. During the War, one of our godmothers, Aunty Netta, had a free pass to all cinemas (her husband worked in the London offices of Warner Bros), and took us to the pictures two or three times a week. We saw many of the latest American movies, which doubtless explains that ‘swell feed’ above.

Michael Dean (né Joseph) (TL 1944)
SEX, GENDER AND HIGHGATE SCHOOL
It seems odd that the start of our discussion about coeducation at Highgate should begin with the Head Master stating, ‘I do not actually think one system is better than another’ and that the school type is the ‘least important’ factor in achieving high attainment. Indeed, many of the milestones of Highgate’s coeducational development, such as the first girl to pass from nursery to Year 13 or the first year group where boys and girls are numerically equal (the current year 9s), have come ‘naturally.’

As such, Highgate’s coeducational journey does seem to result more from natural progression than a highly concerted effort to rigorously ensure the adoption of coeducational initiatives. A good illustration would be the way in which Mr Pettitt remembers the first girls who arrived at Highgate’s Sixth Form in 2006.
He fondly recalls how they were 'feisty individuals' with a real 'opportunistic' edge as they sought to get the most out of this new chance presented to them. Despite that fondness, though, the Head considers this period as a mere 'prologue' to Highgate's current coeducational identity. He notes that, now, 'girls and boys feel equal here, by right, by choice.' The presence of girls at the School is thus no longer seen as anything particularly notable or peculiar; rather, girls and boys have an assumed equality between them and the image of them working together at Highgate is a seemingly natural one.

Yet this is not to say that the School is not conscious of the issues posed by apparent differences in gender. Mr Pettitt laments that it is a problem with its origins outside of Highgate's hands. How a parent decides to treat his/her child may well, for instance, determine that child's perceptions about gender before they even arrive at Highgate. What's more, the Head is equally aware that inequalities between genders which are prevalent in the wider workplace filter through into the School; boys, for example, tend to be more prominent at School Societies than girls, reflecting how males are, in most professions, still more prominent than females. With these imposed gender differences thus affecting school life, Highgate does, of course, see what can be done to rectify the issues – with deep analytical detail, too. A subject decision made by a year group, for instance, is analysed in detail to see if the gender associations of certain subjects might have played a role. On a wider scale, though, the School has undergone work to investigate each year group of the Foundation to find one which does not yet possess notions of there being a 'masculine' or 'feminine' subject. Unfortunately, this has not yet been successful.

However, there remain more subtle, everyday decisions to erode the influence of gender differences in the School. Showing typical attention to the linguistic aspect, Mr Pettitt ensures he always addresses a year generally: ‘Good Morning Year 11’ and not, ‘Good morning girls and boys.’ For the Head, it is important not to create an environment which harbours distinctions between boys and girls. Indeed, one of the vital aspects of being a coed school for Mr Pettitt is that it is a place where ‘the totality of human existence’ can be explored, and where one becomes ‘fully human’, with no sense of restriction due to one’s sex.

In discussing how the School approaches the issue of gender, the subject of role models inevitably arises. However, there is not a set agenda here; instead, the Head has a realistic attitude to role models: ‘There is a difference between a celebrity and a role model’, he states. Children ought to look up to people with whom they are in close, real contact; someone whom they have moderated through their own eyes; in short, he wants the student to choose their own role model – but the Head is keen to add that ‘I don’t of course advise these things.’ Another indication, then, of the more gentle, natural approach the School is seeking to take with regard to its coeducational direction.

Mr Pettitt’s focus on reality in relation to role models is reflected in his attitude to social media, which is, admittedly, the ‘biggest problem’ that we face today as it greatly increases the pressure that anyone – particularly a student – feels. But he calls for greater rationality when facing the potentially vicious virtual world, as students should come to understand that ‘you don’t need to please the whole virtual world’; instead, ‘real friendships’ should be the priority: use of social media should orientate around real life, rather than the other way around. In this way, the Head does envisage potentially harnessing the undoubted advantages of social media (as shown by Sophia and Amber’s encouraging mental health campaign) for the fulfilment of the School’s goals for creating greater gender equality.

Here seemed like a key point in the discussion: what exactly are those ‘goals’ for the progress of coeducation at Highgate? However, ‘goals’, I would imagine, is perhaps too strong a word, with its overtones of heavy, frantic preparation. Instead, Mr Pettitt proposes a better term: it is his ‘happy responsibility’ to ensure that Highgate pupils leave the School feeling equipped to challenge and overcome gender frameworks in society. It is perhaps this which makes the job of being Head Master of a coed school most pleasant and fulfilling: the observation of a year group evolving from mere children in Year 7 to those young adults prepared to go out and tackle society’s gender constructions – and with the arrival of girls, such an observation seems all the more complete. That it can be totally associated with Highgate is, indeed, the ‘most delightful’ aspect of his job.

Above:
Head Master Adam Pettitt with student editors (l to r): George Pliotis, Alexandra Tsoi and Sophie Ishak

George Pliotis (13FG), Sophie Ishak (13SG) and Alexandra Tsoi (13TL)
Announcements

Golden Weddings

Manger

Captain Nigel Manger (RN, Ret’d.) (SH 1953) and his wife Binnie celebrated their Golden Wedding on 18 July 2014.

Lloyd

ARC (Tony) Lloyd (TL 1953, EG 1954) and his wife Beryl celebrated their Golden Wedding on 25 July, 2014. They were married in Our Lady of Muswell Hill on 25 July 1964.

Deaths

Austin (1933) On 1 January 2014, Peter William Austin, aged 92.

Waterston (SG 1934) On 21 June 2014, Lt. Col. (ret’d), Lt.-Col. Allan Kinnear Waterston, MC, TD, aged 92. He worked with the long-established family printing firm of George Waterston & Sons Ltd. of Edinburgh, becoming managing director in 1867 and Chairman in 1984, retiring in 1988. He was awarded his MC in the North Africa Campaign, leading a troop of Sherman tanks of the 2nd Lothians and Border Horse in a charge along a beach to force the surrender of a strongly entrenched enemy garrison. He afterwards took part in the Italian campaign and was wounded at Cassino. He served in the Territorial Army from 1947, retiring in 1962 as Colonel of the Queen’s Own Lowland Yeomany. He was a regular supporter of the OC Wessex Luncheons, and eventually took over organising them from Lt.-Col. PG Davis, handing over to Michael Adamson and then to Tony Pawley. Allan and his wife Heather came to almost every Wessex Lunch until this year. There was a service of Thanksgiving at St Nicholas’ Church, Brockenhurst, on Monday 7 July. He is survived by his wife Heather, two sons and two daughters.

Brewester

Richard Brewester (Common Room 1973-98, and housemaster of Southgate 1978-93) and his wife Sheila were married on 1 August 1964 at St Anne’s Church, Highgate. Their family all live abroad now, but they were all present, with their children, to celebrate with them. ■

Engagement

Rushdie

Zafar Rushdie (KG 1997) will marry Natalie Coyle, a classical singer, in New York in September 2015. Their engagement was announced in The Times on 17 July 2014. ■

Birth

Kennedy

Deaths

Meissner (1939) On 5 February 2014, Paul Eric Henry Meissner, aged 86. After army service in Palestine at the end of the Second World War, he entered the family business as a Master Butcher, working alongside his father and brother. After his brother’s health declined, he sold the business and worked for Tesco until his retirement in 1997. He always spoke fondly of his time at Highgate, and particularly of his years at Westward Ho!, which he often visited during holidays in Devon, and after retirement visited Theodore Mallinson. He had suffered from vascular dementia for several years, and after a major heart attack in 2013, was transferred to a retirement village in his home town of Chippenham, Wilts., where he was treated with much care and compassion. He leaves his wife Susannah, children Kathryn and David, and five grandchildren.

Aitken (1940) On 25 May 2014, Ian James Gordon Aitken, aged 89. After obtaining a BSc in Engineering at London University, and an apprenticeship with the English Electric Co., he was with Iflford Ltd from 1950-6 as an Assistant Engineer and Research Engineer, and a Senior Process Development Engineer at the Plessey Co.

Rimini (1942) In December, 2013, Riccardo Rimini, aged 85. He was at Highgate during the War and always remembered his time at the school with fondness, and especially, as with many of his age, Theodore Mallinson. After Highgate and a degree in engineering, Riccardo spent all his career running an agency business representing Italian manufacturers in the UK, and lived in Winchmore Hill. His two sons Carlo (MG 1975) and Marco (MG 1976) also attended Highgate, one following a career in IT and the other in advertising.

Olins (1943) On 14 April 2014, Wallace (Wally) Olins, aged 83. He was Britain’s most articulate and effective advocate of the new commercial religion of branding, and for the profession of branding consultant. Branding, he argued, was a high-order, holistic concern; an organising principle for practically everything in a business. Brands were more than memorable names for things in tins and packets, advertised in the mass media; brand thinking could be applied to organizations and individuals. He promoted branding as a kind of long-term strategic thinking, rather than a series of actions, such as television ads, corporate identity programmes, parties and press releases organized by outside specialists for large fees. He argued that it was about culture – how the people behind the brand were organised and how they behaved – and the reality of products over time. Advertising could not save dull products made by complacent companies with no culture of innovation; the companies themselves could not rely on outside consultants, but had to be involved and committed; and the change had to come from the top. He argued that brands, not technologies, are the organising principles of global business now, answering human needs for belonging and emotional reward. Globalisation and new technologies made brands more central than ever.

After Highgate, he attended St Peter’s College, Oxford, graduating in history. His first job, after national service in Germany, was with SH Benson, a London agency which eventually became part of US Agency Ogilvy & Mather. Soon after his marriage, in 1957, to Renate Steinert, whom he had met at Oxford, came his first overseas posting, to India, where he spent five years. Returning from India in the early 60s as a young executive, Olins found the work “very superficial and cosmetic and we didn’t get to the heart of anything”. He moved to the London agency Geers Gross, but his Damascene conversion came when he met Michael Wolff, the designer, whom he once described as “the most brilliant creative brain I ever met, and the most maddening human being”. Wolff had studied architecture and design and had been working in a small London design partnership when they met and started their groundbreaking brand consultancy Wolff Olins in 1965. Wolff was a creative who could talk persuasive, sensible-sounding English, and Olins was a thinker who could sell. From 1965 to 1983, when Wolff left, Wolff Olins became leaders in the big brand movement. Among their clients were London Weekend Television, the Beatles’ company Apple, British Oxygen, Cunard, English Electric, British Telecom, 3i, Renault and the Metropolitan Police.

In 1999 Olins was appointed CBE, and in 2001 he sold Wolff Olins to Omnicom, the US-based global conglomerate, one of the world’s three largest “marcoms” businesses. There was a general assumption that he might retire, but soon afterwards he joined the Spanish-based international brand consultancy Saffron, started by a Wolff Olins alumnus, Jacob Benbunan, as chairman. In his 70s and 80s he became branding’s tireless global senior statesman, moving around the world and taking on the exciting but controversial business of country branding. More books followed, including Brand New: The Shape of Brands to Come, published in 2014.

He was relentlessly curious about buildings, objects and people. He loved talking to anyone of any generation and reflected on the past without any “good old days” rhetoric. When he came back to give a talk at St Peter’s, the room was packed with admiring business students.

His first marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife, Dornie (nee Watts), whom he married in 1990, and their daughter, Harriet; two sons, Rufus and Ben, and a daughter, Edwina, of his first marriage, and three granddaughters, Ellie, Eliza and Clem. (The above was taken from several memoirs and obituaries. see also his obituary in The Guardian: http://goo.gl/8DhjJf)

Bull (CH 1944) On 28 March 2014, Leonard Edward Bull, aged 82. Born in Islington, he played for the School’s football 1st XI 1948-9, and after for the OCs. He met his wife, Julie, at a local tennis club in Barnet (the family had moved from Islington to Woodside Park), and married her in 1954. They had four children, Simon, Jeremy, Serena and Oliver, and seven grandchildren, Kimberley, Emily, Toby, Victoria, Henry, Lucy and Matthew. Simon, Jeremy, Oliver and Toby all went to Highgate, and Serena to Channing.

Len spent his entire working life in the family business, TH Bull & Sons Ltd. Established in 1890 in Islington by his grandfather, Thomas Henry Bull, it was one of the few London newspaper wholesalers to survive the fallout from the 1980s Wapping dispute between Rupert Murdoch’s NewsCorp and the union SOGAT. At this time, Len took over as chairman and managing director when his father retired, and also as chairman of the Federation of London Newspaper Wholesalers, in which capacity he oversaw the rationalisation of London wholesalers which later became the model for the rest of the country. He was also chairman of Great News (London) Ltd., a newsagent chain of about 20 shops owned by TH Bull which include the former Howe’s newsagents, now Brooksby, in Highgate Village (since sold).

After the company pulled out of newspaper distribution, he oversaw the merger of the magazine distribution business with two other wholesalers and then the sale of the trading
company in 1997. He continued to work in the property company and was still going to the office twice a week and chairing meetings up to his death.

Sport was always a feature of his life; he played squash for many years before taking up golf, and in later life explored croquet, bowling (a ‘natural’ apparently!) and also Scottish Country Dancing to keep active. At one time he owned a racehorse, although it was not a serious interest. He was also a long-standing member of Hadley Wood Golf Club. In semi-retirement, Len involved himself in local affairs with the Local Residents’ Association, where he was press officer; he also met old school friends from Highgate at their monthly lunch in Highgate, and joined Probus, a local lunch club for retired businessmen. His other interests included theatre (he was a founder member of Hampstead Theatre Club), and he and Julie went to the Ballet and Glyndebourne regularly. Len played the piano well, having learnt this skill at Highgate. He loved Scotland, and for a few years owned a cottage on the Moidart peninsula. Another destination was the Caribbean, which he and Julie frequently visited. He also tried his hand at sailing, but never really took to it, preferring a more sedate canal boat through France with friends.

Saunders (EG 1944) On 7 July 2016, the Rev. Peter Gwilym Saunders, aged 84. He held MA Degrees from Cambridge and Oxford, and an MSc from Durham, and had been an ordained Baptist Minister since 1957. He lived in Cardiff. (Information from his brother Colin Saunders, also EG 1944)

Willson (1944) On 17 July 2013, Barry Ian Willson, following a stroke. He was six days short of his eighty-second birthday. He graduated from London’s Northampton Institute (now City University) in 1953 and after National Service he had a long and distinguished career as a Civil Engineer in the UK and overseas.

As a young engineer, he oversaw the construction of Essex University, which included a number of brick accommodation towers; two are fifteen stories high and remain the tallest habitable brick buildings in the world.

After his retirement Barry remained very active. He and his wife travelled extensively and regularly attended OC lunches at Highgate. To his work colleagues he will be remembered for his solid, honest and highly professional approach to work. To his family and friends he will be remembered as being loving, engaging, enthusiastic and practical with a healthy and relaxed approach to life. He leaves his much loved wife Diana, daughter Charlotte, son Nick (SH, 1977), daughter-in-law Rhiannon and grandson Wil.

Brown (1945) On 6 January 2014, Mgr Ralph Brown, aged 82. Born in Warsenaar in The Netherlands, he started school in South Africa and went to Highgate in 1946. In 1950 his national service took him to Korea, where he was wounded. He entered Allen Hall, the seminary of the Diocese of Westminster in Ware, Hertfordshire, in 1953 to study for the priesthood, and was ordained in 1959 in Westminster Cathedral by Cardinal Godfrey. He studied for a doctorate in Canon Law in Rome, returning in 1963 to become a curate in Bushey, but spent the rest of his ministry in administration and teaching, mostly in the Westminster Metropolitan Tribunal. From 1964-1971 he was Vice Chancellor and Vice Officialis of the Diocese of Westminster, and Officialis 1971-77. On his appointment as Archbishop of Westminster, Basil Hume appointed Mgr Ralph Vicar General. He served in this post until 2001, and served as Judicial Vicar until his retirement on 30 June 2006.

The 1960s and 70s saw important developments in the field of matrimonial jurisprudence, opening up the possibility of people in broken or irregular marriages bringing petitions for annulment before diocesan tribunals, enabling them to enter into new unions. Ralph found this work exciting but immensely pastoral, and his book Marriage Annulments in the Catholic Church became an important reference work.

He was Secretary and later President of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland, which was to play an important role in the revision of the Code of Canon Law when it advised the Bishops’ Conference then considering their responses to the various schemata sent from Rome. He was pivotal in the preparation and publication by The Society of a Commentary on the Code of Canon Law. As President, he travelled the world, attending canon law society conferences in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. From 2006 he served as the Judicial Vicar of the Oslo Tribunal. He served as the canonical consultant to the Polish Catholic Mission to England and Wales, and was made Commander of the Order of Merit of Poland in 2008. He was appointed National Coordinator for the Papal Visit of Pope John Paul II in 1982. In 1984 he celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination with four generations of the Brown family, and his Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 2009. Many other honours and distinctions came his way from international and learned bodies in recognition of his work.

Ralph was an active member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, becoming a Commander in 1991, and a member of the Friends of the Holy Father. He was indefatigable and did not rest until he had accomplished work in hand. He did not allow major surgery to dampen his spirit, and remained cheerful and busy. He embraced life, and his family will remember Christmas gatherings, when Ralph would bring his roulette wheel and act as banker once lunch was over and a period of rest observed. Winnings were donated at his request to the charity Crisis at Christmas. He also made a good cocktail, favouring Margaritas, and was gifted at photography. Another interest was history, latterly focused on the Plantagenets, while maintaining an interest in all things military. His Requiem Mass was at Westminster Cathedral on 21 January, 2014.

Bacon (HG 1946) On 22 June 2014, David Michael Bacon, aged 80. He was an avid footballer and cricketer at Highgate, and championed amateur sport throughout his life, serving as a Founding Member of the Sports Council from 1965, and playing for the OCs into his mid-50s. He was an indefatigable Chelsea supporter and a lifelong member of the MCC. After leaving school, he became an accountant, and was an articled clerk before he took a job in 1960 with Walter Flack, where he soon became manager of Whitehall Court. He founded Sumerian Investments in 1971 and ran the company with much success. A lover and collector of books, he was a part-owner of Mayfair bookshop Heywood Hill for more than twenty years. He was also the Managing Director of Camellia PLC and held Directorships at Routledge Press, Benson’s Advertising (the predecessor to Ogilvy Benson Mather), Lumley Cazale, Basilisk Press, and JPL Fine Arts.

He used his expertise in finance to work in a diverse array of fields, from book publishing and art curatorship to financial advising and philanthropy.

He was a trustee of the endowment fund of the Wiener Library, through his death just missing the launch of their exhibition on Jewish soldiers who fought for the Kaiser in World War One, since he was fascinated by families who had members fighting on both sides. He would have been moved by the words of the German Ambassador at the opening, where he talked of the betrayal of these men, who had won the Iron Cross, and then either had left in the 1930s or had been murdered, though not a religious Jew, he had a strong sense of Jewishness, and these ironies fascinated him. As a philanthropist, he was Honorary Treasurer and Trustee of The Chickenshed Theatre Trust, a generous supporter of the British Library and Trees for Cities, and Founder and Trustee of the Nicholas Bacon Charitable Trust after the tragic loss of his youngest son.

His first wife, Frances, died an early death in 1994, and he married Leslie Tobin Bacon in 1995. They travelled together and collected together – though she pointed out that she actually read books rather than simply collecting them; their flat was filled with fine private press editions in mint condition. He was an avid collector,
Deaths

Irvine (FG 1946) on 25 October 2013, John Irvine, aged 80, in Richmond, British Columbia. He graduated from Clare College, Cambridge in 1957 with a BA; in the same year he married and moved to Richmond, BC, where they have lived ever since. He spent most of his working life as an executive for the Hudson Bay Company. He leaves his wife Rosemary, sons Simon, John and Paul and two grandchildren.

Lambert (HG 1946) On 22 July 2014, Adrian Harvey Lambert, aged 81. He was a bookkeeping and accountancy agent.

Blamey (FG 1947) On 1 September 2014, Professor Roger Wallas Blamey, aged 79. A surgeon, he helped revolutionise the treatment of breast cancer. In the 1960s, understanding of the disease was rudimentary, and radical mastectomy the standard approach. A surgeon at Nottingham City Hospital, Blamey set up one of the first dedicated breast clinics and set out to establish a range of prognostic and predictive indicators to guide clinicians as to the best treatment in individual cases. He collaborated in examining the records of a large group of patients and following up their post-operative progress. The research resulted in the 1982 Nottingham Prognostic Index which, regularly updated, is used worldwide to guide the best treatment and as a basis of discussing choices with patients. The breast screening programme he established made Nottingham the leading training centre for the national screening programme, introduced in 1988. The screening is now offered to all women over 50 every three years. He was a leading force in establishing the Nottingham Breast Institute, which sees 35,000 patients annually. He helped to develop the multidisciplinary approach which is now mandatory for the management of all cancer patients. He was one of the first surgeons to advocate pre-operative diagnosis, helping to end a situation where many women entered surgery not knowing what the outcome of their surgery would be, and was a pioneer of surgery in which as much healthy tissue was possible was retained.

He graduated from Downing College, Cambridge, completed his training at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, and became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons four years later. His thesis was on “Immunological aspects of tumour growth”. He then gained experience in renal transplantation at Cambridge – subsequently becoming a pioneer in kidney transplantation at Nottingham, which developed a highly successful transplant unit – and spent two years as a senior lecturer at St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne. In 1973 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery at Nottingham University, and Professor of Surgical Science in 1980. In 1990 he established the International Breast Cancer Conference; was President of the British Association of Surgical Oncology 1998-9. and Vice-President of the European Society of Mastology.

He is survived by his wife Norma, a son and two daughters. (Adapted from an obituary in the Daily Telegraph for 21 September, 2014).

Buchanan (SH 1948) on 17 December 2013, John David Gray Buchanan, aged 77. He played for the School Cricket XI 1953-4 and Captained the Football XI 1952-4. The son of an OC, W.G. Buchanan (1919), John became Captain of Football in 1954, and was also Captain of Fives and played in the Cricket XI. He was a member of the first OC team to win the Arthur Dunn Cup in 1958. Sadly, he contracted polio later that year, which curtailed his sporting activities, although he became a single handicap golfer. After National Service at Aldershot, where his position as the CO’s driver allowed him to play soccer for the Army, John joined William Jacks, traders and manufacturers agents in the Far East and India. He served for many years in Malaysia, India, and other outposts before moving from Jacks to Wander Foods (Ovaltine) in Jamaica and Singapore before returning to the UK in 1979 as Chief Executive, eventually retiring to Wargrave, Berks. (This is a correction of the entry in the last issue).

Northam (NG 1947) John Barrett Northam on 5 November, aged 79. Husband of Jill, father of Nick, Phyllida, Chris and Tim and grandfather to 11 children. He was a former partner in Jaques & Lewis and then Eversheds, OC President and Committee Member. (A full obituary will appear in the Summer 2015 Issue)

Brown (NG 1949) on 18 July 2014. Stuart Eric Brown, aged 78. He worked with Sedgwick, Collins & Co Ltd., Lloyds Insurance Brokers, and was a keen member of the OC Football Club for some years.

Clyde (GH 1950) on 10 July 2013, at home in Brittany, Robert McCallum Clyde, aged 76. Born in Dundee, he was the second of 4 boys. His family moved to London after the war, he attended Arnold House School in St Johns Wood and Odam Hill Farm School in North Devon, before joining Highgate Junior School in 1944. He was a first-class footballer and cricketer, representing the School in both elevens. He played in goal for English Schools against Scottish Schools in 1955 at Stamford Bridge, and was a member of the School Choir, which appeared on the Arthur Askey TV Show. His National Service in the Seaforth Highlanders, as a Second Lieutenant, was mainly spent playing in goal for the Regiment in BOR Germany! In 1958 he replaced his brother Gordon in goal for the OCS, for the second of two successful Arthur Dunn Cup victories (both at Plough Lane, Wimbledon’s old ground).

After graduating from Christ’s College, Cambridge in 1962 with an Honours Degree in English, a soccer Blue and a wife, he and Julia started a family at Frensham, Surrey, and Robbie taught English at Edgborough Prep school. He then accepted a teaching post with Texaco Oil in Trinidad, where his third and fourth children were born, a fifth adopted, and – despite an earlier hip replacement – he became a local Squash Champion.

He returned to live and teach in North Devon (Julia is from Holsworthy), and gradually they both took to buying derelict houses, renovating them and selling them on, to boost his teaching income. They did the same in Brittany, where they settled, and where Robbie taught English part-time, until he died there last year. They had followed their elder daughter Debbie and her
Deaths

family to New Zealand, but returned to France when things didn’t work out, but he lived just long enough to see his first great-grandson born. By coincidence, their Brittany home was not far north of where one of his successors as School Goalkeeper, Robin Ellis, now lives.

As the oldest surviving member of the Clyde clan who were at Highgate for all those years, I feel privileged to write about our long and fruitful association with the School and the OCs and would like to be remembered to all those many friends that we, as a family, were delighted to have known. (Tim Clyde, GH 1952)

Rowland (Common Room 1961-66) Anthony Saddler (Common Room 1964-75) writes:

Richard was already at Highgate when I joined the staff in September, 1964. He had been appointed by Alfred Doulton straight from the army where he had attained the rank of Captain and seen active service in the late 1950s during Eoka’s campaign against the British Army in Cyprus.

He taught Mathematics to the younger age groups, and was particularly active with the CCF. OCs will remember him also for his involvement along with Theodore Mallinson’s, in the School’s Expedition Days which, I am told, finished in a rendezvous at Beachy Head. He was an enthusiastic participant in the Staff Revue which was part of the quatercentenary celebrations in 1965.

After Highgate, he taught for a short while at Carmel College before joining the staff at Foremark Hall where he served for 19 years before retiring in 1995. The esteem in which he was held both there, and in his local community of Sutton-on-the-Hill, was evident from the full congregation at his funeral and the warm tributes from friends and colleagues.

Richard’s calm and gentle demeanour made him popular with pupils. He was always approachable. That, however, was not the whole story. He was also great fun. In the classroom he would use a range of games and puzzles to supplement the more traditional teaching methods, and outside, particularly in his expedition work, his casting of pupils as, for example, British agents behind enemy lines, spies, or even the enemy added spice to their adventures and became legendary at Foremark until the arrival of Health and Safety!

Colleagues will remember him for his good humour and natural charm, he was a popular member of the Common Room. They will recall particularly Gillian’s and his generous hospitality: you would never have felt more welcome than when in their home. They were also very loyal throughout to their Highgate friends, especially Sir Kjøffin Williams with whom they remained in close contact right up to his death.

Richard was at Highgate for a small part of his teaching career only, but he made a significant impact in that time and OCs will have happy and fond memories of him. Highgate’s loss was Foremark’s gain.

Ritchie (HG 1963) On July 21, 2014, Duncan Small Ritchie, aged 63, after a fall. A memorial service was held in Badminton crematorium, leaving his parents, extended family, friends and admirers in a state of shock and despair. Until the end, it felt impossible that such a promising life could be cut short, that such a sharp and determined young man could be thwarted in his battle against cancer. Now, it just feels impossible to forget the sadness of his departure, and to accept that he will not be there for us when we need him. Luciano, however, dealt with pain and sorrow in a courageous and patient way, and would not have tolerated any other approach to bereavement than the patient way, and would not have tolerated any other approach to bereavement than the serious level. The poise that he showed in the face of adversity provoked a sense of awe and admiration in all of his friends, leaving no room for pity and little scope for support, with the notable exception of his indefatigable mother, who never left his side.

Luciano was cremated at Golders Green crematorium, leaving his parents, extended family, friends and admirers in a state of shock and despair. Until the end, it felt impossible that such a promising life could be cut short, that such a sharp and determined young man could be thwarted in his battle against cancer. Now, it just feels impossible to forget the sadness of his departure, and to accept that he will not be there for us when we need him. Luciano, however, dealt with pain and sorrow in a courageous and patient way, and would not have tolerated any other approach to bereavement than the serious level. The poise that he showed in the face of adversity provoked a sense of awe and admiration in all of his friends, leaving no room for pity and little scope for support, with the notable exception of his indefatigable mother, who never left his side.

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Alexander Williamson (1898–1914) was the first Public School Master to die in action in the First World War; the centenary of his death was marked by an editorial in The Times Educational Supplement, and the report of his death on 18th September, 1914 was reprinted in the “1914-18” section of The Times letters page 100 years later. Williamson had a distinguished school career: Foundation Scholar, First Eleven Colours for Football, winner of the Half-mile at the Public Schools Sports, and awarded an Exhibition to Pembroke College, Cambridge. The school archives hold a cased set of the silver sports medals he won at Highgate.

He enlisted the day after war was declared, at Shorncliffe Barracks, and was sent to France, joining the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders as a Second Lieutenant during the retreat from Mons. He was killed in action by a shell, aged 26, on 14 September 1914, during the Battle of the Aisne, near Soissons. The next day, the battalion Adjutant wrote to his mother: “I regret very much to have to inform you that your son… was killed in action yesterday… He was in charge of his platoon… in the trenches, and was exposed to a very heavy shell fire, and unfortunately lost his life… From the account of the men, he behaved with the greatest gallantry and coolness in very trying circumstances. The fire brought to bear on us was extremely heavy and well sustained, and too much credit cannot be given to him for the manner in which he conducted himself.” Captain E Campion described his death in a letter to Williamson’s brother: “We got up this hill very early on 14 September, and had but little time to entrench at all before the enemy opened on us with artillery fire, which continued all day for 13 hours, and our men suffered severely. Our Colonel was killed early and your brother and Lt. Murray of the Gordons (attached to us) later in the day. Your brother was not in our company but was on my left at the time. He was hit in the head and could not have suffered at all. I can only describe him as a magnificent officer, he knew his work as well and better than most regular officers, and was always cheery and got any work he liked out of his men, who loved him. He is a very great loss to us and to our country. He was killed, poor chap, commanding his men in the front line of battle (a line we hold now, for we cannot go forward and of course we won’t go back) and so died the true soldier’s death and leaves behind him a record of gallantry and a life clean and well-lived. We buried our Colonel and your brother in a beautiful spot overlooking the valley of the Aisne, just north of the village called Bucy-le-Long… The spot will in the future be very easily found, and it is, in fact, the site of a new cemetery… You may most certainly be proud for, poor fellow, his record is fine one, and he died a splendid death.” He is buried at Crouy across the River Aisne, near Soissons. It was at a critical moment and your son went up with his platoon in support of the two companies in the firing line. Apparently he was hit and killed instantaneously by a shell. I write to express my personal sincere sympathy, as your son was a great friend of mine, having been up to Pembroke together. He was extremely popular in the Battalion and a great loss… to us all.”

John Myles (1944) stood as UKIP Candidate in the 2014 Peterborough City Council election; he polled 702 votes (Con. 1,482; Lab. 1,050). His reason for standing for UKIP over the past four years, he writes, is his grave concern, which he considers is shared by many ‘medics’ including the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, over the disastrous effects of the EU Working Time Directive on the training of young doctors. As a retired consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, he is keenly aware of the importance of experience and the chance to follow up one’s patients in medical training. Continuity of care, he says, is also much appreciated by patients, but is becoming something of a rarity.

Roger Sleigh (CH 1953) and his wife Mary visited Australia and New Zealand in April-May 2014 and spent seven weeks travelling around both countries. They were welcomed to Melbourne by Tim Acton (WG 1950), OC coordinator Victoria and Tasmania) in typical Aussie fashion – sharing a bottle or two of local white wine and nibbles on a sunny 7th April afternoon on the balcony of a restaurant on the Mornington Peninsula overlooking the bay and beaches!

Michael Hammerson (WG 1956) published Hampstead Heath from the Thomas Barratt Collection in June 2014. It shows now-and-then views, with commentaries, of over 60 photographs taken of Hampstead Heath, Hampstead (and one of Highgate) in the 1880s by Thomas Barratt, an active local conservationist and historian, but best known as “the father of modern advertising” and an innovative artist and designer.
businessman who made Pears’ Soap a household name in the later 19th century. Published at £12.99 by Amberley Books, ISBN 978-1-4456-3295-7, it can be obtained from bookshops, though Michael says that he receives a much greater proportion of the royalties if copies are bought direct from him! The same applies to his *Highgate from Old Photographs*, published in 2013 (£14.99) – his contact details are at the back of this magazine.

Dr Charles Drazin (SG 1974), Senior Lecturer in Film Studies in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film at Queen Mary College, wrote an essay for the *Jewish Chronicle* exploring the “crude, racist stereotyping” of Fagin, one of Dickens’ best-known villains. He spoke about “The Jewish Villain” at a lecture series in May 2013 organised by the Leo Baeck Institute in co-operation with the Weiner Library.

Matt Johnston (KG 1987), a Senior Designer with Zaha Hadid Architects, stood as a Green Party Candidate for Camden’s Highgate Ward in the 2014 local elections. He was unsuccessful, in a closely-fought contest, and another of his Green Party colleagues was elected.

Dr Mark Lim (KG 1987), a public health consultant and Deputy Leader of Islington Conservatives, stood as a candidate for Clerkenwell Ward in the 2014 local elections. He supported the campaign to save the Whittington Hospital, “particularly its A&E and maternity departments – but not at the expense of other essential health services. I do not support unlimited and uneconomic growth of the Hospital.” His pre-election opining to the local press that getting a Conservative elected in Islington was “a bit of an uphill task” proved to be accurate.

Oliver Barnett (QG 1993) writes that, after leaving Highgate, he went into commercial property and ended up as Director of a large property company. Ten years ago, he also retrained in natural medicine and was working two jobs up until 2013, when he decided to pursue a career in nutritional medicine. He sees patients for a myriad of health issues (often from GP referral) and runs education and corporate wellness programs for companies. He has helped many individuals recover from chronic health problems; highlights include remission in many clients with autoimmune conditions, stubborn infertility cases and various recoveries from chronic fatigue syndrome. Oliver’s company, *The London Clinic of Nutrition* now practises from 3 locations, one of which is in Highgate, at the Summit, West Hill, and he also has a Harley Street presence. In his spare time Oliver enjoys squash, (a game he wishes he had taken advantage of at Highgate), football, meditation, reading and cooking. He is aiming to be a Masterchef finalist in 2015. When not in the kitchen or clinic, he enjoys spending time with his wife Jody and 3-year-old daughter Leia. For more information, look at his website www.londonclinicofnutrition.co.uk.

Thomas Allen (WG 2005) has had a succession of successes in 2014. Following winning the Anthony J Lester Art Critic Award in the 2013 Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours Exhibition and the Seaward Prize in the National Open Art Exhibition 2013, his painting, *Jane*, selected from over 400 works, won the 2014 Arts Club Charitable Trust Award as an outstanding piece in the show; it was on display at the Mall Galleries, London in April. He is also on the final shortlist for the 2014 Threadneedle Prize for figurative art, of £20,000 plus his own solo exhibition at the Mall Galleries. Of the 3,600 entries from across Europe, 64 were chosen for exhibition and 6 made the final shortlist. Allen’s selected piece, *The Net*, is a 240x150 cm charcoal and sanguine drawing; it will be on display at the Mall Galleries from 25 September until 11 October; the winner will be announced on 23 September. With this latest success, Allen is gaining recognition for his most recent line of work, which he dubs ‘Contemporary Cave Painting;’ the concept involves turning a gallery space into a ‘Contemporary Cave’ by darkening it and then covering the walls with imagery. He takes inspiration from his own observations of the surrounding area, as well as automatic drawings (or scribbles) solicited from the public. The finished piece stands as a reflection of the collective unconscious of that locality. The Rebecca Hossack Gallery, by whom Allen is now represented, has commissioned a Contemporary Cave Painting in their Conway Street gallery next January. He has also been chosen for the third consecutive year by the judges of the National Open Art Competition to exhibit one of his works, entitled *Never Never Far Away Away*. Selected from thousands of
submissions from across the UK, it was first displayed in Somerset House, London, during Sept-Oct, where the exhibition will be hosted by contemporary artists, Antony Gormley and Gavin Turk. It will then tour to the Minerva Festival Theatre, Chichester (17 December – 4 January). The painting, Never Never Far Away Away, is intended by Allen as ‘a sort of parting tribute to Post-Impressionist Gauguin, whose work has played a significant role in the development of my own unique artistic voice.’ The title derives from two of Gauguin’s works, Nave Nave Mahana and Faa Iheihe.


Lia Na’ama Ten Brink (GH c/2007)
Lia Na’ama ten Brink published her travel book Toponym in September, 2014. Toponym is a work of poetic-documentary montage, a journey through form that segues between found texts and images, traversing registers that are in turn technical, lyrical, scientific and archival. Its compass extends from the illuminators of medieval Central Asia to the nocturnal cormorant fishermen of 1950s Peking, from a surveyor’s passage through Victorian London to an historian’s taxonomy of shadow; and from Renaissance autobiography to the musicological diagrams of a modernist composer. Where once narrative was shared in the ritualised gatherings of Boccaccio’s Florentine storytelling nobility, or imparted through the rites and festivities of the ancient Roman calendar, in Toponym it becomes a polyphony of verbal and visual fragments haunted by the placelessness that is the mark of the library, the archive and the imagination. The act of reading moves beyond language: unfurling across material surfaces, articulating the mineral and the molecular, the chromatic and the textile. It is published by LemonMelon books at £15, ISBN 978 1 908260 14 7; see http://goo.gl/gl0dVj.

Oliver Zeffman (TL c/2011) wrote to draw our attention to the forthcoming season for his Melos Sinfonia, a London-based orchestra which draws its players from students and recent graduates of the major conservatoires and universities across the United Kingdom, and from orchestras such as the European Union Youth Orchestra, Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, Britten-Pears Orchestra and the Southbank Sinfonia. Their autumn programme included a concert which was a prelude to a tour to St. Petersburg in October and November 2014. For full information, see melossinfonia.co.uk

Alfred ‘Freddie’ Highmore (EG c/2010) was awarded First Class Honours in Languages from Emmanuel College, Cambridge and received the College Prize.

Jack Lewis (QG c/2011) was awarded a First in Politics from Emmanuel College, Cambridge in July 2014. He is now going on to study for a Masters Degree at the London School of Economics.

Mohamed Mashaal (KG c/2002) graduated in Engineering at Cambridge, specialising in Mechanical Engineering in his third year with a focus on Materials and Environmental Engineering and studying German as a second year elective. His summer internship before his final year comprised one month with Schlumberger and two months with BP at Aberdeen, spending a week offshore in a semi-submersible drilling rig. He was heavily involved with Engineers Without Borders in his final year, attending their awareness courses on engineering for development and disaster relief. He applied for a place on the International Development and Design Summit at MIT in Boston, USA, and was one of about 40 participants from around the world who met to find appropriate technical solutions to some of the developing world’s problems. He was offered a full-time job with BP at the end of his placement and is now working as a drilling engineer.

Joseph Mcadam (TL c/2010) graduated in July 2014 from the University of Warwick with a Lower Second Class with Honours in Biological Sciences.

Shi Shi (MG c/2011) also graduated in July 2014 from the University of Warwick with a Lower Second Class with Honours in Biological Sciences.

Josh Wick (MG c/2010) has been awarded a First Class with Honours for Psychology at Nottingham Trent University, and is now doing a PGCE to become a secondary school science teacher.
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The son of the late Colin CW Turner, Colin was educated at Highgate School from 1935-1939 and was in Fargate. He became a successful businessman and Conservative Party politician, representing Woolwich West as Member of Parliament from 1959 to 1964.

After leaving Highgate, Colin joined the RAF in 1940 and trained as a navigator in South and East Africa serving in 233 Squadron Desert Air Force and then in the Sicily campaign. In 1943 his aircraft crashed on a training mission and he was seriously injured, breaking his back, both legs and an arm. He spent 14 months in hospital before being invalided out.

In civilian life, Colin joined the company formed by his father in 1927 which would later become The Colin Turner Group of companies specialising in the exclusive UK and international advertising representation of media from around the world but initially and predominantly from what was then known as the ‘British Commonwealth of Nations’.

The company sold advertising to British Exporters into such represented newspapers as The Gleaner, Jamaica, The Royal Gazette, Bermuda, The Nassau Guardian, Bahamas and in nearly every major newspaper in the Caribbean as well as throughout Anglophone Africa and South East Asia.

Colin travelled extensively throughout the Commonwealth and used this first-hand knowledge in his work with the Commonwealth Press Union where he served as Chairman of their PR Committee. He was a passionate believer in the Freedom of the Press and worked tirelessly to educate all around him that you could not have a free press unless it was commercially successful.

Colin joined Enfield Conservatives and Iain Macleod, the local MP, became his mentor. In 1946 he was elected to the first National Youth Committee, precursor of the Young Conservatives. He fought Enfield East in 1950 and 1951 and for two years was an Enfield councillor.

Colin was elected as MP for Woolwich West from 1959 until 1964. He served as a member of the party’s National Executive from 1946-53, 1968-73, and 1976-82 as well playing leading roles in various party overseas councils, before becoming president of the North Norfolk Conservative Association from 1996-99.

Other roles included being Chairman and Vice-President of the Conservative Commonwealth Council, founder and president of the Overseas Press and Media Association, and editor of the Overseas Media Guide from 1968-74.

Colin was a passionate fund raiser for various charities, but in particular the Royal Air Forces Association being Chairman of the Enfield Branch (1979-93 and latterly Sheringham and District Branch where he was first Chairman (1994-99) and then President (2000-09).

In 1985 he was made an MBE in recognition of his charitable work and in 1993 was knighted in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List for political and public service.

Colin always kept in touch with the School, being President of the Old Cholmeleian Society (1983-86) and Editor of The Cholmeleian, (1982-85)

Sir Colin Turner died peacefully at home in North Norfolk on 21 March 2014. He leaves his widow Evelyn (Lady Turner), daughter Susan, sons Anthony, Nigel, Christopher, 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, his sister Beth and half-brothers Ian and Bruce.
COED TEN YEARS ON

Louise with Cholmeleian Student Editors (left to right): Sam Coade, George Pliotis and Sophie Ishak
The Cholmeleian
Student Editors
interview Louise Shelley, Head of Middle School, with a particular responsibility for coeducation, about the impact of coeducation on the School

It has been ten years since Highgate first welcomed girls into the Junior and Senior Schools at all of the different entry points (the Pre-prep has always been coeducational). Since then, it has undergone a rapid metamorphosis into one of the most popular independent coed schools in the country. At a time when gender equality and diversity are so important, it would appear that coeducation just seems to make sense.

Undoubtedly, since 2004, the results at GCSE and A Level have improved greatly (even taking into account grade inflation). In 1999, 39% of all pupils achieved A grades at A Level; by 2008, the figure had risen to 62%, and this summer, 75% of all grades awarded were A/A*.

Miss Shelley suggests that the figures are misleading in terms of gender and concedes, with a smirk: ‘In one GCSE league table, several years ago, we were ranked as the top coed school in the country – an impressive achievement from an all-boys’ cohort!’ Miss Shelley attributes much of the School’s recent success to its popularity and competitive placing in the North London market: ‘We’re literally spoiled for choice,’ she says. ‘The calibre of both boys and girls is extremely high.’

The culture and atmosphere at Highgate has changed dramatically over the last 10 years. When Miss Shelley was appointed as one of the Assistant Heads, with particular responsibility for coed, in 2007, she recalls a different place.
‘For two years, I was in charge of a Middle School comprised entirely of boys. I really enjoyed it but it was a rougher kind of place.’

Certainly, the more boisterous traditions of an all boys’ boarding school now seem little more than folklore: ‘Birthday Beats’ and ‘Poling’ (the practice of dragging boys by their feet, with their legs open, into a pillar in the Upper Sixth Form Common) seem consigned to the archives. ‘With the arrival of the girls,’ Miss Shelley said, ‘we took the view that there was no space for any kind of physicality that could be construed as being either bullying or potentially quite dangerous.’

But changes to the culture can be attributed as much to the open-minded attitudes of the pupils as they can be to the efforts of the staff. ‘I was genuinely impressed,’ Miss Shelley notes, ‘by the speed with which the boys were able to adapt.’ Evidently, one of the first major decisions came when the pioneering group of girls were about to enter Year 9 and the house system: with only 28 girls, the teachers needed to decide whether the pupils should go into a girls’ house or be distributed into all twelve houses with only two or three girls per house. The girls themselves chose the latter option and Miss Shelley says of that first group: ‘They responded brilliantly and the girls in Year 12 looked out for the new Year 9 girls, in their house, in a sort of big sisterly way.’

Transformative changes have happened in the classroom as well. ‘The interactive dynamic, engendered by a coed group, enables young people to work collaboratively, in a gender blind way, from a young age,’ says Miss Shelley.

When asked whether coed has proved to be beneficial to girls as well as to boys, she is unfailingly positive: ‘Working in pairs or small groups, within the classroom, with somebody of the opposite sex, helps young people to see things from different perspectives.’

Although there is still a long way to go before gender equality is achieved in society, schools play an important role in raising awareness of gender issues and enabling change to happen. Highgate’s popular Feminist Society and LGBT Society stand as testament to the fact that all pupils are encouraged to question prejudice and to think for themselves. Last term, a Year 10 pupil asked to speak to the whole of the Middle School about the issue of Sexism. ‘The fact that the pupil happened to be a boy was terrific,’ adds Miss Shelley. Similarly, in the quest for parity of experience, the SpEx department is seeking to expand the opportunities available for girls to play football and perhaps it won’t be long before boys will enjoy participating in netball (as they do in schools in Australia and New Zealand).

The question of ‘gendered subjects’ is something that the School is seeking to challenge. ‘It’s about encouraging all pupils – boys and girls – to recognise strong role models,’ says Miss Shelley. This term, the newly-established ‘Visiting Speakers Programme’ saw Emma Thompson talking to Year 13 pupils about ‘What it Means to be a Woman?’ Debunking theories of gender difference, Thompson challenged the pupils to consider what it actually means to be a human – to be a kind, compassionate, open-minded individual. Similarly, Dr Helen Joyce, editor of The Economist’s international section, spoke to Year 10 pupils about her unusual career path into journalism following her Maths degree.

‘Our first scientist in residence, Victoria Vaccaro, is joining the drive to promote STEM subjects at Highgate,’ adds Shelley. At present, huge numbers of girls study Maths at A Level but only a handful of girls do Further Maths in much the same way that Theatre Studies and History of Art seem to be more female dominated. But this is something of a societal reality that is exemplified by the fact that, in the final of a national ‘Raspberry Pi’ Competition (IT Programming), one of our pupils, Marjolaine Briscoe (11WG) was the only girl from all of the schools to make it through to the team finals.

In short, the arrival of girls, ten years ago, was a momentous chapter in Highgate’s history. 449 years since its founding, this year also marks the graduation of the first girls to have moved all the way through from the Nursery to Year 13. As current Year 13 pupils, in our experience, Highgate has demonstrated to us the possibility of uniting the genders in a state of equality – something that all schools should aspire to do.
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Membership open to OCs, parents, families and friends. A performance is given at the end of each term.

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Football Club
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Venue OC Sports Club, Hendon Wood Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7

In addition to members of the Cricket, Football and Hockey Clubs, OCs can join as Social Members. Numerous social events held.
The Club can be hired for private functions.
www.oldcholms.com

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