

HIGHNOTES

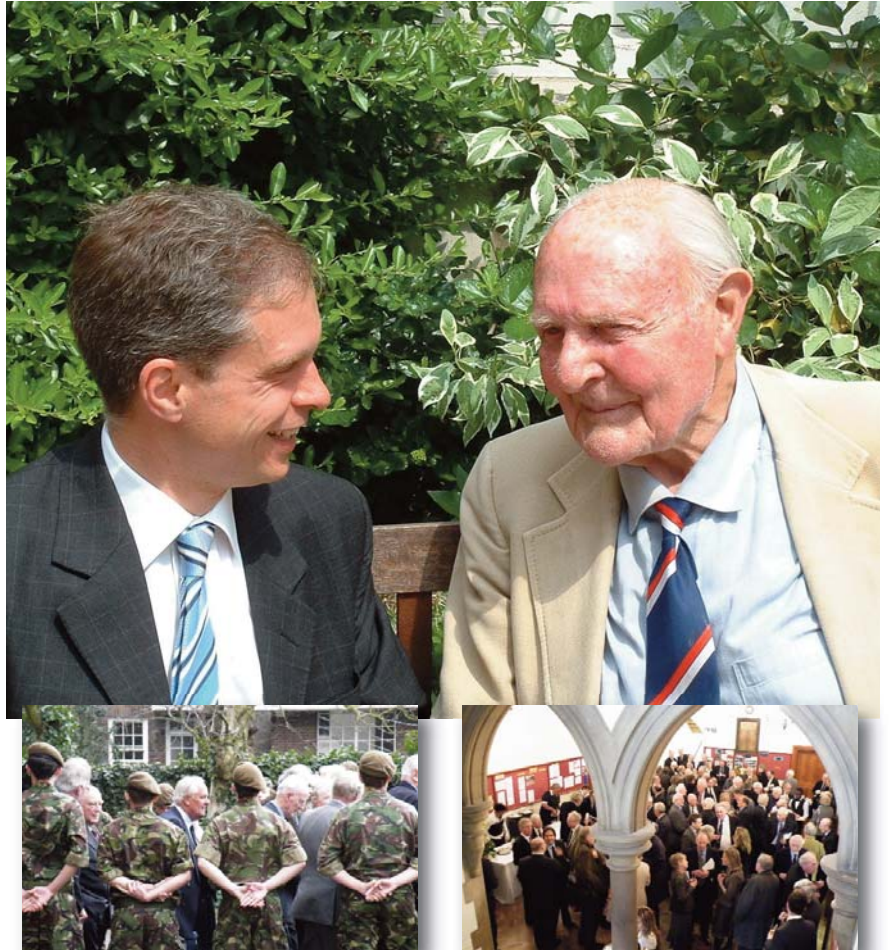
Highgate School newsletter

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Mallinson centre stage

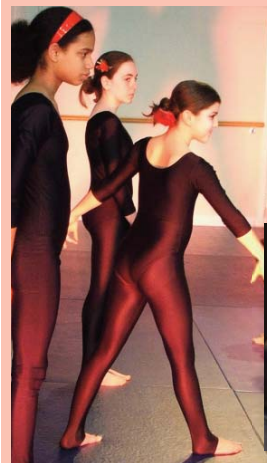
Theodore Mallinson's extra-ordinary life was celebrated in great style this March, with a memorial service and reception attended by more than 500 people. With an age-range of early 20s to late 80s, the visitors proved that the Highgate School community is a vibrant and vigorous one. Theodore Mallinson, who died in October, was involved with the school almost every day of term time since the Second World War to the second Gulf war. During the evacuation of the school to Westward Ho! in 1939, he led the collected pupils in a PE lesson on the beach there and was a regular organiser of outward-bound events, as well as being a legendary modern languages teacher. A favourite anecdote was his insistence on taking a group of boys from Highgate to Stonehenge... by bike. Head Master Adam Pettitt commented, 'Theodore's memorial service was a moving and fitting tribute to a great and much-loved friend and servant of Highgate School'.



Dancing through the school day

The annual Evening of Gymnastics and Dance was called 'Snapshot' this year and provided a fantastically varied display of talent. More than 100 participants from pre-prep

tinies to Sixth Formers performed a wide range of choreographies based on events from a typical school day. Dance sequences took their inspiration from lessons such as Spanish, Classical mythology and music – and there were brektime activities included too, such as an encounter with the school cat and a lunchtime talent show.

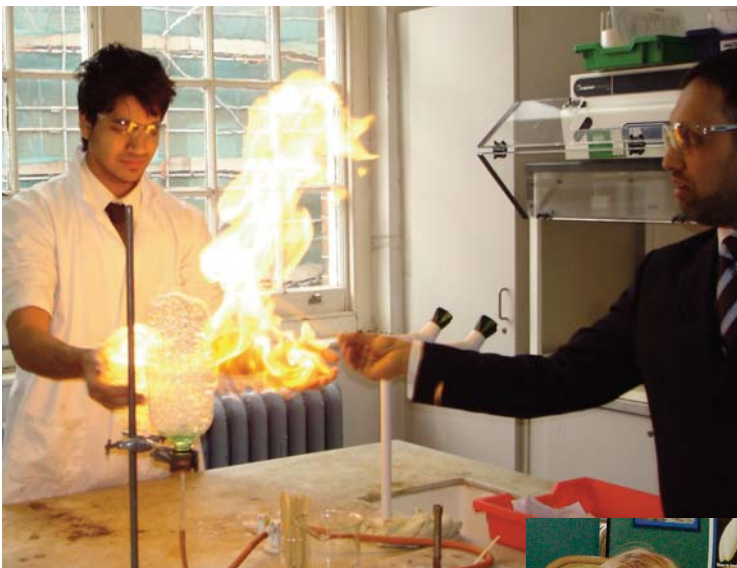


Southwark sensation

Highgate joined forces with Channing School again last term to make glorious music in the soaring venue of Southwark Cathedral. The schools combined their choral and orchestral powers – meaning that 140 pupils convened to showcase their prodigious talents in a performance that amongst other things, celebrated two composers for whom 2009 is a

bicentenary year. Mendelssohn (born 1809) kicked off proceedings with the dramatic 'Psalm 43' for eight-part choir. And to celebrate 200 years since his death, the final piece of the evening was Haydn's 'Nelson Mass', which was performed with wonderful energy, rounding off a most enjoyable concert in a suitably celebratory fashion.





The appliance of science

The poster read like a University conference, yet the startling array of fascinating talks and demonstrations on offer during Senior School Science Week was largely the product of pupil-led work. We were treated to David Joseph on Cosmic Rays and Special Relativity, Jogendra Hardy and Alesha White on Esperanto (Can a Scientist Create a Language?) and Ale Sanchez on the Vampire Squid from Hell. On top of that, Mr Bains was making liquid

nitrogen ice cream, Mr Catherwood was discussing science in the poetry of WH Auden and guest author, Richard Robinson explored the vexing issue of why toast always falls butter-side down.

The following week, over in Pre-prep, a week devoted to the science of toys and transport had classrooms resounding with whizzes and bangs, thanks to visits by Mr Szydlo, Mr Smith and their attendant Sixth Form helpers (dressed up as Galileo and the Pope, naturally).

As part of Science Week, a poetry competition was held in Y7, where standards proved extremely high. Below is one of the three winning entries. Fellow victors were Frances Darwin and Uri Inspector.

Adam and Eve would have you believe,
That Darwin is just a big fraud,
The fundamentalists cried that science has lied,
His theories put to the sword,
But there on that Island, the animals started,
To help finish his well thought out plans,
That evolution my friends is a means to an end,
And the Apes have all started to stand,
And down through the years our faces, our ears
Have changed have they not would you say,
All animals linked a primitive chink,
In the armour that God has waylaid,
But back on the Beagle, whilst writing away,
Did these thoughts not enter his head?
That all of his work can be viewed in a way,
That killed our religion stone dead?

by Sario Watanbe-Solomon 70



Exchange pupils Havelock around

Following the success of the visit made by a group of 6th formers from Havelock Academy to Highgate in December, seven Y13s and three staff journeyed to Grimsby in March for the return leg of the exchange. The Academy, for which Head Master Adam Pettitt is a governor, is at a crucial stage of its development – moving from its former status as a struggling comprehensive in an area of great deprivation, to a thriving Academy complete with ambitious Sixth Form, new buildings and an ascendant academic success rate.

The Highgate party was given a fantastically warm welcome, complete with fish and chips on the seafront,

bowling in the evening and a day in the school observing the impressive range of subjects on offer in the 6th form, such as photography, critical thinking and IT, as well as more traditional subjects such as English, Biology and Maths. Highgate gave a presentation on life in the 6th form here and going through the UCAS system.

The reaction from both groups was extremely positive and the link between the schools is now stronger than ever. Highgate's student representatives were outstanding in their confident, good-natured and enthusiastic approach to the trip and all it offered.



Happy birthday...

To Jewish Circle! On Wednesday 1st April, the Senior School celebrated the 70th anniversary of its founding with a short service in Big School taken by Rabbi Lewis (OC) at 12.15 pm. Kiddush – a blessing recited over grape juice – was held in Big School after the service, followed by a kosher lunch in the Mills Centre from 1.15 pm. The founder of the Circle, John Davis (SG 1936) was guest of honour.



The Sixth Formers at Havelock Academy, Grimsby gave Highgate visitors a very warm welcome



The plays are the thing

As ever, Highgate resounds with the noises of productions, both on stage and in preparation. Last term we were treated to a number of dramatic highlights, including a staging in French of Moliere's **Le Malade Imaginaire**. This was a formidable success, starring Omer Tiroche. Oliver Zeffman played the part of Thomas Diafoirus and had this to say of the experience:



'Being in a French play is not as different as you would think from being in an English play. At the beginning, it seemed like a daunting task for all of us, especially for Omer, who played the main role and appeared in every scene. But slowly, under the encouraging guidance of Mme. Pottier, and her dedicated team of French teachers and speakers, we acclimatised to the nuances of the French language. With the arrival of our period costumes, the play truly came together and I know we all had lots of fun doing it.'

And this term, Y7 and Y8 are gearing up to a lavish production of **Les Miserables**, to be staged in the week before half term and directed by Mrs Brunner and Mr Hanson. The cast had a special treat last term when Lucinda Collins, who stars as Madame Thenardier in the West End show, visited their rehearsal. She gave several helpful tips to the chorus, such as telling them that they were celebrating New Year's Eve in the inn scene, and even gave them a demonstration of some of the trickier lines – to their great delight.

All abroad!



The Easter holiday trips schedule this year was as hectic as ever, with groups of Highgate pupils descending on an exhilarating selection of European cultural hotspots. There was **Paris** – the highly

enjoyable return leg of this year's French exchange, there was **Germany** – on the annual exchange with Essen-Werden Gymnasium in the Ruhr region, which included trips to Cologne and to Hamburg to see Verdi's Rigoletto – and of course **St Petersburg**, where pupils from Y10, 11 and 13 revelled in the sights on a six-day trip, being particularly thrilled by the Alexander Nevsky Monastery and its cemetery, where Tchaikovsky and Dostoevsky are buried.

This globe-trotting follows on from the Economics trip to **Beijing and Shanghai** undertaken at half term, where sixth-formers took in the Olympic Village, the Great Wall and other tourist must-sees, as well as visiting a number of schools and attending a lecture on the Chinese economy.

Fun-raising

From the joy of throwing sponges at teachers to watching Heathgate struggle with their cracker-eating competition, Charity Week last term offered an array of entertainment. And all the fun raised an astonishing total of £8,250 for WaterAid, the international organisation seeking to aid access to safe water amid the world's poorest people, the NSPCC's Childline and the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen. Central Hall was full of cheers for the

heated FIFA games, while delicious smells emanated from the Lodge cake sale and Midgate touted their smoothies. Eastgate refereed another fiercely contested arm-wrestling competition, while Tuesday lunchtime saw the sell-out quiz in Big School – where teams puzzled over Julius Grower's questions and the classification of grizzly bears.

The Let Me Entertain You final closed the week, won by a superb acoustic version of Whistle for the Choir by the Fratellis by Tom Stephens (8F).

Bookworm bonanza

To celebrate this year's World Book Day, the **Junior School** enjoyed a fancy dress day with the theme 'Magic'. Pupils and staff dressed up as wizards, fairies and magicians; and there was a special performance by illusionist and magician, Paul Kieve, who has worked on and appeared in the Harry Potter films and taught actor Daniel Radcliffe how to perform magic.

He was on hand to give advice to Cholmeley's budding magicians who had the chance to perform their wizardry on the day.

Pupils from years three to six raised £417 on the day, which will be sent to Book Aid International, a charity working with library services and local organisations to help schools and communities across sub-Saharan Africa, to access books they need and to provide training for teachers.



Meanwhile, up in the **Senior School Library**, changes are afoot. Did you know...?

- There is currently a competition to produce artworks for the library
- Fines for late returns have been abolished
- If you ask for a book, the staff will get it (often in less than a week)
- It has DVDs and excellent fiction for pupils and staff
- The staff there can help you find the best internet resources...

Find out more between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday.



Mr Brunskill enjoying Charity Week

Fives phenomena

Highgate School triumphed at the National Fives Championships at Eton College in March, repeating last year's success in winning all the major boys' competitions. The senior team won all their matches against the country's top six schools. Meanwhile in the U12s, Matthew Budgett and Alex Robinson beat Richard Footman and Daniel Light in the final; and Charlie Noble and Joe Berriman beat James Angel and Kane Rayner in the final of the Prep Schools U13 competition. Charlie and Joe then dominated the Under 14 competition and won it in superb style. Cameron Most and Matthew Kovar played brilliantly in beating a very good Shrewsbury pair in the final of the U16s. Finally, Sam Little and Harry Hatchwell beat Eton in the final of the Open – playing outstandingly to win



the most prized event in the sport. The girls did us proud too – sixth-formers Connie Mantle and Jessie Varma made it to the finals to be beaten by a Swiss pair; while Hannah Rapley and Francesca Howell won the U15s. Special mention must go to two hardy young Y5s – Eve Smith-Bingham and Amira Reimer – who played valiantly in the quarter-finals, against much older contestants twice their height!



Keep on running

House Country last term, putting the entire staff team to shame in the process. The quartet of Allan-Dan, Brooks, Hugh Lindsey and Josh Channon then went on to win the senior boys' race at our home fixture the Pat Bagnall memorial on Hampstead Heath.

Two Highgate athletes were also crowned county champions for the first time since Richard Williams in 1999; Sophia Parvizi-Wayne won the U13 girls race and Luke Ames-Blackaby the U15 boys at the Middlesex Schools Championships held on a treacherously muddy course at Harrow School. As well as his county title, Luke achieved victories at the Haringey Schools Championships, the South East Schools Championships and the Pat Bagnall Trophy. To round off his terrific season, he represented Middlesex along with Molly Patch at the All England Schools Championships at Loughborough in March, where he finished an outstanding 11th from a field of over 300 to qualify as 3rd England reserve for the Home Countries International.



Cross-country is becoming one of the school's signature sports – and the successes keep on coming. After their prowess earlier in the season, the 'dream team' of Y9s – Molly Patch, Sophia Parvizi-Wayne, Emmy Yatagai and Florence 'Flo Jo' Bryant – went on to win the open girls races at the Wellington Relays and Pat Bagnall Trophy as well as finishing a very close second at the South East Schools' Championships. The senior boys, meanwhile, have also been busy. Michael Allan-Dan recorded the fastest leg at Senior

Making a splash

Swimming at Highgate is an increasingly successful sport, but one Y8 pupil is proving to be a real aquatic star. Tamsin McKinnon, of 8G, has a clutch of county and regional medals to her name, and is currently training hard with her club, Camden Swiss Cottage, to qualify for the National Championships to be held in Sheffield in July. She is

currently ranked third in the county of Middlesex in her age group overall. Excelling at the 50m breaststroke in particular, she won gold in two out of her three events in last month's county championships, gaining silver in the third and a bronze medal in the open (women's) 50m breaststroke event. Tamsin is modest about her achievements, but is clearly one to watch.



Tamsin with her growing stack of medals

SPORTSGATE — ROUNDUP —

A superb **football** season drew to a close with the 1st XI reaching the Southern Independent Schools' League cup final last term, just missing out to Lancing in a close 1-0 match; and the 2nd XI got to the final of the Middlesex County Cup. Elsewhere, recent leaver, Max Little played for Cambridge in the Varsity Football match at Craven Cottage, Fulham, at the end of March.

There was also success in **swimming**, the victory over Charter School rounding off a terrific season for the U12/13/14 Girls and Boys teams. Training hard over two terms has resulted in much success for the squad with only two defeats all season. In the **Junior School**, the annual 1KM Swim Challenge provided more glory. Relay teams from Y4-6 competed and managed to better previous records: the year 4 team of Rory McKinnon, Dempster Fawden, Oliver Light, Anna Willis, and Charles Smith swam the 1KM in a record 15 min 7 seconds; and the Year 6 team of Jonathan Edwards, Julia Wilkinson, Melissa Rahman, and Roisin Cowen improved on the record by with a time of 14 min 11 sec.



The final of this year's House **basketball** was closely contested between Eastgate and School House on 27th March with the final buzzer ringing out a 27-22 victory in favour of Eastgate. The success of this year's school teams in the The London Independent Schools Basketball Association (LISBA) competitions, with all three age groups going through to the semi-finals, re-affirms that as a school, we certainly have the potential to compete at a higher level.

In the Junior School, the U11 **cross-country** team finished their season victorious once more coming first at the Inter Prep School Races, hosted by Hereward House at the end of March.



HIGHNOTES: the Highgate School newsletter

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