

HIGHNOTES

Highgate School newsletter

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A bit of a Who-ha

Highgate School recently welcomed a distinguished rock and roll visitor to accept an enormous £3,000 cheque the pupils had raised for the charity he founded, The Teenage Cancer Trust. But who was it? Who, who? None other than Roger Daltrey, lead singer of The Who and passionate advocate of the Trust, which raises money to provide young people with specialist care in NHS hospitals. Daltrey was thrilled with the donation, raised through a number of fun charitable events at the school: 'This has been a fantastic effort by Highgate', he said. 'This money has done more

than they'll ever know – but in a way, it's for them, too. One in 330 teenage boys get cancer – it's more common with them than in any other age range. The disease tends to be more virulent and diagnosis harder – boys tend to shrug off aches and pains and put them down to football. We want them to be more aware of their bodies: early diagnosis can save your life'.

Roger Daltrey's involvement in this valuable enterprise began years ago. 'It all started with my



Roger Daltrey with members of Highgate School's Charity Committee

doctor', he said. 'His wife recognised that teenagers were suffering in the NHS through a lack of facilities – they were either treated alongside babies or geriatrics. I got involved by doing the occasional gig, but promised that if the band were to get back together, we'd do a whole show'. And

in 2000, that's exactly what they did. They managed to raise £2 million for the charity, and there are now 14 specialist teenage units around the country, with another three in progress. But Daltrey is not complacent: 'that's only 50% of the country covered. This shouldn't be a privilege – it should be a right'.

Bounty-hunting at Highgate



from L-R: Alex Franklin, Donald Maxton, Charles Guard and Richard Kennedy

School Chapel witnessed an unusual and historic event in December, as visitors from around the world came to celebrate the dedication of a shiny new plaque adorning the east-facing wall. It is a monument to Captain Peter Haywood RN, who lies buried underneath the chapel, having died in 1831 after a famously eventful life. He was a sailor onboard the HMS Bounty, the ship that set sail for Tahiti on a bread-fruit finding mission, and which became the hotbed of the most famous mutiny in naval history. Midshipman Haywood, originally from the Isle of Man, himself had no part in the rebellion, which forced the ship's Captain Bligh and others off the Bounty to drift in shark-infested

waters for weeks. But as a result of the mutinous action, he spent 18 months castaway in Tahiti. He lived out his later years in Highgate village and his final resting place was tracked down by the Bounty scholar and New York author, Donald Maxton, who delivered the commemorative address last term. Also present was Charles Guard, Director of the Manx Heritage Foundation which assisted in organising the plaque – and former Head Master, Richard Kennedy, who had facilitated the gathering. As pupils admire the new addition to the chapel's interior, they might reflect on Haywood's words: at the time, he said, he was 'young in years, but old in what the world calls adversity'.

Little Dahl-ings

To celebrate this year's Roald Dahl Day, pupils in Years 3-6 (as well as Cholmeley staff) enjoyed a 'fancy dress day' last term where everybody dressed up as their favourite Dahl character or came to school dressed in bright yellow - the author's favourite colour.

There were literacy workshops and games, story sessions, film viewings and many other fun activities (often involving chocolate and balloons).

Proceeds from the event went to the Roald Dahl Foundation: a UK-based charity, supporting children and their families in three areas: neurology, haematology and literacy.



Roman holiday

A ray of light shone through the perfectly spherical hole in the ceiling. This, the Pantheon, was the most magnificent building of many that we saw whilst in Rome during the October half term.

The Classics trip began on a rainy afternoon, when we arrived at our much beloved Hotel Noto. From there, we ventured deep into the



heart of Rome, visiting the Trevi fountain amidst thunderous rains and on the next day, we took in the Colosseum, Forum Romanum, and the Capitoline Museums.

The Vatican followed on the next day, entailing with it, visits to St. Peter's, in my opinion rather underwhelming due to its touristy nature, and the magnificent Sistine Chapel, where I sustained an injury courtesy of a Canon EOS.

On our last day, we set off for the Villa Borghese, renowned for its many fine Caravaggios and remarkable mosaics. Lastly, on the evening before our return, we were let loose in the Piazza Navona, where we remained calm, well mannered and a credit to our school. It was a great evening to complete a fantastic stay.

Josh Weinstein, 11EG

A day trip to the past

Attired in mob-caps, pinnies or braces, the children of the Pre-Prep launched themselves back in time last term for a special day of Victorian-style



education. They experienced a typical Victorian school day and had lessons in Drill and Deportment, Needlework, Reading, Geography and Writing complete with strict, unsmiling teachers!

Welcome to planet Galileo



To celebrate the International Year of Astronomy, Highgate is marking the fact that 400 years ago a Tuscan scientist first turned his newly invented telescope onto the night sky and made discoveries that helped to revolutionise our understanding of the solar system. 'Galileo Week' begins at the end of January with a talk

by Graham Ferguson provokingly entitled 'The Galileo Delusion'. Other events will abound, including demonstration-lectures by David Smith on the life and work of the man often described as the first modern scientist – and, unmissably, a visit from Galileo impersonator, Peter Casey (pictured), who will entertain Years 7 and 8.



A bloody victory

A young bride, two proud lovers and an atmosphere thick with betrayal, passion and doom. At the end of last term, pupils from Years 11-13 performed *Blood Wedding*, Lorca's explosive tragedy, to packed audiences. Superb performances from Octavia Chin, Charlotte Boundy, Arthur Graham-Dixon and Guy Woolf gave credit to Head of Theatre Studies Juliet Fehr's beautifully envisioned production. The searing heat of the Spanish landscape and the intensity of the violent scenes were accentuated by Christopher Nairne's carefully designed lighting scheme, transforming the Drama Studio into a febrile cauldron of love and fear. With atmospheric movement scenes choreographed by Clare Rodgers and live guitar music performed by Ben Parkin (12GH) the production electrifyingly conveyed the distinctive pattern and rhythm of Lorca's language.

Lone stars

Twelve of the school's finest musicians took part in an exhilarating Grand Final at the end of last term, to take the title in the Solo Competition. The audience was treated to some astounding woodwind masterworks, sultry jazz art songs, exquisite piano preludes and beautiful cello sonatas. The performances were commended by the independent adjudicator as "absolutely astounding", but in the end a deserving Sam Little (13SH) took First Prize for his rendition of the fiendishly difficult Saxophone Sonata by Denisov.



And the award for Highgate's best film-maker goes to...

We already know him as one of the school's most impressive photographers, but Nicky Collins, Y10NG, recently took his talents to a far glitzier level - getting shortlisted for a children's Bafta award for a short film he made about a bomber plane. The competition, set up by CBBC, was called 'Me and My Movie' and judged hundreds of two-minute films. Nicky's film used CGI to tell

the story of a bomb's journey before being dropped - all set to emotive music. It was inspired by his History lessons: 'I came up with the idea because we were doing the Second World War. I was ecstatic to be shortlisted - the Baftas was really good fun: I met lots of famous people like Dannii Minogue and the Chuckle Brothers. I was disappointed not to win - but proud I made the shortlist'.



Adventures in Africa



Africa Week hit Highgate last term in a blaze of drumming, dancing, literature workshops and lectures, amongst other exciting opportunities. This new initiative this year was inspired by the school's recent partnerships with Kirima Parents' Primary School and Great Lakes High School in Kanungu, Uganda and Noonkondin Secondary School in Eluai, rural Tanzania.

The aim of the week was to celebrate the rich diversity of the continent, and to help pupils to differentiate between the vast range of climates, cultures, languages and history. There was an African slam poetry performance from Inua Ellams, and a performance of an African music workshop from year 9 musicians. Pupils looked at African themes in Geography, Swahili literature in English - and there was a Sixth Form



debate over Decolonisation. Societies discussed the African economy, Hannibal and his elephants and the Voertrekkers.

The week was a huge success, ending with a lively performance from Freddie Macha and the Kitoto Trio in the lunch hall to accompany the African meal.

The BBC Orchestra - and me



'Since I started playing flute in the Camden concert band, I've had the opportunity to play in nerve-thrilling places like the British Museum and the Royal Albert Hall. Playing in a big band with lots of other people, you get a shiver down your spine and feel an extraordinary thrill from the amount of noise circulating around you. In November, this thrill became an amazingly exciting experience when I was chosen to record with one of the most fantastic orchestras ever in the BBC studios.

The musicians there were very impressive: I tried to gather as much information as I could from them. We played a very challenging Turkish piece called Kocakce, by Erkin, then Beethoven's symphony No.7 in A Major, which is a lovely piece - and not as challenging, thank goodness! The record will eventually be played on the radio - watch this space!'

Madison Willing, 8F

Going Gothic

One dark November day, Y8 pupils had the opportunity to explore the gloriously ghoulish world of the literary gothic, expertly guided by three visiting authors (Adele Géras, Sarah Singleton and Linda Newbury). After gathering in a dim and imposing Big School, the authors read extracts from their chilling works. The children, inspired by what they'd heard, then busied themselves in writing their own grisly tales. Meanwhile, 20 winners of a short-story writing competition, accompanied award-winning novelist Celia Rees to Highgate Cemetery, where they were fortunate enough to be taken on a private tour of the restricted Western Cemetery. Bursting with ideas, the children spent the afternoon in the library with Celia, turning their observations and experiences into some wonderful ghastly yarns.



A run-away success



The first ever Highgate girls' team to compete at the senior Knole Run wasted no time in making their mark on the competition this January, winning by the narrowest of margins as all four

Highgate athletes finished in the top 16 of the field of 96. Having won a silver at the junior Knole Run in December, Sophia Parvizi-Wayne was familiar with the demanding course and led Highgate home, finishing in 7th place, an outstanding achievement for a Y7. Florence Bryant in Y12 put her injury problems behind her to bravely hang on for 12th whilst Y9s Molly Patch (pictured) and Emmy Yatagai battled it out for 14th and 16th places respectively. The quartet was presented with winners' medals and shield by Headmistress of Sevenoaks, Katy Ricks.

The presentation ceremony was however far from a relaxed affair following the announcement that Oundle School's team had scored 49 points - the exact same score as Highgate! Highgate were however awarded 1st place on the basis of their 4th and final scorer (Emmy Yatagai) finishing just in front Oundle's 4th scorer. Another reminder that 'every man (or woman!) counts' in cross-country.

Football phenomena

The football season got off to a superb start last term, particularly for the school's 1st XI team, who have won an impressive 11 matches so far, drawing five and losing only two. This term sees the final of the Elgin Capital Southern Independent Schools Cup against Lancing College at Corinthian Casual's FC. The match comes after the team won the northern division, beating Eton, Bradfield, Forest and Westminster, winning four and drawing one in the group. Lancing won the southern division.

The opportunity to break into this year's 1st XI has been difficult due to their success, but also



Members of the 1st XI, playing here against Charterhouse

made for a very settled 2nd and 3rd XI squad. In any other year many of these players would have been representing our flagship team, though their performances this year will serve many individuals well for next season.

The 3rd XI continues to play very attractive football and fully deserved their victory against a strong City of London outfit last term.

We'd Brava play netball...

They might be at a football stadium in the photo, but 13 Year 9 girls, accompanied by Lisa Sursok and Louise Shelley, spent their October half term break playing some tremendous netball on the Costa Brava in Spain. As well as soaking up some sun, shopping and sightseeing, naturally. The A and B teams enjoyed success in their last matches of the tournament on day three, with the A team losing only to U15 teams. Congratulations to the girls for all their hard work, impeccable behaviour and their brilliantly positive and enthusiastic attitude.



SPORTSGATE — ROUNDUP —

The World Junior **Chess** Championships were held in Vietnam over the October half term - and Highgate Junior School Y6 pupil Isaac Sanders represented GB, carrying the Union Jack for the opening ceremony! Isaac won eight of his 11 matches as the top ranked British player. Experienced coaches and observers from around the world agreed that Isaac is one to watch for the future.



Meanwhile, another Highgate star is very much in the ascendant as Max Woollard (Y7) continues to **fence** his way to glory. Last term he became London Region U14 Boys Foil Champion and has therefore qualified for the British Youth Championships in Stoke on Trent this term - the chance to compete for Great Britain is getting closer...

The **Fives** courts are filling with pairs practising for the National Championships in March, with several exciting fixtures to play before then. The girls have got off to a good start - with the 3rd and 4th pair winning against Cambridge University and the 1st and 2nd pairs playing impressive matches against the much more experienced opposition.

In **Water Polo** the senior team hosted a triangular tournament last term involving Haberdashers and Queen Elizabeth's Boys. After a 2-1 victory over the latter, it was wholly apparent that Haberdashers talented team would provide a real test for Highgate. A tense tussle remarkably ended in a scoreless draw, but the home team could be proud of their efforts on an evening when two of their star players were absent through illness.



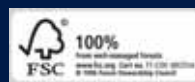
HIGHNOTES: the Highgate School newsletter

Editor: Verity Smith

Highgate School, North Road, London N6 4AY

020 8340 1524

www.highgateschool.org.uk



For admissions information contact:

Senior School: 020 8347 3564

Junior School: 020 8340 9193

Pre-Preparatory School: 020 8340 9196