OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL
NEWS

February 2000

# Breaking New Ground



*Mr Nick Owen (centre) accompanied by (left to right) Mr D Higgs, Chairman of Governors, Mr N Hall, Deputy Headmaster, Mrs C Potter, Mr P A Jones, Head of Sports, Mr R L Harris, Chairman of Feoffees and Mr C F Potter, Headmaster.*

An important ceremony to mark the start of the first phase of the new sports hall and swimming pool complex was held on Monday, 6 December. Guest of honour was Mr Nick Owen of BBC Midlands Today, whose son Christopher is in Year 8.

A number of boys, staff, governors and Feoffees turned out to watch the proceedings as Mr Owen turned the soil with his brand new spade, all the while entertaining the onlookers with a run of jokes guaranteed to extract a groan with every pun.

As work continues on the site, every day reveals the developing shape of the new complex. If all progresses according to plan, the first phase of the £1 million sports hall will be finished by the end of July, well in time for the boys to use the facilities in September.

The building work is being carried out by Thomas Vale Construction, from Stourport on Severn, which built Maybury, one of the school's boarding houses, 100 years ago.

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## New Computers

Recent visitors to the Computer Department have been pleasantly surprised by its new look furnishings and brand new, state of the art Pentium III computers.

Last term the main Computer Room was redesigned and extended to incorporate what used to be the prefects' room. This was followed in January by all 50 machines being replaced by 50 Pentium IIIs.

The older machines will now be distributed to various departments throughout the school, thus making computers much more accessible to boys wishing to use word processing facilities or research information on the internet.



## *Oxbridge 2000*

*A record number of boys have been offered places at Oxbridge this year. James Cauwood is bound for Peterhouse, Cambridge, to read Natural Sciences; Stuart Morgan for Queens', Cambridge, to read Mathematics; Anthony Wall for Girton College, Cambridge, to read Philosophy; Simon Giles for Hertford, Oxford, to read Law; Gavin Wilkinson for Christ Church, Oxford, to read Chemistry; Darren Cooper for Somerville, Oxford, to read Biochemistry; James Savage for St Edmond Hall, Oxford, to read Geography; Chris Totney for Keble, Oxford, to read Music; James Hill for St John's, Oxford, to read Music; and Chris Newton for New College, Oxford, to read Chemistry.*

# Exam Success

For the seventh year running the GCSE group achieved well over 90% success in gaining 5 or more passes at C and above. On the average points score, the boys hit a new high of 58.6 points per head, which underlines the excellent all-round achievement of the year group. Toby Carter and Tom Robson each gained nine subjects at A or A*grades.

At 'A' level, records were again broken as 96% of exams taken resulted in a pass, with 44% of these achieving A and B grades. Star performers included Daniel Plimmer with five A grades, and Phillip Bradford and Ian Glover with four A grades each.

Special congratulations were earned by the Physics group in which 10 out of the 19 boys entered gained an A grade.

# Lest They Forget

**Boys from the Drama Club joined forces with Edgbaston High School girls to remember the sacrifices of those who lived through the Second World War.**

**The Sixth Formers performed a collection of poetry, prose and songs entitled *Dark Remembered Days*. Performances took place on November 12 and 13, with all proceeds going towards the British Legion Poppy Appeal.**

**Among those taking part were Tristan Beech from Old Swinford and Charlotte Ashton from Edgbaston High School.**



# The Millennium Window




The finishing touch to the Great Hall's refurbishment programme was the installation of the magnificent Millennium Window. On Tuesday, February 15, the window was dedicated by the Rt. Revd. Peter Selby, Bishop of Worcester, at a ceremony which included among its guests the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Mr R R Taylor, the High Sheriff of the West Midlands, Mr R Burman, and the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Fred Hunt.

The stained-glass window was designed by Clare Johnson and made by Norgrove Studios of Redditch, Worcestershire. The window commemorates the 2000 years since the birth of Christ, but also is a reminder of the charitable foundations of the school in 1667, when it was set up by Thomas Foley to provide free residential education for 60 boys from poor but honest families.

Central to the window is the figure of Charity, reminiscent of the carved wooden representation of Charity and child, originally over the front entrance into Founder's, but now over the door of the Oak Room.

The window is a gift by the Feoffees to the school and marks the completion of the renovation of the interior of the Great Hall, a building almost a hundred years old and one which lies at the heart of the life and work of the school.

## Orienteering Champions

A team of OSH boys have proved their map reading skills are second to none by winning a regional orienteering competition.

The six RAF cadets overcame 10 teams of older boys to win the West Midlands Region Cadet Orienteering championships held on Cannock Chase. The winning team were James Birkbeck, Duncan Whitmore, Craig Boyce, Richard Payne, Miles Tilling and Nicholas Peck.

The boys had only limited experience of the map reading sport, having practised briefly for the event in the grounds of Himley Hall and in the Clent Hills.

Their reward was a silver cup and individual medals for all the team.

## Quiz Whizzkids



The School Quiz Team (Thomas Smith, Yr 8, Adrian Somerfield, Yr 9, John Dalton, Yr 10, and Paris-John Zoulias, Yr 11) covered themselves in glory by winning the Regional competition sponsored by the West Bromwich Building Society.

In the area final the school took on St Peter's Collegiate of Wolverhampton and the match was broadcast on Radio WM over the Christmas period.

Following this success the team went on to take part in the Grand semi-final against King Edward's Camp Hill, which, sadly, they lost. Nevertheless, their achievement in being recognised as one of the top four school teams in the Midlands deserves our sincere congratulations. Well done!

# SCHOOL BACKED BY RUGBY GIANTS

OSH has been chosen as one of only eight schools in England and Wales to become a partner to rugby giants Saracens. The London based club has already handed over £2,500 sponsorship to the school and has also offered access to specialist advice, coaching and physiotherapy.

The amount of sponsorship is set to increase each season and the partnership is recognition of the school's commitment to its rugby programme.

In addition to this, Old Swinford has become the first school in the UK to be backed by English Premiership League sponsors Allied Dunbar.

Director of Sport and First XV Coach Peter Jones said: "The school is very proud of its rugby tradition and this reflects the hard work, commitment and professionalism of the boys and coaching staff."




The school runs 14 rugby sides and has won the Worcestershire County Schools Cup at under 15s and under 16s more times than any other school in the last decade.

In the last eight years the First XV has toured Canada, South Africa and South America. In July 2000 the team is taking a three-week, ten-match tour Down Under to tackle the cream of Australia.

## *FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH*

It has been a wonderful year for OSH teacher Seaun Orpen, whose new kidney has allowed him to take part in National and World Transplant Games with brilliant results.

In September he travelled to Budapest where he competed at golf, badminton and cricket ball throw, walking away with two silver medals for golf.

Having been successful in Budapest, he was nominated for an Achievement in Sport award by Dudley Leisure Services. This was presented by the Mayor of Dudley on October 25th at a ceremony held in the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill. It was another proud moment for Mr Orpen.

In November the National Transplant Volleyball Tournament was held in Liverpool and Mr Orpen competed for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, where he had received his transplant in 1997. The team played well togetherand were very unlucky to lose in the semi-final by just one point.

At the end of the tournament Mr Orpen was approached by the national transplant volleyball team manager who invited him to take part in squad training for the national team. This should begin in March.

Also in March he will be taking part in the National Transplant Badminton Tournament being held in Middlesborough.

Mr Orpen said: "I hope I can continue with my successes. Long may my kidney continue to give me further sporting opportunities."

## *Royal Marines Scholarship*

Congratulations to Daniel Edmonds, Foster Upper Sixth, on gaining a Royal Marines Scholarship, which will assure him of a commission on leaving university.

Only two of these scholarships were awarded throughout the country. Both came to Stourbridge, as the other was won by Andrew Hall, the son of Mr Hall, our Deputy Headmaster.

In September, Daniel took part in a gruelling three day course at the Commando Training centre in Lympstone. Here he was put through his paces to test his physical fitness in a variety of activities such as an endurance run, an assault course and a battle swimming test.

Having passed this stage with flying colours, Daniel spent a further four days on HMS Sultan in Portsmouth with the Admiralty Interview Board. Exams, interviews, command tasks and discussion exercises ensured that only the most able would be shortlisted for the final awards of scholarships.

Well done to both these young men on a fine achievement!

Oldswinford
at St Thomas Foley's Hospitall's

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OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL

NEWS

JUNE 2009

# DUDLEY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

This year has marked a very special occasion in the history of Dudley House – twenty five years since the current boarding house opened in September1984.

To celebrate the event, a reunion dinner was held in May, attended by 160 guests, including a wonderful mix of former students, tutors, housemasters, staff and current students. The evening got off to a great start with pre-dinner drinks in the Great Hall and, as guests congregated, so tales of the past flowed freely with everyone sharing their reminiscences from their days in Dudley.



Left to right: A trio of Dudley Housemasters: Mr Nick Gregory, Mr Phil Hildesley and Mr Tony Gash

Special guests of the evening included Mrs Lorna Shearer who, with her late husband John, a former feoffee, contributed greatly to the development of the House; Mr Maurice Evans, President of the Old Foleyans' Association; Mr Chris Potter, Headmaster of Old Swinford when Dudley opened; and current Headmaster, Mr Peter Jones.

# PRIZEGIVING



Edward Hezlet, new Head of School is welcomed by Ross Tanner, the outgoing Head of School.

**Prizegiving was another outstanding occasion and the school was delighted to welcome back former Headmaster Mr Christopher Potter as Guest of Honour. He spoke about previous headmasters and gave some entertaining anecdotes about life at the school and his time as Headmaster from 1978-2001.**

**As well as the Headmaster's report, there were four excellent speeches by students, Lottie Gillson, David Marsh, Michael Circus and Hannah Leek on their own reflections of school life. Ross Tanner gave an interesting account of his experience as Head of School, together with the Vote of Thanks.**



## OSH AIMS FOR THE MOON!

OSH welcomed over 100 prep school pupils to its Annual Schools' Summer Festival.
Inspiring future generations of scientists, engineers and astronauts, was the 38ft Starchaser Skybolt rocket, which will be launched later in the year and form the basis of an even bigger rocket to carry tourists into space by 2013. Pupils were then taken on a journey through the solar system in the Space Dome. Winners of the OSH Science Challenge Cup were Vernon Lodge from Brewood, for successfully making and firing their stomp rockets.
Other events included a Music ICT workshop and Drama workshop. Professional cricketer Aniket Redkar, took pupils through their paces honing their batting and fielding skills.



Richard Clark

## DofE - Are you up for it?

Over 50 students were out on DofE expeditions over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The silver candidates in the Brecon Beacons successfully completed two nights under canvas, whilst the gold candidates in North Wales completed three nights after hiking up to 25km per day.

These opportunities are due to the fact that OSH is an established AALS specialist expedition training unit (the highest possible award, equivalent to that held by Plas y Brenin, the National Outdoor Centre), led by the highly experienced Mr Plant and his team of dedicated voluntary supervisors.

OSH has been an independent unit for over 10 years and oversees all the sections of the DofE award – skills, volunteering, physical recreation, expedition planning and for the Gold Award residential projects. It is widely recognised that DofE Awards are looked upon favourably in University applications, but more than that, it's a fantastic experience to develop independence and team work skills.

So if you are up for a challenge, make sure you sign up in September, pupils and helpers too!

# G&T @ OSH

A number of recent initiatives have been launched recently for our Gifted and Talented students. A group of Year 10 and 11 students attended the Keswick literature festival, 'Words by the Water', and heard talks by noted authors: Kate Adie, Edward Stourton and Stewart Maconie. The presentations proved to be stimulating, engaging and thought-provoking.



Pic shows L-R back row: Mr A Hannah, Dev Surae, Billy Waddell, Alex Willson, Benjamin Bridgewater, Howard Coase, Peter Bridgewater, Alex Hackney, Toby Barrett. Front row: Peter Owen, Edward Atkins, Usama Sajid, Johnson Tam

Back at OSH, current students - Adam Turner, Natalie Bate, Luke Jew and Felicity Beard led a seminar on applying to Oxbridge. All four are holding conditional offers for either Oxford or Cambridge colleges, so they were in a perfect position to advise about personal statements, choice of college, interview techniques and so on. With GCSE results now playing a vital part in the Oxbridge applications process, this was a timely and very successful event.

A selection of Year 10 students travelled to St Hilda's College, Oxford, to gain experience of life at one of our top universities. The visit involved a meeting with the college admissions tutor, a superb insight into natural history at the museum and a treasure hunt around Oxford.

# The 'OSHCARS'

It was a night at the 'OSHCARS'. The audience, dressed in true 'red carpet' style was entertained by a selection of short films and documentaries, dance, drama and music – all entirely produced and performed by talented OSH students.



'OSHCAR' winners

Competition was fierce, not only for The OSHCARS 2009, but for the 'Top Ten Best Dressed' stars, guests and VIPs, all of whom will appear in 'HELLOSH'.

Scooping up five OSHCARS was the performance of selected scenes from the OSH Drama Production of Willy Russell's "Our Day Out". The youngest boarding house, with help from two Sixth Form students, picked up both 'The Best Dancer' and 'The Best Dance Group' awards.

# NEWS IN BRIEF



## 2009 Instrumentalists' Competition

Eight students entered the 2009 Instrumentalists' Competition, which is intended as an opportunity for OSH's most experienced musicians not only to perform, but in many cases prepare for A level and GCSE examinations.

It was an evening of outstanding performances. The talented musicians were also able to benefit from comments and advice from visiting adjudicator Dr Mike Smith, a well known local musician.

The eventual winner, George Montagu (trumpet), played pieces ranging from a jazz number 'Revelations', to 'Idyll' by Elgar and a movement from a trumpet concerto by Neruda.

Left to right: Musician in Residence, John Robson with George Montagu



L-R: James Wheeler, Jack Holliday, Oliver Smith, James Sargeant, Nicolas Holmes, Martin Ovberedjo, Frasier Boore, Eliot Stevens, Jack Barr

## Year 7 Continental Café

A group of Year 7 students, along with members of the school's Young Chamber of Commerce, set up a Continental Café at Old Swinford Hospital's recent Induction Morning. In their chosen foreign language, students asked parents for their food and drink order and parents (if they wished!) offered their requirements in the same language! Over £100 raised for St John's School, Uganda!



## St George's Day Awards

St George's Day was celebrated at OSH with the presentation of a new award by the Headmaster to twelve Year 13 students, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to school life. They were: Beth Aston, Jeremy Dalton, Richard Kolapo-Ajala, Philippa Kuligowski, Tom Marsh, Chris Mason, Christian Rees-Cooke, Kevin Renouf, James Russell, Tom Stedman, Jon Willis, Thomas Wu.

## Year 8 Raise over £155 for Cancer Research UK

During PSHEE lessons, all Year 8 forms have been producing a business plan to enable them to raise funds for charity.

Each student researched, produced and delivered a presentation on one of four different charities. Students then voted for the charity they wished to support. Overwhelmingly, Year 8 chose Cancer Research UK.



Pic shows L – R: Elliot Steedman , Billy Williamson Simon Bill, Huw Taylor with the fundraising poster

The range of tasks was then identified; deciding who would do what; volunteering to take responsibility for carrying out the tasks; producing posters and information leaflets; making a small money donation to provide the prize for their competition etc. This enabled students to develop a wide range of skills such as communication, co-operation, organisation and ICT – all of which were done with enthusiasm and commitment. Each form carried out their fundraising event and an incredible total of £155 was raised from: Guess the number of sweets in a jar (8H), Guess the 3 digit code on a lock (8O), Guess the winning square on a treasure map (8S). Well done!

## Annual Art Exhibition

This year's Annual Art Exhibition was held across the school campus. The Upper Sixth art group curated the exhibition and was themed in each location - 'Light' in the Eric Moody Room, 'Fairy Land' in the Great Hall and 'Nature/sculpture' in the Library.

Artwork was exhibited by Upper and Lower Sixth A level students and Year 11 GCSE pupils. Short films from Year 8 students Chris George & James Hibbs were played alongside the examination groups.



A sad farewell was made to Mr Andre Morris, our Artist in Residence who is returning at the end of term to London, to continue his art and dance teaching. Charlie Venner, Year 11, showed his 'HELLOSH' magazine, listing the best and worst dressed guests at the art 'Premiere Red Carpet' evening.
Overall a great evening was had by all.

Art Exhibition - Great Hall



## Spring Concert

On 8th May, the OSH Music Department once again held their final major concert of the year in Stourbridge Town Hall. The programme featured all of the larger musical groups, ranging from the chamber orchestra playing Pachelbel's famous 'Canon' to the 70 strong school choir singing both classical items such as Tavener's 'The Lamb' and show numbers by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The concertband brought the programme to a close with fine performances of music from 'The Sound of Music' and 'Wicked'. Also included were the symphony orchestra, swingband and chamber choir. The evening, which was compered by Edward Beech and Lottie Gillson, both Year 13 musicians, also featured a performance by piano teacher Mrs Helen Wilson with one of her students, Jeffrey So (Year 11), in recognition of her retirement from Hanbury Music School at the end of June.

## OSH GARDEN COMMENDED



An RHS Commendation was given to the OSH eco friendly garden 'Fit for Life' at the Malvern Spring Gardening Show. Based on an original design by Gus Lane Y13, the garden featured a flower bed in the shape of a rugby ball and planting in the school colours, with goal posts acting as supports for climbing plants.
Students demonstrated their gardening design skills at the show's Design a Garden Competition, run in association with BAM Construct UK and BAM Nuttall in partnership with the Three Counties Agricultural Society and Education Business Partnership.

# Conquering Ben Nevis



Celebrating at the top of Ben Nevis: Zaki Al-Khamiri, Joe Hitchcock, Chris Mason, Ben Wade and Mr Paul Paternotte

A group of 10 students spent a week in Fort William, learning the many skills required for mountain climbing in winter conditions and to attempt to climb Ben Nevis. 'Cold Weather Injuries', 'The Ice Axe' and 'Using Crampons' were just some of the areas covered.

Despite a dreadful weather forecast of up to 14 inches of snow and high winds of up to 50-60 mph, 8 students commenced the ascent of Ben Nevis.

At 900 metres, the conditions started to get worse, with more snow falling and visibility cut to 20-30 metres. It was a supreme effort by students using all the skills they had learnt, but regrettably at the 950 metre point, the second group had to turn back. The first group continued up and reached the summit at 1300 hrs.

Congratulations to all the students who took part. They achieved something that not many would attempt in such conditions.

# Inter-house mountain biking



The first ever inter-house mountain bike race was held on 13th May. The course was a gruelling 8 mile cross country course, called "follow the dog" on Cannock Chase. All houses had one senior representative and the standard of competition and determination of the competitors was very high. The results were as follows. 1st, Tom Bash (Foster). 2nd, Tom Baldi Turner (Foley). 3rd, Tom Steadman (Dudley). 4th, Aaron Nelson (Maybury). 5th, Jacob Tipper (Baxter), Daniel Retter (Witley).

# OSH SKI TRIP 2009



OSH chose the resort of Val Thorens for their 2009 Ski Trip. Located in the French Alps, it is one of the highest altitude resorts in Europe and makes up a third of the famous '3 Valleys'.

There were several moments of note during the week - too many to mention, but James Light's snow park jump (and landing) was something to behold.

Students conducted themselves impeccably during the entire ski trip and their behaviour was complimented upon by everyone they came into contact with.

Thanks to Mr Coalter for leading the trip, together with Mr Daws, Mr Rudge and Mr Ellis

# OSH ATHLETICS

OSH entered a team for all the year group competitions of the Dudley Schools' Borough Championships: U19 Boys and Girls, U17 boys, U15 boys, U14 boys and U13 boys. They competed very well against the other 20 local schools that took part and the following students won their events:



Rhyan Scott-Young

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Spencer Sutherland | U19 boys | Triple Jump |
| Fiacre Baidoo | U14 boys | 100 m |
| Dan Burton | U14 boys | Long Jump |
| Simon Bill | U14 boys | 200 m |
| Laquan Bacchus | U13 boys | Triple Jump |
| Rhyan Scott-Young | U13 boys | Discus and Shot |
| Alex Isaacs | U17 boys | Triple Jump |

OSH also won or came 2nd in every category of 4 x 100 m relay. There were countless pupils who finished in the top three in their event and U19, U17, U14 and U13 teams were borough champions in the overall school teams' competition.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Baxter - Winners of the Senior Interhouse Rugby Tournament.



## Return Visit by South African School

It was good to welcome St Martin's School from Johannesburg, South Africa who were paying their third visit to us in the past six years. Their strong squad included no less than eight players who have represented their Province.

Scores: St Martin's 208 for 6 off 50 overs
OSH 1st XI 176 all out
St Martin's won by 32 runs

St Martin's tour of England included visits to Bath, Liverpool and London. Tour manager Henri thanked OSH players for the competitive game and fair sportsmanship and said that the school's hospitality and friendship was second to none. St Martin's have invited OSH for a return fixture on their home ground.

Dan Mitchell and Josh Banks

# Oldswinford at St Thomas Folys Hospitals

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NEWS

MARCH 2012

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Page 3 - Holocaust Survivor



Page 4 - Super Six



# OSH STORMS THROUGH TO THE FINAL!




Old Swinford Hospital is through to the final of the Daily Mail RBS Schools Under-18 Final for the first time ever after an emphatic 20-3 win over local rivals King's School, Worcester at Broadstreet RFC…

*Full story on back page.*

Rugby World, the world's best selling rugby magazine, has just named the OSH 1st XV Rugby Team 'School Team of the Month'.



# OSH BOYS ALOFT!



Year 11 Business Students took field research to new heights when local Hot Air Balloon repair company, 'Aerostation' came into school. Students are studying 'Aerostation' for their controlled assessment, and owner Rick Vale and his team were happy to bring a balloon into school and explain how the business operates.

Students watched the balloon inflation, which is always quite dramatic, as two jets of flame are fired into the balloon in order to heat the air. Once the balloon was aloft, Rick gave a tethered display and invited a number of students into the basket to have a hop up and down.

Next stop was the Great Hall, where Rick gave an interesting and lively talk about his business, enhanced by showing some scary clips of how balloons get damaged. The boys asked some thought provoking questions and at the end of the morning, Rick was full of praise for the way in which Year 11 had conducted themselves.

# TOP OF THE TABLES



Once again OSH has demonstrated that it is one of Dudley's top performing schools following the publication of the DfE 2011 Performance Tables. Outstanding results in GCSE examinations put OSH once again in top position in Dudley LA. The percentage of results awarded at A* to C including English and Maths in five or more subjects was 93%, well above the local authority average of 58.5% and England average of 58.9%.

# Musicians Entertain Local Group



Headmaster Peter Jones and eight musicians were invited to visit a local centre which supports people with sight loss.

The students played an hour long concert to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Pockington Trust at the Mary Stevens Centre. OSH students displayed their musical talents to an appreciative and emotional audience and it is hoped that regular visits throughout the year can be arranged.

# TALENTED OSH MUSICIANS



L-R: Lauren Baker, William Croft, Tony Bridgewater, Anna Downes

Gifted OSH musicians played with the Central England Ensemble for their February concert entitled "Firebird".

As well as pieces by well known classical composers Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky, the programme also included a piece called Piano Concert No2 composed by our own Director of Music, Tony Bridgewater.

William Croft and Lauren Baker joined instrumental teachers Anna Downes (Leader - violin), Anna Picken (cello), Helen Foster (flute), Matthew Brooks (Percussion) and Liz Oughton (clarinet) for what was an exciting and inspiring concert.

Anna Downes who is Head of Instrumental Studies at the School and founded the Central England Ensemble said "The orchestra is now in its tenth year and it is lovely to include such talented young performers who are only at the start of their promising musical careers."



# YEAR OF THE DRAGON

The entire boarding community came together to celebrate the start of the Chinese New Year. 2012 is the year of the dragon and a group of pupils gathered to decorate the Dining Hall with paper dragons, lanterns and posters. Mr Teale and his team responded in their usual positive manner with a delicious evening meal. A good time was had by all and some very positive feedback was received from both domestic and overseas students. Overseas Officer Mr Hannah commented: "We do our very best to integrate our overseas students, but we also want them to celebrate their own culture, and this kind of event has a very positive impact on UK boarders too."

# Oxbridge Success



Congratulations to Joshua Dolphin (right) and Dominik Diak (left) who have both received conditional offers to Oxbridge. Joshua hopes to read History at Magdalen College, Oxford and Dominik, Law at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

# GCSE Performance Enrichment Workshop

In February, 70 GCSE music students from Earls High School, Ridgewood High School and Redhill School joined GCSE and AS level students at OSH for a Performance Enrichment Workshop organised by Miss Downes, Head of Instrumental Studies. The aims were to enhance listening skills by hearing a performance from OSH Chamber Orchestra, and AS soloists, to discuss 'What Makes a Good Performance' in mixed school groups, and to perform to each other, marking each other's performances using GCSE criteria.

The morning was a great success and fun was had by all! Huge thanks to all OSH students who made our visitors feel very welcome, and were great ambassadors for the school.

# Pupils' Heart Screening Day



Over 100 students at Old Swinford Hospital took part in a cardiac screening programme to identify potential heart problems.

The programme was organised by the charity CRY Cardiac Risk in the Young, who raise awareness of undetected cardiac abnormalities in young, apparently healthy individuals. The School has promoted awareness and fundraising for CRY in memory of Zoë Teale, the 23-year-old daughter of Catering Manager Pete Teale. Since her death in 2009, Mr Teale has raised more than £51,000 to pay for young people in the West Midlands to be screened.

Mr Paul Goode, Director of Boarding said "Old Swinford Hospital is currently the only school in the West Midlands to offer annual screening. We became involved with CRY through a tragedy and although we cannot change the past, we can strive to change the future by encouraging our students to have this simple test."

# STUDENTS DEBATE WITH HESELTINE

A group of Year 12 politics students joined 300 members of the public for a fascinating debate at Birmingham University. The main topic of discussion was whether locals should vote 'yes' in the forthcoming referendum over an elected mayor for Birmingham. Speakers included Lords Michael Heseltine and Andrew Adonis. A strong case in favour was put forward by the panel, but there were some challenging questions and dissenting voices from the floor. Head of Politics, Mr Hannah, commented "This was a terrific opportunity for our students to engage in a genuine political issue which will be decided in the next few months." The students listened intently and were able to meet and chat with Lord Heseltine after the debate.



# Michaelmas Concert



Due to demand, the annual Michaelmas Concert took place over two nights.

Some of the largest groups ever to take part in our school concerts, well over 100 students in all, performed a range of items, including 'Suite from Titanic' by the Symphony Orchestra and 'Medley from Grease' by the Concertband. The Choir and Chamber Choir reprised items from the Founder's Day service including the beautiful 'Abendlied' by Rheinberger and the Chamber orchestra gave Mozart's evergreen 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik'. The concert also featured the Swingband who played a new arrangement entitled 'Yardbird Suite' by Charlie Parker.

# BOARDING AWARDS

The inaugural 'Boarding Awards' were presented by the Headmaster at the end of the Michaelmas Term.

They recognise those individuals who give that little bit extra within their own boarding community or the boarding community at large, together with above average contributions towards inter-house competitions, voluntary work and exceptional support for those within the house. Essentially, this is an award for those who have acted as role models for other students.

The Junior Award is for years 7 to 11 and the Senior Award years 12 & 13.

A 'Boarder of the Year' award will also be presented at Prizegiving.

| | |
|---|---|
| Baxter | **Charlie Simmonds, Max Stelling** |
| Dudley | **Raj Singh, Will Harris** |
| Foley | **James Westwood, Oliver Baldi-Turner** |
| Foster | **Dan Brown, Jason Chair** |
| Maybury | **Tom Wood, Charles Sterne** |
| Potter | **Jack Phillips, Eri-ife Williams** |
| Witley | **Jack Barr, Cass Brooks** |
| Prospect | **Quino Ros Arroyo** |

# APPOINTMENT OF NEW FEOFFEE



"I am delighted with the appointment of Councillor Colin Wilson to the Feoffees, he has had a long association with the School as a former parent and husband of an ex member of our music staff - Mrs Helen Wilson, who taught piano for many years", said Headmaster Peter Jones. "His knowledge, understanding, genuine affection and enthusiasm for Old Swinford Hospital will be a real asset".

# Careers & Higher Education Convention 2012




Students from Year 9 and above, and their parents, were invited to attend the annual Careers and Higher Education Convention in February. Over 60 exhibitors, representing universities, industries and professions including medicine, law, hospitality and the armed forces, were on hand to offer advice and guidance on career options.

Some tremendous feedback was received including: 'Excellent' Wendy Langmead (Girton College Cambridge); 'A high calibre of student' Capt Chris Stevens (Royal Navy/Royal Marines); 'It put into perspective what I could do at University and helped me to determine my goals.' Will Terry (Year 11).

# Rise Above – Top Band

The 2012 Battle of the Bands was a tremendous success, both with the performers and the lively, appreciative audience. Five bands comprising students from years 10 to 13 performed 20 minute sets, and were judged on their choice of music, technical skill in performance and their ability to communicate with and excite the audience.



In a very close result, 'Rise Above' featuring Charlie Turner, Alex Wooldridge (guitar and vocals), Evan Rogers (bass guitar) and Kevin Cooray (drums) were declared the winners by two music industry experts and received book vouchers, certificates and a plaque.

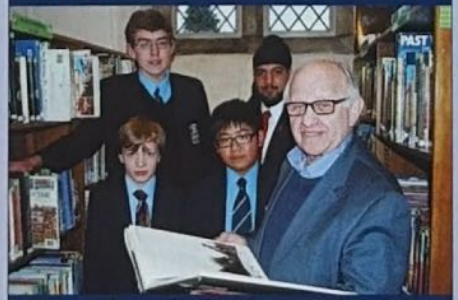
Many thanks to guitar teacher Mr Westwood for inspiring and organising the event, Nick Holmes for the lighting and Stourbridge Music Centre who kindly sponsored the event.

# "Hitler on Trial"



In February, 62 Year 11 historians attended a GCSE Examination Conference and a thought-provoking play "Hitler on Trial", which imagines what would have happened if Hitler had survived the Second World War. Their impeccable behaviour and conduct was most impressive.

# HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR



Picture shows: Mr Zigi Shipper with students Robert Sargeant, Johnny Chan, Joe Abbott and Dev Surae during a visit to Old Swinford Hospital.

82 year old Zigi Shipper shared his moving story about life during the World War Two Holocaust with an audience of over 200, including A Level students, at the School in January.

The lecture was part of a visit organised through the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET). During the day, the HET gave various workshops to other year groups in the School, exploring, analyzing and debating issues relating to the Holocaust.

Year 13 student Adut Ayik said "It's of imperative importance to honour the memory of the victims and utilise the lessons taught by the survivors. If Zigi Shipper has taught us anything, it is to avoid complaining about trivial matters, cherish our loved ones and enjoy life."

Headmaster Peter Jones said: "It was a privilege for us to welcome Zigi Shipper to our School and his testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced. We hope that our students will learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

# Third Time Lucky and First Final



It was third time lucky for the OSH U18 team in the semi-finals of the Daily Mail RBS Schools' Cup. The 20-3 score against King's School Worcester secured their first ever place in the final of this prestigious competition.
The boys were ready for the challenge of King's, focused and confident. They started the game the stronger of the two sides, but it was in attack that OSH looked the most devastating, creating two early chances. It didn't take long to breach the King's defence and Max Stelling took full advantage, bursting through a gap, opening the scoring 5-0.
King's were not going to allow OSH to run away with the tie and tried to hit back immediately. They looked to play a more expansive game and just as they did, Ese Attah, who was devastating throughout, charged through to intercept and run in under the posts from 60 metres. Max Stelling converted, to make the score 12-0. With converted penalties from both sides, the scores were 15-3 at half time.
OSH started the second half the brighter of the two sides and the pack worked tirelessly not giving an inch in defence and attacking with pace and power. Midway through the second half, the King's backline was split again - Max Stelling charged through to score the final try of the game.
Strong defensive performances from Jonny Mockett and Will Harris, along with important lineout defence from Joe Dancer, ensured that OSH progressed through to the final and at the full time whistle, the players and crowd were ecstatic.
The level of support on this historic day from parents, staff, pupils (both past and present) was outstanding and the team look forward to everyone cheering them on when they face Dulwich College in their first Daily Mail Cup final at Twickenham on 4th April.

# SUPER SIX

Six talented sports students are celebrating after being selected for their country.

Head of School, Edward Taylor, who has already played for the England U19 Rugby team has now been selected along with Max Stelling for the U18 squad.



Joe Wrafter and Josh Feek have been selected for the U16 England Squad, after representing the Midlands U16 XV.

Fencer Amy Radford represented the Great Britain Epee Senior Team at a Grand Prix fixture in Qatar. She recently travelled to Jersey to represent England at the Junior Commonwealth Championships and came second in the individual event and picked up gold in the team event.

Birchfield Harriers' runner Chloe Richardson represented England at the Lotto Cross Country Cup in Belgium. Chloe came fourth and was the highest ranked English competitor.

Headmaster Peter Jones said "These students are dedicated to their sport and have proven what hard work and talent can achieve. In rugby, this is the first time the School has produced four caps for England in one season."

# OSH Open Shooting Competition

A very successful and enjoyable competition was held in January under the new management of Mr P Paternotte who, together with the Hereford & Worcester Shooting Ground, managed to set up an eight stand shoot, including a tricky rotating trap.
The best shot of the day, went to Mr N Poyner, who had a score of 47 out of 50; with his team, The Woodpeckers, coming first for the day. A new trophy, the 'Wooden Spoon' award for the unluckiest participant went to Adam De-Vaal (Yr 8) whose first shooting efforts were not totally in vain, as he now has a free cap. Alistair Evans (Yr 12) was the top student.

# Basketball

Once again Mr Barrie Mann turned out three formidable teams and proved that "It's Not the Hype it's the Hoop!"
The U14 team recently won the Dudley School League defeating eight other schools.
They also did well in the Handicap Cup, beating Leasowes 80-79 with the last shot of the match (on the buzzer), despite starting the game 60-0 down!



Both the senior team and the U16 team only lost one game in their leagues.

# Cyclist Hannah Represents Great Britain



Year 13 student Hannah Payton is well on the way to realising her ambition to ride for Great Britain in the Cyclo-Cross World Championships in 2013.
In November and December she rode for the GB Elite Women's team at World Cup events in Belgium, finishing 39th and 23rd respectively. She then defended her National title in January and became British Champion 2012. Hannah also proved she is not only the best on a single day, but as a continuous performer by taking the National Series crown for the ladies competition.
Hannah now receives sponsorship from the Kinesis Morvelo Project and Asda.