



SUMMER 2018 ISSUE 17

Et Cetera

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

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Cover shot: Carnegie Music Hall
Cover wrap: Alpha Magazine

HEAD'S INTRODUCTION

My most recent introductions to *Et Cetera* have been penned (yes, penned, because that is how they start: yes I know everyone else word processes – what happened to the verb type?) well in advance, but today I find myself penning this one at the eleventh hour – such are the ardours of the late summer term. The school is sixty this coming September and I have been perusing some copies of its equivalent of *Et Cetera*, a magazine called *Alpha*. We are wrapping *Et Cetera* in a cover from 1960 as a nod to the past. What is utterly fascinating is how the world of schools has changed and yet not changed at all. From 1958 and through the early 1960s appears to have been a most illustrious period for the school and certainly an 'old' world, before the 60s really 'got going'. I have chosen some extracts from *Alpha* to try and capture the past and they appear as a centre-fold in *Et Cetera*. As the twenty first century zooms on I think it ever important for students to have a sense and knowledge of the past, for how else can they put their own experiences into perspective, appreciate their good fortune or bemoan how they have missed out on what might have been better about the past? Context is all and so important for making a success of matters. So, I hope that the extracts amuse and interest you. Odd now to think that in 1958 everyone handwrote and computers were a futuristic dream. The summer term has brought, as ever preparing for examinations, a humbling array of diligent and industrious students here till beyond 6pm and filling our learning spaces on Saturdays and throughout May half term week. It is to be hoped that their commitment is fully rewarded. The June weather, typically hot, has not at all diminished students' endeavours or their ready response to our programme of visitors from other schools. Like their teachers fresh with ideas to inspire and enthuse, they have left our visitors deeply impressed by the creativity of teaching that they have witnessed. To mark the school's sixtieth, Mr Chappell has embarked on a major renovation and restoration of Thorpe Lodge. When the school was first built all the other lodges were demolished - it survived. Over the next year we will see Thorpe Lodge beautifully restored as yet another stunning space. It is always good to see bits of the past restored. So, some summer respite awaits us offering its opportunity for reflection, for celebration of students' results and for planning how to make 2018/19, the school's sixtieth year, shine very brightly.



CARNEGIE HALL | NEW YORK

There may be over two hundred people in the room, but you are certain he is looking at you. The swish of his hands, the thunder of his look and the flash of his displeasure all indicate your inflection was imperfect, your diphthong not pronounced, your vowel sound wayward. You had thought the fact you had learned the notes so well meant that you were home and dry. But, these are expectations like none other. Even the very strength of your intake of breath is being listened to attentively. If you waver on that last note, if you drift just a little below (or above) the centre of the pitch, it will be noticed, it will be challenged. Here there is no safety in numbers: however impressive the carnival of voices around you, there is a remarkable professional precision. In the quieter passages, your capacity to upset the finely balanced equilibrium is perilous. This was the inimitable standard, the intensity of the discipline of our choir's tour to New York. In the process of our 12 hours of rehearsal, we sampled the exquisite expertise of the King's Singers for ourselves and luxuriated in the pleasures of their more-or-less unparalleled skill. In addition to the

musicianship, we were treated to some very special music. We greatly enjoyed the music arranged and composed by our talented conductor, Bob Chilcott. 'High Flight', a moving and deeply spiritual prayer, composed a decade before for the King's Singers 40th anniversary, was contrasted beautifully by his 'En La Macarenita', a jubilant and light hearted Spanish dance. Each delicious complements to Nico Muhly's rich and beautiful four-movement work, 'To Stand In This House'. Recorded by King's College, Cambridge earlier this year (and released on 1st May 2018), this is an opus of tremendous depth that reaches to the very soul. Its musical language, its willingness to use irregular rhythm, to push tonal boundaries and to be at once playful and reverent, comforting and haunting, amusing and intellectually provocative gives it a palette of enormous breadth. To have the wonderful privilege to workshop the music with the composer himself was a further thrill to add to all of the others.

MR NICHOLAS ROBSON
ASSOCIATE HEAD

ELLEN'S STARDUST DINER

I had looked forward to this. 'Ellen's Stardust Diner', tucked away in the bottom of an insanely busy itinerary, it was seemingly insignificant, a decent, rounded meal before we jetted off back to Blighty. That was, until I looked it up. Yes, I looked up every restaurant on the itinerary, and in my panicked excitement Ellen's Stardust Diner, which promised singing waiters, bright lights and a whole array of wonderfully greasy, innutritious, sugary food for us to lay our hands on, seemed a bomb of colour, lights and adventure. Certainly something to count on to stir the spirits.

Although at first somewhat underwhelming, with its slightly sad looking sign awkwardly sticking out like a lanky teenager, its inside fulfilled all its mad, crazy and strange promises more than several times over. Mr Castle certainly had a taste of it. A pretty blonde singing waitress decided for one song that she would target him, and successfully embarrassed him as she knelt, swerved and danced around him while singing with an exhilaratingly powerful voice, all whipping out their phones and filming him as his face progressed from pale, to rosy pink, to rich tomato red as 'Mollie' became more and more outrageous, suddenly grabbing and shaking him at various intervals. Unfortunately, nothing quite on the Mr Castle scale happened to anybody else, although one short fellow made a point of waving his hands a bit too vigorously in Izzy Kraft's face. This was but a taste of the delicious wackiness of this place. The waiting staff strutted up and down on this catwalk between chairs, dancing, performing and singing their hearts out to all sorts, from old classics to a funky one about Voldemort. Their music seemed to hang in the air as they shone with wit and personality, so uncontainable that they had to shake unwitting guests and spread their arms out with fists clenched with emotion, all as they served us burgers and fries. Every hour or so, they explained to us their need for funds for dance and singing lessons, so that they had the best chance to get to Broadway, jokingly telling us to 'take out what we need and throw our wallets in', and came round with a bucket, asking for money. Indeed many people did give a dollar or two; I spied flashes of green notes and shiny copper coins as they came around with friendly smiles and suitably sad eyes. At least there was something. In the meanwhile, we had been deciding exactly what kind

of burger, pizza or hotdog we were going to have. Having sheepishly run out of money the previous evening (you're never sure how much you might pay in America; the price listed is never the price with tax, tip, rent, cleaning cost, dragon maintenance or some other excuse to add 10 dollars), I ordered the cheapest substantial meal I could get. A sandwich called 'the Duke', which was filled with some chicken, a drizzle of hot sauce and some lettuce and tomato, a filling, decent, relatively cheap meal at \$18.85 (this was New York).

Or so it seemed.

What I actually got looked like it had been fished out of some volcano and dumped on my plate. It was the second son of Gargantua, a mighty thing that consisted of a slab of fried, breaded chicken in what was very obviously a burger bun, and very little lettuce or tomato, which did not look nearly as fresh as so ardently promised. On the side, where a small side of 'fries' should have been, was an enormous pile of potato waffles, waiting to be dipped in a paper pot filled to the brim with hot sauce. This couldn't be mine. It couldn't. How could I have ordered this monster into being? There was one thing for it. I put my hand up. "Hello Madam," I whimpered as I smiled timidly at the friendly waitress leaning over me, "I ordered a sandwich called 'The Duke'. Is this...a sandwich?" Her eyebrows knotted for a moment in confusion. I gulped.

"Yeah" she said honestly, "That's a sandwich." She edged away, mumbling something under her breath. I groaned. I should have guessed from its ominous title and price what I was to receive. So, little by little, I managed to overcome the beast. I have never been fuller, but the worst was yet to come. It turned out that my 'sandwich' cost me around \$27, with tax and a 15% tip, which left me once again with empty pockets and dazed eyes. Staggering out bursting with potato waffles and no money, my friends carrying half their meals with them because they couldn't finish it, the colour, the powerful voices and fantastic songs, the atmosphere, the memorabilia, the lights still dancing in my head, I think you can see what my last impressions of the US were.

America is awesome.

Written by Elenor Robins | Year 10

A VIRTUOSITY OF VIOLINS

Music that stirs the soul, that nurtures our being, that sustains our spirits. That has been the keynote of the term. Just as football teams relish the challenge of playing away, but feel more comfortable, at ease and in control at home, the Katharine Kent Concert was a joyful celebration of musical excellence, generously and enthusiastically supported by all the fervour of a home crowd. However special the Carnegie Hall (and it was an event of a lifetime for many of our singers) there is something of an altogether different magical quality in performing alongside 80 fellow school musicians for an eager and receptive home audience. And this was our finest school concert on record, yet another rise in standards from last year's similarly superb event. Boasting six solo singers, 61 choral contributors, 32 instrumental enthusiasts, amongst whom 7 were soloists, this was our largest festival of musical talent and the extension of quantity was matched by some exquisite quality. The Rumneys dominated the string performances. Esther (Year 7) and Susannah (Year 10) treating us to a sensuous rendition of Shostakovich's haunting and moving masterpiece Prelude for two violins, whilst Gabriel's (Year 13) virtuosic vivacity in Bloch's Nigun replete with impressive double stopping and swift switches between positions was delivered with dexterous dignity and piercing passion. Amongst the solo singers, Luca Settecasi showed his capacity for drama and a masterful manipulation of mood

particularly in his bottom register, Belinda Vojvoda wowed all with her extraordinary vocal control, Scarlett Dredge-Fenwick stunned the audience with her intense and yet effortless rendition of Dreams (Fleetwood Mac) and Isabella Weinstein reminded us of her prodigious talents as a singer and songwriter, with her Holland Park premier of Temporary (the latter two both available to hear on the school website). This number was also another premier in featuring Mr David Chappell's first foray into joining students and sharing his skills on guitar and backing vocals. But it was Yola Khodja's performance of Summertime that was show-stopping solo of the evening, which shook the audience into a prolonged silence before its rapturous applause. Her final hurrah on the Holland Park stage, Yola's exceptional delivery might have been described as her swansong were it not for its unfettered flair and its radical and imaginative improvisation. The ensembles were also on top form. The choir, many of whom were fresh from New York, matched the orchestra in providing music from across the centuries (Palestrina, Barnum, Robson / Britten, Elgar, John Williams) while sibling ensembles, The Sixth Form Choir, The Year 7 Choir, The Junior Orchestra, were a testament to the depth of talent the school boasts.

MR NICHOLAS ROBSON
ASSOCIATE HEAD





IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF

Henry Tanworth Wells was born in London on 14th December 1828 and lived, with his parents, on Percy Street, St. Pancras until 1854. He was a miniature and portrait painter, and a member of the Pre-Raphaelite circle. His most widely known painting is *Victoria Regina*, showing the young Queen Victoria receiving the news of her accession to the throne. Tanworth Wells acquired Thorpe Lodge in 1875 and lived there until his death in January 1903 (he died in the house). In 1897 he added a studio to the west side of the house, new entrance halls and new service areas (now demolished).

The alterations were the last work of John Loughborough Pearson, who received the RIBA Gold Medal and was the architect and Surveyor of the Fabric at Westminster Abbey, where he now rests. The Lodge was designed by John Tasker and is the sole survivor in a series of seven pavilion houses built from 1808-1817; it is amongst the earliest structures in the Holland Park area. Today it is Grade II listed. Having stood alongside the school since 1958, it has been largely untouched and in a state of disrepair. Undeterred by the challenge the restoration presents, we began work early in the



HENRY TANWORTH WELLS RA

summer term beginning with a remodelling of the original service area to create a new entrance reception for the school. This work is scheduled for completion by the end of the summer holiday. The more substantial work is our own studio extension (illustrated above by Darc Studios). In the footsteps of Tanworth Wells, we are extending his studio into a new 88m² art space with exposed glue-laminated timber sections. The new area will act as both a work space and a gallery space for our aspiring young artists. Designed by Atomik Architecture, large sash screens in this extension can be

lowered to create painting surfaces of up to 7m x 5m in size. This project will transform the empty building into an asset central to the school and a further exceptional learning space for students. We anticipate the work completing in late spring 2019 and hope the school's annual summer A level Art show will be the first exhibition to grace the enhancement to Tanworth's original vision for the house.

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD



AN AMAZONIAN CHALLENGE

As the majority of our students delight in a well-deserved period of respite this summer, myself, Mr Belkacemi, and a cluster of 28 intrepid explorers, ranging in age from 14-18, will be sacrificing our break, donning wide-brimmed hats, 75 litre backpacks and several bottles' worth of insect repellent and setting out across the Atlantic Ocean to Ecuador for an adventure of a lifetime. Students will be traversing the altitudinous terrain of the Andes, enduring the humidity of the Amazon and navigating the oceans surrounding the Galapagos Islands. Provided with a designated budget and minimal guidance, students will take absolute control of the itinerary, food and accommodation and embark upon a challenge to improve the provision and environment of two schools, one on the coast of Ecuador and the other in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. Students will be required

to delegate responsibilities and manage their provisions over a sixteen day period; they will need to learn to work as a team and demonstrate leadership qualities. Alongside their community work students will also be camping in the rainforest, bartering in Quito, zip wiring through the Amazon and taking a boat trip around Isla de la Plata to observe the wildlife of the Galapagos Islands. Students will be privy to a host of new experiences, new foods and new levels of responsibility and accountability in order to develop their grit, determination and resilience. At the end of the adventure, I am very much hoping students have left enough money in the budget for an evening out of the tent and in the luxury of a hotel before the return journey to Notting Hill.

MS FAYE MULHOLLAND
DEPUTY HEAD



EDITORIAL

THIS year *Alpha* appears in the autumn term; our intention is to include the important events of the summer and early autumn while they are still current. The production of *Alpha* at this time of year has meant that much recent history must be crammed into this particular issue but of course the future issues, which will appear at this time, will have less ground to cover.

Our saddest duty is to report certain losses. The deaths of Mrs. E. Beech, Head of the Remedial Department, and Dr. E. Beer, who taught English as a foreign language, have been mourned by their many pupils and friends, while in Lord Nathan the school as a whole has lost an able, sincere and interested friend. On behalf of the school we offer our sympathies to the relatives of Mrs. Beech and Doctor Beer and to Lady Nathan.

Also on behalf of the members of Hunter House and of the whole school we offer our condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Wright on the tragic loss of their son, Gerald.

Finally, a word to all our readers in the school. Remember that *Alpha* is your magazine. Its success depends on your interest and your enthusiasm.

L.S.J.

P.R.F.

J.D.I.H.L.-K.

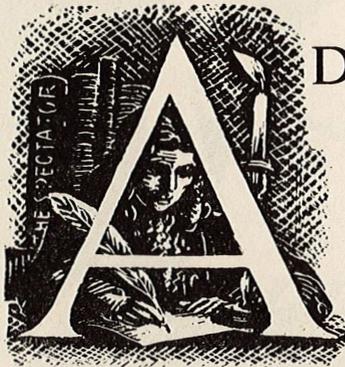




SPEECH DAY

The Second Annual Speech Day was held on Thursday 27th October at 7.30 p.m. Lady Nathan, Chairman of the Governors, introduced the Headmaster. Mr. Allen Clarke gave an interesting report on the year's work. Among the many points mentioned were the Players' production of "Murder in the Cathedral" and "A Roof of Cats," the Photographic Society exhibits at the Schoolboys Exhibition, the popularity of school journeys and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. On the more academic side 80 R.S.A. and 118 G.C.E. certificates had been gained, some by pupils in their fourth year. A small group had been the first from the school to take the Advanced level and of these two were now studying at London University and one would soon be going up to Cambridge.

Lord Listowel, sometime Governor of Ghana, then spoke. He opened with a spontaneous tribute to the singing of the choir, under Miss Reynell, "What a delight," he said "to hear Bach rather than Gilbert and Sullivan," and to have had the satisfaction of attempting the difficult. The theme of his speech was the importance of good citizenship rather than academic success. He was delighted to hear that some seventy per cent of the fifteen year olds were staying on voluntarily but he urged them not to look down on those who left. What mattered was what sort of citizens they became.



ADDISON

Autumn Term, 1960, saw the arrival of our new house badge, based on a detail from Joseph Addison's own crest and obtained through the research of Janet Theodore. Congratulations on the design and style of the badge have poured in from all quarters, and we thank Set A2 and Mrs. Cochran for the part they played in starting the scheme. Many of our senior pupils were in the first rush to buy—a most re-

freshing occurrence as seniors tend to fight shy of school emblems—and only a few badges remain of our first consignment.

Such a distinguished and well-made badge is not without expense, and the House had to find part of the cost of the original die. The sale of biscuits was introduced to meet this cost and generally make the House self-supporting financially. Thanks to Malcolm Noble, Harold Jacobs, Martin Vitera, Norman Miles, Tom Ireland and Paul Welch who have given up their morning breaks and lunch times to pack, sell and unwrap the biscuits, we were able to buy the badges outright and have established such good trade relations with pupils and meals' service staff alike that we shall be able to give, with the profits, free admission to Addisonians on the occasion of their annual parties.



SPEECH DAY

The third annual Speech Day was held on the 19th October, 1961. After a speech of welcome by the Head Boy, Lady Nathan, Chairman of the Governors, introduced some of the Governors and Members of the L.C.C. who were present. She said she did not want to usurp the privileges of the Headmaster by reporting on the past year or those of the principal speaker by comments of a general nature, but felt that she must draw attention to the fact that Holland Park was still a new school. There were the pleasures of a good year's work and interest and enthusiasm in the departments, but for a school to develop a personality and rise to its full potentiality must take time.

The Headmaster, Mr. Allen Clarke, began by saying that his third report could give only a glimpse of the expansion of the school. After opening with the charitable and other activities of the eight Houses, he went on to deal with the good use made of the swimming pool and gymnasium in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. There were a host of other activities among which the Senior School Society was outstanding in its management by sixth-formers and its distinguished list of speakers, of whom Lady Norman had been the first this year. The school Players, who were then preparing for their Christmas production of "Hassan", were perhaps the finest example of a truly co-operative endeavour, for their earlier "Christopher Columbus" had involved over a hundred and twenty students and members of staff. Journeys and camps had been popular and successful. There had been two stays at Marchant's Hill, besides History Society expeditions to Kent, parties to Paris, Versailles and the Alps, journeys to Italy and even visits to Moscow and Leningrad. On the academic side there had been 180 G.C.E. 'O' Level passes (last year there had been 118), and of these 20 had been gained by pupils in their fourth year. The Advanced Level results had been equally satisfying, particularly in mathematics. These, like the many societies, were a tribute to devoted colleagues who had worked long hours under high pressure. The Headmaster then concluded by introducing the principal speaker, a near neighbour of the school, Mrs. Mary Stocks, LL.D.

Dr. Stocks began by referring to Luther's university days, when one professor was conspicuous by his respectful treatment of undergraduates. His reason was that he was never sure whether he was addressing a future cardinal, Chief Minister of State or Duke. In the same way, Mrs. Stocks continued, she might be facing a future Prime Minister or spaceman. Her only certainty was that she was not addressing a future King of England, though she might indeed be talking to a future Queen. It would be unwise, however, for the girls to count on that.

Many of those present had already set out on their vocational training, although for the girls there was the uncertainty of marriage, which might bring them into a totally different sphere, and there was a tremendous range of subjects open. Nevertheless, having been introduced as an educational authority, she would turn to questions of general education.



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UNTIL THE END OF THE LINE

Until the End of the Line is an anthology of new writing by our First Story students who took part in creative writing workshops led by writer-in-residence Leo Benedictus. First Story believes there is dignity and power in every person's story and in their book you will find our students expressing themselves in their own unique voices. The following is an extract from **Mrs Clermont** written by Yara Niroukh.

'I cannot wait any longer.'

An unintelligible scribble concluded her calligraphy, and she frantically threw her pen down on the unsullied table.

Mrs Clermont was never in such a hurried state. She was a woman of elegance, known for her seemingly innate poise and grace. Her tongue was sharp and her tone never wavered - she was always clear in what she

wanted, without fail. Yet as she sat under the clouds concealing the crystal blue of the ether above her, the wait was starting to become unbearable.

Just as she was about to rise from her school, her svelte frame froze. Her hands shook, and her narrowing throat obstructed words she tried to enunciate in vain. Shaken gasps spilled from her bow-like lips, and the last thing she ever felt was the sudden tightness around her neck; suffocating, like the constant thoughts that consumed her. Her jaw fell open, head lolling back, and the azure orbs of her eyes flashed with stoicism.

He waited for a minute, as if to make sure she was dead, and looked over her with contempt in his eyes and vengeance in his veins; and he left the garden without a trace, except for the devilish satisfaction that leaked from his gloved fingertips.



Cherry Parfitt, 3D2, (Winner of Pottery Prize)

Deborah Standish, 3C2

PERFECT TENSE 2018

The 18th 'Perfect Tense' was the warmest ever. The school's students, friends, governors, parents, staff gathered to share a glass and to delight in the achievements of the year completed. Just as the elderflower cordial softened the bite of the lime, this was an evening to celebrate the sweetness of success. The diversity of school, its parental community, its professional contacts, its living history of former students and staff, met together on this glorious July evening, making connections and drawing together the shared experience of being a part of Holland Park. The sun was ablaze, and before long the amassed made their way into the cool school hall. Dressed with the botany of

Provence, the perfumed air and the flowering foliage brought a very special note to this black-tie event. We were regaled by music and footage from the school's first full decade (the 1960s) and a taste of some of the school's early publications. In many ways, of course, this was an evening of the retrospective. Joined by Colin Hall's primary school teacher, Janet Hutchinson, before looking over the year, we looked over the decade that had shaped the school. It was then time to boast of our current students and Colin Hall entertained us all with portraits and portrayals of the individuals who make the school so special. Students, whose feats of courage in the face of challenge and strife, gave

inspiration to all; teachers who have given decades to the school; friends who have helped shaped our values; music from talented individual performers – amongst them the very talented singers Belinda Vojvoda and Scarlett Dredge Fenwick and the piano virtuoso-in-the-making Laura Wharton, and, of course, the school choir. We were joined by a large number of the school's alumni, amongst whom Omar Sabbagh – who has just secured his degree in Law from the University of Cambridge – Violet Smart (Theology, Oxford), Rosie Lloyd-Reed (Philosophy, King's College, University of London) and Amelia Edgell-Cole (shortly to graduate in English, University of Bristol), came to give prizes: beautiful wooden bowls, hand turned in Norfolk by Tim Plunkett, and antique silver spoons for those who were new to Perfect Tense. It was an evening of treats that gave ear to those who are

frequently not heard: shyness, anxiety, humility and deference were all part of the celebration, in addition to those who shine brightly with outward charm and charismatic élan. Speaking of élan, the evening was capped off with an eloquent tribute to Colin Hall's part in children's success, given by the chair of governors, Anne-Marie Carrie. What a joy to celebrate the multi-layered tapestry that weaves that which is wonderful so richly into the school's fabric. There are few moments to take pause, to toast triumph, to smell the fragrance of fortitude, fervour and fulfilment and this was an evening to enjoy all such things and to do so with class and polish and the conviction that young people deserve such celebration.

MR NICHOLAS ROBSON
ASSOCIATE HEAD





THE WALL COMES TUMBLING DOWN

It might not have been 96 miles long, nor was it made from concrete interspersed with guard towers and anti-vehicle trenches (the 'death strip') but Mr Orr's cardboard equivalent, cutting his classroom in half, was sufficient to drive home some hard historical facts. From August 1961 to November 1989 the Berlin Wall physically and ideologically divided East from West. Students in Year 9 found themselves on entry to the classroom divided - half to the communist Soviet bloc and half to the western democratic, capitalist bloc. Astride his 'cardboard curtain', Mr Orr regaled historic facts, which raised considered and inquisitive questions from the students; 'was the wall really built overnight?'; 'why was it a symbol

of the Cold War?'; 'why was the west side covered in graffiti and the east side not?'; 'why did the wall show the communists to be tyrannical?'; 'why did Margaret Thatcher fear that a unified Germany would be a threat to European security?'. Students played their parts well, adopting the imagined viewpoints of their respective 'side', though there appeared throughout the lesson a growing sense of dissatisfaction from the east as they considered the 'western' freedoms of their counterparts. Late into the lesson there was a very clear defection, that appeared largely unchallenged. History has certainly moved on....

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD

SONG ACADEMY

EXPRE YOURS

WINNER!
YOUNG SONGWRITER 2018

ICMP

SOUNDCLOUD

PRS for Music

Focusrite

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

#SAY

THE YOUNG SONGWRITER

Isabella Weinstein, Year 10, was recently announced as the winner of the 13-18 year category in the Young Songwriter competition 2018, with her song 'Bad Boy'. Judges commented "I like the tension & mood this song creates", "Expressive, courageous, great harmonies", "Sophisticated & mature song". You can find her winning song Bad Boy (there will be a more professional video soon) and a few other songs on SoundCloud or YouTube. As the winner, Isabella will attend a professional recording session, and a photo and video shoot. Izzy has said "I never thought that I would be chosen as a finalist, winning was only a dream. It has been an amazing confidence boost. To know that judges, as fine as those on the panel, feel that my music is worthy

of such a prestigious award is mind blowing!" Bad Boy was picked out of almost 500 entries in the eighth annual song writing challenge, which was judged by music industry experts including singer songwriters Tom Odell, Imelda May and Guy Chambers among others who have worked with Adele, Sam Smith, Pink and more. This year's competition attracted high quality entries from cities across the world, from London, Dublin, Cairo, Helsinki and Johannesburg, to Nashville, New York, Reykjavik, Zagreb and Melbourne.

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD



AND SO TO GLORIOUS ENDINGS

Flash cards and mind maps are now filed away safely, past examination papers are consigned to the cupboards and the most painstakingly detailed workbooks have been gifted to teachers for future reference; for Year 11 and Year 13 students the 2018 examination season has officially come to an end. To celebrate students' diligence, toil and achievement, Year 11 students attended their Ball at The Cumberland Hotel in central London. Nostalgia interlaced with anticipation for the future as students reflected on their five years in school and looked ahead to their time beyond. Around the corner in Chelsea, looking dashing and elegantly attired, Year 13 leavers dined with their teachers at Beaufort House to mark, in most instances, the end of a seven year journey with Holland Park. To ruminate on their achievements individually or collectively would fill *Et Cetera* many times over but the contributions to music and scholarship made by many individuals in this year group has been profound. Both occasions marked the end of an era with the school for students and staff alike. We wish all students who are leaving us this year the best of luck as they await their results and a joyful and successful future as Holland Park alumni.

MS FAYE MULHOLLAND
DEPUTY HEAD

Frances Hirst, Assistant Headteacher, is departing Holland Park after eighteen years of dedicated service, to relocate to the west country. We have enjoyed a wonderful last term with her and I am hugely grateful to her for her warm and invaluable support over the years. In her swansong assembly she told the story of her eighteen years in the form of a fairy tale which was both witty and poignant. She described the school as it was back in 2000, with nearly that many broken windows strewn across a graffiti infested building. 'Not much in those days was about children - it was all about the adults', she said. She, along with a few others, was brave enough to step into the promise of a different school, one that was about children. Her longevity has been instrumental in the creation of all that Holland Park is today. Like all London schools, we suffer from young teachers departing the capital but we rarely lose the long timers doing likewise. I know how many parents have valued Frances' care and diligent listening skills. We shall do our best in September to offer the same service and build upon her excellent calming and empowering work.

MR COLIN HALL
HEAD

IN CONSTABLE COUNTRY

On Friday 4th May twenty-four students from Year 7-9 boarded a bus and headed to Flatford Mill in Suffolk for a weekend of intensive mathematics. The students were selected from our Gifted and Talented Programme which has been led by Ms Mankowitz and Ms Moir every Friday after school since September. The visit was generously funded by the HPS Trust, whose support has made this annual event possible for the past six years. Students undertook a ten hour programme called Illuminate Maths.

AND FROM CAMBRIDGE



...good news (as expected!), two of our alumni have just graduated: Matilda Wickham (above), the History of Art, and Omar Sabbagh, Law. And other alumni graduation news, Violet Smart, Theology from Oxford and Rosie Lloyd Reed, Philosophy from UCL. All came to Perfect Tense to present awards.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Two of our PE colleagues have been working in partnership with Harrogate High School who are leaders in the field of physical education. This work is invaluable in assisting us and is but one example of the exchange of best practice. Speaking of sporting prowess, we are very proud of Oscar Williams' success in sailing. He has recently completed his RYA Seamanship Skills qualification and has been given the opportunity to join Bristol's Elite Racing Team. And our world of sport has many teachers contributing to it; Ms Thomson's (English) Friday after school tennis has been very popular.

ALL FOR A SILVER AWARD

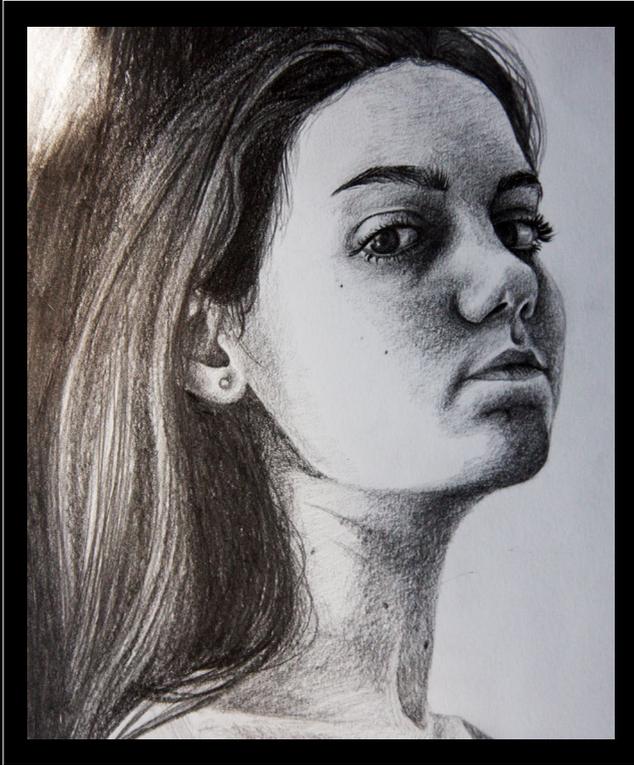
In glorious sunshine, among rolling Welsh hills, thirty Year 11 students were left (almost) alone to navigate their way through the Brecon Beacons. Walking a daily average of 15km, in the blistering heat of June, they travelled to an altitude of 600m. In pursuit of their silver Duke of Edinburgh award they put their exemplary navigational skills to the test. With the temperature reaching above 30 degrees on the final day, all students successfully passed their assessment and gained their award. We look forward to many of them returning for the extended challenge of Gold in September.

AND FROM THE SLADE

Pictured below a reminder of Sarah Bagheri's A level art work. Sarah has just completed her first year at this iconic and illustrious Art school to the great acclaim of her tutors. We look forward to continuing to chart her career.



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Maya Mortensen-Ramlill | Pencil on Paper (detail) | 2018