



## Another Year of Success

It would be possible to fill most of this edition with the achievements of our children this year. Such are their talents, ranging from the academic, through the sporting to the performing arts, that to try and mention everyone is impossible, so here are the highlights.

Grace was offered an academic scholarship to Abbot's Hill, but has chosen to join Berkhamsted and Imogen will be enhancing the sporting reputation of Queen Margaret's, York, as one of their sport scholars. Our Head Girl, Victoria, was offered a music exhibition to Berkhamsted, but will be joining her sister at St Mary's Ascot.

Our Head Boy, Max, was offered an academic scholarship to St Columba's, but has chosen to go to Berkhamsted, where he will be joined by Harry and Josh, who have not unsurprisingly won sports scholarships. Alec is joining St Columba's as an academic scholar and he will have company from Cameron, whose musical ability has also gained him a scholarship. Completing this list is Sam, who has turned down a musical scholarship at Haileybury in favour of pursuing his passion for musical theatre at Tring Arts. We wish all our scholars the very best for the future and hope that they will continue to progress in their chosen disciplines and reward the confidence that has been shown in them.

Our musicians have had a fantastic year,

both performing and in the various grade exams. This year we have five children who have gained Grade 5; Elise, Victoria, Imogen and Eve for singing, Eve also on the piano and Ben on the guitar. Sam also passed his Grade 6 for singing.

Our LAMDA children, all 110 of them, took and passed their exams, with 57 of them gaining a merit and 38 the top mark of a distinction. They are joined by a huge dancing troupe, who have taken ballet and theatre dance exams. Zac and Harry were awarded the Gold Star for street dance and Marley and

Max gained the Second Shield, also for street dance. Alexandra won a Gold Star in jazz dance and Evie was awarded 1st Shield in her jazz dance exam.

When one adds in all the achievements that have taken place out of school this year, with children competing at district, county and national level, it is a truly impressive array of talents.

As I said in the Upper School prize-giving, we are intensely proud of all our children's accomplishments and for those who are returning to us, we look forward to more of the same next year.

Mr Young



Mr Young with our Head Girl, Victoria and Head Boy, Max.



# What an Adventure!



Camping is such a good idea until it rains! And this year, during the PGL trip, it truly rained! It is a great credit to the Year 8 boys as they made the most of it and this did not prove detrimental to them having a fantastic time. They were very united and supportive of each other when faced with challenges which included abseiling, rock climbing, kayaking, raft building and numerous other activities.





## The Queen's 90th Birthday

As a school we celebrated the milestone 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. The ladies on the Westbrook Hay Association worked really hard behind the scenes to create a very festive and jolly atmosphere for the children at school. They decorated the dining room with bunting, flags and patriotic tablecloths and the children were served a fish and chips lunch followed by ice-cream. Each child was given a commemorative coin of the day and a cupcake, which Mrs Templeton-Steadman had baked. They could also have their photo taken with a life size picture of the Queen.

Lower School upped the festivities by coming to school dressed as royalty.

There were many kings, queens, princes and princesses. A parade was held on the hardcourts and they all took part in some ballroom dancing.

Later in the day a music concert was held on the mound which was bedecked with paper chains and bunting. The orchestra sounded wonderful and everyone sang beautifully.



# Trafford Allen Memorial

Very sadly, our former Headmaster and Governor, Trafford Allen, passed away in 2015 and so it was fitting that we should hold a Memorial Service in his honour and commemoration. Traff, as everyone knew him, was responsible for bringing our school to its current location. Previously Westbrook Hay had actually been Gadebridge Park School, situated on the banks of the River Gade. The school moved here, under Traff's and his wife, Audrey's leadership, in January 1963, during one of the worst winters on record. In those days there were only 65 boys in the school (and no girls!)

and all were full-time boarders. Traff retired as Head in 1983, becoming a Governor for another 24 years.

We held the Service on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May to a packed house in our new Performing Arts Centre, which itself replaces the old Assembly Hall that Traff had built and which served our school so well for so many years. The visitors were greeted by our prefects and taken over to the PAC, where on display in the foyer were many photos of Traff and Audrey both at Gadebridge Park and at Westbrook Hay. Not only were most of our Year 3 to 8 children and their parents present, but all Traff's immediate family attended, including

his children Patrick, William, Romy and Richard, together with our very own David Hill (Traff's nephew) and his family, and many of Traff's friends and former colleagues and pupils. These included Adrian and Monica Muggleton, Jane Fisher, and the Revd Matthew Lawson, a pupil of Westbrook Hay from 1976-1981, who kindly led the service for us.

David Hill gave the address and reminded us all of Traff and Audrey's immense teamwork and dedication, and that, among so many other things, we owed our very existence at Westbrook Hay to Traff and his foresight in 1963. The service itself included several of Traff's favourite hymns, including 'Firmly I Believe and Truly' and 'The King of Love My Shepherd Is', together with one of his favourite prayers, 'Nunc Dimittis'. Revd Matthew led the service with great dignity and pitched the prayers perfectly for adults and children alike. The School Choir sang Rutter's 'Clare Benediction' beautifully and the congregation responded with some wonderful singing of 'Hosanna, Hosanna!', 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' and 'Jerusalem', before finishing with the old version of the School Prayer and a rousing version of the old School Song, 'On the Banks of the Gade'. Our special guests were then invited to tea in the foyer followed by an excursion of the school and grounds. All who attended the afternoon were moved by the memories this occasion inspired; it was a lovely way to remember a lovely man.





# Lower School

## The Three 'R's'

At the end of the term Lower School performed 'The Litter Muncher' to an expectant audience of parents, grandparents and friends. This was the tale of a small, clean and beautiful village which relied on the services of a little machine, 'Mr and Mrs Litter Muncher', to keep it that way. What happened then when this little machine, expertly portrayed by Isabella and Noah, became too tired to carry on and went to sleep? Well, the villagers, acted by the Year 1 children, carried on dropping litter until they suddenly realised what a horrible mess their village had become. Only then did the Mayor, Evie, order them to get out their sweeping brushes and clean it up. The village once again was restored to its former beauty. The children had great fun practising and performing this show, especially the songs and the dances, which had been excellently choreographed by Miss Mackin and Mrs McHugh. Miss Taylor's expertise with sound and lighting effects was also a huge asset to the end result. I am sure that the audience went away feeling they had had a treat.

For the first time this year the performance was followed by the presentation of prizes by Mr Young and Governor, Mrs Heather Thornton. This was a great success and lovely to see the hard work and efforts of even the youngest children being rewarded more publicly. This was certainly a morning to remember for the Lower School.



# Lower School

## The Zoo

On Monday 25th April, Reception set out on a trip to Whipsnade Zoo to hunt for African animals. The trip began with a speedy trip through the lemurs' outdoor enclosure, as the children had eagerly spotted the lemurs hiding inside. The next stop was the giraffe enclosure. As they were being fed outside, the children managed to get quite close to

them and were in awe of how tall they were! After the giraffes, the children listened to an African savannah story told by Sadie. The children learnt that the waterhole is a popular place for the animals to congregate when there is water. The children were also able to examine real bones and teeth from a selection of African animals. After a quick lunch hiding from the rain, we were off again to see the sealions before going to see the elephants, rhinos, cheetahs, hippos, lions and meerkats! The children had a great day and were happily talking about all the fantastic animals they had seen on our journey home.



## Chiltern Open Air Museum

In May the Year 1 children visited The Chiltern Open Air Museum. We were lucky to have a fine and bright day. As well as looking at the old buildings, walking through the woodlands and seeing some newly born lambs, both classes took part in a workshop centred on the Iron Age House. Activities were based on how things would have been done during the Iron Age. Firstly, the children ground their own flour from seed and made some bread. They then made some butter. As well as this, they attempted to build a wattle fence to surround their vegetable patch and fashioned some small pots out of clay. They greatly enjoyed all these activities and learnt much about life in the past. We had a lovely day.





# Middle School

## Tring Museum

Year 2 enjoyed exploring the animal kingdom by looking at some of the 4000 specimens on display at the Natural History Museum in Tring. During the workshops the children had the opportunity to handle some of the specimens and thought carefully about how we group animals by closely observing similarities and differences.



## Frogmore Mill

This term the children in Year 2 visited Frogmore Mill as part of their topic on recycling. They were given a brief history of paper making and learnt why the mill was built in that particular location. They learnt that paper can be made from many different materials, not just trees. All the children had the opportunity to make their own sheet of recycled paper and complete a weaving activity. They finally went on a tour of the mill where they looked at some of the very old machinery and watched one in action making paper out of old denim jeans! A lovely trip.

## A Whizzpopping Day!

The Year 2 children visited the Roald Dahl Gallery at the Buckinghamshire Museum as part of their study of famous people from the past. They had a 'whizzpopping' morning of activities based on some of the author's most famous stories. They crawled along *Fantastic Mr Fox's* tunnel, investigated the minibeasts inside the *Giant Peach*, explored sound with *The BFG* and discovered some horrid things in the home of *The Twits*!! Finally they were given a dream to take home, so early to bed for Year 2!





# Middle School

## Pond Dipping

Year 2 had the opportunity to dress up as pond and woodland creatures to explore how animals are adapted to suit the environment in which they live. The children then looked at microhabitats in the woods to find out which mini-beasts lived in each habitat and why. Everyone enjoyed pond dipping, identifying the animals found and explaining how they were different to those found in the woods.





# Middle School

## Sloths and Agoutis

This term Year 3 have been working really hard on their Rainforest projects. To help prepare for this, we spent a brilliant day at the 'Living Rainforest' in Berkshire. We left school on the coach very excited, despite the wet weather. When we arrived, we had time to burn off some energy in the adventure playground followed by a tasty lunch. The children were divided into 3 groups and each group took it in turns to visit the Rainforest shop and buy a small memento to remember the day.



Next, we explored the very hot glasshouse, which has a temperature similar to that of the Rainforest. Inside the glasshouse, we focused on the different plant and animal adaptations. We admired the 'Swiss Cheese' plant, known by this name because of its holes, and the carnivorous Pitcher plant, which catches its prey using a sticky liquid in the bottom of each leaf pitcher. This year, the sloth even made an appearance along with the agouti, tortoises, armadillo and many other interesting animals of the Rainforest. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and everyone was feeling exhausted on the journey back to school. Back in the classroom, Year 3 have been making excellent use of everything they have learnt and have included this information in their cross-curricular projects.





# Middle School

## St John's Church

Year 3 visited St John's church in Boxmoor on Monday 9th May. We were welcomed by Carol Lewis and Father Ben, who gave an interesting talk about important features of the church, including the font, organ, altar, lectern, pulpit, choir stalls and pews. It was very informative and really useful in preparing the children for their summer Religious Studies exams. We also had the pleasure of listening to Father Ben play a medley of Disney tunes on the organ, and also to Srinikhil, who played beautifully.



## Gurdwara

Our visit to a Sikh gurdwara in Hitchin enabled the children in Year 4 to see first-hand how Sikhs worship and live. They were given a tour of the gurdwara and learnt how all people of all faiths are welcome in a gurdwara. Afterwards, they were invited to eat a delicious snack in the langar. The children learned about the origin of Sikhism, Sikh practices and beliefs and their philosophy of everyone being equal. They also saw how much Sikhs do for their community.



## Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the Year 4 teams who took part in the Aldwickbury Maths Challenge. After two hours of fast-paced mental maths and problem solving, Ben and Neel emerged in third place out of the 31 competing schools. Sam and Maddie also did very well, coming ninth in their division. Isaac was our excellent reserve on standby.



# Middle School

## Hatfield House

Year 4 enjoyed a lovely day at Hatfield House where they were taken back to 1543 when Henry VIII was married to Katherine Parr. After a tour of the gardens, the children met a Tudor musician who taught

them a traditional Renaissance folk song, so they could entertain Henry and put him in a good mood. They were then taken into the Great Hall where Henry himself related tales of his life and his longing for a son and heir. The children also met an armourer who gave a demonstration of the longbow, the most important weapon of the time. We then walked through the beautiful grounds to visit the oak tree under which Elizabeth sat,

the day she learned that she was to be Queen of England.

The children learnt a lot about Tudor history from their experience, although the best part of the visit was probably their time in the adventure playground!





# Upper School

## Cookery Evening

Many thanks to Chef Julie for letting us use her kitchen. We really enjoyed making healthy pizza from scratch using natural ingredients.

"It tastes just like restaurant pizza" said Evie in 6T. "Making our own pizza is great fun," agreed Imogen, Charlotte and Elise. The boys' pizzas were as good as the girls', but eaten before we got a chance to photograph them!

Thank you Mrs Sharp and Mrs Harris for running this activity.



## Booker Park Visit

On Friday 24th June, Year 8 were once again invited to visit Booker Park School, a primary special school in Aylesbury.

The school is organised into departments. There is a department which caters for Early Years pupils with a range of needs, and primary aged pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties, and pupils with low functioning autism and sensory processing difficulties. Another department caters for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 who have a range of learning difficulties from moderate to severe. Approximately a third of the pupils have an additional diagnosis of autism. Booker Park is fortunate to

have wonderful facilities, including a hydrotherapy pool, a soft play room, a library, a family room, an observational mirror room, and a training room.

The morning started with a brief explanation of the school and the children who attend it. Then we all went on a guided tour, meeting lots of children and seeing all the wonderful specialist equipment that is necessary to help the children maximise their potential. The most exciting part of the day was when our boys became classroom assistants for an hour, helping with reading, writing and break time and generally engaging with the children. We finished with a question and answer session.

Needless to say, the boys were full of their experience all the way back to school and for some time after that! It really is a chance to understand the lives of children less fortunate than themselves and appreciate their own lives as well. I am sure that the memory of visiting Booker Park will stay with them for years to come. From a personal point of view, I always find the visit extremely humbling; the children and the staff really are wonderful!





# Upper School

## Busy as Bees

The children were delighted when Diane Randall, our local beekeeper, came back again this year to tell us more about the fascinating life of bees. This year she focused on the important role of bees as pollinators. We learnt that overuse of pesticides and planting crops that are genetically modified to produce their own insecticide, to stop insects eating them, are also producing poison in their pollen that harms the bees. We have all heard someone describing him or herself by saying they're 'busy as a bee'. This description sums up the life of honeybees; they're extremely efficient. A large beehive can house up to 60,000 bees and they may collectively travel 55,000 miles and visit two million flowers to gather enough nectar to make just one pound of honey! We are very grateful to Diane for her assembly and the talks she gave to Year 6 and Lower School.



**'If the bee disappears from  
the surface of the earth,  
man would have no more  
than four years to live.'**  
**Albert Einstein**



# Upper School

## A Law Unto Themselves

Not, we hope, in preparation for a future life of crime, the Year 8 pupils are visited each year by a local Magistrate upon their return from PGL. This year was no exception and on Tuesday 21st June Mr Nicholas Crispin came to school to show the children what goes on in the Magistrate's Courts. He showed the boys the difference between Youth Courts (who deal with children between 10 and 18 years old) and normal courts, for adults of 19 years and over. The Youth Courts are a little more 'friendly' and conversations take place between the

Magistrates and the children who are 'up before them'. Those children's parents can also be present.

During the morning, our boys were able to act as different members of the court or as victims or perpetrators of crime, while Mr



Crispin explained their roles, especially those of the Magistrates. In one scenario, Josh played an alleged drug dealer, Sasha was his Defence Lawyer, James was the Counsel for the Prosecution, and Ethan, Max and Henry represented the Board of Magistrates. Josh was found guilty and Sasha's application for bail was not granted. In another case, James and Henry were alleged drunk drivers, James was their Defence, Callum the Prosecutor and Ethan, Callum and Josh the Magistrates. Once again a verdict of guilty was passed and no bail granted. We hope that Josh, Henry and James have realised the error of their ways and are released in time to start their next schools in September! Everyone enjoyed the occasion and learnt a great deal, and we're very grateful to Mr Crispin for giving up his time to visit us again.





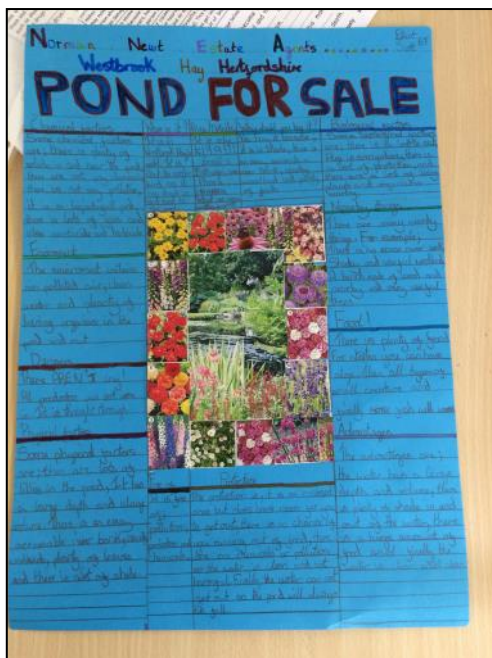
# Upper School

## Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning and Ecology are the theme in Science after the summer exams.

The Year 6 newt project is one of the highlights of Year 6 Science. The quality and level of understanding outstrips academic achievement of percentages and grades.

Year 5 pupils have really enjoyed following the lifecycle of their pea plants from germination to eating the first peas. Next term we will gather seeds and start the cycle again.





# Upper School

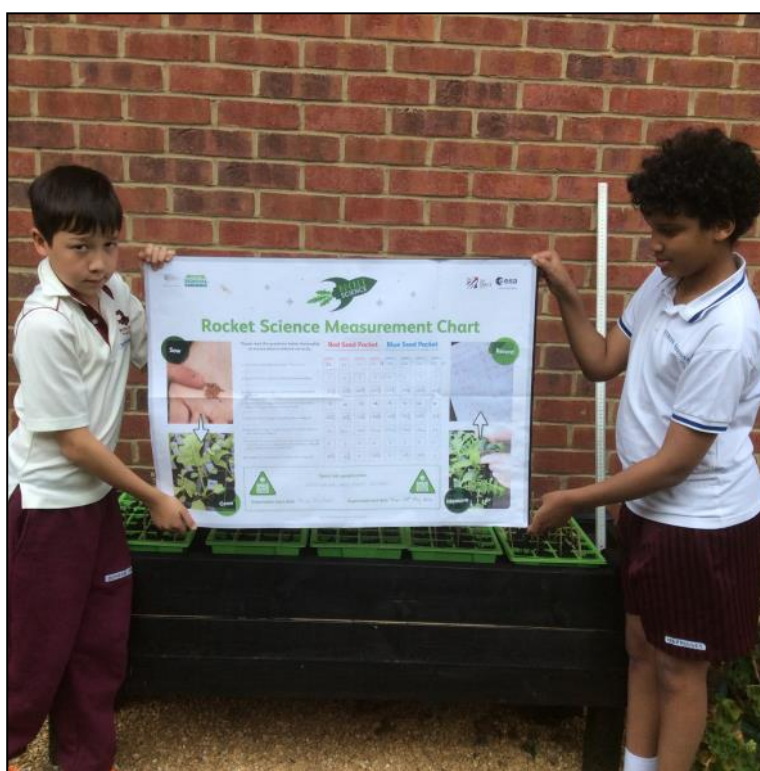
## Rocket Science

It has been a wet spring for Outdoor Learning, but this hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of our 'Rocket Scientists'.

The school was given the opportunity to take part in a UK-wide live science experiment to contribute to our knowledge of growing plants in space. Pupils germinated and recorded the growth of these rocket seeds in May and June and then entered their results in a bespoke microsite so that results from schools across the nation could be collated and analysed by professional biostatisticians. We will have the full results in the autumn. Two kilograms of rocket (Eruca sativa) seeds were launched on Soyuz 44S on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 with European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Andreas Mogensen and his crew, arriving on the International Space Station (ISS) two days later.

British ESA astronaut Tim Peake took charge of the seeds while on the ISS

for his Principia mission starting in December. After being held for about six months in microgravity, the seeds were returned to Earth with astronaut Scott Kelly, and then packed off to schools across the country. We also had fun making our own 'Rocket Fuel' and making and firing matchstick rockets.



# Upper School

## The Final Frontier

Tim Peake became the first Briton to visit the International Space Station on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The children have been following his mission by completing The Principia Mission Space Diary. The diary achieved its aim of engaging children in STEM learning. Over the last six months, the children have followed Tim's mission with a special lesson each month by completing their space diary filled with challenges and activities to empower young space apprentices.

The school were extremely fortunate that Simon Sheridan from ESA, who



had recently worked on the Rosetta mission as well the Principia mission, visited the school. In addition to giving a first-hand account of Tim Peake's mission for the children in assembly, he

taught Year 7 and the Reception classes the physics of landing on an extra-terrestrial surface. He then delighted Reception by allowing them to study a rare collection of meteors from space.





# Upper School

## Budding Photographers

On Thursday 19th May a minibus full of children, accompanied by Mr Summerfield, Mr Ndau and Mr Woodward, and armed with cameras, binoculars, bird identification pamphlets, clipboards, pencils and bags of excitement set

off after a packed picnic tea for our annual trip to Tring Reservoirs. Once there, the children followed the canal path as it circuits one of the huge lakes, photographing anything of interest and attempting to identify as many different bird species as possible. Because it is a small group covering a mix of ages the event soon becomes a chatty exchange of knowledge, friendship and shared experiences, and it's great to see the camaraderie that develops among children who may not usually socialise

together at school. This year the children were lucky enough to spot common terns, swallows, house martins, coots, moorhens, great-crested grebes, herring gulls, mallards, Canada geese, mute swans, magpies, crows, wood pigeons, pied wagtails, chaffinches, robins, blackbirds, great tits and red kites. The crowning glory is always a leisurely fly-past down the canal by the local grey heron, and once again the old fellow didn't disappoint, this time accompanied by his mate. A lovely evening all round!



## Synagogue Visit

On Wednesday 20th April Year 6 were taken by Mr James, Mr Sharp and Mr Woodward to the St Albans Masorti Synagogue, as part of their Religious Studies. This trip enabled the children to gain a better understanding of the importance of the Synagogue to those of the Jewish faith, together with what can be seen inside.

We were greeted and shown around by Rabbi Rafael, who discussed his role as the leader of that local Jewish community and what happened

during the services he conducted. He showed the children the beautifully designed menorah (the seven-branched candlestick; symbol of Judaism), the bimah (reading desk) and the ner tamid (the everlasting light) that symbolises God's eternal presence.

Rabbi Rafael then took out one of the scrolls from the Ark, which represents the original Ark of the Covenant that contained the Ten Commandments, showing the children the hand-written Hebrew script of the Torah (Jewish Law) – the first five books of the Tenach (Old Testament) contained on each scroll. He also explained how each scroll cost around £30,000 and was treated with great respect; wrapped in mantles, read with a silver

pointer (yad) to avoid damage, and buried when no longer legible.

The children clearly had a most enjoyable and memorable time. Rabbi Rafael was an excellent teacher and host, and the hands-on experience really brought to life the children's classroom learning. A big 'thank you' to all at the Synagogue for a wonderful morning.



# Upper School

## An Energetic Experience!

The theme for this year's Haileybury Science Challenge was energy. Harry, Siobhan, Alexander and Charlotte in Year 5 had to conduct experiments involving energy across biology, chemistry and physics. The experiments were designed to stretch and test their minds in these three

different disciplines.

In the biology experiment the children were required to work out the energy content in different food substances. They did this by burning the food samples under a boiling tube containing a measured amount of water. The temperature increase of the water had to then be measured, followed by a simple calculation to work out the energy required to cause the temperature increase.

In the physics experiment, the pupils had to design a super effective thermal

insulator, using a combination of materials, which would cause the greatest reduction in heat (energy) transfer.

In chemistry the pupils were required to carry out exothermic displacement reactions in order to release energy. They had to work out how much powdered metal to add to a Copper II Sulphate solution in order to release a certain amount of heat (energy).

The children worked well as a group on all three experiments, and came very close to winning the chemistry prize.





## Upper School

### St John's Church Visit

On Thursday 21st May Year 6 were taken on an inspiring visit around the lovely Church of St John's (where we hold our Christmas Carol Services) by

its new Vicar, Rev Michael Macey. This church, dedicated to St John the Evangelist, is a lovely example of a fairly modern C of E church. The children were made to feel very welcome by Rev Michael, who explained the church's history and all the wonderful things that can be found in it, and what they mean and represent. The children learnt about St John and how aspects of his life are captured in the church's beautiful

stained-glass windows, and they enjoyed the cool, tranquil atmosphere as they explored the various parts of the building – the nave, chancel, font, altar, side-chapel, pulpit etc and learnt more about other aspects, including the tabernacle, lectern, communion rail and new organ, to follow up in their Religious Studies lessons on their return to school. Our thanks to Rev Michael for a lovely and absorbing morning and for bringing St John's to life for the children.

### Survival Evening

Upper School children from Drake, Marlborough, Nelson and Wellington competed against each other (and the weather!) in a series of four 'house' survival evenings this term, a new addition to our special evening activities here at Westbrook Hay.

Activities included 'camouflage and concealment', 'fire making', 'camp-fire cooking', 'leave no trace' and lots of teamwork, including some incredibly talented 'Predator' performances! Mr Lloyd and I had a wonderful time, the children were fabulous, and it was extremely difficult to decide who the winners of the new 'House Survival Cup' should be. The final results were 1st place Wellington, 2nd place Drake, and in joint 3rd place Nelson and Marlborough. A special mention to Lev, Marley, Max and George for not only lighting their own fire in very damp conditions, but keeping it going so well for so long that we could have cooked on it. Roll on next year!





# Upper School

## Running Wild

Unfortunately, with bad weather set in, we didn't get to see the adaptation of Morpurgo's 'Running Wild' at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in half-term as we had hoped to. Thankfully, the sun smiled on us for part two, and all of Year 7 and 8 had a great time at Whipsnade Zoo on our second date, exploring the site, taking part in an ecosystems workshop, and completing a self-guided trail that took learning a step further.

The sun shone, the butterflies were stunning in the new biome where many pupils had butterflies land on them. We also got to take in some of the colourful and entertaining demonstrations too.





# Around the School

## Boarding

Another great term of fully booked boarding. The girls chose highropes and climbing at the XC whilst all the boys chose go-karting for their Tuesday activity. Lighter evenings meant all could enjoy games outside on Wednesday before supper (and a little after for the older ones!). A special thank you to our GAP students Georgia, Callum M and Callum K for all their help with our boarding this year. We are already fully booked for the autumn term.



## Library

This has been a great year for our parents' book club as we have seen several new mums join us. We have also, sadly, had to say goodbye to Louise, one of our longstanding members, as her son Toby has now

left the school. We have read a wide variety of books recommended by each member in turn and enjoyed discussing them.

The library has once again seen a very busy year. We have acquired lots of new books as a result of the two book fairs held this year. There were also a record number of librarians! At one stage I had 33 children helping out in the library at break time. Eleven of those have moved on to new schools

where I hope that they will find the library and continue to feed their love of books.

On that note, please go down to your local public library and join the Summer Reading Challenge! This year it is themed around Roald Dahl as it is his centenary year. It's called The Big Friendly Read. Details can be found at your nearest public library or <http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/about-tbfr>

## Around the School

### Leavers' BBQ

We celebrated those who were leaving the school on the Friday before the end of term. The afternoon started off with a special Evensong where the children sang with tremendous heart and all the leaving children read to the school. This was followed by three rounders matches where, despite the parents' best efforts, the children appeared to have the upper hand. The day culminated with one of Mr Young's legendary BBQs.





# Around the School

## Former Pupils' Day

Fortunately the sun shone upon us as 90 former pupils attended the annual reunion. It was lovely to see faces

from the past, varying from those who left over 30 years ago to those who left last year, mingling in the grounds

and recalling so many fond memories. They were very impressed when they were shown around the fantastic new facilities, such as the new Performing Arts Centre (and maybe there was a little envy!) and, for those who had not visited for over 20 years, amazement at how the former orchard had been transformed with the development of so many buildings.



## School Council

Our first Art Exhibition in the Performing Arts Centre was a huge success. Every child in the school exhibited a piece of work and all the children visited. With a diverse range of work on display, this gave the children the opportunity to see how their work will develop and aspire to



our most promising artists. The children were given the opportunity to choose their three favourite creations. The School Council counted the votes and presented prizes to the winning children. From Lower School Harriet got the most votes, Naren and Evelyn following closely behind. In Middle School our clear winner was William and runners up were Richard and Sophia. In Upper School our winner was Zac followed by Finn and Charlie. The exhibition also acted as a fund raiser for the School Council.



# Around the school

## Charities

This year our chosen charity has been The Hospice of St Francis. It is based in Berkhamsted and is an amazing support to many families in West Hertfordshire and the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire.

The Charities Committee visited the Hospice and had the opportunity to meet many of the volunteers and staff that make it such a special place.

In the Autumn Term we had a "Go

Purple" day with the whole school dressing in purple. The committee made purple-iced biscuits, which we sold with purple drinks at break time.

In the Spring Term we created a coin chain twice around the Performing Arts Centre as part of Maths Week.

We have also had many concerts, services and productions where you have given generous donations.

In addition, we were able to give the Hospice £900 worth of children's books as a result of our Readathon held last summer.

Earlier this term, Mr Wagstaff took the choir to sing at the Hospice as part of a celebration, where people remembered

loved ones who had passed away. After the choir sang, Maddie and Joseph were chosen to release the white doves.

Our final fundraising event was a Treasure Hunt around the school grounds during Fun Day. We raised just over £100 to reach our target for the year of £2000.

Thank you so much for all your support this year.





# Music

## Armourers' Hall

On the last day of half term 47 Westbrook Hay children travelled into the City of London to celebrate our children's musical gifts at the Armourers' Hall. The Venerable

Christopher Wagstaff, past Master of the Company of Armourers & Brasiers, welcomed us to the ancient hall. The Westbrook Hay orchestra were introduced and then we all sang the national anthem in honour of our Queen.

Barbara Gentili sang an operatic aria powerfully; the four hundred year old armour was reverberating off the wall! After this nearly every member of the orchestra performed a solo including a

beautiful saxophone grade 4 piece by Elliot. 'Where is Love' was performed charmingly by Zoe, a year one pupil. There was a diverse range of styles from Lev's funky bass guitar piece to Elise and Imogen's beautiful 'Panis Angelicus' duet. The Chamber Choir poignantly sang 'Weapons of our Warfare' very harmoniously in counterpoint. We were very pleased to have one of our governors, Anthony Lock, attend.



## Some Outstanding Results

### Music Exams 2015-16

71% of Year 2-7 Westbrook Hay children have instrumental/singing lessons weekly

38% of Year 2-7 Westbrook Hay children took music exams in the last year.

73% of graded music exams were Gr1-3

24% of graded music exams, Gr 4-5, were GCSE A\*-C equivalent (see \*)



Westbrook Hay Grade 2 examinees got 20% more distinctions than the national average!

\* According to Ofqual

# Dance

The dance department has been very busy this term. We went on a back stage tour of the Opera House in Covent Garden where we had the opportunity to learn about the history of the Opera House. We also visited the dance studio where the Royal

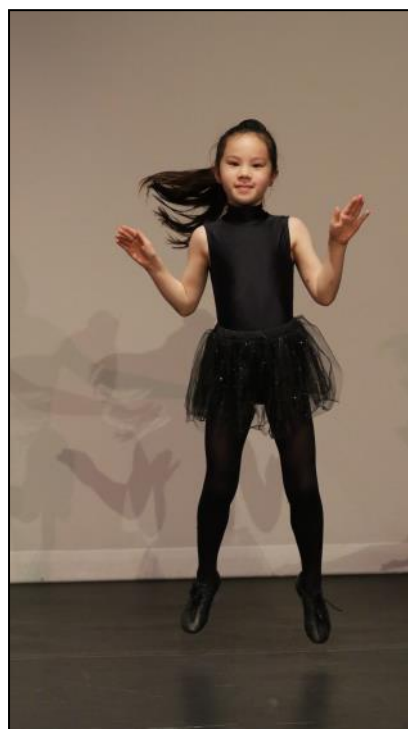
Ballet was rehearsing. They told us how they change scenery on stage during performances and showed us the costume room. The whole experience was very interesting! After that we went to Pineapple Dance Studios where this year the children

watched the ballet class and took part in the Commercial Funk class taught by Stuart Bishop. (He comes to Westbrook Hay every year to run a workshop).

The rest of the term most of my dancers were rehearsing their dances for the exams. They achieved great results, all 3 top marks, Highly Commended, Honours and Honours Star.

In Middle School, 39 children took part, they attained: 9 Highly Commended, 25 Honours and 5 Honours Star. In Upper School, 22 children took part and they attained: 8 Highly Commended, 7 Honours and 7 Honours Star. The examiner said; "It was a most enjoyable day, great choreography and lovely dancing." I am thrilled with the results. Congratulations to all the children who worked very hard over the last two terms. Sadly this year we say goodbye to Max, who has inspired so many boys to dance. He was the first boy to do a street dance exam and he is a great dancer!! The term finished with the Dance Assembly where all the children, parents and teachers were invited to watch.

Mrs Henderson





# Sport

## Swimming

### IAPS Swimming Finals

Late in the Spring Term, our top swimmers travelled to Aldwickbury for the IAPS Regional Swimming Finals. We had to wait to see where our swimmers were positioned as the results had to be collated from all around the country before being released. The top 16 in each event would go through to the National Finals in May. Unfortunately, we just

missed out on having any finalists: Marley was positioned 19th in butterfly; Charlie was 23rd for breaststroke and Tommy missed out on the top 16 by 0.05 of a second! Next year!

### Dacorum Swimming Squad Selection

Tommy Maidment, following on from his brother, and Alex have beaten off some stiff competition and gained selection to the Dacorum Under 10/11 swimming squad. The boys will compete in the Inter-District Gala in April at the Woodside Leisure Centre, Watford. Well done to the boys!



# Sport

## Inter House Swimming

Towards the end of term both Middle School and Upper School had their own separate House Galas. In the US event, Marley collected the trophy from the pool itself, as you can see from the picture, for Wellington as they led from the very first race and

never relinquished pole position. The Middle School finals took a similar road with Wellington again proving too strong. Both galas finished with the individual finals, where the fastest swimmers from each age group took to the pool in their respective strokes.

Marley once again proved to be top dog securing two wins, with Charlie not far behind, winning the breaststroke. Evie, Pippi and Victoria stole the show for the girls. In Middle School, Zorane won the freestyle with Grace, Milly and Gracie also victorious.





# Sport

## Athletics

### Girls' Athletics

Late in the Summer Term we took a team of seven girls to the Regional Prep School Athletics Finals. The girls had themselves qualified by virtue of reaching designated standards and went in high spirits. There was some tough competition but we came away with some great results. Eve (long jump), Victoria (800m) and Grace (200m and shot putt) all set new school records with Grace finishing 2nd and 3rd in both finals.

The Year 4 students weren't to be outdone as both Adun and Maddie made both sprint finals, with Adun taking a bronze in the 75m. Grace and Lillie joined the others in the relay and secured 2nd place here too. A great day - we'll be back for more!

### Jarman Park Quadrangular

The U11 and U13 squads headed to Jarman Park for our annual

quadrangular event. Highlights included our year 5 sprinters, who showed great pace; Max in every event; Oliver in the hurdles; Oli in the long jump and our high jumpers who came away with a number of wins. While the U13s were not victorious in the team event, our U11s claimed a win for the 5th successive year. A cracking afternoon!

### Regionals and Nationals

We had huge success in the Regional Prep School Athletics Championships with Josh, Henry and Reece winning the Year 5 sprint finals. Max (shot putt), Charlie (javelin) and Orlando (shot putt and javelin) won their age groups' competitions too and as a result went forward to the Nationals at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham.



## Inter-Prep Golf Challenge

On a glorious sunny evening Westbrook Hay hosted the Inter Prep School Golf Challenge. We entered two teams with the combined Year 7 and 8 team pipping the Year 6 and below team by two shots. However, our scores were just behind the eventual winners, Aldwickbury. The quality of golf was the best we have ever seen in this tournament and it is exciting to see so many children eager to play.





# Sport

## Parent vs. Pupil Golf

The Year 5 to 8 parent vs. pupil golf competition comprised 16 teams. In a very closely fought competition the Sheasbys were victors, beating the Sanders. The quality of golf was impressive from both parent and pupils as was demonstrated by Mr McLennan's nearest the pin.





# Sport

## 1st Team Cricket

The first team had an excellent season winning all their matches. We started with a tense win against Swanbourne in which Ben scored

one of his two 50s for the season. Henry also impressed in this match, guiding us over the finishing line. Throughout the season our bowling impressed, led by Charlie who was ably supported by Max, George, James, Freddie and Harry.

We were spoilt for choice with wicket-keepers with Harrison and Harry

sharing it. Many coaches commented on our great fielding and this was particularly evident at the St Albans U12 festival. We played five matches and won all of them to bring the trophy home. I lost count of the number of times we had direct hits from throws!

We are a young team with 11 children from Year 7 back next year. I just hope the weather will be kind to us!



## 2nd Team

The 2nd Team proved to be one of the most talented 2nd teams we have produced in some time. It started with a bang as we turned over Swan-

bourne with runs from both Toby and Lewis. Bad weather did curtail us at times, with Wednesdays becoming 'rain day'. We had a blip against Aldwickbury, but enjoyed victories over Lockers and Beechwood among others. It's been an enjoyable season in which all of the players have contributed.

Other contributions came from Lomax, whose all-round displays have been an important feature of the side, while James came in around the middle order and would also add a few runs to the scoreboard. With the ball, Adam has been the pace man and hard for opponents to pick-up. Special mention must also go to Laurie and Josh who led the side well.

# Sport

## Colts A

The Colts A cricket team developed well as the summer term progressed. I was really impressed with our fielding especially at the Haileybury Festival, where we executed numerous direct throws to run the batsmen out. Our best batting performance was against Heath Mount in which we managed to amass over 100 runs against a strong Heath Mount bowling attack. Our bowling highlight was against Manor Lodge where we managed to bowl the opposition out for 56.



## U11 Red

The Colts Red Team had an average term of cricket as their matches were disrupted by inclement weather. Whilst they saw most of their matches cancelled due to weather, when they had the chance to play they played really well. I especially enjoyed taking them for coaching ses-

sions as they all responded so well to training, leading to a massive improvement in their bowling and batting skills. I must commend them all for a very positive term of cricket in terms of acquiring skills, which I am sure they will use in future. Well done Reds!

## U9 Cricket

The U9 cricket team displayed some brilliant performances in their matches this season. In some instances this was the first time some boys had played hard ball cricket, so they were getting used to using the hard ball equipment. I was extremely impressed with the way the team played in the match against Aldwickbury School, in which they bowled with accuracy and displayed good technique when batting. We were a very young team this year with many boys from Year 3 having the opportunity to play for the U9 A team. This bodes well for our U9 A cricket team for next summer.





# Sport

## Sports Day

After some concern over the weather, the sun came out for our annual Sports Day. Eamon had done a fantastic job in marking the tracks and various other areas in use and the children turned up to compete for their respective houses. It was certainly a cracking morning's athletics, buoyed by some fantastic commentary from David Coleman wannabees, Mr Young and Mr Stedman.

There were a number of new school records set: Grace (200m & shot putt), Harry (triple jump), Max (shot putt) and Josh (200m & 400m which, as a current year 5, so he can break next year too)! Other highlights were a fantastic Year 7 javelin competition which finished with Charlie throwing 30m; some extremely competitive sprinting from the Year 5 boys and the hurdles events which were taking place on the day for the first time.

Year 2 and Lower School enjoyed a new format to their Sports Day too. They took part in a feast of activities as classes moved around a circuit.

There could only be one winner though and Nelson came out on top.





# WHA

## Fun Day and Westfest

This is now the fourth year of running Camp Out after Fun Day and we had the largest number of campers ever. Over 400 people with 92 tents enjoyed some amazing BBQ food and great music. A chance to unwind after a long, but enjoyable Sports Day and Fun Day.

Fun Day started well and after a rather heavy downpour, ended well. Children once again ran many of the stalls and did so splendidly! We sold out of Pimms by 2.15pm and there were no cakes leftover. We also saw record sales on the Coconut Shy and Tombola stall. We are already thinking about next year... Thank you for all your support and hard work and maybe come join the team. It is great fun and many hands make light work.





# Don't Forget...

## THE BIG Friendly READ

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2016

This year the Summer Reading Challenge theme is... The Big Friendly Read!

Libraries all over the UK will be celebrating 100 years of the

wonderful writer Roald Dahl and his glorumptious stories.

We know there are lots of Roald Dahl fans on the Summer Reading Challenge website...can you spot some

of his characters?

Taking part in The Big Friendly Read is simple – when your summer holidays start, you can sign up at your local library. Read any six library books (or more!) over the holidays to collect special rewards and complete the Challenge.

You can use this website to keep track of the books you read and write book reviews, enter competitions, chat to other readers and much much more!

For all the latest Summer Reading Challenge updates keep an eye on our News page!

Coming soon...we'll reveal how you can get your hands on The Big Friendly Read official app!



Saturday 17th September  
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Westbrook Hay  
Prep School

Come and join our...

# Teddy Bears' Picnic

Children's Entertainer

Bear Hunt

For children under 5

Picnic Tea

To reserve your place telephone **01442 256143**  
or visit [www.westbrookhay.co.uk/teddybear](http://www.westbrookhay.co.uk/teddybear)



If you go down to the woods today...



Westbrook Hay Prep School

Be part of the Aitchisons Art & Photography Competition this Summer 2016!

We are pleased to announce that the Summer Competition, in conjunction with Aitchisons Estate Agents, will open again this year. This is the third time we have teamed up with Aitchisons to run a holiday competition all about photography, capturing historical sites, famous buildings and landmarks.

Following the format and quality of entries received in the past, we have decided to expand the competition to Art & Photography. You can choose whether to submit a piece of art (model, painting, sketch) or a photograph(s), or both! Please remember to include commentary and background on your location.

Wherever you are planning to visit this coming holiday, home or abroad, take a look around you, do you see a place of interest that you could enter into the competition? Tell us all about it and you could be one of the lucky winners of an iPad, digital camera, art sets and many more great prizes.

Deadline for entries is **Monday 12th September** with the winners announced shortly after. Best of luck and happy holidays! We look forward to hearing all about them in September.

Full details of the competition can be found in the Guidelines attached.



2015 Winners

Contributions to:

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