



It has been a busy two weeks since our last newsletter and tremendous fun too. I have paid visits to Redcliffe School and Knightsbridge Prep to bang Heathfield's drum and I have spent three days at the annual GSA Heads' Conference where I met a number of experienced heads and exchanged ideas, as well as hearing inspirational speakers. As I write this I am preparing to head into London again, this time for the Fellowship Carol Service which takes place in St Peter's Church in Eaton Square; I am sure it will be a very special evening, and a lovely way to start the build up to Christmas.

Girls and staff have been terribly busy too as you will read in these pages. Whether singing in the Fellowship Carol Service, performing on the stage, debating in the English Speaking Union Mace competition or revising furiously for the Mock examinations either at the end of this term or the beginning of next, our girls have been working and playing hard. Their efforts are absolutely to be commended. I hope that many of you are planning to attend one of the performances of Lady Windermere's Fan next week. If you've been to a play here before, you will know that you're in for a great treat and some extremely high-quality performances from our very talented girls.

Thank you so much for your incredible, generous support at Nicky Stalls last weekend. Without you, this special event simply would not happen. I loved the variety of competitions this year too. From guessing which Roman emperor a turkey toy was named after to singing karaoke in public! A real accolade to the originality and commitment of the girls and staff as well as just good fun. We are very keen to count up the total and once all the sales are in I'm looking forward to announcing the grand total raised for charity.

With best wishes,

Mrs Gardiner Legge – Headmistress

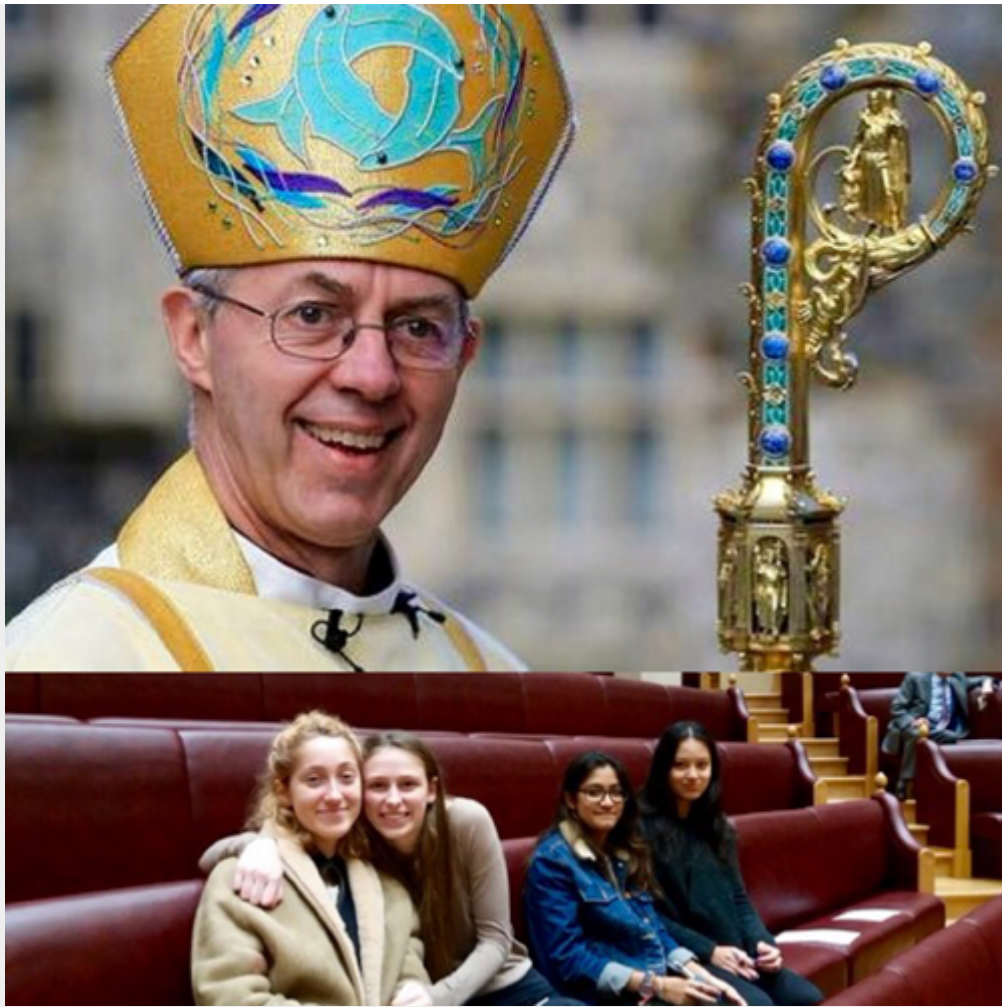


Nicky Stalls

On Saturday 26 November Heathfield's annual St Nicholas's Stalls took place. Following Heathfield tradition, Mrs Gardiner Legge opened the doors together with the youngest girl in the school, Lara (Form I), to the excitement of the Heathfield girls, their families, staff and Old Girls.

A selection of independent stall holders attracted buyers with their array of goods in the SMaT, and The Sports Hall was a hive of activity as the four Houses worked tremendously hard to raise money for their chosen charities. Austen was supporting Robbie's Rally, De Valois was fundraising for The White Helmets, Seacole had chosen for Crohns and Somerville selected Crohns and Colitis.

Money raised from donations from the tea and coffee stall will be donated to the school charity, Youth at Risk. In the Sports Hall there were stalls of donated goods, bottle and sweet tombola's, raffles, silent auctions, and much more. As ever the event was a huge success, we can't wait to find out how much we raised!



Archbishop of Canterbury at Eton College

On Wednesday 16 November, four students who are currently studying Religious Studies at A Level went to Eton to participate in an inspiring talk by the A B of C (which he is fondly referred to as), Justin Welby.

In the talk he discussed a wide variety of topics, including terrorism, modern issues based on faith, religious extremists and different religious views and morality. He also talked briefly about his life when he was young and studying at Eton, and it was particularly interesting when he revealed he only became interested in religion during his adult life.

The Archbishop also shared his views on how everybody is equal in Christianity regardless of their nationality, race or gender, and how we should strive to only view each as human.

After the talk we had the honour of shaking his hand, and came away with renewed perspectives on how we must view one another. It was a wonderful opportunity and we hope there will be plenty more in the future!

Karin Oster, Teacher of Religious Studies



Medicine Networking Event, Eton College

On Tuesday 15 November, a group of Form V and LVI girls interested in Medicine headed to Eton College to attend the Medicine Networking Event.

The event was held in the beautiful School Hall, which was built to commemorate the Etonians who died in the Boer War, and is often used for musical concerts and other events.

The medical professionals represented were varied and offered the girls plenty of opportunity to discuss a wide variety of topics. Also in attendance was a third year Medical student from Kings College, who gave the students an insight into the reality of studying medicine at university.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed their evening, and left with a much greater awareness of studying and practising various forms of medicine.

Rushi Millns – Head of Careers & Outreach



Form I Geography Role Play

Form I have been involved in a Geography role play activity to see whether a visitor centre should be built in the New Forest National Park. Each girl empathised with a variety of characters such as a National Park ranger, a pub owner, an ornithologist, young and old farmers as well as older residents and local school girls.

The final vote was against the build: 8 to 1!

Basia Mason, Head of Humanities Faculty & Subject Leader – Geography



Athena host *FemSoc* for Discussion Supper

Following Athena's visit to the Eton College Feminist Society talk on Consent last week, the FemSoc boys visited Heathfield School on Tuesday 15 November to continue their discussions.

Athena hosted a supper, giving the opportunity for the girls and boys to come together to discuss and reflect upon the topics raised last week. The event was held in the Library and the Heathfield Catering Team presented a delicious meal that was well received by our guests.

The discussions were lively and encouraged all the students to explore different perspectives on the subject. As the FemSoc boys ended up leaving almost half an hour later than planned, it was evident that the evening was a resounding success. This supper marked the start of a new relationship between Athena and FemSoc, allowing our Heathfield girls to work collaboratively with Eton College boys.

Rushi Millns, Head of ICT, Careers and Outreach



Music and Drama Captains' Concert

After a restful half term break, Heathfield began the second half the Michaelmas term with a bang!

The annual Music and Drama Captains' Concert took place on 4 November, with singing, acting and playing musical instruments – we had it all! Some highlights included the Form I Pitch Perfect Barden Bella's Finale and of course the Choir's rendition of Don't Stop Believing. It was a great night of entertainment which all the girls, staff and parents thoroughly enjoyed.

Angelina Mestoyeva – Drama Prefect & LVI Student



Laura Bates and Everyday Sexism

On Thursday 17 November, all the girls and a large number of staff members headed to the SMaT for the highly anticipated talk by British feminist writer and founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, Laura Bates. The Everyday Sexism Project website was founded in 2012, and acted as a space in which to catalogue instances of sexism experienced on a day to day basis. Within the first week of the website launching, she had already received more than 100 entries.

Laura opened her talk by explaining that she personally did not begin to notice issues of feminism and sexism until she was in her 20s, reassuring anyone in the audience who had not begun to explore these subjects yet.

As well as retelling user submitted stories of incidents of being inappropriately touched or propositioned in public, Laura also went over some examples of sexism in business, politics, the arts, the media and more. She recalled shocking statistics such as the fact that out of the 2,300 pieces of art featured in the National Art Gallery, only a meagre 11 of these come from female artists. Even more shockingly, among chief executives and chairs of FTSE 100 companies, the number of men called “John” is more than double the total number of women in the list.

To close her talk there was a Q & A session, where one girl asked Laura what they could do personally about these issues. Laura sympathised when saying it can be easy to feel like a small fish in a big pond when it comes to the fight towards gender equality, but the most important thing you can do is educate yourself and if you ever see an instance of inequality, not to be afraid to call it out.

To thank her, Mrs De Ferrer gifted her one of her Suffragette brooches, with a small horseshoe in it and tiny Green, White and Violet stones, which stands for Give (green) Women (white) the Vote (violet). Laura Bates kindly stayed to have supper with our Athena society, where they could continue their discussions. We are very grateful for her taking the time to come and speak to all of us at Heathfield about such prevalent issues in today's society.



Recording the Heathfield CD

Our recording studio is now fully up and running, and to celebrate its opening the girls are recording a special CD. The songs featured on the CD include Make You Feel My Love, Defying Gravity and All I Want for Christmas is You!

The girls have been working very hard and we can't wait for you to hear what they've been up to.



Discussing the Film Industry at Eton

On Thursday 24 November, three UVI girls with an interest in careers in Film and Theatre attended a talk by successful film producers at Eton College, all of whom were also Old Etonians.

The talk covered various topics including how each speaker made a start in their career, what the financial business side of the film industry is like, and how the industry is changing and improving each day. They discussed the impact of Netflix on the film industry, all of whom – surprisingly – found it to be a positive influence, as well as the new opportunities in terms of virtual reality.

There was also an element of authenticity when they explained that it is not always fun and games; you have to dedicate yourself entirely to this industry, and must be willing to take the lows which will accompany the highs.

Next week the girls will be attending a further talk on the film industry, where they will hear from the likes of Dexter Fletcher, former actor (Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, Hotel

Babylon and Band of Brothers) and director of the 2016 film Eddie the Eagle.

Rushi Millns – Head of Careers & Outreach



New Staff Lunch

On Wednesday 16 November, all our newest staff members joined Mrs Gardiner Legge and some members of the SLT team for a New Staff Lunch in the drawing room. It was a wonderful afternoon, allowing everyone a chance to reflect on their first few months here at Heathfield, discussing their highlights so far and aspirations for the rest of the year.

Many thanks to the catering team for putting on the wonderful lunch.



Independent Schools Show, Battersea

The Heathfield stand was kept extremely busy at The Independent Schools Show in Battersea Park over the weekend of 12 and 13 November. While we had well over 100 families wanting to know more about Heathfield, we were also pleased to see a number of families who are already registered with us for 2017 and beyond.

The Show is a really useful forum for parents to meet the biggest names in British education. As they say, the leading schools, the brightest thinkers and the most respected Heads gathered for the world's biggest open day.

Mrs Gardiner Legge was invited to speak in the Education Theatre on Saturday afternoon on the topic of 'when is boarding right for your child?' with a Q&A session at the end which proved very popular and well-received.

A very successful weekend.

Anna Morgan – Director of Marketing & Admissions



11+ and 13+ Assessment Days

With record numbers of applicants at 11+, we were delighted to introduce a second assessment day to accommodate all the girls. After sitting their Maths, English and NVR papers (plus a Science paper for 13+) the applicants met with senior members of the teaching staff for their interview. Whilst the mornings were filled with examinations, the afternoons were a time when they could relax and mingle with our current pupils over lunch, followed by fun group sessions in Science and Textiles.

Finishing with a tour of the school the girls met up with their parents and were thrilled to take away a Heathfield bag filled with goodies including the Heathfield jelly beans along with all our new marketing literature.

We hope that all the girls did really well in their assessments and look forward to welcoming the successful applicants to Heathfield next September.

Anna Morgan – Director of Marketing & Admissions



Sport Roundup

The past two weeks have been full of outstanding results for our netball teams. On Tuesday 15 November our U16A and U15A teams travelled to Luckley House School and both left victorious, winning 8-6 and 10-3 respectively. On Tuesday 22 November, our U13A and U13B hosted LVS, and both games ended in a 5-3 win! Well done to all our netball teams for such fantastic results.

Saturday 19 November saw all our Lacrosse teams heading over to St Mary's Calne, and although we put up a good fight our opponents were simply too strong.

Heathfield hosted an excellent swimming gala on Monday 21 November, racing against The Marist and Queen Anne's Caversham. The evening was full of nail-biting races and excellent performances; well done to everyone who took part.

Wendy Reynolds, Director of Sport



Equestrian

The overnight deluge of rain did not dampen the spirits of the eleven teams entered into the SUPA National Junior and Beginners tournament, held at the West Wycombe Polo arena on Sunday 20 November. After some magnificent grounds management by JJ Sparks, the arena once again resembled an arena as opposed to a very unappealing outdoor swimming pool!

Once the grounds had dried the play began to flow and several tense chukkas saw the supporters cheering excitedly from the side-lines. With four divisions to play there was plenty for the large crowd of supporting parents and school members to watch.

Elicia captained a Heathfield combined team with her sister Tallulah and brother Myles, winning all three of their chukkas against Dragon School. An excellent result – well done!

Gill Glimmerveen, Equestrian Co-ordinator



SPOTLIGHT ON: Mrs Basia Mason

Mrs Basia Mason is the subject leader of Geography and Head of the Humanities Faculty at Heathfield. She says she always knew when growing up that she wanted to be a teacher, and

after completing her Geography degree at the University of Nottingham, she travelled to London to obtain her PGCE at King's College. Now in her 16th year at Heathfield, she is more in love with Geography and teaching than ever.

What would you say is your proudest moment at Heathfield so far?

One thing I'm definitely very proud of is the Geography/Photography competition. It's now in its 11th year, and it is something I introduced with Miss White. It's very much the two departments working together, and every year it is so well received and the standard just keeps on improving.

Another thing I am proud of is the love of Geography at Heathfield. We have two field trips coming up in the Summer Term, one with Form IV and one with LVI, and we're already planning ahead. The girls are very excited about going away. It's so nice to feel that there's buzz around Geography – from the girls who have left Heathfield, those who keep in touch still relate back to their Geography, and for me that's the highest accolade of all.

Do you have a memory of an inspirational teacher from when you were at school?

I had an amazing French teacher who saw something in me; it's fair to say she kind of inspired me now as a teacher. Teaching and learning is really important to me, I always think about personalised learning and looking at the individual child, and I will always remember that moment when she noticed something in me; it made such a big difference.

Similarly, when I was growing up I had to attend a Polish Saturday School where there was a teacher who made me Form Captain. I was a terribly shy child and my immediate thoughts were I can't do that, I can't lead, but you push yourself, you go out of your comfort zone and you can actually do it. I also very much looked up to people in my family who are also strong women, and they made me realise no I really can do this.

What, in your opinion, are the most compelling challenges within today's education system?

The girls always laugh at me because I say to them "you know that you are strong young women of the 21st century". They always quote it with me – and I do think that women hold such a strong place in families and society so they have a lot to live up to, and they also have a lot left to fight for. Of course, it has to be fair fight, but I think one of the challenges today is to show girls how to recognise their worth, and realise that actually women are amazing, we are multi-faceted, we have lots to offer, and even if you have different talents or you may not yet be aware of your talents, everyone can achieve something fantastic.

Tell me about your hobbies – what do you get up to outside the classroom?

I love education so much that when I had time out when my children were born I set up a curriculum-based nursery school in Wokingham which still running now. I was also a Governor in a local school because I felt it was important to see the other side of education. Outside of Heathfield I love skiing; reading is my passion; I relax with tapestry, I enjoy cooking, gardening and travelling. I am still waiting to have my gap year one day so I can go to all these wonderful places I teach about!

Tell me something about yourself that you are proud of that most people don't know about you.

I'm very proud of my heritage and my Polish culture. Despite being born in the UK, when people ask me where I'm from I answer that I am Polish, and British. I spoke Polish before English. I have an extended family who are like brothers and sisters and I'm very proud of that.

And I'm really proud of being a teacher, probably more than anything on a personal level;

*it is being part of children's education and being able to see them achieve and be successful. Yes it's great to get the A*s but it's also about those who achieve more than they thought they were capable of.*

When I taught in the nursery school I really learnt a lot about how children learn, and how you begin to teach and look at the individual, and I truly think that made me a much better teacher. I'm really proud of the journey that I have taken in being a Governor, setting up the nursery school, teaching the early years and then looking at the individual children. Attaining the Specific Learning Difficulties qualification, helped me become a better teacher and there is still a lot to learn. I still think you learn all the time.

Lastly, if you weren't a teacher what would you be?

When I was very little I wanted to be a ballet dancer – classic girl! I never even did ballet because it was never part of my world but I love going to the ballet now. The next thing I desperately wanted to be was a singer, and actually I'm really honoured to be a part of the Staff Choir. Mrs Dance does a great job with us because we only have a few weeks of rehearsals before we sing in the carol concert at the end of term. My son is studying to be a Doctor and the joke in the family is that I am the first to diagnose ailments and missed my calling!

Iona Cumming, Marketing Executive

House Weekends



De Valois Weekend 19 & 20 November

The House Captains took charge on Saturday morning organising their respective Houses in preparation for Nicky Stalls. Alongside the excitement for Nicky Stalls and would you believe it, thoughts of Christmas and Christmas Music in mid-November, a huge array of fabulous, brightly decorated posters were created ready to be displayed in the Sports Hall on Friday evening.

Following this the lacrosse teams departed en masse to St Mary's Calne. The day's events finished with the House Captains leading an evening Chapel Mass which was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning the girls were up bright and early ready to head off on their various ventures.

Forms I & II departed to Gravity Force, in which they expended huge amounts of energy on the large trampolines and then headed into Camberley for a leisurely lunch.

Form III spent the day learning the ropes in preparation for their D of E Bronze expedition in the summer – pitching tents, navigation and the use of a portable cooker to whip up hot chocolate.

Forms IV & above headed off to Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park and enjoyed the wonders of a Christmas Market, roller coasters and side show games.

On their return Millie and some Form V & LVI helpers hosted a stunning afternoon tea for

the ladies of the local Roya; British Legion (one of them had reached the grand age of 96). Despite being a little nervous to begin with, the girls had a lovely afternoon and 'giggle' with the ladies as they chatted animatedly about their love of James Bond and debated the merits of Sean Connery versus Daniel Craig. A huge thank you to Sandy and her team for a simply delicious afternoon tea.

Janet Talbot – Head of House, De Valois

Dates to Remember

1 December – **Parents' Christmas Drinks at The Lansdowne**

8 & 9 December – **Lady Windermere's Fan performances**

15 December – **End of term**

5 & 6 January – **Staff Focus Days**

8 January – **Start of Lent term**

21 & 21 January – **Exeat**

10 February – **Half term starts**

19 February – **Half term ends**

11 & 12 March – **Exeat**

17 March – **LAMDA, Music & Fashion Show**

24 March – **End of term**

18 April – **Start of Summer term**

29 & 30 April - **Exeat**



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