



The build-up to Christmas is always an exciting one with Carol services, the Advent boxes in Chapel and the steady countdown to our wonderful Christmas lunch and Celebration of Achievement. The girls should be so very proud of all they have accomplished this term, and their commitment, dedication and pride in their school have been palpable and great to see.

This term is always busy and yet the girls seemed to take the play, matches, Carol Service, musical concerts, their academic studies and even mock exams completely in their stride. Our Christmas lunch was characteristically great fun and culminated in a 'Mannequin Challenge' for the whole school, giving rise to some absolutely cracking poses.

It only remains for me to thank everyone at our amazing school for a really energetic and full term and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a restful holiday.

All the very best

Mrs Gardiner Legge – Headmistress



Michaelmas Term Assembly Awards

In traditional Heathfield style, the final day of term was buzzing with activities including the end of term Assembly and the Carol Service, getting everyone well and truly into the festive spirit.

Badges were awarded to girls across different areas for excellence and dedication throughout this term, including Orchestra, Choir, Debating and Top 12. Girls who had excelled in their chosen sport also received their Colours. It was also fantastic to see how many girls went to pick up their Platinum Merit awards, which are given out to student for gaining 50 merits. Staff awards, for which the staff themselves vote, went to India H, Ella and Octavia.

The cast of Lady Windermere's Fan were all awarded Drama Badges for their hard work and commitment to the play, which was a resounding success. Mrs O'Connor also drew special attention to Liberty, who played the part of Lady Windermere, explaining that "she had by far and away the biggest role and, for someone so young to take on such a role, she was always 100% reliable and cheerful. She was eager to take direction, worked very hard at her characterisation and was also one of the first to learn her words. Well done Libby, you were a remarkable Lady Windermere!"

Next, the results of the Christmas cake competition were read out. Most Technically Ambitious was won by Phoebe P, while Most Technically Proficient went to Maria. India's stunning wreath cake picked up Best Traditional Cake, while Phoebe C's creation of Santa snuggling under his duvet won her Most Creative. Finally, Toyin was awarded Best Original, and Honor, being so close to winning, received a Highly Commended award.

Highflyer Awards for the Michaelmas Term 2016 went to Constance (Languages and Society Faculty), Lila and Lily (STEM Faculty), Olivia (Humanities Faculty) and Matilda (Expressive Arts Faculty). The Mary Grant Cup was awarded to Freya Henderson. It is awarded to a girl in any year who has displayed the qualities of making the most of her

talents, determination and resilience, and cheerfulness and compassion.

Finally, the long awaited results of the House Shield were announced. Following tradition, the girls created a loud drumroll as Mrs Gardiner Legge prepared to read out the results. Amazingly, there was a tie! Congratulations to Seacole and De Valois who came joint First.

The Heathfield Band closed the Assembly for us, belting out their rendition of *All I Want for Christmas is You*, which of course the girls and staff alike joined in!



Christmas Carol Service

The term was rounded off beautifully with the annual Christmas Carol Service, which as always was well attended by pupils, staff and parents.

Carols such as *Once in Royal David's City*, *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*, and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* rang out through the Theatre, in between readings from members of staff and students. Well done to Francesca, Sienna, Tansy, Phoebe and Holly who all performed solos throughout the service.

Father David closed the service by giving the address and opening his final Advent Box which included a beautiful Nativity scene made from gingerbread and meringue, created by our wonderful Brookwood caterers. Everyone left in high spirits and ready for the festive season ahead.



ARTiculation

ARTiculation

On 5 December three members of the LVI, Gabi, Minnie and Franny, took part in the internal heat of ARTiculation. The girls had worked very hard on their research and as people gathered in the library, nerves and excitement were building.

The adjudicators were Mrs Gardiner Legge, Sally Tulk-Hart who is a Governor, and Freya who presented last year on Francis Bacon's Study after Velázquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X: The Screaming Pope 1953. This year Franny spoke on Millais' Ophelia, 1851-2, Minnie on Dali's Temptation of St Anthony, 1946 and Gabi on Carl Andre's Equivalent VIII, 1966.

All the girls delivered their work with confidence, enlightening the audience on the many influences and meanings of their works. Mrs Gardiner Legge commended them for their excellent talks and commented on what a difficult job it was deciding on the winner. In the end, Franny was the winner and was praised for her excellent research. Very well done Franny!

It is sad that only one girl could go through to the next round but we hope to publish all their presentations. Franny will be representing Heathfield at the next Regional heat which is at Lord Wandsworth College on Monday 30 January 2017.

Joanna Meeson, Teacher in Charge of History of Art and EPQ Coordinator



Debating, Michaelmas Term

Michaelmas Term has been busy with various different debating events.

On Wednesday 16 November, Minnie and Olivia represented the school in the Debating Matters competition at Downe House, arguing that there should be no limits to free speech on social media.

The following week Agatha and Gabi represented the school at the ESU Schools' Mace

which was hosted at Heathfield. They challenged the motion that there should be salary caps in professional sports. Minnie and Sophie also took part when another team was unable to attend, proposing that physician-assisted euthanasia should be legalised. Sophia acted as chair and Franny as timekeeper, making sure the event ran smoothly.

It has been wonderful to see these girls researching topics and drawing up arguments. Well done to all those girls who took part in the preparation for these excellent debates.

Sarah Shirwani, Teacher of English, Highly Able and Scholarship Coordinator



Lady Windermere's Fan

In keeping with yet another of Heathfield traditions, this year was the year of the 'play' rather than the musical, and because I always like to challenge the girls, and because it is on the A Level specification, I decided that it would be of real benefit for my A Level students to see how a Comedy of Manners works in performance and so Lady Windermere's Fan was my play of choice.

On 7th, 8th and 9th December, just twelve very short weeks after auditioning for Lady Windermere's Fan, my cast of 16 took to the stage. They were nervous and excited in equal measure – the 'gentlemen' with sideburns glued on, hair slicked back, dapper in their white tie and tails, the 'ladies' with hair teased into outrageous buns, bejewelled and elegant in their evening gowns. I know how hard they had worked and perhaps more importantly how far they had come.

Last year we made a video of the behind the scenes build up to Thoroughly Modern Millie and, in a way I am sorry that I did not do the same this year. I must leave it up to the audience to say how much they enjoyed the show, but I can say how immensely proud I am of each and every one of them. It was very special to see the way in which the girls, irrespective of their year groups, pulled together to bring the play to life. Working on a production teaches and reminds us all of the importance of being part of a team, to be disciplined, reliable and to support each other.

Once again these girls, from Form II to Sixth Form, turned up to rehearsals week after week, negotiating their way around their other commitments (two of them were mid Mock examinations, others are in the middle of university applications, sporting fixtures and so it goes on!). It is wonderful to watch the way in which, with such good humour, they channel

those nerves and glide onto the stage appearing full of confidence, sneaking forgotten props onto the stage and secure enough in their characters to smooth over those ‘fluffed’ lines so that the audience will never notice!

Putting on a production is a little like preparing Christmas dinner in as much as the planning and preparation starts weeks in advance and there are so many other elements to be considered over and above the actual ‘cooking’ – there are rehearsals to be scheduled, lines to be learnt, props to be made or bought, costumes and set to be constructed, hair and make-up, shoes, crew to be trained, lights to be rigged etc. and then it is served. Two hours later it is done, and although it can seem almost as though it has never happened, the memories will last a lifetime and so also, I hope, will the sense of pride in all that was achieved.

Sioban O'Connor, Director of Drama



Photography Trip to London

This term the L6 Photography students have been learning to use basic camera controls such as aperture, shutter speed and ISO. What better way to recognise the visual elements of these camera controls than visiting the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Natural History Museum? Students were able to recognise small and large depth of field, fast and slow shutter speed within the stunning photographs and then confirm their thoughts within the metadata displayed with each image. However, as well as the validation and collection of technical data, each student must learn to use these controls within their own images.

Next door at the V&A we visited the exhibitions of The History of Photography: The Body and The Camera Exposed, to find inspiration for their black and white film shoots. Each student discovered more influence by standing in front of these collections of original photographs than I think they thought they would! Afterwards we completed the afternoon with the reward of a rather large Italian supper before returning to school.

Karen White, Teacher in Charge – Photography



Carol Singing at The Priory

On Friday 9 December Form I had a wonderful trip to The Priory, a residential care home in Ascot.

We sang lots of traditional songs for the residents, such as Once in Royal David's City. Frankie also played her guitar, and I played Away in a Manger on the flute while Ella sung beautifully. We really enjoyed our day, it was a great experience and we all agree that we learnt lots as well. We must mentioned Mrs Kong and Mrs Dance as well – thank you so much for organising this for us, it would not have been the same had you not been there.

Lara Kimmins, Form I



Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 14 December the whole school packed into the Assembly Hall and Dining Hall for the annual Christmas lunch. The seating plan was arranged by the Head Girl team, with the aim of mixing in members of staff between the students to allow everyone to celebrate the end of term and festive season together.

Everyone was in high spirits as the end of term loomed, especially Form V who had just taken the last of their mock exams that day. The girls enthusiastically sang Christmas songs, finishing with a Form by Form rendition of *The 12 Days of Christmas*.

The meal was finished off with a Christmassy attempt at the Mannequin Challenge, which involved all the girls and staff having to stay completely still as a camera zoomed around catching everyone's funny poses. Some highlights of this are currently up on our Facebook page if you would like to take a look.

The food was absolutely delicious; many thanks to Brookwood for putting on such a gorgeous spread.

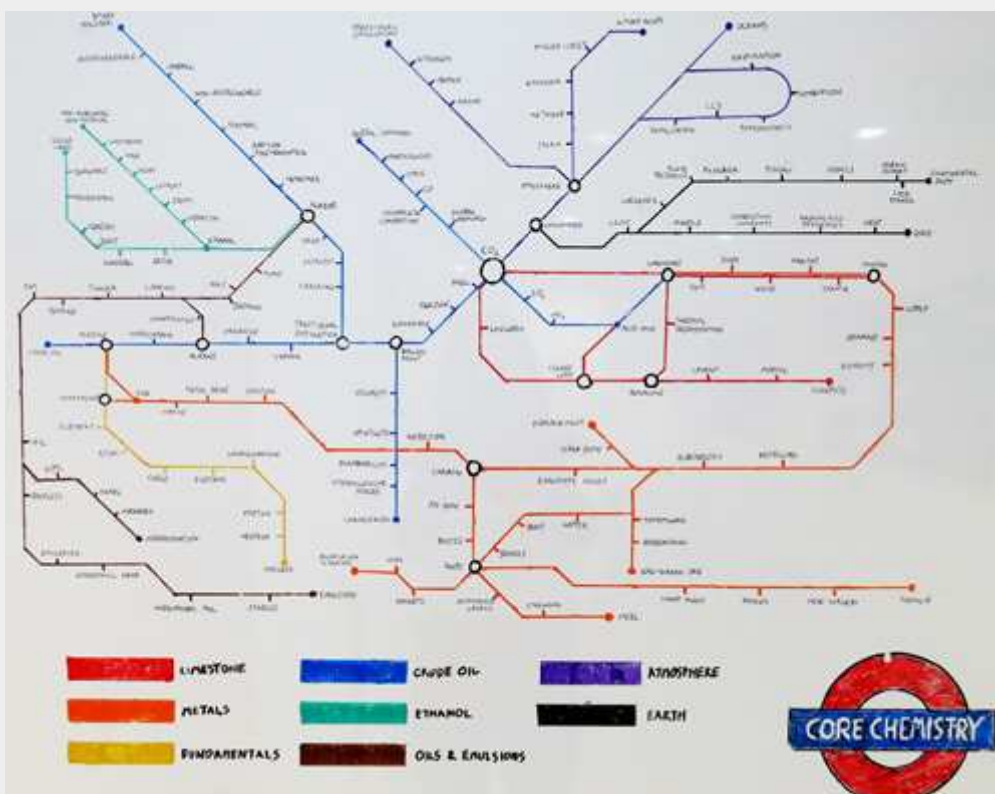


Tech Club

Tech Club is a new society offered at Heathfield, and comprises 8 girls from Forms III, IV and V. They have recently formed links with Eton College, and travelled there to see whether there was potential for the boys and girls to collaborate on a real world project.

Half of the girls worked on an iPhone app, emulating the existing game Colour Switch, while the other half worked on writing the apple webpage in HTML. The meeting was a great success and there are already plans for the boys to come to Heathfield to continue the project discussions in the Lent term.

Rushi Millns, Head of ICT, Careers and Outreach



Core Chemistry

This wonderful *Core Chemistry* tube map was created by Mr Ian Whitehurst, Science

Technician at Heathfield School. This outlines all the subjects covered within the core module, helping the girls to visualise the key components of their Chemistry studies.

History of Art at Heathfield

Since the world of Art History has been shaken recently upon the news that the subject has been axed by the last remaining exam board offering the subject at A Level, the academic world has united with the Association of Art Historians to review the teaching of the subject. Everyone agrees how important and enriching this subject is in our modern visual world and how relevant the A level is. The teaching of the subject is being discussed at senior level by the Edexcel Board, academics and the government and we hope the Edexcel Board will take it up and offer it in the near future. Certainly, Dr Deborah Swallow, Director of the Courtauld, seemed very optimistic!

I attended the annual Art History Conference at the National Gallery on Saturday 26th November. During lunch I ran a workshop for around 40 teachers on the Extended Project Qualification. Included in my talk, I explored how due to the cross curricular nature of Art History, there is so much potential to explore exciting subjects further as an EPQ and we discussed the support that students could get from different institutions.

Next academic year, we have decided to teach the Pre-U History of Art syllabus. The course is a linear course that includes a project that accounts for 25% of the marks. Girls are taught to look at and analyse art. They are introduced to the formal characteristics, terminology and techniques of painting, sculpture and architecture with reference to particular works that are examined in paper one. We will also study the context and meaning of works, studying periods in depth, specialising in areas of the Renaissance, particularly in Florence and of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Themes are addressed and students specialise in one theme, choosing from either landscape, portraiture or the nude.

This is a very exciting syllabus that I am very much looking forward to teaching next academic year.

Heathfield's History of Art Conference is a nexus for the meeting of students, academics and teachers from across England and Scotland and our girls are actively involved, helping to invite and host our guests. The next conference is planned for February 2018.

Joanna Meeson, Teacher in Charge - History of Art & EPQ Coordinator



Fellowship Carol Service

On Wednesday 30 November, 39 members of the School Choir with Julie Dance and other members of staff made their way to St Peter's Church in Eaton Square for the Fellowship Carol Service.

This event never fails to encompass the very best of Heathfield. Old Girls from so many year groups joining the congregation in this atmospheric setting, the School Choir singing magnificently, together with an outstanding duet performance from Phoebe Parker and Holly Allen, and the beautiful professional voice of Old Girl Zyta Symes all made this a very special occasion. With a hog roast and mulled wine afterwards on the steps of St Peter's, the Fellowship and Old Girls had time to catch up with staff and each other.

A huge thank you to Julie Dance and Sue Mei for their time and dedication and to the School Choir which on this occasion included Old Girl Emily Shepherd; they all sang so beautifully. Thank you also to the Fellowship Committee and particularly Demelza Blick who masterminded the evening ensuring this event was such a success. Her dedication to the cause was masterful. We hope even more Old Girls will join us for the next Carol Service.

Rebeca Farha, Fellowship Co-ordinator



Christmas Drinks at the Lansdowne Club

On Thursday 1 December the Lansdowne Club in London was buzzing from the chatter and laughter at our Christmas Drinks event. Current parents, prospective parents, prep school heads, staff and governors gathered to toast the many Heathfield successes of 2016. It was also a good opportunity to celebrate Mrs Gardiner Legge's first term as Headmistress.

The night was a resounding success, with a fantastic turnout and a warm and positive atmosphere in the room.

Anna Morgan, Director of Marketing



GOLD at National Synchronised Swimming Championship

Congratulations to Ksenia and her team from the Reading Royals Synchronised Swimming Club who won Gold in the 12 years & under Free Team Event at the ASA National Synchronised Swimming Championships. The routine was an interpretation of Moulin Rouge, and the music featured songs from the soundtrack.

Ksenia is very dedicated to her training, and we are so pleased she is doing so well in her chosen sport. To win gold at National level is a truly remarkable experience – well done to the whole team!



Sport Report

The girls have been pushing hard to finish the term well on a high, and the last few fixtures of the year have been thoroughly enjoyed.

On Monday 5 December the swimming teams took on St. George's, Ascot. Both the U14 and U13 teams won, and congratulations must go to the following girls who came 1st in their races: Impi (individual medley), Juana (backstroke), India (breaststroke) and Ksenia (fly and front crawl). Tamara, India, Auriel and Ksenia won the medley relay, and India, Auriel, Keeva and Ksenia won the freestyle relay. Such a fantastic evening with great performances, and a real high to end the term on!

The lacrosse teams played their last matches against Putney High School on Saturday 3 December. Our 1st team played an excellent match, and a special mention to Henry, Kiki, Aisha, Scarlett, Clemmie, Georgie, Minna and Immie who all played up for the 1st team, and Georgie who was named player of the match.

A mixed team consisting of 2nd team and U15 players finished with a very deserving 9-8 victory. Millie showcased her solid goalkeeping which was reinforced by Lucia in defence, while Aisha, Scarlett and Clemmie stormed the field on the attacking end.

Wendy Reynolds, Director of Sport



Chistmas Chukkas

Christmas arrived early for the Heathfield polo players! In the last week of November, 3 teams played against each other at Cool Hooves Polo Academy in a specially organised fun evening of Christmas Chukkas.

After 12 hard and exciting chukkas involving lots of fast play and excellent teamwork, the winners were the “Rudolphs”, consisting of Victoria, Tilly and Marybelle. Excellent work girls, well done! 2nd place went to “Fire Crackers” (Kiki, Minty, Thea and Sybilla), and 3rd place to “The Elves” (Matilda, Elicia and Olivia).

After the short prize giving session the girls celebrated with pizza and donuts. It was such a lovely evening to close our equestrian activities for the Michaelmas term and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Gill Glimmerveen, Equestrian Coordinator



SPOTLIGHT ON: Miss Charlotte Jackson

Miss Charlotte Jackson joined us this September in the English department. Her last position was in a school in Caversham which she described as being totally different from Heathfield, however she is definitely enjoying all the new challenges she faces here at Heathfield.

Tell me about your teaching career so far?

I am currently in my second year of being a qualified teacher. For my undergraduate degree I studied Drama at the University of Exeter, and my first experience of teaching was by doing a couple of modules during this course. In my second and third year I started teaching students who had been expelled from mainstream school and were in a pupil referral unit, so it was really focussed on the behavioural side of things, and specifically looking at how engaging in the arts can improve behaviour - and then I just got hooked on teaching!

What is your favourite part about teaching?

My favourite part about teaching is making English real for the girls. You see this so often that across many different subject pupils will often ask “why are we doing this”, and my

role as an English teacher is to make English come to life and show them how they will eventually need this when they grow up.

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

Yes! My two drama teachers as I was growing up, I went to a school over in Chertsey and they were just so supportive not just as teachers but in a pastoral sense as well, and they showed such an interest in my life and really cared about what I was going on to do and that I was making the right decisions and they did everything they possibly could to help me.

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

Definitely one of the biggest challenges is encouraging children to read. It's been proven that print is dying, people are not reading newspapers and people are not reading books because they have access to all this social media and technology. They don't realise that maybe they are reading but not necessarily the right things and it's so difficult to engage them with important and real articles and keeping them in touch with what is going on in society.

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

I am a really strong believer in healthy body, happy mind. I love yoga and meditation; when I'm doing my yoga practice it's an hour or an hour and a half each day where I get to just completely forget about everything and I fully switch off and focus on centring myself and that is so important to me to be able to get away for a bit.

Apart from that I love running and I love extreme sports. I'm a keen surfer, I love skiing and snowboarding. I've also got the travel bug big time, my most recent adventure was to Indonesia this summer for 6 weeks, it was incredible. I learned to dive and surfed every day, spending most days on the beach.

Finally, what have your students taught you that you could not have learned anywhere outside the classroom?

They are so good at reminding me to use my imagination, and they have such creative and vivid ideas, especially the 1st and 2nd form. They are so willing to explore and try out new ideas in their writing, and it's so inspiring and exciting to share that. They are constantly reminding me to stay almost childish with my imagination, and to believe that I can create something that's a little bit out there and a little bit wacky.

Iona Cumming, Marketing Executive

House Weekends

Seacole Weekend 3 & 4 December

The 1st and 2nd U15, U14, U13 and U12 Lacrosse teams set off early on a frosty morning to play against Putney High while others had a morning of catching up with prep. After lunch Forms I, II, III and IV had a Flamenco dancing workshop and a Spanish cookery masterclass, making Spanish style cakes, with our chefs in the cookery room. The highlight of the afternoon for the girls was Mrs Gardiner-Legge and Father David joining in the

dancing with great enthusiasm and flair! Form IV then headed for their rooms to prepare for the, long awaited and much appreciated, social at Radley. They headed off on the coach for dinner and a disco with the boys while the rest of the school enjoyed a wonderful paella and tapas evening prepared by our talented kitchen staff. This was followed by down time in the common rooms watching movies for younger girls while Form V and above took a break from their studies to go to the cinema to see 'Fantastic Beasts and where to find them'.

On Sunday morning Form V had an early chapel with Father David before settling down to another day of study in preparation for their mocks, punctuated by an opportunity to swim and relax in our pool. Others had a later start and after our normal chapel service they joined the coach to London's South Bank. Once there they visited the Tate Modern and were given some direction in how to get the best out of a visit to a gallery. They completed an art Treasure Hunt, put together by Nicci James, who was on hand to lend a hand and offer advice. We look forward to the winner of the activity to be announced in assembly on Friday. The group then headed down to the wonderful Christmas market on the Southbank where they had money to buy some lunch and look around the stalls. Everybody returned happy and safe and just in time for a hot meal and a restful evening back at school.

Thanks to Seacole staff for making such a lovely weekend possible and to Brookwood for adding to the lovely Spanish experience.

Jeanette Kemp, Head of House – Seacole

Somerville Weekend 10 & 11 December

The weekend began with Interhouse Netball in the damp and gloom of early Saturday morning! The weather held off for long enough to allow most of the fixtures to be played, however some of the senior ones had to be postponed.

In the afternoon Forms I and II attended the panto Jack and the Beanstalk at Theatre Royal Windsor (oh no they didn't...!). They loved the show, they got a "shout out" from the stage and were complimented afterwards on how clean they left their seats and floor.

While the younger forms were out, Form III had yoga sessions in the dance studio. Some of the poses were a challenge but they eventually got them almost to perfection. The relaxation at the end of each session was exactly what they needed at the end of a busy term.

Supper was set up in the manner of a German Christmas market with stalls offering seasonal foods from different German regions, setting a lovely cultural and Christmassy feeling for the weekend.

Forms I and II spent the evening over at Sunningdale Prep for supper and a social. They danced enthusiastically to what staff described as very loud music, and everyone had a good time. Back at school the loud speaker at the girls only disco was also very loud. The older forms danced away the evening, especially the Form V who are in the middle of their mocks and appreciated a chance to unwind.

We welcomed Sunday morning with Chapel first, then Form III headed off to play golf. The novices used the driving range while Father David joined the more experienced players for a round of nine holes.

Form I and II spent several peaceful hours with our Designer in Residence Miss James making Christmas decorations, while Form IV were off to the cinema. Lower 6 enjoyed a Christmas movie together in their common room, pizzas supplied.

The weekend finished with Forms I-III playing several hours of Dodge Ball. They dressed up, made team chants and dances and then played enthusiastically for prizes. Mr Benjamin was able to get a remarkably high degree of enthusiasm and competitive spirit from the girls at the end of a big two days.

Of course over both days Forms V and LVI continued to revise earnestly for their mocks. This was the final stretch before the end of the mocks and all the girls were very focussed over the weekend.

John Doyle, Head of House - Somerville

5 & 6 January – **Staff Focus Days**

8 January – **Start of Lent term**

21 & 21 January – **Exeat**

28 January - **LAX Tournament**

3 February - **Founder's Day**

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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