



The Maidstonian
2011/12



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Captain's Report



It gives me the greatest pleasure as School Captain of Maidstone Grammar School 2011/12 to be asked to write for the Maidstonian 2012 – the historic student magazine that illustrates the pride students have for MGS.

It is fair to say that MGS has been the foundation for both my academic and personal developments, changes that I will take with me for the rest of my life. Within my role as School Captain I was responsible for over 370 prefects to organise the likes of Speech Days, Curriculum Evenings and Open Days.

The running of MGS has always been dependent upon its prefect system and I would once again like to take this occasion to thank Emily, my School Vice-Captain, and my House Seniors as without their support the running of events and structures would have been impossible.

Over the academic year Emily and I oversaw the running of the most successful 6th Form Council, officially becoming a recognised body within the school alongside developing from scratch a bench project on the school field – our gift of prosperity for the years to come highlighting the effectiveness of the MGS student voice and indicating the commitment and passion the councillors had for their school. In addition, the School Council played an important role in the appointment of Mr Tomkins as Headmaster. This was a surreal experience for myself chairing the student panel and for the councillors interviewing. I wish him the best of luck in his time at MGS; a proud, hard-working and enthusiastic Headmaster committed to continue tradition in developing a cohesive community as well as leading the school with new ideas to make sure MGS achieves the best from its pupils.

Furthermore, the support MGS showed for charity was overwhelming; accumulating near to £17,000 for local, national and international charities. Initially raising a record-sum of over £3000 for a single charities day, Children In Need saw the 6th Form baking over 1000 cakes and staging "MGS' Got Talent" in the Big Hall. We then continued to break this record again when MGS hosted Sport Relief, raising £3610.94 from events such as the MGS Mile on the School Field. These records remain untouched and set a challenge for many years to come.

In my final weeks at MGS I spoke to many of my fellow Year 13 peers about what attracted them to MGS those 7 years ago. One thing stood out– tradition – installing pride into every student that attends MGS that elevates Maidstone Grammar School over any other school. Such as the names on the wooden-panelled boards in the hall, the red brick buildings, the gowns in assemblies, the ringing of the bell, Speech Days, the School Hymn and most notably the School Song. The tradition at MGS moulds a sense of community, comradeship and pride into its pupils and the ethos and history of this great school is not taught but easily learnt by joining the rugby teams, CCF, prefect team or simply by singing the fine words of the School Song.

Being School Captain was the most rewarding and overwhelming experience, however there is something I must note. Not many people are aware of the struggle I went through adapting to life at MGS when I joined in Year 7, at one point debating on moving school. When I applied for the position I said I wanted to give back to MGS the support that the school and staff gave to me that enabled me to continue at the school. On Leavers Day I received a standing ovation from my year group; this was for me the highlight of my time at MGS. I had completed the role to the standard that my year group were proud, proving to me I had achieved my aim as School Captain. I cannot thank enough the many staff that have supported me over the past 7 years, especially Mrs Anderson, Mr Smith and form tutors who have helped me achieve my potential and more at MGS.

During my time at MGS I travelled across the world, representing Barbados at the Harvard Model United Nations in Boston and visiting Strasbourg and Paris in my lower years. In addition I was part of the winning RAF Ground Training National Team, gained my wings in a Gliding Scholarship and was involved in music societies. Every student should take advantage of the plethora of academic and extra-curricular opportunities MGS offers its pupils. Maidstone Grammar School has developed and shaped me into the person I am today and I have left the school as an Old Maidstonian with life qualities and experiences that only MGS offers its pupils. When in Year 7 in 2005 I would never have imagined finishing school at MGS, let alone writing as the outgoing School Captain.

Get involved and anything can happen.

Olim Meminisse Juvabit

Samuel Coppard

School Captain 2011/12

Vice Captain's Report



OLIM MEMINISSE JUVABIT!

There. I got it out of the way. You all knew it was coming eventually, so why wait?

It must have been early 2010 when my younger brother Alex brought home a copy of *The Maidstonian* and plonked it down on the table, providing me with some light afternoon reading to serve as my procrastination for the day. I recall very clearly flicking through, reading all the articles written by the teachers and students that make MGS what it is. Never did I imagine that I would be contributing to it a few years later, writing from my desk at university and thinking over what were the best two years of my school career.

I came to MGS in the midst of haunting self-doubt and wavering confidence. Had I made a terrible mistake? Was I a fool to leave my comfort zone and old *Invicta* friends behind? Would the clouds of aerial testosterone pollute my mind and drag down my grades? In hindsight: no, no, and no. In a matter of days the ostensible aphorisms I received from my old school were entirely disproved ("It'll be like being a year seven again!", "Boys are disgusting!", or my personal favourite, "There just aren't any carpets there!" (Senior Management desperately cried)), and safe in the knowledge that there is definitely a carpet in Room 60; I was assured that I was in the right place for me.

Some schools churn out kids with an A* in every A level under the sun but a resounding U in personality. What immediately became clear to me upon my arrival at MGS was that its students not only included some of the most intelligent and thoughtful people I had ever met, but, perhaps more importantly, they had the self-confidence and sense of humour that meant their brightness seemed a happy, coincidental after-thought. I hope I'm not blowing my own trumpet too loudly when I say I came to this school already a diligent student, but leave, after two short years, a better person. I envy the boys who are able to spend seven whole years there.

This uncanny ability to take a child and turn them into a well-rounded young adult is without doubt due to the school's appreciation for the lessons that can be learned outside of the syllabus. In a school where girls were something of a minority, I had never expected to

get the opportunity to represent MGS in hockey, cricket, rounders, basketball, lacrosse, and netball, as well as rowing at the county champs and playing rugby in the National Schools Sevens (it would be sacrilege to not pay homage to Mr Rogers here: in pastures new, but never forgotten). In addition, I was able to play piano at a few school concerts, travel to Paris, watch my friends bring home medals in nation-wide CCF competitions, and, amidst orchestrating countless other school events, oversee the organisation of 8 Charities Days raising nearly £17000 throughout the year.

This last achievement is something I am immensely proud of, and takes its rightful place on my CV. I sort of stumbled into the role of School Vice Captain, disbelieving at every stage in the application process that I would get through to the next (I am a *girl*, after all). But somehow I made it, and what a way to spend Year 13. This is where I really got to see MGS in all its glory. I worked with teachers, office staff, management, governors, the PA and students from Y7-13, as well as, in the interest of saving the best 'til last, Samuel Coppard. It was a hectic year amongst university applications and the small matter of completing A levels, but Sam and I wouldn't change it for the world.

To return to my opening exclamation; yes, of course I will look back on my time at MGS and remember it fondly. I'm doing it now, in fact. But what's even more exhilarating is to look to the future. The wonderful friends I made at school now find themselves studying for terribly interesting degrees around the country, or excelling in the world of work: we enter into the Real World with bright prospects ahead. MGS itself is in the process of discovering its own future, in the steady hands of new headmaster Mr Tomkins. Change is scary, and disconcerting. But these changes are undoubtedly for the better, and if Mr Tomkins puts as much passion into MGS as he does rowing then the school will only continue to get increasingly more brilliant.

I owe MGS so much. Without it, I truly believe that I would not currently be sitting in University of Cambridge accommodation. I would not have become friends with Sam, Chloe, Rob, Allie or Alex. I would not know the difference between a ruck and a maul.

And what kind of life would that be?

Emily Chadwick

School Vice Captain 2011-12

Rugby

Year 8 Rugby - 2011/2012 Season

Inheriting an unbeaten team from Year 7 came with a degree of expectation – could they do it again?

The team did not disappoint and across the season racked up 15 consecutive victories. Not only that, but they took part in the prestigious Rosslyn Park School 7s tournament and made it to the quarter finals where they ran the eventual winners close. This was a significant achievement as the tournament is attended by the top rugby playing schools in the country.

Showing a willingness to learn and play attractive, ball in hand rugby, the squad improved their skill levels over the season and scored some fabulous tries – both team and individual efforts. Free scoring in attack, they were also miserly in defence, taking great pleasure in making big tackles and turning over the ball. By the end of the season they were playing a fast offloading game that allowed them to utilise their pace and power to score close to 700 points!.

All 15 wins had their great moments but some of the highlights for me included : scoring 7 unanswered second half tries to beat a surprised side from Judd ; a tough, bruising encounter against Beths in which the 46-19 scoreline flattered us; the 7 try demolition of a good Ravenswood side; Nick Backshall's textbook tackle at fullback against Kent College; the outstanding support play of Jonah Bubb; Jack Wong's electric pace; and a win against Mr Roger's new school Perins in the last game of the season, including a 100m solo try from Daniel Sambolino.

The side were well led by scrum half Callum Bailey, with outstanding individual contributions throughout the season from Jack Wong, Jonah Bubb, Jordan Earle, Zak Chaudry, Will Reynolds and Ollie Hills. However, it would be unfair to single out individuals, as the success was down to the team ethic of the entire squad who all trained and played in a fair but committed fashion from September through to March.

Player of the season Jack Wong

Players playerJonah Bubb

Most improved..... Daniel Sambolino

P 15 W15 L 0 Points for 696 Points Against 97

Mr Seymour



Showing a willingness to learn and play attractive, ball in hand rugby, the squad improved their skill levels over the season and scored some fabulous tries

Curling

We are lucky enough to have England's only specialist curling rink just down the road in Tunbridge Wells, so this rather unusual sport has become part of MGS's extra-curricular provision.

Curling allows players the opportunity to transfer skills learned in other sports - co-ordination, accuracy, flexibility and strength. During training sessions, the players learn how to slide using special curling shoes, one of which has a Teflon sole which glides across the ice; how to sweep to make the stone travel straighter and further; how to throw the stone accurately and with the right amount of weight; and how to play tactically in order to get the most stones in the centre of the house.

2011-12 was our third year entering the English Schools' Curling Championships and we had three teams in the competition in March. For the first time, however, the organisers split the championship into two tiers and all our teams found themselves in the "novice" category, much to their indignation!

The three teams played well during the heats, facing stiff competition from the opposition players. At the end of the heats, there was very little separating the teams and a tense final saw some skilful stone-throwing and clever tactics being deployed. In the end, we missed out on first place but Sam Ennis, Jonathan Orsbourn,

Chloe Auger and Sean Quinn all played extremely well and picked up silver medals for MGS.

Congratulations to all the curlers who took part: **Sam Ennis, Jonathan Orsbourn, Chloe Auger and Sean Quinn; Alex Rolfe, Chris Rolfe, Ates Vehbi and Neil Mackay; Jonathan Mills, James Goodbody, Matthew Rustrick and Stephen Haffenden.**

Curling training resumes in October - see Miss Kennedy or Mr Terrell if you are interested in trying out for the squad.

Miss S Kennedy



Senior sporting achievements 2011/12

Rugby:

- Our 1st XV rugby team had a good run in the National Daily Mail Cup, reaching the 5th round. They achieved a 75% win ratio in all competitive fixtures.
- The 2nd XV had their most successful season to date, winning 80% of all competitive matches played.
- Our U18 Girls rugby team won the Kent Rugby Sevens shield!

Football:

- 1st XI U19 East Kent Premier League Champions (for the 2nd consecutive season!).
- 1st XI U19 Kent Cup quarter-finalists
- In 18 matches the 1st XI scored 46 goals and conceded just 8!

Basketball:

- U18 team undefeated in all fixtures

Rowing

- U18 Boys team – 1st place at the Kent Schools Indoor Rowing Championships

Cricket:

- The wet summer ruined the 1st XI Cricket League which was not completed in full. Only two fixtures were played but we managed to win them both!

House Charity Reports

Challenger House

This year, Challenger were allocated the Christmas Charities Day slot on the 9th December. The day was in support of the local charity - Maidstone Christian Care Centre who run the 'You Can Help' Appeal, which supports the homeless and less well off in Maidstone with cans or packets of food and financial assistance.

On a cold morning, all Challenger Prefects were on the gate at 7.45 collecting the usual £1 for non-uniform. However, the greeting on the front gate was somewhat unusual for a typical charities day with Sam Forrester, Jamie Glenister, George Vaughan, Parris Sammut and Santa Claus himself, with his accordion, singing carols, as the buses and students came in. Students were asked to bring 'a quid and a can', and the charity were extremely grateful for the donation of cans, which were counted individually and totalled at 777, resulting in a page 5 spot in the 'Kent Messenger'.

Throughout break and lunchtimes, the usual individual form events took place, such as Nintendo Wii competitions, each donating valuable sums to the day's total. At lunchtime, the sports hall was transformed into a Christmas fete, with many small events, including Sam Robinson's biscuit decorating, and a penalty shoot-out run by the 'professional' goalkeeper David Baker, and his sidekick James Midgley. The Christmas fete totalled at roughly £200. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this.

As it was Christmas, Challenger felt we had to include something festive. When our very own Santa Claus broadcast on the tannoy that he would be arriving, we knew the day was going to be festive. At lunch-time, Santa (AKA Matthew Kemp) had queues of students at his door wanting to meet the man himself. We would like to thank him personally for his contribution to the whole day, on top of the £40 raised through Santa's grotto.

As a whole, the day was a huge success, raising £1,945.39, a donation that will help improve lives in our local area. The cans went to Maidstone Christian Care and the money went to the local branch of the MS Society. I would like to thank all Challenger Prefects and students that helped out during, and before the day, especially to the Challenger House Prefect team. Elliott Barham also made a significant charitable donation, of £397.34, to multiple sclerosis by raising sponsorship to shave a face in the back of his head. The Charities Cup is the one piece of silverware Challenger has not been in control of since the House system was introduced, and I hope this year the sum raised can secure the Cup for our House.

Ben Garbett and Sam Robinson

Challenger House Seniors

Amount Raised: £1945.39

Churchill House

With a hugely successful year under our belts from the reign under the Iron Fist of Alex Hunter, in which we won every cup, including the Charities Cup; there was a lot of pressure for the new Prefect team to perform. And when I say new Prefect team, I mean new Prefect team; formed only a week before due to recruitment problems, we not only had the challenging task of Charities Day ahead of us, but we also had to whip our group of "wet behind the ears" Prefects into shape.

Our first taste of action had been a few weeks earlier, when Churchill House played a leading role in the

running of the Macmillan Coffee Morning at school, where we raised an impressive £205 for Macmillan Cancer Support. And so it was with an air of confidence that we prepared for our Charities Day. Despite potential problems and obstacles, Charities Day went off virtually without a hitch; with events such as the Coffee Morning having a much larger turn-out than we initially expected. The Coffee Morning was one of the main events of the day, taking place in the Big Hall during break and raising an impressive £105 from its sale of coffee and cakes; a sales figure that was obviously boosted by Roy Manuell injecting his presence into the Hall, a presence that could fill a hundred cathedrals. Other events like the quiz in the Gym at lunch, a sponsored

silence by a Year 8 in Mr Terrell's form, splat the rat and crossbar challenge in the Sports Hall organised by Mrs Lynch's Year 11s, all helped to raise money and contribute towards the overall total.

In the end, the youthful vigour of our largely inexperienced Prefect team paid off; whilst some of the old heads in the team showed the commanding presence expected from the Year 13's (Timmy Creamer and Ben Barnes I'm looking at you); and after hours of gruelling preparation and execution of our plans, we raised a very respectable £1506.49.

Although not as much as the wise Mr Hunter could muster, Anna Davies and I are very proud of the performance of the team in organising the event, and also by the participation of the members of the school, who continue to show support for the charity events that take place within the school, and to whom we give our thanks.

The charities that we have chosen to give to are the Switch project, and to the Royal Marsden Hospital and Captain Chemo series. Switch are a local charity that many of you may have heard of; they do a lot of good work with local bereaved and deprived children, including sports and other outings, and also run the Switch café in Maidstone. The Royal Marsden Hospital and Captain Chemo was chosen after I heard the truly inspiring story of Old Maidstonian Ben de Garis; who passed away during his time at the school due to terminal cancer, but only after a long battle and some incredible work to help other teenagers suffering from the disease. Again Anna and I thank you for your contributions towards the Churchill Charities Day.

Amount Raised: £1506.49

Endeavour House

The Endeavour House Charities Day arrived on the 10th February 2012, after weeks of careful planning by the House Prefect team which was boldly led by the House Captain and Vice Captain.

The charity we decided to raise funds and awareness for was the British Heart Foundation, which is dedicated to help find a cure and prevent heart disease. Once we had decided upon the chosen charity, we immediately set to work on coming up with lucrative events to hold on the day. The week leading up to our charity day, volunteers from the Year 7 Endeavour form, embarked upon collecting donations around the school.

The first event we concentrated on was the Coffee Morning which was held at break in the Big Hall. We managed to secure contribution of cakes and biscuits from our generous canteen, therefore keeping costs low and adding to our charitable fund. The Coffee Morning was a success and busier than expected due to the exposure created by the brilliant posters. Although slightly overwhelmed at the amount of people, we quickly got to grips and produced a significant profit. This event raised £113 in total and was a successful way to start the very busy day. At lunch, we had originally organised a staff football match, which was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to adverse weather conditions. However, we refused to let this deter us and soldiered on with our other remaining events. The Year 7s organised and performed a magic show at lunch-time and many

of them pursued individual ideas. There were also a couple of Year 9 students who managed to stay silent for the whole day in return for sponsorship. We also had the Endeavour Head of House Dr Everett dress up as the famous "lady in red" in return for sponsorship money. At lunch, we had to think on our feet and divided into teams in order to sell cakes and cookies to students and teachers.

All of this greatly contributed to the fund and in total we raised £1662.25. Even though we faced setbacks, the Endeavour House Team were excellent and ensured Charities Day 2012 was a success.

Huma Haq

Endeavour House Captain

Amount Raised: £1662.25



Hurricane House

With the Hurricane Charity Day being the first of the school year and just three weeks into the start of the new term, there was great pressure to get everything organised in time.

However, despite a few hiccoughs along the way, it was a great success thanks to the hard work of both the students and teachers.

The shift from each Charity Day providing a 'big hall event' to one with a greater focus on form-run activities placed an emphasis on the lower years of the school raising money. The various events run by Years 7 to 11 during break and lunch included:

7Js.....Sweets in a jar and sponsored dress-up
8MeMario Kart Wii
9My..... CD/Games Auction
10Zc Non-PE teachers' bleep test
11Ph Roulette

Despite the early start, several House Prefects, aided by the School Captain and Vice Captain, were stationed on the front and back entrances to collect the non-uniform money, collecting a total of £1,169.11.

The form events raised a total of £147.17, with £55.10 of this total going to 11Ph's Roulette game, the highest total of all the form events.

The central events of the day proved to be the teachers' football match on the field and the sponsored leg-wax of sixth-formers, Luke Garner and Stephen Haffenden. The football match, refereed by an enthusiastic Roy Manuell, was marked by the sending off of Mr Rogers for a handball, Mr Highsted's scoring of 5 goals, and a pitch invasion at the final whistle. At the same time, the hirsute Luke and Stephen were undergoing a painful waxing in the gym, supported by a host of sympathetic friends. The football match raised an impressive £233.15, while the leg waxing raised £77.94.



Overall, thanks to the hard work of the students and teachers, we managed **to raise £1,638.18** for JENGA, an African-based Charity that was chosen in memory of the late Mr Smith who worked closely with them whilst at school.

As a small Charity that focuses on providing mosquito nets, safe drinking water, and farming tools for the locals, the money raised will be of great use.

Many thanks also to the Hurricane House team, without whose drive and dedication this day would not have been such a success. Hopefully next year's Hurricane Charity Day will be even more successful!

Alec Cunningham

Hurricane House Captain

Amount Raised: £1638.18



Invincible House

With Invincible House's Charities Day falling just two weeks into the new school year, planning began before the Christmas festivities with Mr Martin rallying the Science Department to commit to return to their love of dressing up, this time as characters from Star Wars, on the condition that £500 is raised before the big day.

My deputy, Charlie Walker-Jopson, and I sat down to a serious meeting and decided on a decisive action plan, involving a dramatic house assembly to raise awareness to the rest of Invincible of our preparations.

The return from the Christmas break saw the start of the execution of the plan, and it was carried out with the efficiency and enthusiasm only Invincible House are capable of. With the logo of our chosen charity, Children with Cancer UK (a charity close to my own heart), emblazoned on posters fabulously designed by our Head of PR Tom Etheridge, the Sixth Form set to work on raising the required £500 for the Science Department's spectacle. Every day without fail for the two weeks leading up to the Friday, members of Mr Walker's and Mr Martin's forms ventured out to form

rooms far and wide, collecting what spare change and kind donations they could: an inspiring effort in support of charity. Supplemented by the amounts raised via sponsorship forms placed in form folders and money donated via a Just-Giving site, we easily reached and surpassed the £500 needed, and steeled ourselves for what would truly be an unforgettable day.

With the school prepped by posters and what has come to be known as the longest tannoy ever delivered, we set out to try and exceed our target of £2000, an audacious aim. Early on Friday morning, Prefects gathered on both front and back gates to collect the mandatory £1 for non-school uniform, and our fund-raising effort was well and truly underway. The Science Department did not disappoint, with Mr Martin's stunning effort as Yoda complemented by everything from Darth Vader to a suspiciously Scottish Wookiee. The Cantina Band located in Piccadilly were on fine form, and together with other firm favourites such as 'guess the skittles in the jar', 'smack the rat' and a penalty shootout (this made extra special by Mr Tismer recreating the dramatic scenes of Euro '96), we managed to raise an astounding £2,045.59!

To be able to raise such a significant amount of money on just one of eight charities days on the school calendar demonstrates the selflessness and compassion of every one of our students at MGS, something I have always been and continue to be proud of.



I am especially thankful to the members of both my Prefect team and of the Sixth Form, without whom we would not have been able to transform Charities Day from mere plans on paper into the success it was, raising a life-changing amount of money for children with a less fortunate start to their lives than ourselves. Mr Martin and the Science Department must of course receive a special mention for demonstrating that anything is possible when you put your mind to it, as well as 7BK who alone rose over £80.

My most sincere thanks go to everyone who supported our Charities Day and helped to make it such a fantastic event.



Robert Ledniczky

Invincible House Captain

Amount Raised: £2045.59



Spitfire House

Spitfire Charities Day took place on Friday 24th February, and was a resounding success raising £1,478.05 for Water Aid Charity. The Friday was a non-uniform day as usual; however, it saw some original fundraising ideas.

Our headline event was 'Pound a Press-up', where for every pound raised for a teacher, they did one press-up. Two teachers took part, Mr Tismer and Mr Fu, each raising approximately £60 each. The event was painful to watch. Whilst Mr Fu was asking for more money, it was being thrown at Mr Tismer. Mr Tismer would scream on each press-up towards the end, and it was an extremely valiant effort.

Other events run included 'Raise £100 to shave Mr Waller's head', which was also extremely successful.

Mr Darbey dressed as a famous Welshman, following £100 being raised. The coffee morning in the Big Hall cannot go unmentioned, and proved extremely popular.

Overall, the day was a great success, bringing joy to many and raising hundreds of pounds for a fantastic cause. Big thanks to the individuals who helped on the day, and also to those who gave so generously.

House Senior

Spitfire House

Amount Raised: £1478.05

Army Section 2011/12

The Army Section enjoyed another successful year in 2012, with our training being put to good use in the final competition day of summer camp.

From September, the year 9 cadets train in tri-service sections leading up to a recruits weekend camp. After Christmas, those opting for the Army Section are taught the Basic Army Proficiency Syllabus which encompasses Skill At Arms (for which they attend a training weekend at St Martin's Plain), map reading, first aid, drill, military knowledge and fieldcraft.

The year 10 and 11 cadets are taught the advanced syllabus, which includes the same content but in more detail, with a view to these cadets becoming the next instructors.

The Duffield Cup Competition is used to identify the best shot in the contingent and this year took place over the course of a very wet day on Lydd ranges with overnight accommodation at Napier Barracks in Folkestone. Sgt James Leigh was the winner of the competition with a very respectable score considering the conditions.

As we approach summer camp, we split down into two training troops which allows for fieldcraft training to be carried out on the field, and weapon handling skills to be practised and tested. It also means that the cadets get used to the other people who they will be working with on summer camp.

Summer camp this year was almost a logistical nightmare. With the army called in the help with the Olympics, Longmoor camp, which we had booked, was made unavailable to us and instead we were told we would be sent up north to Barry Budden training camp in Aberdeenshire!

A quick appraisal of the facts by the SSI led to the abandonment of that adventure and instead we secured a position on the rather more local Crowborough camp.

The wave of disappointment that spread over the army section was soon dispelled when we received a programme of events....the Crowborough camp looked like it was going to be a smashing one.

And it was! With activities as varied as lasertag to

dry-slope skiing, we were never short of activity or challenge. We spent two days in Pippingford Park, one day focussed on non-military activities while the other was an intense day of non-stop fieldcraft. The first day was spent on the following stands: archery, survival, raft-building, command tasks, first aid and rest. The survival stand was a particular highlight for many as we were taught how to collect clean water, set traps, locate north without a compass and erect a shelter.

The day of fieldcraft was long and tiring, but very rewarding, not only for the younger cadets who overcame fatigue to put in a good performance but also the older cadets who were given an opportunity to exercise their command and control. Stands included: platoon attack, sniper stand, ambush, patrol lanes and rest. The platoon attack was without doubt one of the most impressive battle arenas any cadet could hope to use. It stretched 800m from end to end and included 3 separate enemy positions, allowing for a full rotation of sections.

Our first troop to go through was told they were the best troop for the 3 week period, and then our second troop was told the very same thing, but they were even better than the first. This demonstrates our Army Section's proficiency for all things green and also the ability of the SNCOs. The sniper stand was also very impressive, demanding a tactical approach and a single shot at an enemy position located over 500m away. Everyone agreed that as cadet fieldcraft goes, that day was pretty much as good as it gets in some respects.

One of my personal highlights of the camp was as a result of my personal battle with the dry-slope. It was only on one run down that I ended in the same standing position in which I started and this naturally led to much hilarity for the officers. The memory of skiing, crashing, then looking up to see Lt Col Smith roaring with laughter will stay with me for a very long time.

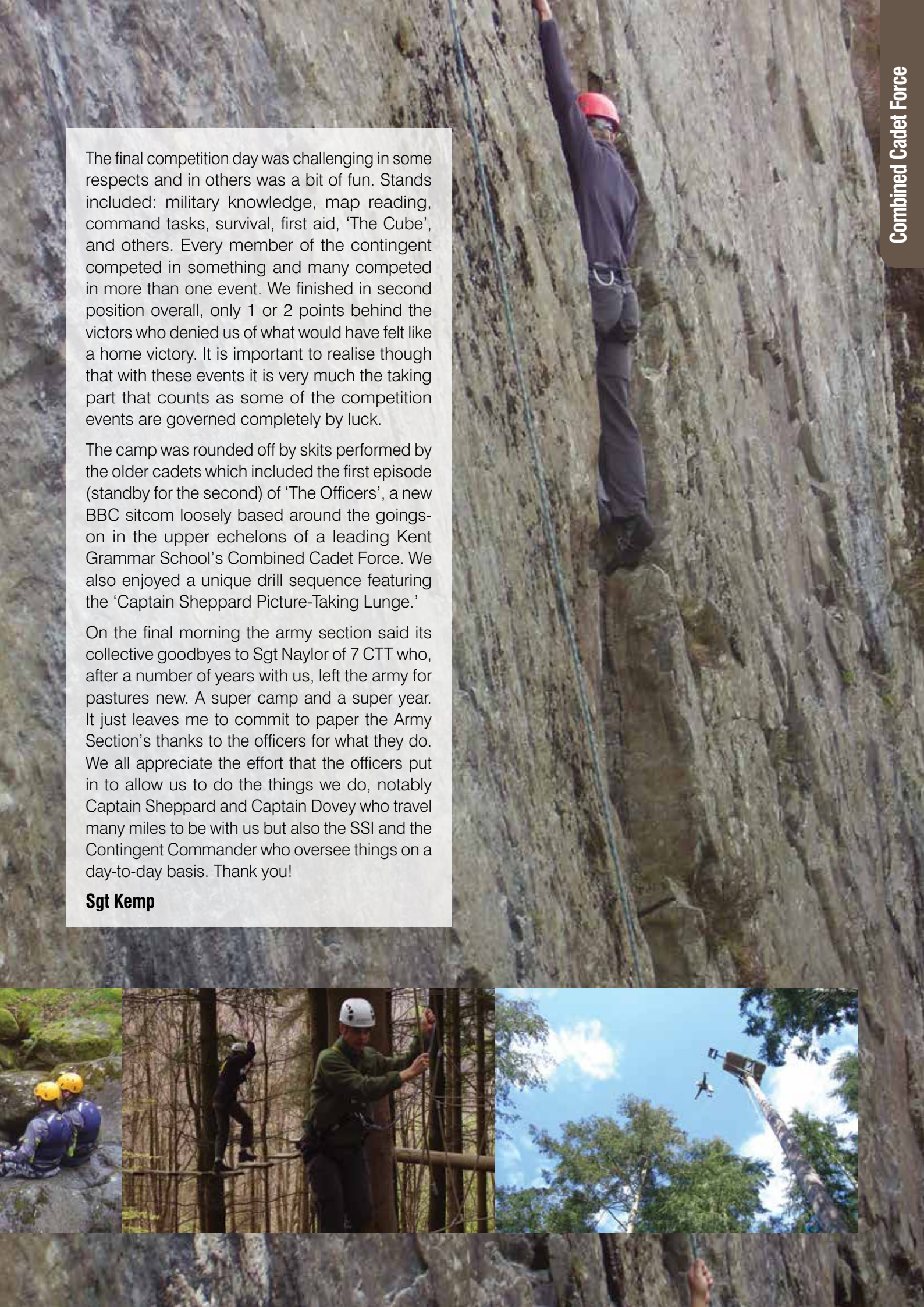


The final competition day was challenging in some respects and in others was a bit of fun. Stands included: military knowledge, map reading, command tasks, survival, first aid, 'The Cube', and others. Every member of the contingent competed in something and many competed in more than one event. We finished in second position overall, only 1 or 2 points behind the victors who denied us of what would have felt like a home victory. It is important to realise though that with these events it is very much the taking part that counts as some of the competition events are governed completely by luck.

The camp was rounded off by skits performed by the older cadets which included the first episode (standby for the second) of 'The Officers', a new BBC sitcom loosely based around the goings-on in the upper echelons of a leading Kent Grammar School's Combined Cadet Force. We also enjoyed a unique drill sequence featuring the 'Captain Sheppard Picture-Taking Lunge.'

On the final morning the army section said its collective goodbyes to Sgt Naylor of 7 CTT who, after a number of years with us, left the army for pastures new. A super camp and a super year. It just leaves me to commit to paper the Army Section's thanks to the officers for what they do. We all appreciate the effort that the officers put in to allow us to do the things we do, notably Captain Sheppard and Captain Dovey who travel many miles to be with us but also the SSI and the Contingent Commander who oversee things on a day-to-day basis. Thank you!

Sgt Kemp



RAF Section 2011/12

The academic year 2011/2012 was one of great enjoyment and success for the Royal Air Force Section.

To start the year we had a large intake of recruits making the section in excess of 100 cadets. The Senior Non Commissioned Officer (SNCO) in charge of the RAF Section was Flight Sergeant (FS) Luke Garner who was supported by his second in command (2 i/c), Sergeant (Sgt) Josh Jillians along with other SNCOs throughout the section. During the year we added to our number of officers when Pilot Officer Moores gained his commission to join Squadron Leader Coltella and Pilot Officer Day.

The usual events soon started to take place such as the annual remembrance parade in Maidstone town centre of which every cadet on parade was proud to be part.

In December 2011 the recruit section headed for their last phase of training at Crowborough Camp headed by Sgt Josh Jillians. Many RAF NCOs also assisted during this long weekend and we ended up with an efficient cohort of cadets.

This was swiftly followed by a weapons handling weekend whereby individuals were taught how to handle a cadet issue A2 rifle correctly and safely. Both weekends were a great success with all cadets making good contributions and joining the section on a permanent basis.

This year also saw a lot of cadets take to the air and gain flying experience in multiple aircraft such as the Grob Tutor and Viking glider, plus gliding scholarships and flying scholarships continued with pupils being able to fly solo and have the privilege of wearing their wings on their jerseys.

The Ground Training Team was successful over the course of the year winning five of the seven disciplines at the regional competition: aircraft recognition, drill, command task, shooting, and RAF knowledge. After progressing to the national competition, we performed consistently well and managed to achieve 3rd place narrowly losing to Dulwich College.

The Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF Cranwell offered the chance for Cpl Stefan Cook and Cpl Sam Burdett to practice their leadership skills and improve their confidence over the course of a week; both cadets completed the course and took part in the passing out

parade at the end. They have set a great example to younger members of the section. In addition, younger cadets can take part in a 5 day course at Manston which trains them to become a Junior Non Commissioned Officer (JNCO); many cadets have completed this over the last 12 months.

The classification tests held internally within the section proved successful with all cadets passing with a minimum of a merit and becoming a first class cadet.

Summer Camp was held in late July and combined the sections of London Oratory RAF and Maidstone under the command of Sqn Ldr Coltella. The week gave lots of opportunities for cadets to experience life on an active RAF base, in this case RAF Cosford in Shropshire. The activities included a drill competition, and a whole day of endurance tests at the Oakerwood Outdoor Activity Centre. However, a highlight of the trip was the opportunity to take to the skies in an RAF Griffin helicopter, which was an experience that we will never forget. It truly is a week that every future cadet should go on, given the opportunity.

Our SNCO Luke Garner also had much success throughout the year, including winning the coveted De Havilland Flying Foundation Medal, making him one of the best SNCOs in the UK.

To add to this, he took part in the International Air Cadet Exchange scheme, whereby he visited a contingent in Ghana; one of a handful of cadets to get the opportunity. He is to be congratulated on his achievements and promotion to Cadet Warrant Officer (CWO) which is the highest rank possible for a NCO. Well done Luke!

A huge vote of thanks is owed to all the Officers and NCOs of the section for all of their efforts and consequently making the MGS RAF section by far the best section in the contingent!* We look forward to a new year ahead of us, under the recently appointed new NCO i/c RAF Section, Sgt Tom Etheridge and 2 i/c Sgt Harry Majin.

LCpl Ben Johnston and LCpl Tom Lovegrove

*Editor's note: This has been disputed by both RN and Army Sections!

Royal Navy 2011/12

My first year in the CCF RN section has taught me many lessons about leadership and what it takes to be in the Royal Navy.

We kick-started the year with sailing, which continued throughout most of the year, an enjoyable event that taught us a lot about being on water and how not to capsize, and luckily I managed not to capsize. Within a few months, I was promoted to a higher sailing rank getting myself closer to being able to get in the Bosun dinghies. It is quite thrilling when you are sideways due to the amount of speed the enormous sails gather. What a great end to the year as Sub Lt Fisher was back with us, coming sailing with the section in a canoe with Lt (RN) Tismer handing out food to whoever could manoeuvre their way next to the canoe!

The second half of the year included many opportunities to go on camps. The Welbeck Leadership Challenge against schools around the country was one of the main events which I joined. This camp taught us a key part to leadership and how to overcome challenges set for you depending on your groups set skills.

The weekend started off with simple challenges, which gradually built up into more mentally and physically strenuous ones. Some of the hardest challenges that my group and I faced were either climbing a Jacob's Ladder (which is a rope and wood ladder, usually part of a high ropes training course) or trying to do a small obstacle course in the rain, followed by a "search and rescue" of a sand-filled, crash - test dummy whilst slipping in the water logged dirt.

The most memorable of the events that I took part in was the tug-of-war against a team of men double the size of us, whilst we were getting told "it doesn't matter how strong you are, all that matters is the technique".

They were wrong. We were on our chests within the first 10 seconds of the match beginning. Although we didn't come first overall, at the end of it we learnt a bit more about each other as well as ourselves.

Looking over last year I can say that it was the most eventful year of my life in the CCF RN section and I have gained valuable skills in sailing and leadership.

AB Joseph Chapman



Contingent Commander's Report

The CCF remains consistently popular with its opportunities for skills development, variety of activities, and enjoyment. Qualifications continue to be gained by officers and cadets over a range of disciplines.

The demanding Cadet Leadership Course at Nesscliff, Shropshire and the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley, along with RN Leadership Courses have again attracted and challenged cadets with extremely good results. The RAF section has also been particularly active, effective, and successful in other areas.

Contingent Competitions & Successes

Jul 2011

Army 2011 Summer Camp (Nesscliff, Shropshire). In 5 competitions, MGS was awarded: Ammunition Replenishment Exercise – 1st place, Hostage Rescue – 1st place, Escape & Evasion – 2nd place, to end up in 3rd position overall in the Nesscliff Central Camp Competitions.

Sep 2011 – Jul 2012

Army Nov 2011 Skill at Arms Instructor Course qualification gained by 2Lt P Highway.

Army National Radio Net Signals Competition - Christmas Cracker - Nov 2011 – 4th place.

RAF International Air Cadet Exchange awarded to Flt Sgt Luke Garner.

RAF 2012 RAF Ground Training Competition Regional Finals - Winners.

RAF 2012 Ground Training Competition National Finals – (15th appearance in 16 years of this competition) – placed 3rd in a valiant effort against stiff opposition having won Drill and Aircraft Recognition, and achieving best shot in the competition. The team was only a few points away from first place.

Army May 2012 Promotion of 2Lt P Highway to Lt.

Army 2012 Summer Camp (Crowborough). In 11 competitions, MGS was awarded: 3 winners shields for Military Knowledge, Map Reading, and Command Task along with 2 runners up positions in Drill and Military Skills, to end up as 2nd overall; only 6 points behind the winners – Victoria College, Jersey. Every cadet took part in the competition and we brought home a total of 30 gold and 20 silver medals.

Staffing and Recruitment

The Army Section has only one officer on the school staff (Lt P Highway) and two officers outside school (Capt T Dovey the OC Army Section and Capt L Sheppard) who provide invaluable assistance with weekend, adventurous, and annual camp training. There is a vacancy for a further Army officer.

The RAF Section has two officers and a Civilian Instructor on the school staff (Fg Off K Day, Plt Off S Moores and Mr R Fu) and one officer outside school (Sqn Ldr J Coltella the OC RAF Section) leaving a vacancy for a further RAF officer.

The RN Section maintains a full complement of 2

adults on the school staff (Lt (RN) P Tismer and Sub Lt S Spruce). We welcomed Sub Lt R Fisher as a supernumerary officer in May 2012. With both the Army and RAF Section Officers Commanding operating from positions outside school this imposes restrictions on their ability to give their maximum input to the Contingent. Nevertheless their contributions are vital and we could not function without them.

The Contingent Commander and the SSI are the Headquarters Element affiliated to the Army Section and remain fully active at present but close to retirement.

Recruitment of cadets has remained successful with approximately 61% of the eligible year group signing up and supporting many activities.

Training

Progress through the training syllabuses of all three Sections has been very good. The training has remained very active and competitive with participation in local and national events, competitions, courses, and camps over the year. Many of the successes are noted above.

Whilst we participate in a diverse number of competitions covering a variety of disciplines, regrettably the unsatisfactory nature and organisation of the Divisional Military Skills Competition has led us to withdraw from this much to the disappointment of our team. Adventure Training at Easter was thwarted due to clashes with competing events, the position of Easter on the calendar, and it then became non economically viable in terms of manpower and cost. This was very disappointing and frustrating.

The Contingent made its contribution to the local community with its representation at Remembrance Day in Maidstone town centre, and collecting contributions within school for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

BTEC First Diploma in Public Services qualifications have been pursued with many Distinction * grades awarded.

A recruits' camp together with two very successful weapon safety training and testing weekend camps took place in the winter months of 2011 and 2012.

The RAF Section won the regional finals of the RAF ground Training Competition only to be forced into 3rd place at the National Finals. This is the second year running that we have been narrowly defeated by just a few points but it still reflect the fact that MGS RAF Section is one of the best in the country.

The Army Section having been assigned to Longmoor in Hampshire for its annual summer camp was forced to relocate due to the preparations for the Olympic Games. In their wisdom, someone relocated this contingent based in the south east of England to a summer camp at Barry Budden in Scotland! – Not a good logistical solution! Consequently we ended up virtually on our own doorstep at Crowborough; a place we know well. Initial disappointment turned quickly to great enthusiasm as one of the best summer camps in recent years unfurled. Further detail may be seen in the Army Section Report and the successes list earlier in this report.

RAF cadets have gained gliding and powered flight qualifications and there has been a policy within the contingent to maximise the number of RAF cadets having the opportunity for Air Experience Flying and Gliding. This has gone well apart from cancellations forced on us by weather conditions. RN cadets have enjoyed sessions of Afloat Training in various guises.

Qualifications have been gained by officers and cadets. These included 2Lt Highway's fast track through the very demanding Skill at Arms Instructor's Course at Frimley Park in November 2011 and eight cadets who passed the highly prestigious Cadet Leadership Course at Nesscliff over Easter 2012 - the highest on record for MGS.

It has been an active and successful year and it has been a privilege to work with so many hard working and enthusiastic cadets.

The Future

The Army and RAF Sections need some more officers who are members of the school staff if our cadets are to maximise their opportunities in the CCF. The imminent reorganisation of the structure of the 2 Brigade cadet world is already promising to make next year one of great challenge if we are to continue with the successes of previous years.

L Smith

Lt Col

Contingent Commander

Music Department Report

The year of 2011/12 was an exciting year for the Music Department at Maidstone Grammar School under the new Head of Department, Mr Fuller.

A strong Prefect Team led by Fraser Bowles and Deputy Lesley Connor organised over 10 performances throughout the course of the school year. The school wind band continued to evolve, gaining new players and some much needed new music under the recent guidance of Mr Fuller, adding to the much loved but increasingly ageing repertoire.

The first performance of the year saw the band play at Senior Speech Day, including the traditional rendition of the School song. November followed with two more showcases of the fine musical talent MGS has to offer, with a lunchtime concert in the big hall featuring the jazz trio and the Autumn concert which sported a varied programme of solo performances and ensembles. The first term concluded with the Festival of Lessons and Carols, the annual service at All Saints Church with performances from soloists, the choir and various readings from staff and students. This also presented an opportunity for the winners of the Carol Competition, open to years 8 and 9, to promote their success by performing in front of a large audience.

The spring term hosted another lunchtime recital and was followed by the evening concert on 29 March, featuring notable performances from sixth form and lower school students. The standard as usual was very high. Another lunchtime concert provided a rare opportunity for students and colleagues to witness performances from staff members Miss Mott, Miss Tomes and Mr Simons. A witty piece from The Broadway musical *Cats* provided amusing entertainment but also the more serious repertoire exposed the vocal talents of these teachers. Some of the finest student musicians were also showcased in a lunchtime performance, the A Level recital. Here the Year 13 students were given the opportunity to perform pieces which they had been working on for the performance aspect of the A2, to a crowd, and their efforts were very well received by all who attended.

The final term of the year saw the Music Department reach out into the local community as Maidstone Grammar School students performed outside the school grounds. The first was an event which has regularly been held by the United Reformed Church - *Midsummer Music*. This concert gave members of the public the chance to hear some of the solos performed

at the Spring Concert. The second was a music festival at the local special school, the humorously titled *Five Acre Woodstock*. Maidstone Grammar School students performed alongside rock bands and other groups in a mock festival scenario, and the pupils of the school thoroughly enjoyed listening and dancing along. Once again, the school ensembles and solo performers could be heard at the summer concert which moved outside to the court where the audience could enjoy the weather. Joining forces with the Art Department, an exhibition of some of the A Level students' work added flair to the interval. After their performance at the Senior Speech Day at the start of the year, it seemed fitting that the school wind band played for the Junior Speech Day, one of the prominent events of the final term of the school year.

Success was also to be had for Maidstone Grammar School students outside of school, with two reaching the finals of the Maidstone and Mid Kent Young Musician Competition. Fraser Bowles and Alisdair Ashman both attained places to study music at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music, and Lesley Connor gained a place at Canterbury Christchurch University to read Music. Following the appointment of Music and Music Technology teacher, Mr Shillito, Ellis Anderson gained a place at Buckingham New University to read Audio and Music Production.

2011/2012 was a very strong year for the Music Department at Maidstone Grammar School and this will hopefully continue into the new academic year.

Peter Ashwell, Louise Barclay and Harry Riddick



Summer Art Exhibition

'Swan Song' July 5th 2012

This years' Art Exhibition, 'Swan Song', a title chosen by the departing Year 13 Art students was hailed as a resounding success by teachers, parents, students alike including our new Headmaster, Mr Mark Tomkins.

The Exhibition this year was run in conjunction with 'Music in the Court' and therefore had the great benefit of reciprocal parents enjoying both the art exhibition and the musical concert - a new tradition that we hope to continue – weather permitting!

The Guest of Honour this year was the composer Antony Pitts who selected Nathan Hopkins (GCSE) 'Kingfisher' painting to receive a prize.

Other prizes went to Sam Creasey and Chloe Auger from Year 13, Liam Freen and David Norman from Year 11 and the main prize this year being awarded to Sam Robinson (Year 13).

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with a wealth of excellent and varied artwork on show. It is always a chance for the Art Students from Year 11, 12 and 13 to get to show their family and friends their achievements in Art and be rewarded for their efforts. The standard of work this year was exceptionally high – a tough act to follow!



Globe Theatre Trip

In June of 2012, 120 year 8 boys were taken to the Globe Theatre, London, on an excursion organised by the English Department. This is an annual event which the students enjoy and value, as it not only entertains them but prepares them for their GCSE study of Shakespeare.

The purpose of the year 8 trip is to consolidate the student's understanding of Shakespeare as they usually have just studied one of the bard's text. Last year it was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also, the trip exposes the boys to Elizabethan theatre and performance in general, and for some, the experience is the first visit to a theatre.

At the Globe and Rose theatres the boys are led by guides who explain the historical, social and cultural context of Shakespeare's work, Elizabethan society, an epoch in British history of conflict, political intrigue and human failings, the essentials of good drama.

The students then visit the Globe's museum, part of their research task, which is comprehensive in its education of Elizabethan theatre. How do you fake a hanging? The exhibits range from costumes to weapons to an eight foot bear used to illustrate the barbaric Elizabethan pastime of Bear baiting (if not bears, children were used to bait staked Mastiff dogs). Little wonder, the boys quickly conclude, why Shakespeare's work was so bawdy, violent and provocative when faced the

with fierce competition of blood sports and public executions.

The students also involve themselves in workshops, which challenges them to act, direct, dress up or sword fight, again to stimulate their curiosity about the context of Shakespeare's writing.

The trips end with lunch on the lawn of the Tate Modern, sometimes a visit (time and weather permitting) and judging from the silence on the coach back to school, it is clear these trips are successful in draining their energies.

Mr L Lozano
English Department



BBC News School Report 2012

BBC News School Report gives 11-16 year-old students in the UK the chance to make their own news reports for a real audience. Using lesson plans and materials from this website, and with support from BBC staff and partners, teachers help students develop their journalistic skills to become School Reporters.

In November 2011 all of Year 7 were taken off timetable for a day to prepare for this project. In a series of hands on workshops, role plays and simulations they learnt all about how to research, gather, write and present the news. The day culminated in students from each form group presenting a news bulletin to their peers and a judging panel of senior staff and guests in the Big Hall, in which Endeavour House were victorious.

With the preparation complete, the students had to wait until March to take part in the annual News Day, simultaneously creating video, audio and text-based news reports, and publishing them on the school website, which was then streamed on the BBC website.

The students had 2 days in which to produce a number of local, national and international stories. To assist them we were fortunate to have the help of Jo Burn (BBC Radio Kent), Chas Hallett (Editor of "What Car") and 2 recent Old Maidstonians who gave up their time, along with the staff, to coach and prepare the students in how to write and present the news. The students interviewed local sporting celebrities, a group of canoeists who were about to canoe up the Yukon river to raise money for charity, local authors,



boxing promoter Frank Maloney, Phil Jupitus and others. The 3 day project finished with a 30 minute live televised news broadcast from the Big Hall, which was professionally delivered and a testament to all the hard work the students had put in - from the presenters to the camera men to the editors to the reporters. All the students participated wholeheartedly and enjoyed the opportunity to take part in this exciting project.

Thanks must go to Miss Kennedy and Mr Losano for organising and ensuring the 3 days ran seamlessly, the staff who gave up 3 days of teaching time to help coach, mentor and assist the students, and of course, to all of Year 7 who enthusiastically got involved in the event.

Mr E.Seymour



Futuroscope Report

**I think it is right to say
that our trip to
Futuroscope was
more than eventful!**





We started at 5.45 at the crack of dawn, everyone having dragged themselves out of bed to get there on time. Like a bus full of zombies, we left for the Channel Tunnel and France. It took about two hours to get there, but once we were in France, everyone lightened up.

We soon got to Paris and around the Arc de Triomphe we had our first experience of the beast that is French traffic. Cars zooming around us, little French men on Vespas risking life and limb to get in front, to be honest all we could do was laugh. After our battle with the French traffic, we got out of our coach to explore the River Seine. The sun was beating down and we only had enough time to get an ice cream before our boat left for the cruise. On the trip we saw the Notre Dame and the Louvre, and loads of bridges nobody remembers the names of.

After the boat cruise, we went in groups to the top of the Eiffel Tower and became aspiring photographers, taking hundreds of photos of anything that moved. We took the lift up, but we did a James Bond style chase down the stairs, which was going well until Alex nearly stacked it over into a group of people. Afterwards, everyone was raring to get to the Disney Hotel in which we were staying. It was an amazing hotel, and after dinner everybody started to explore. Everyone began playing a good old game of British Bulldog and when we stopped it was all we could do to turn on the French Television which nobody understood and then go to sleep.

We woke up the next day, had a French breakfast and then left for the Palace of Versailles. Traffic was bad, but we knew something was wrong after we were stationary for ten minutes. We arrived there two hours late but we were not put off, we waited in a line of hundreds of people and after an hour of queueing we finally got in. The Palace was amazing. It looked really expensive and the gardens literally went on forever, so much that many of us got lost. We spent four hours there and it felt really cool to actually go to a place we had heard so much about.

That evening, we went to eat at Planet Hollywood in Disney. To be honest, when we went to Disneyland Paris, we were all hoping to sneak into the park but Mrs Van Mol made sure we didn't escape. The next day was our journey to Futuroscope. It took a while but we stopped off at a cave where they kept a lot of wine. In this we saw all the ways that wine was made and all the different stages it needed.

We kept on travelling and next stopped at a little chateau or mini-castle. We walked around but the best thing was this very kind French lady who was selling us these really nice ice creams, shame nobody understood what flavours they were except for the pictures. When we arrived it was UEFA European Cup semi-final, so we had a lot of cheering Spaniards in our hotel who were very drunk! But we thought our game of football refereed by Mr Philpott was far better – nobody can remember the score except that it was very large to both teams.

The next day, we went to Futuroscope. There were loads of attractions, however some of the best were: Dancing with Robots, the 4D experience, the waterparks, a laser shooting game and a cinema which made a film out of water. My favourite was 'Dancing with Robots', which was a ride where a robotic hand threw you around, however it is right to say that it hurt a certain area if it threw you really hard! Not a pleasurable experience. A lot of other rides made you very wet, fully soaking you and my dark blue shoes ended up a sky blue shade.

We ate in the park and ended the day with Futuroscope's world famous laser show in which we were told a magical story that nobody understood! In the story, lasers reflected off water fountains to create images and a story.

We had to begin packing that night for our trip home which, looking back was pretty uneventful. Everyone was so tired from the last few days that we were nearly all asleep the whole 12 hour journey.

It was a great trip and I recommend anyone else to do it if they are able to.

John Hudson

German Trip



The German trip was my first residential trip at MGS and I can tell you that it was great. There were 39 students who made the trip and I know every single one enjoyed the whole experience.

The two coach drivers were great because they allowed us to eat on the coach and they played lots of music, which made a massive difference on the eight hour journey.

The school we visited was full of very nice people who spoke almost perfect English just like everybody else we met on the trip. Their school was very modern and their day is different to ours. They don't wear a school uniform. The youth hostel staff were great and let us all watch the England vs Italy game. We visited the Roman baths which were very interesting to learn about and the audio tour was very informative.

There was a chance for us to go up the Dusseldorf telephone tower which everyone agreed was amazing.

The second hotel was also great and the rooms really good with nice and comfortable beds. Fortunately there were multiple shopping opportunities wherever we went to buy souvenirs and other things like German foods that we don't get in England.

Finally we come to the best part, Europa park, now before going here I wasn't the world's biggest fan of roller coasters but with some 'encouragement' from my friends, I ended up having a go on all of them. It is without a doubt the best theme park I have ever been to. If you ever get a chance to go on the German trip it is worth it just for the theme park if nothing else.

Overall I think the trip was great and if you are contemplating going I recommend you do, as you will not regret it, it is an amazing opportunity.

Harry Townsend

World Challenge 2012 Mongolia

14 Challengers, 3 Teachers and 1 Guide embarked on an epic journey across the emptiness of the Asian Steppes last July. Also known as Mongolia. With a size four times that of Britain, and a population of less than 5% of the UK.

But this seems like near the end of the story, as preparation had begun 16 months earlier. Fund raising and Part-Time jobs were tough with you having to save everything you made and time always against you. Nonetheless everyone pulled it out the bag (some with quite a debt to their parents), and the satisfaction of accomplishing it was worth it all.

Problems arose quickly, within minutes; half of the team almost missed the flight to Beijing, then 9876 hours walking with full kit in the blistering humidity of the city looking for our hostel. At least it was a nice flight! It was also pretty sweet being handed \$11000 cash at the airport as our budget for the entire trip. (Exclusive to the accountants I might add)

The night at Beijing involved eating scorpions by some, failing at haggling by others... but we were all too tired to do much else, which leads to our arrival to Mongolia itself. Ulaanbaatar, the capital, became our base of operations and was interesting to say the least. It held almost half the country's population!

The first major part of the trip was our community project at an Orphanage/School near the outskirts of the capital. It was a truly humbling experience by simply improving what we could through honest days of work. Whether it be wheel barrowing cow excrement up a 30 degree, half mile hill, several times a day (Team Poo!!), making an impressive mosaic (Team Art), building

a recycling bin (Team Build Stuff), or doing nothing at all (Team Paint - Except for Jones). The best part however was finally seeing the children at their summer camp. Managing to convince them that Michael was Jackie Chan was surprisingly easy. It was just a joyous exchange of culture and laughter over the entire day, which I will forever remember. Finishing the week left everyone with a slight empty feeling, we all felt at home there and we all knew what was coming next.

We faced 9 days of trekking and 4 of horse riding. A slow start began with horse riding along the river we were due to cross. One of my most memorable moments is finally getting our horses to canter by re-enacting the charge of Rohan. The next day brought about a different story, an arduous 3 river crossings, where three challengers were swept downriver, gave us a nervous start to what we thought could have been another 11 days of this. The views were breathtaking everywhere we looked, whether scaling a mountain or hiking across the Steppes. Our final horse riding day was probably the funniest, with Jeb throwing up on his horse and Will's collapsing. Alex dropping our breakfast on possibly the worst day for morale is also noteworthy. That day in the pouring rain, from dawn to dusk, truly tested our mettle. At the climax of the trek came the sacred 'Blue Lake'. We were on this day offered a remarkable rest day in which half declined for an exhilarating peak day filled with emotions of all levels.

Clearly there is so much more I could write about but space has run out, albeit just enough to squeeze in some advice to the next challengers – try and do everything you can, your ambition is the limit.

Christian El-Shamma



Harvard Model United Nations Trip 2012

In January 2012, eighteen Maidstone Grammar School students joined forces with students from The Skinners School to take part in the 59th Session of the annual Harvard Model United Nations Conference, held in Boston, Massachusetts.

The trip, now becoming something of an annual MGS legend, attracts applications from some of our best and brightest students, and the students chosen to represent the school, and effectively the country, given that we were the only British delegation at the conference, performed outstandingly.

Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN), gives 3500 students from around the world the opportunity to broaden their academic horizons by competing in a simulation of the United Nations, representing a country on a world stage. Over 200 schools attend the conference, each sending a delegation of students who are assigned to represent one of the UN member states on committees of the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Regional Bodies and Specialised Agencies. The delegates are given topics to research prior to the trip, which they then debate in conference.

Training sessions began in September, mainly delivered by last year's HMUN team, who were eager to pass on their tips and knowledge to the new recruits, many wishing that it was them going back again! Students were drilled in the art of UN Parliamentary Procedures and rules of debate, and, perhaps just as importantly, how to use their secret weapon (British accents!) to win friends and influence people.

We were also lucky enough to be able to visit the London embassies of the countries we would be representing in conference: Australia, Kenya and Norway, and learnt an enormous amount from the diplomats who gave up their time to talk about their countries' viewpoints on the topics we had been assigned.

Our American adventure began in New York, with the statutory sightseeing trips eagerly encouraged by Mrs Acaster and Dr. Derrett, both of whom had never been

to America before and were determined that this trip was definitely not going to be "all work and no play". Unfortunately a hold up at JFK security meant that we missed the last boat to the Statue of Liberty, but still managed to fit in Central Park, Ground Zero, Wall Street, dinner at Macy's, Times Square, Grand Central Station, the United Nations HQ, the amazing views of New York by day from the top of the Rockefeller Centre and by night from the Empire State Building with some time still left for the obligatory shopping in 5th Avenue: not bad for just 2 days!

Our time in New York also enabled us to visit the UN Missions of our respective countries to get some last minute preparation before catching the Greyhound to Boston.

Once in Boston, we grabbed a few more sightseeing opportunities, including the JFK Presidential Library, Harvard University and a walking tour of Boston's historic sites, before getting down to the main business of the conference itself.



The HMUN conference takes place over a 4 day period, in the huge and equally impressive Sheraton Hotel. Committees meet for 6 sessions during the 4 days to debate their topics, lobby and secure alliances with delegations from schools from around the world, reflecting the processes of the real United Nations.

Having been all together as one big group since we arrived in America, it was now time for our delegates to go their separate ways, a strangely emotional experience! For the next four days they were on their own, each assigned to their separate committees to debate the topics that had been researching for the past few months, and facing the somewhat daunting task of representing the views of their allocated country to a sea of strangers.

We eagerly awaited their return that first evening, to hear news of speeches made, arguments won, blocs taking shape, alliances forming, and how many people had commented on their accents! As each day passed, our delegates became more confident, gradually starting to dictate debates and control central blocs of aligned nations. The tales of notes and roses received from unknown admirers was becoming commonplace and we had all become fully immersed in the world that is HMUN. On Saturday night it seemed quite strange

that, after the intensity of 3 days of committee sessions with their ongoing dramas and crisis situations, the conference was almost at an end,

Following our last evening meal at Cheers, whose fame was clearly more impressive to the staff rather than the students, the Delegate Dance was eagerly anticipated by all, mainly to see whether it was truly as bad as we had all been told – it was, but in a strange way, hugely enjoyable, not least for our delegates' rendition of the classic Inbetweeners "Americano" scene, performed in the middle of a crowded dance floor. It still makes me laugh thinking about it!

All too soon the week was over. The closing ceremonies rewarded our delegations with a number of awards, but perhaps more importantly, a sense of what everyone had achieved over the week and the fun that we'd had. The trip back home was somewhat subdued compared to the anticipation and excitement that had prevailed only a week before, but clearly was an opportunity for quiet thought and reflection by most: an opportunity to start reliving the memorable incidents and contemplating on how the experience had changed us all. What can I say: Amazing trip!

Mrs. S. Acaster

The Harvard Model United Nations 2012 team

Sudeep Ale, Sasa Brborovic, Dominic Brown, Yvonne Chow, Jake Davison, Tom Etheridge, Jamie Glenister, Huma Haq, James Hart, Henry Hunter, Matthew Kemp, Susannah Leyden, Alex Love, Harry Majin, Alex Rolfe (Head Delegate), Parris Sammut, Amy Weaver, George Vaughan





I honestly came back feeling a completely different person; with new confidence and many new friends that I am sure I will keep

In every sense I have achieved things I never thought possible and have a stronger work ethic and more confidence to throw myself into situations



I loved all of it!



I enjoyed conference hugely, far more than I anticipated. My view on the world has widened. I definitely feel like an improved and more confident person as a result of the trip

The trip has improved my confidence, my oratory skills and other valuable qualities that will stay with me for a long time



Maidstone Grammar School Rugby Tour



Italy 2012

For the students, and perhaps even for Mr. Rogers, the unveiling of the highly anticipated and much speculated tour kit, was the most exciting news leading up to the departure. It did not disappoint.

It was an early start as the MGS squad assembled in the School's car park, Isaac Bennett notably looked slightly worse for wear, after celebrating his 18th the night before. Mr Rogers illuminated the car park with his white jacket and cords. We were mysteriously given a jenga block each too. We arrived at Verona without a hitch, other than our very own 1st XV Captain Liam Nally forgetting his passport, leaving it on the plane - always leading by example!

We checked in at our villas, went for a 'quick' stroll and stopped at a very typical Italian pizzeria. Mr Rogers set a few ground rules (Jenga blocks must be produced within 15 seconds of someone else showing theirs). We had a quick run-out in our training kit and we were all knackered by 1030pm.

Thomas Ditton was named the Health and Safety officer for the duration of the trip. He was awarded a special hat and truncheon, a fine accolade that many were jealous of. Anyone caught breaking these rules were strictly put in their place by Officer Ditton.

The following day the group took another long stroll into Sirmione, a remarkable town with a 13th Century castle; Mr. Highstead was truly in his element. After indulging (in some cases over-indulging!) in lashings of gelato, we regrouped and made our way back to basecamp in style, on speedboats! On return the students patiently waited for the promised post-lunch entertainment; Officer Ditton's pig dance. However, due to personal reasons (embarrassment) he refused.

Afternoon saw us take the coach to our first fixture. A younger side kicked off first, MGS v Lombardy at RFC Ospitaletto, a divisional side. We took first blood, a dangerous kick through led to Dom Brown diving to touch the ball down. Lombardy regrouped, scoring several tries before halftime. Try after try were conceded by both teams, final score 27 – 19 to Lombardy. The team, all under seventeens, put in a spirited performance and played with plenty of character against a team who clearly weren't!

MGS older boys then played the hosts, Rugby Ospitaletto. Another tight game : 5 – 0; which was then evened 5 – 5; 10 – 5; 10 – 10. Nothing was in it, until MGS showed great stamina to pull away for a 22 – 10 win. Against older and more physical opposition this was a great result with the team showing more compusure on the ball than their hosts and using their superior fitness to tire them out.

Our next fixture was against Rovato Rugby Club, a great facility with the most welcoming and friendly hosts you could ask for when touring. MGS 2nd XV absolutely dominated the first game, finishing 46 – 9 winners. MGS 1st XV then played another Rovato side, who were well drilled and again extremely physical (older!), managed to hold MGS off to a narrow 15 – 10 defeat. A few tears later from some of the boys, and we were in the Rovato clubhouse where we treated the unsuspecting Italians to renditions of the School Song, the National Anthem and a few others.

To recover from the bruising games of the night before, the next day was spent visiting Milan, with a trip to the home of AC and Inter Milan, the San Siro Stadium.

Recovery took the form of souvenir and postcard buying and plenty of gelato!

With a light training run under our belts we were ready (just about, as over half the squad were carrying injuries and knocks) for our last match of the tour and for the season, against a sizeable Valpolicella Colts side. An emotional teamtalk by Mr Rogers and Captain Nally, the Year 13s were fired up for their last match wearing the MGS crest. Valpolicella were committed opponents but our superior fitness and skills enabled us to produce a four try to nil winning performance, ending 26-0. As in the previous games, the post match hospitality was excellent and the raucous singing and boatrace was befitting of a world renowned wine region!

There were numerous awards issued:

Tour Character (from staff) Jake Lott

Tour character (from players) Sean Quinn

Staff's player Liam Nally for being an absolute trooper

Player's player Jon Orsbourn

Overall, a fantastic time was had by all; a memorable trip with a great group of people. Last of all a big thank you for the teachers organising, supervising and supporting the students. Mr Seymour, Ms Kennedy, Mr Highstead, Mr Terrell and Mr Rogers.

Ed Oram 13SR



Children In Need Charities Report



After a fortnight of careful planning from a team of dedicated sixth formers, and several late nights in the Food Tech department baking to our hearts' content, it was a brisk November morning that saw several bright-eyed students on the gates of MGS.

With typical unbound MGS enthusiasm, the fundraising began even before registration, with the sale of biscuits, cakes and popcorn for a calorific breakfast.

But the sugar didn't stop there, with five stalls spread out around the school at break selling in excess of a thousand home-baked treats. In addition, Matt Owen and Harry Donoghue showed impressive salesmanship in shifting tickets for their tombola in Piccadilly, giving away several generous prizes donated from their own cupboards, including an iPod nano. Amongst the mayhem were persuasive vendors of Pudsey Keyrings, made by our very own Mrs Southall from the Tech department.

Lunchtime arrived with a swarm of students piling into the Big Hall, for the long anticipated return of the Big Hall Event... and the Backstreet Boys. With the hall at full capacity and buzzing with excitement, Mr Dorofeyev's dramatic entrance as host was only the beginning of an event of surprises and delights. The austere panel of Rolfe Senior, Captain Coppard, Mr Terrell and Dr Argent were blown away by the talent on show. The combination of the modern with the retro, flawless dance moves and hilarious scripting led to a lunchtime all those that were lucky to get a seat aren't

likely to forget any time soon. Highlights included a thoroughly enjoyable skit from the Tismer family, an inspired rap from Matt 'The Pain' Kemp (who also raised over a hundred pounds in sponsorship) and the avidly awaited return of Roy Manuell's quintet of shameless performers, with their truly jaw-dropping medley.

The spirit of the occasion was surely felt by the entire school at the biggest charity day of the year so far, and the generosity of every student is evident in the astounding total reached. Every penny possible was collected throughout the day, whether it be from cake selling, the Big Hall event, sponsorship for some all too revealing outfits or the ruthless copper bandits (both Year 7s throughout the day and Prefects on the gates after school). A sincere thank you goes out to everyone that took part in the day, with personal thanks to Mrs Mott and Mrs Anderson for supervising the cake baking, and every volunteer who offered their services for this worthy cause. Having counted and verified every pocketful of change, I can proudly say that we raised an astounding £3093.83, and possibly with more to come. This money will go straight to disadvantaged children around the UK, helping countless kids, maybe even from our area.

Emily Chadwick
School Vice Captain

Grand Total Raised = £3,093.83

Sport Relief

On Friday 23rd March 2012, MGS took part in the national charity day of Sport Relief. The event was driven by the Sixth Form, but people from throughout the school community were prevalent in making the day a huge success. The whole school arrived in non-uniform and some took hold of the Sport Relief theme arriving dressed as sports stars. Sixth formers made popcorn in the run up to the event and sold this at break-time, along with the Sport Relief merchandise and a plethora of wrist and sweatbands could be seen around the School on the day.

The main event of the day, however, came at lunch-time, when 290 students and staff took to the school field to take part in the 'MGS Mile.' The mile was completed in all manner of different ways including 'piggy backs' and three legged attempts, whilst others carried around buckets to collect spare change from those not competing who lined the route.

All completers of the mile received a Sport Relief medal and they were worn with pride throughout the rest of the day.

Sponsorship was collected from the friends and family of those who took part and formed a significant part of the total amount raised.

In total, the day raised £3,170.94, which beat the record set by the Sixth Form in November. Thank you to all who took part.

Alex Rolfe
School Captain

Grand Total Raised = £3,170.94



Olympic Volunteer

During 2010 I was looking at the possibility of applying for Olympics or Paralympics tickets. Unfortunately, I was not successful, but whilst surfing around the official site I became aware of the need for volunteers or 'Games Makers'. So, I decided to do something completely outside of my comfort zone and applied to be a London Ambassador!

I attended a recruitment event in April 2011 and in the following October was offered a position working at Victoria Station. After three day long training sessions I was ready to start work on the 2nd August 2012!

Before the games began I was also lucky enough to be given a ticket to watch a rehearsal of the opening

ceremony, which was amazing. I can't tell you how tempting it was to share photos on Facebook, but we were asked to 'save the surprise'.

I was very nervous on my first morning, but when I met the team I was going to be working with soon felt at ease. Our job was to help guide visitors and commuters towards their destinations – not just the Olympic Park, but obviously that was the most popular place!

The most frequently asked question was along the lines of 'Where can we buy tickets?' Unfortunately, we had no better access to tickets than anyone else, so we had to tell people to try the web!

Mrs J Green



There was an amazing atmosphere in London during the summer of 2012 and I was proud to be part of it, however small!

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert - June 2012

2012 was as spectacular year. Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the extravaganza of the Olympics truly made for an unforgettable year. It's a shame it had to end!

Three cadets and their accompanying officer from the RAF Section were given the opportunity to attend the concert as part of the Youth United Project which recognises youth organisations and their volunteers. Ben Johnston, Tom Lovegrove, Alex Luisi and Mrs Day all travelled up to London to see the event.

The open-air show was hosted outside Buckingham Palace and had a line up comprising of some of the most famous names in the music industry. From Tom Jones to Paul McCartney and Will.I.Am to Robbie Williams, one could say the concert had it all! What's more, the concert was hosted by some of the nation's favourite television personalities past and present, including Rob Brydon, Miranda Hart, Lenny Henry and Rolf Harris.

After a quick train journey to London Victoria, we went to an ACF unit building to be briefed about the concert. Other young people from the ACF, the ATC as well as scouts and guides were there but we were the only members of the CCF to attend the concert, making the experience even more prestigious! After the short talk, we walked over to Buckingham Palace and took our place in front of the main stage. We were each given a souvenir bag containing a Union Flag, a programme and a little taste of Britain - a flapjack or a golden syrup cake - very apt.

Showtime - 7 o'clock. This began with Robbie Williams performing 'Let me Entertain You' with the Band of the Guards - a fantastic beginning to the show.

With a few jokes from the presenters, the show continued with songs from Ed Sheeran, Kylie Minogue and Stevie Wonder - apparently one of the Queen's favourite musicians! After one of his songs, the National Anthem rang out and Her Majesty appeared in the Royal Box.



The lights on the stage were then dimmed, and our attention turned to the roof of Buckingham Palace. Madness began playing out 'One Step Beyond' and the atmosphere was truly, if you'll forgive the cliché, electric! Their next song was another favourite, 'Our House' and with the aid of some clever graphics on Buckingham Palace, the interior of the 'house' was shown to be mimicking the lyrics of the song! It was really something! 'It must be Love' was then played with some soul from Suggs and the graphics on the Palace were again, appropriately, put to the song.

Unfortunately, we had to catch a train and began to make our exit to Paul McCartney's rendition of 'Hey Jude'. After a short walk to Victoria Station and while waiting for our train, a fanfare of fireworks roared out above the station, celebrating the end of the concert. Even through the roof of Victoria, the fireworks still looked amazing. That brought us to the end of our day and like 2012, it's a real shame it had to end.

Many thanks to FgOff Day who gave us the opportunity to be involved in such an event as well as organising the day. It was definitely the highlight of our year and an unforgettable experience.

Cpl Alexander Luisi



Jonathan Mardel

Jonathan Mardel worked with us as a Cover Supervisor between February 2010 and December 2011, having worked in banking for many years. A lone male in an otherwise wholly female department, Jon coped admirably when referred to one of the 'girls' and never took offence! He was well organised and diligent and, when not in the classroom, put his considerable IT skills to good use making resources for teachers and coming up with ideas for simple, interactive fill-in tasks for use by himself and the other Cover Supervisors. Sadly, Jon left us before we were able to fully implement his ideas. He was always prepared to go the extra mile to help out and gave invaluable advice, he is missed.

Jenny Green



Pauline Ballard

Pauline joined the IT Team at MGS in January 2002, initially in support of our printing/reprographics services but soon moved onto curriculum desktop support. Her support with managing software installation and licensing and to supporting students was very much appreciated; Pauline left MGS in August 2012 to an exciting time travelling with her husband during their retirement.

We wish Pauline and Stuart the very best in the future and thoroughly enjoy seeing the pictures from their travels when she comes to visit us.

Steve Moores



Dr Nick Argent Ba Phd, Headmaster 2009-12

Dr Argent joined MGS in September 2009 from Elizabeth College in Guernsey where he had been Principal for nine years. Previously he had been Head of Bangor Grammar School in Northern Ireland for three years. MGS thus gained an experienced Head to lead us forward after Mr Turrell's long period of service.

Dr Argent, during his period with us, focused our attention rightly back on the basics of achievement and performance. He rigorously pursued the agenda of how to raise standards which we were delighted to see bear fruit last summer in improved examination performance at both GCSE and A Level. In addition, he brought his knowledge of inspection to the process of reviewing our own work and led us to evaluate our own activity more clearly against Ofsted standards. Target setting, core-assessed tasks, independent learning enrichment lists for external study, supervised private study for sixth formers – all these are policies he drove forward and found the means to introduce them. Not an easy task when budgets are tight. At the same time he streamlined decision making in the school, conducted a huge review of policies, and restructured the pastoral system to create one that can cope with the demands of modern students as well as revolutionising careers guidance in the school. Once again he found the resources to fund these, despite budget cuts.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to work closely with Dr Argent were always struck with how deeply held his convictions about education were. At his last Speech Day he made it very clear that he saw selective schools as a major vehicle for social mobility and this to him meant that when we don't perform as well as we can, we put that mobility for our students at risk. What that has meant is that Dr Argent was ruthless in deciding what we had to do in the face of devastating budget cuts to protect the core purposes of the school, and ensure that we kept all those things that made an education at MGS special. Thus, despite the fact that he came to MGS because he passionately believed in the value of the IB as the best post-16 education system available in the world, Dr Argent dropped the course here once it became clear that we could not possibly maintain both systems in the new financial

climate, and that to move entirely to the IB in 2010 would have put the future of the school at risk. It must have been a bitter blow for him, but he never flinched about the decision. Other cautious savings have allowed us to be in a position to weather the storm much better than many other schools in Kent. All this has been down to Dr Argent's quick determination that we must take key decisions early and stick to them to protect ourselves and secure ourselves for difficult financial times ahead. We all have cause to be extremely grateful to him for that.

In addition of course at a time when many new Heads may have been cautious about pursuing new building plans, Dr Argent embraced them enthusiastically, seeing the possibility in the School House to provide a home for the CCF, enabling us to complete the redevelopment of the school down the back drive by creating a sixth form centre that would compete with what was available in town, and create good quality accommodation for the Geography department out of the old common room. Also of course we have two flats in the school house that can be a means of attracting new young staff to MGS with potentially cheaper rents. In all of this, Dr Argent had to have the vision for the future to push it through the Governors and the Local Authority.

In his last year at the school, his personal life underwent a major change when he got married, and this led him to decide to do something different with his new wife for the last part of his career. Although we were shocked by his resignation, we all understood the opportunity to lead the British School of Delhi during a period when it would be completely rebuilt and expanded, was an opportunity that was too attractive to a man who had often considered working abroad. Although his period of leadership here was brief, in the years ahead we will all be grateful for the work that Dr Argent undertook to safeguard for the future what many of us hold dear about this school, and of course we wish him and Mrs Argent success and good fortune in their Indian adventure.

Paul Smith

Deputy Headmaster



George Carter

Few members of staff can claim that they were appointed by popular demand but Mrs Carter could make this claim. Mr Turrell, the Headmaster in 2000 when Mrs Carter was appointed, decided that we had to start to teach Psychology at A Level when about twenty of Year 11 indicated that they would like to stay at MGS into the Sixth Form but would leave if they could not take Psychology A Level which was available elsewhere. We immediately advertised for a teacher to take charge of developing Psychology in the school and Mrs Carter was appointed. It was not a difficult decision as Mrs Carter had lots of experience teaching at post 16 level and had been working for the Edexcel examination board in developing the curriculum that she was to teach at MGS. That inside knowledge of the exam boards thinking seemed like a good starting point.

Since then Psychology has developed into a popular subject at A Level and Mrs Carter has steered it through its development to being a firmly established part of the sixth form curriculum. It was also offered successfully as part of the IB programme for a few years and during the IB years Mrs Carter also made a very significant contribution to the teaching of the Theory of Knowledge course. In addition she was an effective and popular sixth form tutor who was willing to give much of her time to assist her tutees with university and job applications.

We are sorry to see Mrs Carter leave and grateful that she has agreed to do a little work for us next year to support her successor and help her find her feet. However we wish her all the very best for a well-deserved retirement and thanks for her contribution to the life of MGS.

Paul Smith

Deputy Headmaster



Oscar Cayuela Abenzoa

Oscar worked in the Modern Foreign Languages department for two years, teaching French to younger pupils and Spanish to pupils at all Key Stages.

He established a good rapport with the groups that he taught, especially in the A level classes who appreciated his cultural knowledge and love of the Spanish way of life.

He helped out with many activities, including visits to Spain and the Year 8 Applied Learning Day in Modern Languages.

He had many friends amongst the staff, including those who appreciated his Spanish footballing skills; many said that they thought the school had signed Xabi Alonso! Oscar coped well when things were not going well and always remained positive and affable.

We wish him well in his new school.

Colin Philpott



Doug Waller

Doug Waller is a 'boy from Essex', but certainly not an "Essex boy" – bold, brash, cheeky, glitzy, mouthy and less than meets the eye. There is no TOWIE when it comes to Doug.

Rather, in Doug we have an intelligent, broadly educated teacher with an excellent knowledge of his subject and a passion for communicating it. His great interest is Religion/Christianity and film, and, whilst he was here, he developed a set of lessons on that theme which mesmerised students and was quickly 'borrowed' by other teachers – like me!

Doug is very well organised and generous, and when he left made sure that his lesson plans and Powerpoints remained available for the Department. Thank goodness for conscientious teachers like him!

Doug is very innovative in his teaching as was seen by his classroom with desks set in groups and with each group given the name of a philosopher – Plato, Descartes, etc... This set up in turn added to another aspect of his teaching style – the use of boys' natural competitiveness to improve behaviour and learning. His walls, plastered with charts of stickers for different classes and students, was testament to this. Another technique to help students learn key words was to introduce actions to each one like the hilarious rubbing of the tummy to represent 'Buddha'.

Doug enjoyed a tremendously positive relationship with his classes and his leaving was a genuine source of dismay to most of his students, especially those studying the GCSE.

A man of devout Christian faith, confident, but self-effacing, Doug is an example of civility, honesty and industriousness to his students. Even though Doug was here for a relatively short period of time, he made a great impact on the school, both the staff and students.

At the moment he is Head of RE at Dover Grammar school, but recent news is that Doug now feels a vocation to the Christian ministry and is intending to become a Baptist Pastor. This will be a tremendous loss to education, but a great blessing to the Church, which desperately needs people of such calibre and integrity in its clergy.

I hope with me you will wish him well for the future.

B C Simons



Ollie Rogers

Ollie Rogers started at MGS in September 2008, as Director of Rugby and PE teacher. Initially the students were a little overwhelmed at having a current rugby international as their coach - although his 25 international caps are for Norway! However, they soon realised that he was a technically accomplished and inspirational coach and they responded positively to his coaching. This was not only exclusively given to the senior rugby players, but to all age groups in the school, who enjoyed the varied and interesting coaching, and, consequently, results over his 4 year stay at MGS improved dramatically.

He transferred his enthusiastic approach on the rugby field into the classroom, teaching both GCSE and A-level PE with success. Students enjoyed his lessons and they were always interesting. I once looked out from my teaching room to see a group of Year 11 PE students on the field happily making giant 10 foot paper models of the human skeletal system! This was not a rare occurrence. No topic was too dull and he loved a challenge - one of his favourite units of work was teaching dance. However, I'm not sure that his Year 9 victims would all agree!

Under Ollie's leadership, the rugby teams went from strength to strength, with more boys in each year being given the opportunity to play for school teams and with training opened up to less experienced players who simply enjoyed the sport. The ethos of rugby changed for the better: the boys felt that they are part of something important to the school, with their value being demonstrated not just by the passion with which they were coached but by extra things like the provision of food at fixtures, the annual rugby awards BBQ, the two hugely successful tours (to France and Italy) and the kit, which Ollie completely redesigned and which made the boys feel pride in wearing the school's colours. Indeed, the kit across the whole school was changed to make MGS sport a brand which looks smart and professional.

Numerous sports were offered, from curling to mixed lacrosse. In fact, we can lay claim to be one of the most successful curling schools in the south of England, with one of our recent Old Maidstonians, Matt Spicer, representing Great Britain U21's at an international competition in Latvia. Ollie never turned down a fixture - he would always find a team to compete! He provided opportunities for students to learn how to coach themselves, through the Sports Leaders Award, and how to referee. For the first time, girls were coached rugby and played competitive fixtures and played in the prestigious Rosslyn Park 7s tournament, allowing them to feel part of the MGS sports collective.

Ollie's greatest attributes were his hard work ethic - one of the first to arrive in the morning and often last to leave (forcibly removed by the caretakers on occasion!) - and his desire to help others. Most notably, he undertook two charity bike rides. Firstly, from John O'Groats to Lands' End to raise money for his niece Leisha, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and secondly a ride from the Blackpool Tower to the Eiffel Tower, to raise money for Age Concern and put on a Christmas lunch for over 100 OAPs, last Christmas.

After 4 years he left rugby at MGS in a far healthier state than when he inherited it. His legacy will be the higher expectations that our teams now have, the increased rates of participation, with some age groups putting out three teams, and a bigger and more competitive fixture list. He will be a hard act to follow and I'm sure that all staff will wish him every success in the future.

Mr E.J Seymour

The MGS Parents' Association Report 2011/2012

During the 2011/2012 academic year the Parents' Association (PA) has continued to operate within its new constitution with another successful period of valuable fundraising to support our school. This was achieved, thanks to the tremendous effort of all the Committee members and also my fellow members of the Board of Trustees.

The new academic year started with a Year 7 Welcome to MGS event one Saturday morning in October. The event included a quiz and a barbecue but the real purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for parents to meet their son's new friends and families and learn a little of the role of the Parents' Association. The event was very much enjoyed by all those who attended.

Once again our main fundraising event took place in early November 2011. The Annual Fireworks night was thankfully blessed with good weather. The reputation of the event continues to grow as a value for money spectacle and professional in its organisation and execution.

All of these factors contributed to a record attendance from students, their families and also local residents, in helping us to achieve a new record profit for the

event of £7200. A very big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event so successful, especially the 6th form prefect team, whose help on the night was invaluable. Thank you again to all the Prefects for all the help they gave us throughout the year at PA events large and small.

For the 5th year, we organised and ran a Christmas wreath-making evening in early December 2011. The event has become so popular that spaces have to be limited. Participants are helped to produce fantastic low cost wreaths for their front doors whilst also allowing the PA to enjoy a healthy profit. Also in December we continued with the reintroduced Christmas raffle which has become our second most profitable event, raising almost £2300.

February 2012 saw another of our regular events take place, our Annual Quiz Night which was held in the Big Hall. This is another event that, over the years has become very popular with parents, students, and also school staff.

This year the theme was "The Olympics": Despite the snowy weather, the topical theme helped produce another packed hall with teams made up from all sectors of the school's community, parents, family





members, staff and students. It was an excellent and entertaining evening again ably supported by the school's sound and light team.

In June 2012, we held the annual 5-a-side Football Tournament. This has grown to become a firm favourite of the Year 7-9 students. Once again we were fortunate to enjoy the support of Maidstone Utd, who came along to support us and give out the medals to the winning teams. They also generously gave a prize to the "Player of the Tournament." This was not intended as a fund raising event, so the small surplus in the funds was a welcome benefit. This was due to the ravenous appetites of the boys who had great fun participating in this event. We couldn't stage this event without our qualified referees, who are all drawn from students at MGS – so thank you to these lads for their support.

Katherine Lichfield has singlehandedly taken the 300 Club to greater numbers than before and combined with her suggestion of signing us up to www.easysearch.org.uk and www.easyfundraising.org.uk has also begun to bear fruit. This simple method of fundraising, at no cost to you and with some great savings to be made, has the potential to become the major fundraiser for us. I encourage all our parents, staff and their families to investigate and sign up. Altogether, almost £1,400 has been raised from these combined activities: very well done, Katherine.

We made good on last year's promise to support the conversion of the old 6th Form Common Room into geography classrooms and presented the school with a cheque for £15,000. This amount paid for all the ICT

and related equipment in the two classrooms. We also provided "Match-Funding" to the 6th Form for them to provide outdoor benches for those who follow them in later years. On top of a grant of £200, we gave them £1 for every £1 they raised themselves.

We gave the Sound and Light Team (who provide support for many of our events) £425 for a marquee and other equipment and £260 towards the World Challenge trip in 2012.

We approved grants totalling £2,400: to purchase equipment to support Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions; to enable the Gardening Club to refurbish the greenhouse and grow plants for the Biology Department; to acquire plan chests for the Art Department; and to buy kit for the Boxing Club.

We also put aside £10,000 to show our support for the school's plans for the sports hall.

This was a year when the overall funds raised increased but please remember, parents, staff and students, that in these times of financial restraint, money raised by your PA makes a big difference to the school and the students, so please do not leave it to someone else, do your bit, get involved!

Your school continues to need your support!

Leon Date
Chairman MGSPA

created by students of maidstone grammar school

