



# WHITGIFT LIFE

LENT 2012

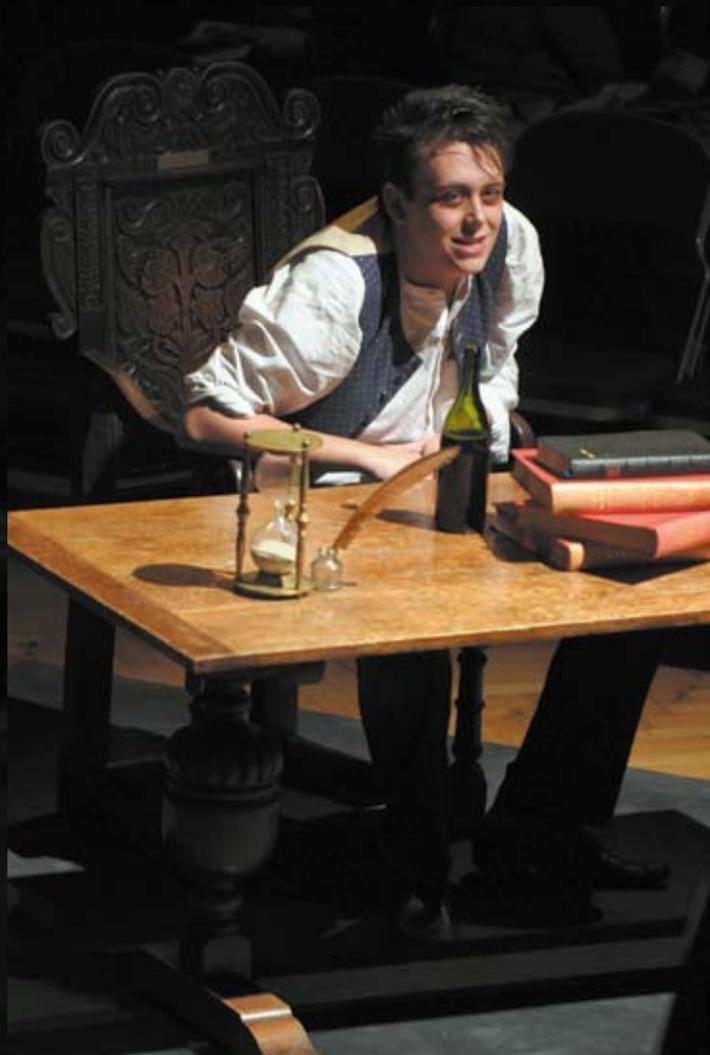


## Olympic dreams

Old Whitgiftian, Lawrence Okoye, recreating the iconic image from 1948, the last year in which London hosted the Olympic Games

© Ian Walton / Getty Images





## Doctor Faustus

The Drama calendar for 2011 culminated in a vivid and thrilling staging of Christopher Marlowe's great tragedy, *Doctor Faustus*, the dark tale of an academic luminary whose unchecked ambition leads him into a pact with the devil – with hellish consequences.

The company, drawn from boys from Third to Sixth Forms, performed in a specially-constructed, 'in the round' auditorium in Big School, and the technical polish of the atmospheric lighting and sound design was much complimented.





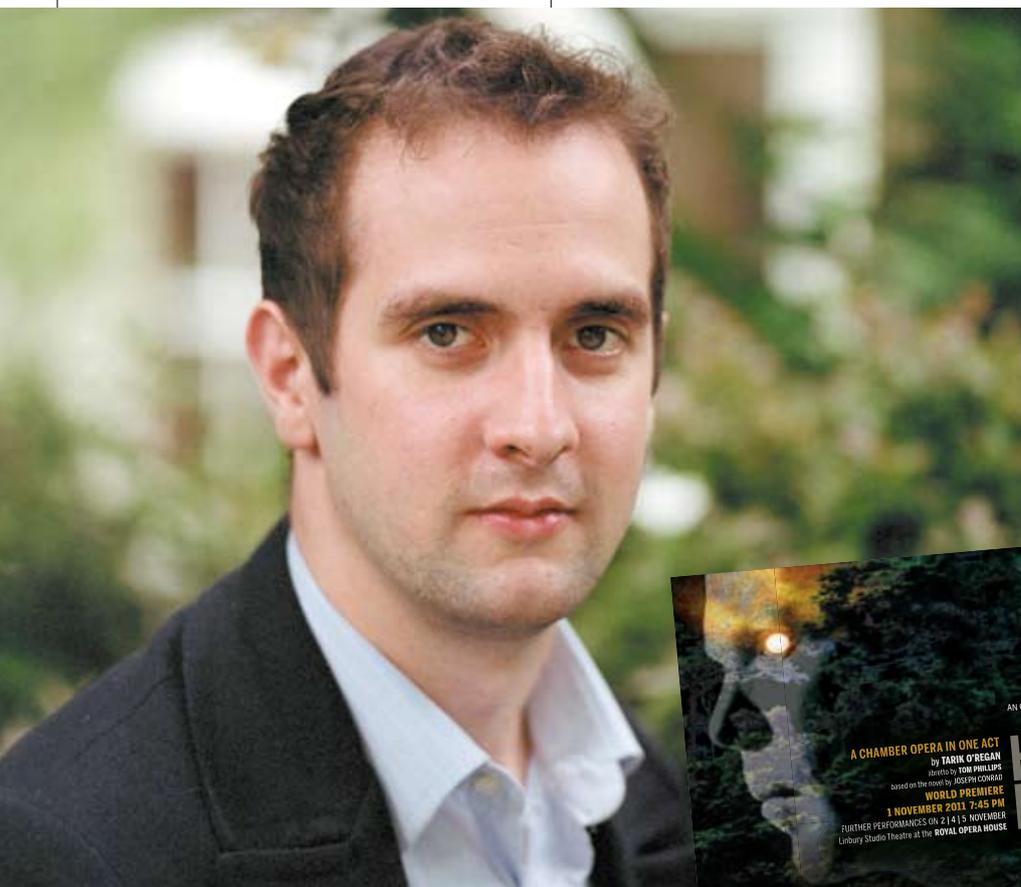
Oliver Neil Smith (*pictured left, main picture*) was masterful in the title role, delivering some of the finest speeches in Elizabethan drama with ease, intelligence and sensitivity, and capturing both the Doctor's arrogance and, ultimately, his terrible remorse. Opposite him, Douglas Wood played Mephistopheles (*pictured right, main picture*), his hellish emissary, with chilling restraint and intensity.

The performance was also full of knockabout comedy: Daniel Alsoof and Sam Herman-Wilson, in particular, were hilarious in their comic roles. Also highly acclaimed were the performers involved in the chorus, whose polished, set-piece presentation of the *Seven Deadly Sins* was one of the highlights of the show.



## Chekhov

In October, three boys who achieved full marks in their GCSE practical were given the opportunity to put on a production of their own. Sixth Formers, Jonathan McMillan, Christopher Campbell and Robert King decided to tackle some of Anton Chekhov's short farces to test their acting calibre. Enlisting the help of two pupils from St Andrew's School, Rosalind McAlpine and Jenni Martin, the boys explored the absurdities of late 19th century life as satirised by Chekhov, directing and producing *The Proposal*, *The Bear*, and *A Reluctant Tragic Hero*. Audiences were particularly impressed by the quality of the physical comedy within the performance, as well as the striking, simplistic sets and the absurdity of the different plots. Whitgift's Director of Drama, Mr Lloyd Beecham, said "I'm very proud of what the boys achieved on their own here; it was a great opportunity for them to see exactly what is needed to put on a show. I hope this format for Sixth Form productions can continue for years to come!"

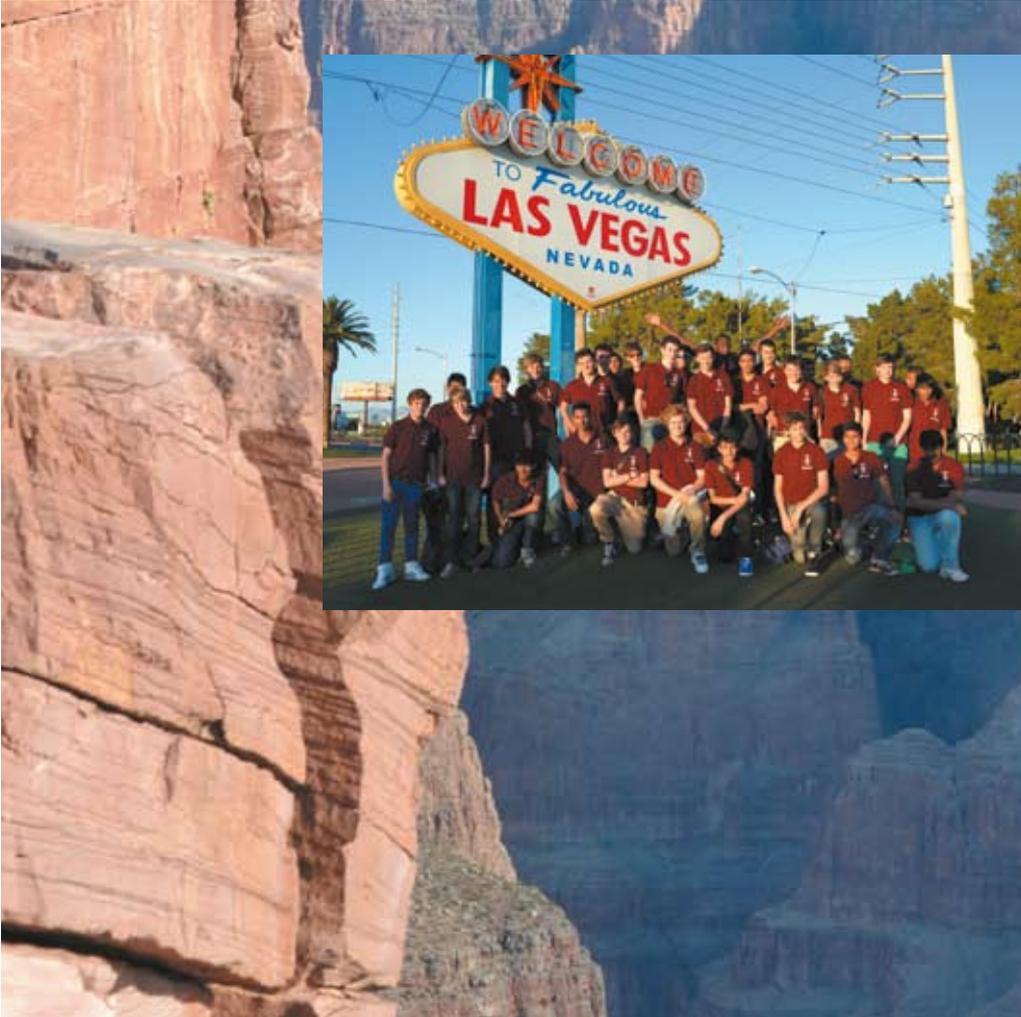


## Rising star

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, has staged performances of Tarik O'Regan's *Heart of Darkness*, a chamber opera in one act based on the novel by Joseph Conrad. Since leaving Whitgift, Tarik has become a rising star among composers. *The Daily Telegraph* has described him as "one of the great hopes for British music in the 21st century". Tarik has maintained contact with the Headmaster and members of the Music Department, who met up with him at the premiere of *Heart of Darkness* at the Linbury Studio Theatre, Covent Garden in November. Tarik is particularly noted for his outstanding choral music and this marked his first foray into operatic writing.

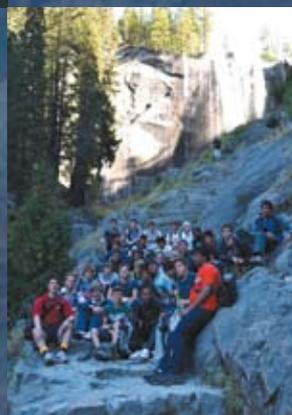
Discussions are currently underway between Whitgift and the composer for a major musical collaboration in 2012/2013.





## Go west

Last October, GCSE geography students travelled to the West Coast of the USA on the fieldtrip of a lifetime. This area of America offers the opportunity to experience the spectacular, natural landscapes of Yosemite National Park and the Grand Canyon. In addition, the cities visited are rich in human geography: San Francisco, lying on the San Andreas Fault, is famed for its earthquake history and pioneering approaches to hazard management; and where better to learn about urban development and tourism issues than Las Vegas?





## What's cooking?

Whitgift's Performing Arts Centre held its inaugural event in October, when Chef de Cuisine at *Le Gavroche* and BBC's *MasterChef: The Professionals* celebrity, Michel Roux Jr, cooked Dinner for Six.

The venue was filled to capacity. A table was laid for six guests to enjoy each of the three courses and Michel picked the lucky winners prior to preparing each course.

The Michelin-starred chef charmed all in attendance and gave a running commentary whilst cooking. He also generously hosted a lengthy Question and Answer session. A donation of almost £1,500 was given to Michel's charity for visually-impaired children (VICTA).

*(In the background of the above image can be seen the photo of Michel's father, Albert Roux, who gave a cookery presentation at Whitgift in 1999)*







## Victor Moses

Victor Moses, the former Whitgift student who is now one of the country's most exciting and promising young players, returned with Wigan Athletic when they were drawn against his old club, Crystal Palace, in the Carling Cup in September.

Mrs Paula Trewin and Mrs Amanda Glenin, members of Whitgift's teaching staff, went along to support him. Sadly, Victor stayed on the bench, rested for the next premiership fixture.

Victor rose through the ranks at Palace and has won England caps at U16, U17 and U19 level. He promised to visit Whitgift again in the not too distant future.



## Bronze Medal

Modern Pentathlete, Sam Curry (pictured right), produced an incredible performance at the British Junior Championships collecting the bronze medal and finishing an impressive 5th in the senior ranks. His score was only bettered by the 2011 Junior World Champion, Jamie Cook, and Old Whitgiftian, Ollie Robinson. Sam finished comfortably ahead of many of the senior and junior men who competed on the world circuit for Great Britain this year. This, along with his equally impressive performance at the opening competition of the 2012 GB ranking series, proves that he is a strong contender for a place on the junior teams for 2012. The third and final competition of the series takes place at the High Performance Centre, University of Bath, in January.



## In the swim

Kunmi Ogunfeibo has qualified for the British Senior Swimming Championships in the 100m backstroke to be held at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park in March. Prior to Christmas, he swam a time of 1.01.15, which was well within the qualifying requirement. This also doubles as the Olympic Qualification for British Swimmers so he will be in good company with Rebecca Adlington OBE, Jo Jackson and Liam Tancock.

This is an incredible opportunity for Kunmi (pictured below right) who was also a member of the U16 Medley Relay team at the end of last year, along with Marlon Gasparotto, Rhys Warner, Fred Biggs and Henry Choong (pictured). The team won Bronze at the ESSA National Schools Relay Finals in Southampton, as well as smashing the School record by 6 seconds. They also broke the freestyle relay record, just narrowly missing a podium finish.



Mrs Amanda Glenin (above left), and Mrs Paula Trewin catch up with Victor Moses



## Celebration of Sporting Achievement

On Wednesday, 30 November 2011, Whitgift hosted a dinner to celebrate the exceptional sporting achievement of the past two years which have witnessed outstanding success for Whitgift teams and individuals. Whitgift students have secured national titles in every major sport, an amazing 51 in the past two

years, making 80 in total during the past five years, an extraordinary record for the School. In addition, 40 boys have represented England, Wales, The Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Romania or Italy in 8 different sports between 2007 and 2011. Whitgift has been voted Independent School of the Year in the *Daily Telegraph*

Aviva Sports awards, for the second consecutive year, and the Male Pupil of the Year category in 2011 was won by notable cricketer, Dominic Sibley, who in the words of the *Telegraph*, 'had a cracking season, surpassing even the exploits of current England star Alastair Cook when he was a schoolboy'. Whitgift was also voted





*The Headmaster takes the stage*

Independent Sports School of the Year 2009 and 2011 by *School Sport Magazine*.

The dinner was held in the Marlar Halls and guests enjoyed DVDs of Whitgift sporting action and successes, as well as a Question and Answer session, hosted by Mr Simon Beck, with distinguished Old Whitgiftian sportsmen, Elliot Daly, Lawrence Okoye and Matthew Spriegel, on the panel (*pictured*).

In 2012, Whitgift is hoping for Olympic success. Lawrence Okoye, UK mens discus record holder (*pictured on the front cover*), is expected to be among the 550-strong British team.



*The Headmaster and colleagues with a host of former students who have distinguished themselves at the top level in Rugby, including five current Premiership players*



# An Autumn Collection

Whitgift's annual Autumn Collection Concert again demonstrated outstanding diversity.

The concert featured performances by the highly-talented Whitgift Brass Ensemble and the String and Symphony Orchestras. The programme included Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, and the Whitgift First Form Choir and the Elmhurst School Senior Choir gave a superb rendition of the enjoyable *Disney Medley*.

Whitgift's Corps of Drums also gave a powerful performance with their luminescent drumsticks captivating the audience.





## Abbey cat

Whitgift pupil, Charles Sladdin, has sung his way into upcoming *Disney* nature blockbuster *African Cats*, an epic true story set against the backdrop of the African Savannah. The 13-year-old classical singer was cherry-picked for the solo backing-track by the Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral.

The movie, narrated by Oscar-nominated Samuel L Jackson, was filmed in the Masai Mara in Kenya and follows the highs and lows of a lion family and a cheetah family in the wild. The epic adventure has been lauded as bringing *The Lion King* to life and is due for release in 2012.

Charles had the privilege of recording his solo at the illustrious Abbey Road Studios in North London and can add this accolade to his growing list of achievements.





# Viennese whirl

Following the inaugural concert last March at Cadogan Hall, Whitgift's link with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) continues to flourish. The third event in this new and exciting relationship, which enables Whitgift pupils to perform with professional musicians, was held on 1 December, in Big School, when the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra (WCO), conducted by Mr Philip Winter, joined forces with the RPO to present a concert of Viennese music. The programme included a selection of popular waltzes and polkas by the Strauss family, including the *Radetzky March*, the *Blue Danube Waltz* and the *Tritsch-Tratsch Polka*. Arias from *Die Fledermaus* were sung by professional soloists.




WHITGIFT

**Radetzky March**  
**Blue Danube Waltz**  
**Die Fledermaus**



**Viennese Evening**

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra presented an evening of Viennese music. The programme featured a selection of popular waltzes and polkas by the Strauss family, including the Radetzky March, the Blue Danube Waltz and the Tritsch-Tratsch Polka. Arias from Die Fledermaus will be sung by professional soloists.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
Whitgift Chamber Orchestra  
Whitgift School, Big School  
Thursday, 1 December, 7.30pm  
Tickets £7/£5  
Concessions £3.50/£2  
Telephone: 020 8688 9222  
email: [Rebecca@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca@whitgift.co.uk)

**arts**  
events





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## OW Honour

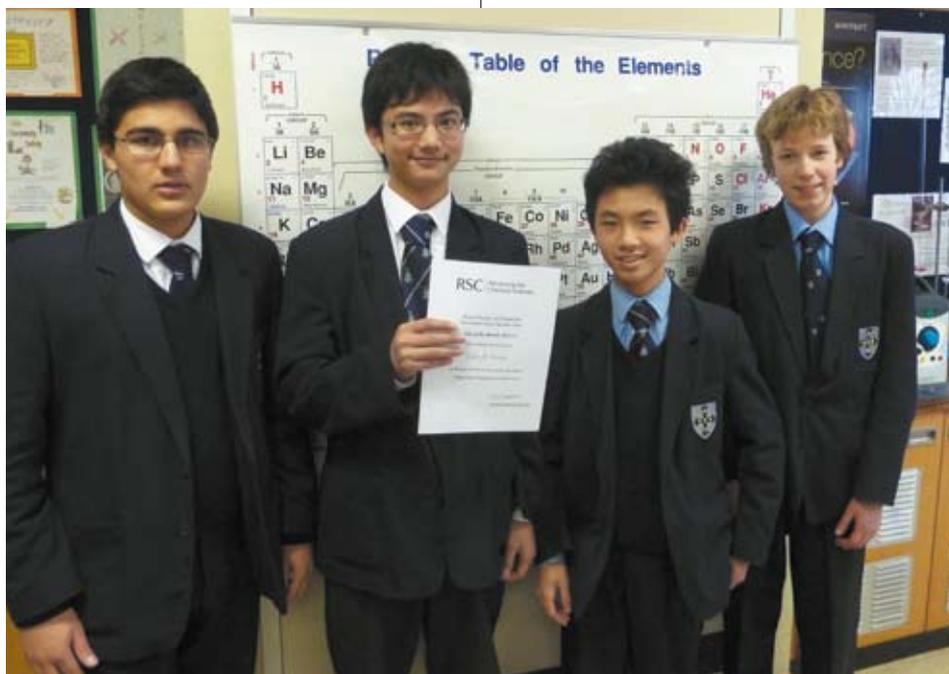
Cambridge PhD student, Ssegawa-Ssekintu Kiwanuka, a former Whitgift School Captain, has topped a list of the UK's most outstanding black students.

Ssegawa was honoured by the City's Mayor, Boris Johnson, at a reception at City Hall, London.

## RSC Chemistry competition

Last November, Whitgift hosted a Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition, for years 9-11, attended by ten schools.

The Whitgift team of Shaam Tandon, Matthew Choy, Alex Lau and Alex Buchanan, were the overall winners. The School will find out in January, after the other two regional heats, whether they will progress to the National Final. In addition, Shaam won a personal prize for the best practical chemistry performance.





## Medal-winner

Yang-Fan Zhou, international chess master and Whitgift Sixth Former, has achieved medal success at the World Youth U18 Chess Championships in Brazil. The 17-year-old is pictured right, playing a simultaneous chess exhibition against 30 opponents within the School in September to raise money for his England Youth Chess Team's participation at the event in Brazil, for which he also received major sponsorship from Whitgift.

After being selected by the England Chess Federation as the sole English player in the U18 section, Yang-Fan went on to receive a medal for 6th place out of a total of 93 U18 players from around the world. The event lasted ten days with each round taking several hours.



## Career opportunities

November 2011 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Careers Conversazione. This annual evening event, aimed primarily at the Lower Sixth Form, sees around 60 Old Whitgiftians and other professionals from many different occupations attending. In a congenial atmosphere, boys and their parents are encouraged to make enquiries about a range of different career paths.



## Top tweets

Last September, *Cage & Aviary Birds*, ran a centre-page spread about Whitgift's extensive wildlife collection and how these exotic creatures enrich students' lives. Whitgift now boasts a fine collection of more than 100 birds of at least 40 species. The birds are a valuable educational tool, not just for Whitgift's own pupils but also for the hundreds of youngsters from the forty state primary schools who work at Whitgift throughout the year. The Headmaster was quoted as saying "The birds, and the environment in which they live, make a huge difference to Whitgift's own pupils ... our boys genuinely regard the grounds and birds not just as beautiful but also as inspirational."







## Ciao Italia!

September saw another successful visit by the new Lower First boys to Lake Garda, giving them the opportunity to get to know their peers as well as their form tutors. The glorious weather allowed the boys (and staff!) to make the very most of their time in historic Verona, to see the bustling canals of Venice and sail on the beautiful waters of Lake Garda. The views from Monte Baldo made for some excellent photo opportunities, but the biggest attractions were inevitably the numerous ice-cream stalls in Malcesine, from which the boys had their fill! With opportunities to learn about the culture and attractions of the region as well as sample many of its culinary delights, this really was a truly memorable start to Whitgift life for our new ten-year-olds.



**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**LENT TERM CONCERT**

Concert Hall  
Thursday, 2 February, 7.30pm

**CHARITY COMEDY NIGHT**

Big School  
Friday, 2 March, 7.15pm

After the huge success of last year's event, Whitgift will once again play host to some of the UK's finest comedians. We welcome back Dom Holland, Perrier award-winning comedian, as compère, for a celebrity line-up including Hal Cruttenden who "takes the personal, the surreal, the ridiculous and the political, and whizzes them into a delicious comedy smoothie that's sweet with a hint of sharpness." Whitgift is also delighted to announce Bob Mills, one of the most recognisable and respected comedians in the business, as the headline act.

**BRASS CONCERT**

Big School  
Thursday, 8 March, 7pm

**THE PRODUCERS** (Mel Brooks)

Upper School Musical  
Big School  
Wednesday 21, Thursday 22, Friday 23  
and Saturday 24 March, 7.30pm

The story of two would-be theatrical moguls turned con-men.

**RPO/WCO RUSSIAN CONCERT**

Cadogan Hall, London  
Monday, 30 April, 7.30pm

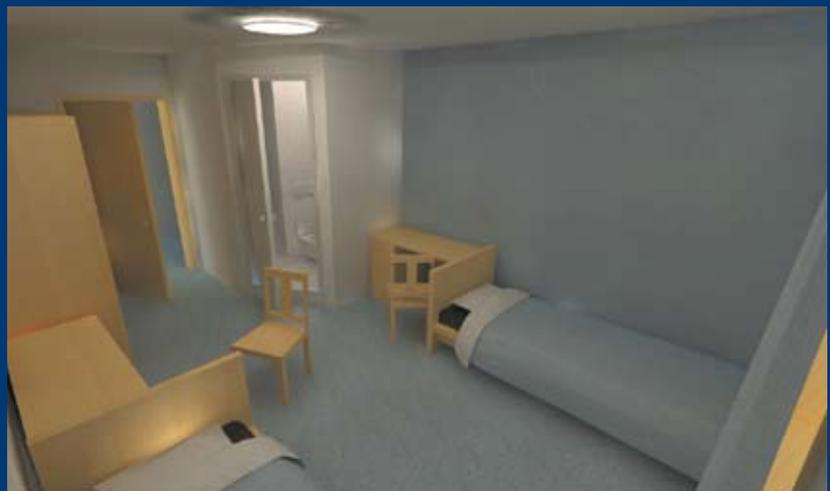
The Whitgift Chamber Orchestra will be joined by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert will feature Whitgift's young 'cellist, Tim Posner, in the elegant *Rococo Variations*. Choirs from Whitgift and Coloma will perform Borodin's spirited and beautiful *Polovtsian Dances*.

**Further Information/Box Office:**

**020 8688 9222**

# New for 2013

Work has commenced on Whitgift's boarding house which will offer full, weekly and flexi-boarding, available from September 2013



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