Whitgiftian Association

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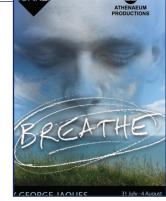
Chairman - Jonathan Bunn

Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

Newsletter 377 - May/June 2018

WHITGIFT SIXTH FORM PLAYWRIGHT LAUNCHES SECOND INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION

Last year, enterprising Upper Sixth Form student, George Jaques, single-handedly wrote and directed a play, and launched it via his brainchild, the Athenaeum Productions. Dilate was a cautionary tale about youth drug culture and it enjoyed three nights of sell-out performances.



Post production, George explained, "The play was more

positively received than I could ever have hoped for. For me the most powerful response, after gathering audience feedback following the show, came from a boy in his early teens who said that the experience 'changed my perspective on drugs'."

After such an overwhelmingly affirmative and cathartic experience, George set out, practically straight away, working on his next project: Breathe is a production that explores the anxieties of everyday life for adolescents when the multifaceted pressures of life get too much.

Keeping with his charitable collaboration ethos (for Dilate he worked with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation, which helps educate young people, parents and schools about drug and alcohol issues) George has partnered up with Childline for this production, and audience members encouraged to donate online or at the shows.

The show will be running for five nights, 31st July - 4th August, at The Bunker, one of London's newest theatres, a subterranean space near London Bridge championing 'exhilarating contemporary theatre'.

Old Whitgiftians are encouraged to attend on Thursday 2nd August at 7:30pm. Let's show our support to this enterprising Whitgiftian playright! Find out more about the Athenaeum Productions at www.athenaeumproductions.com and book tickets directly at www.bunkertheatre.com or tel 020 7234 0486 for Bunker box office.

WA Newbury Dinner at The Vineyard

HOSTED BY SIR PETER MICHAEL, CBE, OW (1949-57)

IN AID OF THE WA BURSARY APPEAL

SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7:30 PM

This year we are privileged to offer OWs the opportunity to attend an exclusive event at The Vineyard in Newbury, Berkshire, which is being generously hosted by distinguished OW Sir Peter Michael CBE.



Sir Peter Michael is a remarkable Whitgiftian and one of the nation's

most successful technology entrepreneurs. As well as his passion and talent for cultivating exceptional Californian wines, he founded Classic FM and has contributed significantly to advances in the treatment of prostate cancer, through the Peter Michael Foundation.

Sir Peter, owner of The Vineyard, produces fine estate wines in Knights Valley, Sonoma, California. This event provides a unique opportunity to sample some of these in the inspirational surroundings of The Vineyard and enjoy an exclusive dinner in the restaurant which has 3 AA Rosette's and offers fine dining in sumptuous surroundings.

The Hotel is privately owned by the Michael family, who also own the Peter Michael Winery. Please consider staying for the night. The family has very kindly offered preferential rates for those attending the event.

The Hotel has an impressive private art collection and, soon after arrival, you will enjoy pre-dinner drinks whilst studying the fascinating mural "Judgement of Paris".

For those with an interest in wine, fine dining and art, this is not to be missed. It is an ideal opportunity for OWs to meet in extremely convivial surroundings and support the Bursary Appeal.

For queries and to register initial interest please call Naomi on 020 8633 9926 or e-mail naomi@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

Adapted from an article at www.whitgift.co.uk

News from the School



On Thursday 15th March, a select group of Whitgift Upper Third Formers took part in the BBC News School Report Day, putting together a series of stories on the current affairs of the time in the morning and then broadcasting live from the Founder's Room from 1.00pm. This is a fantastic venture and now the fourth year the school has taken part in it, and it got me thinking... if I were to structure this news from the school segment as a news broadcast, what would I lead with? What would my headlines be? From the headquarters of the Whitgift English Department, this is the May – June news from the school, with Dominic Edwards:

- Whitgift School win multiple national titles, including romping to a 22-12 victory at Twickenham in the Natwest U15 rugby tournament, and retaining their U19 table tennis trophy.
- Whilst not on a national scale, the school's success in the London basketball leagues is unprecedented, and the individual progress made by Upper Fifth form student, Josh Uduje, who can be seen on screens across the country in the latest Nike advert, is an inspirational story. Also, as ever, the hockey sides are proving nigh on unbeatable and are all flying high in their national competitions.
- Whitgift Musicians sell out Cadogan Hall! The end-of-term concert in this most prestigious of venues was a sight to behold and, more importantly, a harmonious delight!
- The school's two dramatic productions, previewed in my last broadcast, both brought the house down. Also on a dramatic front, do we have the next Harold Pinter on our hands? Fresh from the success of Dilate, Upper Sixth budding playwright, George

Jaques, has penned his latest offering, Breathe, which is set to run in The Bunker theatre later on in the year.

- In maths, Whitgift rolled back the years to win the Hans Woyda competition, their first victory in the event since 1983!
- Last but not least, what do Simon Armitage and Eddie Jones have in common? Stay tuned to the end of the broadcast to find out.

It's been seven years since Whitgift's last visit to Twickenham for a national rugby final. On that day, the First XV crushed Oakham school with future stars, Elliot Daly and, more importantly, Jordan Lewis of table-topping Old Whits' RFC fame, running the opposition ragged. This year, the Firsts could not match the heroics of their predecessors, falling to eventual champions, Warwick, in the semi-final. However, the mighty U15s vanquished opponents, Hampton, in their semi-final, and so the school was not to be denied its trip to HQ. And so it came to be that on lovely sunny day in March, all of years 9 and 10, along with yours truly (somebody's got to supervise!) and several other members of staff descended upon Twickenham to see our intrepid band of brothers take on the Hordes of the North – well, Manchester Grammar School to be precise – in the final of the Natwest U15 Cup. The boys were fantastic on the day, overcoming a skilful and unflagging opposition 22-12. This capped off an unbeaten season and was a testament to all the hard work put in by the team and coaches. The U14s also went through the entire season unbeaten and finished things off by winning the national, Rosslyn Park 7s. Maybe another visit to Twickers beckons next year?

Other national successes included: the U19 table tennis team, who brought back the National Butterfly title to the school for the second year running, beating Plymouth's Eggbuckland Community College 7-1 in the Grand Final; the U13 football side, who won the ISFA National

title for the seventh time in eight years, beating Hertfordshire's Lochinver House 8-2 in the final at the Burton Albion FC ground, Pirelli Stadium – a truly astonishing achievement; and last but not least, the U12 Biathlon team, who overcame snowy conditions at Crystal Palace to win the British Schools' Modern Biathlon Championships final, beating the school's B team into second place!

The basketball season has certainly been an exciting one for Whitgift so far this year. The sport has been growing in popularity for a number of years and the hard work and dedication of the players and staff has been paying off. Both the U15 and U16 sides won the London Leagues for the first time. Both teams had to defeat City of London School in their respective finals and whilst the U16s won fairly comfortably, 75-60, the U15s had to fight back in the last quarter from a ten point deficit to ultimately claim a 76-68 victory. The captain of the U15s, Upper Third Form pupil, Myles Alcindor, scored an incredible 54 points in the match, a school record by quite some margin! He is hoping to follow in the footsteps of Upper Fifth Form pupil, Josh Uduje, who celebrated his recent selection for the England U16 team by being scouted by global brand, Nike, to be part of their 'Nothing Beats a Londoner' campaign. Whether you've been shopping on Oxford Street, had a trip to the cinema, or simply been surfing online, you will have seen this advert which is helping to put Josh on the map; next thing you know, he'll believe he can fly!

An incredible fourteen teams made it through the hockey season unbeaten, including the entire U12 age group – U12 A, B, C, D and E! Also, all of the top senior sides have either won (U15A) or are through to the final rounds of (First XI, U16A, U14A) their respective national competitions. The U15s beat QEGS Wakefield by a comprehensive 5-0 margin in their final in March; hopefully, the other sides can follow their example in their final matches in April.

On the final Wednesday of term, the



school put on a magnificent Spring Concert at the illustrious Cadogan Hall. The packed audience were treated to a wonderful programme of classical music as the Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir collaborated with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to perform Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto and two Bach pieces: Magnificat in D Major and Toccata and Fugue in D minor. The evening was a triumph and the boys involved were noticeably moved by the rapturous applause they received from the fantastic audience.

In maths, a four-student Whitgift team took part in the Hans Woyda Competition - a London-based Maths league comprised of 64 schools. The team of Anant Gupta (L5), Kai Lam (U3), Shintaro Nishijo (U6) and Nichika Waragai (L6), successfully came through all the knock-out rounds and held their nerve during a tense final to win on the very last question 43-41. The last time Whitgift triumphed in the Hans Woyda was back in 1983, when we drew in the final. This year, Whitgift were confident challengers throughout, winning against St Dunstan's College (61-34), St Paul's School (57-41), Hampton School (50-37), and City of London School (43-41).

In the first two weeks of March, Whitgift pulled off the incredibly impressive feat of putting on two first-rate shows, one



after the other, utilising completely separate casts. From 7th-10th March, Big School was transformed into glitzy 1920s versions of New York and Havana, Cuba, for a razzmatazz production of Guys and Dolls. Marius Hatteland-Dunn and Joe Barber led a fantastic ensemble as rival gamblers, Sky Masterson and Nathan Detroit, looking to scam each other out of huge sums of money, but unwittingly falling in love whilst doing so. As ever, the school orchestra provided excellent support. Barely had the final rippling of



applause died down after the last show, before the poor tech team had to disassemble the magnificent stage and start to put up another one. From 15th-17th March, the Performing Arts Centre was transformed into the court rooms and military bases made famous by Aaron Sorkin's play (and subsequent film) A Few Good Men. Some might argue an original film line-up including the likes of Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, Jack Nicholson, Keifer Sutherland and Kevin Bacon, are incredibly big shoes to fill, however, the cast of Sixth Form students from Whitgift and Old Palace were excellent. The current Upper Sixth Form has produced some of the best actors that the school has seen in recent years, and all of this golden generation gave their swansong performances in this utterly compelling production apart from one. George Jaques was too busy to perform as he was working on his own project, the upcoming play, Breathe, for his own, independent theatre company, Athenaeum Productions. Having written the play, George will also star in it. The show will be running for five nights, 31st July - 4th August, at The Bunker, one of London's newest theatres - a subterranean space near London Bridge

championing 'exhilarating contemporary theatre'. To support the endeavours of George and his cast and to find out more about the Athenaeum Productions, visit: www.athenaeumproductions.com.

Finally, what do Simon Armitage and Eddie Jones have in common? It might sound like the beginning of a 'hilarious' joke, but not at Whitgift! Both visited the school during March to pass on their wisdom in their respective fields to boys and staff alike. On Friday 15th March, the school was delighted to welcome Simon Armitage CBE, celebrated poet and Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford and the University of Leeds, as part of our Academic Enrichment Programme. Not just a poet, Simon is also a lyricist and broadcaster who writes extensively for television, radio and theatre. Whilst at Whitgift, he ran an analytical session about how to approach poetry, with a select group of 40 Fifth Form and Sixth Form boys, using the poetry of Thom Gunn, Ted Hughes, and Elizabeth Bishop as springboards into a more wide-ranging discussion. Later in the day, Simon spoke with wry wit about his career and interests to-date, interspersed with engaging and droll reading of his poetry, to a packed out Concert Hall. On Wednesday 28th March, current England rugby coach, Eddie Jones, popped in. He had lunch with the rugby coaches before taking a training session with First XV squad. Tragically, I was teaching and so could not watch, but from all accounts, the boys gained a huge deal from the experience. Given Eddie's propensity to pick exciting, young players fresh from school as apprentices in his England squads, who's to say that one of the current crop won't find their way to the Pennyhill Park training base to train with the likes of Elliot Daly and Harry Williams over the next couple of years?

And that's this this month's news from the school. I'll be here again in July, but for now, from me, it's goodbye.

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW

OW5s Club report



R to L, OWs Jonathan Higgins, Sarath Prakash, Alex Armstrong, Nick Woolfenden

A relatively youthful OW5s team played the current Whitgift schoolboys in March. In a great evening of 5s, the school proved formidable opposition, coming out victorious. It was hugely encouraging to see the schoolboys playing some excellent 5s and thoroughly enjoying themselves; and also great to have recent OWs Sarath Prakash and Alex Armstrong playing their first OWs match, alongside not-so-recent leavers Jonathan Higgins and Nick Woolfenden!

In other news, we're pleased to report good OW performances on the national 5s scene. Tony Hamilton and partner Spencer Beal (from Eastbourne College) won the national Rugby Fives Association (RFA) Masters tournament in April, and Robert Dalman and fellow club member Chris Blakeley were national RFA Vintage Plate finalists in March. Recent OW Sarath Prakash partnered current Whitgift school no.1 Cameron Low in April's all-age RFA nationals, putting in very strong performances and attracting much positive comment against the top players in the country. This came hot on the heels of Cameron's excellent performance in the National Schools tournament, reaching single and doubles finals (with partner Sean Kendrick).

At the time of writing, the OWs are preparing for a later-than-usual South West Tour on the weekend of 27-29 April. A full report will follow in the next newsletter!

We play social 5s regularly on Thursday evenings at the school courts, and players of all standards are very welcome. If you'd like more information, please contact Nick Woolfenden (nickw5s@hotmail.com).

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

THE OLD WHITGIFTIAN LIVERYMEN'S DINNER

TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 14TH, 2018 ON BOARD HQS WELLINGTON MOORED AT VICTORIA EMBANKMENT (OPPOSITE TEMPLE UNDERGROUND STATION



Tickets: £85 for
WA members and their guests
and £105 for non-members.
Reception & Tour:
7pm for 7.45pm.
Dress: Black Tie, Mess Kit,
Decorations.

Bookings and payment by cheque and post to the WA office. Queries contact: 020 8633 9926 or e-mail: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk



Whitgift's Open Garden Weekends

Sunday 20th May 1-5pm NGS Open Garden Scheme (www.ngs.org.uk) Sunday 10th June 11am-4pm Open Garden Squares Weekend (www.opensquares.org)



Admission price on the door: £4 (adults); free for Under 12s
Whitgift School is, once again, proud to be taking part in the National Garden
Scheme and Open Garden Squares Weekend.

Calling all OWs! Bring your family and friends and enjoy the School's wonderful range of gardens, complete with exotic wildlife, bonsai trees and maze. Visit our Water Gardens, with new outstanding features - waterfalls, bridges, special lighting, planting schemes, and the introduction of additional varieties of birds. Traditional afternoon tea will be on sale in the beautiful Founder's Garden.

In addition, this year we will be offering OWs a tour of the School by Whitgift's Archivist, Mr Bill Wood. If you are interested in participating in a tour, please email Donna Lewis (alumni@whitgift.co.uk).

WHITGIFT VETERAN RIFLES CLUB REPORT

The WVRC has run full speed into Spring! We soon begin our Small Bore season with a strong A team as well as a B team that shows great promise. Keep your eyes peeled for news of some exciting results towards the end of the season.

The season began with a rather wet day at Bisley on the 15th of April for the L&M League; the WVRC is in Division 2 this season. The morning started off chilly but bright and shooting was profitable with Bob Jackson scoring an impressive 50.05 at 300x and 48.05 at 500x, coming in as the highest score in Division 2 and the Vets finishing 1st in the Division overall! Thankfully the rain didn't arrive until later and many of us are

still trying to clean the mud of our drenched equipment.

We finished the last season with a well-attended AGM on March 13th which saw Guy Riches back in the position of Hon. Secretary. On behalf of the club we would like to thank Mark Collins for his excellent work over the past year and wish Guy all the best for the coming year. Alongside a pleasurable AGM was the confirmation of some good results from last season's Small Bore, the A team finishing 5th in their division despite excellent shooting throughout the season. Notable mention to one of our newest members Duncan Samuel who finished 1st in his

individual Division!

School boy shooting is still going well with the support that PJ Morrison provides despite a heavy teaching schedule of his own, so our thanks must also go to him for keeping the influx of young members alive. Without which I know that many, myself included, would not be a part of the WVRC.

As always, the WVRC runs weekly through rain or heat. If you would like to join please send an email to secretary@WVRC.org.uk, or pop by on a Tuesday at 19:00. All levels of skill welcome and all equipment provided. We hope to see you there!

HENRY PARRITT (OW 2009-2016)

OW GOLF SOCIETY REPORT

The society held its annual dinner on 12th March, attended by 28 members as well as Jonathan Bunn, Chairman of the WA, who gave an informative and amusing speech after the dinner. The dinner was preceded by the society's AGM, at which Alan Blok was elected as Vice Captain; in the normal fashion, Alan will be nominated as Captain at the 2019 AGM, and if elected will serve as Captain throughout 2019 and 2020.

The early days of any new society season are normally dominated by the Halford Hewitt and associated events. However, the first such event this year was a new one, the Scratch Cup, essentially a trial for the Hewitt team, played off scratch at Royal Cinque Ports GC, Deal in early March. The winner of this inaugural competition was Neill Williams, who managed a creditable score of 76 in extremely cold and windy conditions.

Unfortunately Neill was unable to play in the Hewitt team's first round match against Downside, which was played in early April. His presence was clearly missed, as we allowed a lead in four matches after nine holes to disappear in the closing stages, and went out 3-2, with the deciding action taking place on the

first extra hole of the fifth match. This was the first time since 2011 that we have failed to get through the first round. Some honour was restored however by good wins against Wellingborough, Forest and Loretto in the Plate competition, before a semi-final exit against Edinburgh.

The society held John Butler's Captain's Day meeting at Kingswood in mid April, the first open meeting of the season. 31 players, including three boys from the school, turned out on what was the hottest April day for 70 years; and Kingswood is long and tough at the best of times! Many players struggled to get past 20 points, which puts into clear perspective the achievement of Jeremy Stanyard in compiling 35 points to win the Captain's Trophy. Don Anderson (32) and Nigel Bradley (31) followed in second and third places respectively. As is becoming the norm, our three guests from the school outshone virtually all the opposition, and comfortably matched the scores of the top three members. All 13 years old, Ollie Stanley, playing off 10, Rocky Chapman, 5, and Nyal Patel, 17, were excellent examples of the golfing talent being produced at Whitgift and promise much for the future. Ollie won the guest prize with 36 points. Many



thanks to Simon Beck for bringing the boys along, and also to Harry Plowman-Ollington, who attended the dinner to receive the OWGS' Walker Cup, presented for outstanding achievement in school golf. Harry told us about some of the school golf team's notable performances, and about his own plans for scholarship golf in the US. Remember to come back for the Hewitt, Harry! The next open meeting is at Banstead Downs, on 23rd May. Why not come and join us?

Anyone wishing to play with and/or join the society should contact the secretary at peterbgale@sky.com.

PETER GALE (HON SEC)

Dates for Your Diary

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Sun 20 May	Open Gardens	School		13:00
Thurs 24 May	OW Drinks in the City	Market Porter		17:30
Thurs 24 May	School Music Concert	School		19:00
Fri 1 June	1953 OW Reunion Lunch	School		12:00
Sun 10 June	Open Gardens	School		11:00
Fri 22 June	WA Annual Dinner	The Lords		18.30
Sat 23 June	1988 OW Reunion Lunch	School		12:00
Sat 23 June	Whitfest	WSC		13:00
27-29 June	Play "Lord of the Flies"	School		19:30
Sat 30 June	1998 OW Reunion Dinner	School		18:00
Sat 14 July	OW Liverymen's Dinner	London		19:00
Sun 15 July	OW Drums Concert	Brighton Bandstand		14:00
Fri 20 July	Military Speakers Evening	WSC		18:45
Weds 25 July	NSPCC Open Gardens	School		14:00
Thurs 2 Aug	OW Play "Breathe"	London		19:30
Fri 19 Oct	OW Corps of Drums Music Evening	WSC		19:30
Mon 5 Nov	OW Corps of Drums	Lewes Bonfire Night		17:00
Fri 9 Nov	Remembrance Service	School		10:30
Mon 10 Dec	WA AGM	WSC		19:00
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FIXTURES				
Sat 5 May	OWCC 1st XI v Kingstonians	L	Н	12:00
Sat 5 May	School 1st XI v Bede's		Α	11:00
Sun 6 May	OWCC XI v Barnes		Н	14:00
Sat 12 May	OWCC 2nd XI v Dorking		Н	12:00
Sat 12 May	School 1st XI v Harrow		Н	11:00
Sat 19 May	OWCC 2nd XI v Bank of England		Н	12:00
Sat 19 May	School 1st XI v Lancing		Н	11:00
Sat 26 May	OWCC 1st XI v Worcester Park		Н	12:00
Sat 26 May	School 1st XI v Hampton		Α	11:00
Sun 27 May	OWCC XI v Woodmansterne		Н	13:30
Sat 2 June	OWCC 1st XI v Malden Wands		Н	12:00
Sun 3 June	OWCC XI v Catford	Y	H	14:00
Sat 9 June	OWCC 2nd XI v Epsom		Н	12:00
Sat 9 June	School 1st XI v Epsom College		H	11:00
Sun 10 June	OWCC XI v 54th OCA		H	14:00
Sat 16 June	OWCC 1st XI v Oxted		H	12:00
Sat 16 June	School 1st XI v Dulwich		H	11:00
Sun 17 June	OWCC XI v Earlswood		H	14:00
Tues 19 June	School 1st XI v Rondebosch		Н	11:00
Wed 30 June	School 1st XI v MCC		Н	11:30
Sat 23 June	OWCC 2nd XI v Chertsey		Н	12:00
Sat 23 June	School 1st XI v Cranleigh		Н	12:00
Mon 25 June	School 1st XI v Westville Durban		Н	11:00

OWCC 2nd XI v Chipstead

OWCC 1st XI v Dorking OWCC XI v The Village

OWCC XI v Flying Ducksmen

School 1st XI v Paarl

School 1st XI v Crusaders Australia

School 1st XI v Jwala Singh Found India

Recent deaths

DEREK V HEARN

Tues 26 June

Fri 29 June

Sat 30 June

Sat 30 June

Sun 1 July

Sat 7 July

Sun 8 July

OW, 1935-42, AGED 94

DAVID WILLIAM MORGAN

OW, 1946-54, D. 2ND APRIL 2018, AGED 82

MICHAEL J SMYTH OW, 1936-43, D. 14TH APRIL 2018, AGED 91

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION Spring John Straw 1st 2nd D J Jordan £50 3rd Chris Wrigglesworth £50 4th Alan J C Ölder £50 Independent Scrutineer Peter A Dunn, FCA OW (1956-1964) If any reader has an address for previous prizewinner, K Rhodes, please contact treasurer@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

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14:00



This year we are again privileged to be able to hold our

ANNUAL DINNER

IN THE PEERS' DINING ROOM AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS.



Cost: £95 for WA members and their partners; £115 for OW non-

members; £50 for OWs under 30

The price includes a glass of Champagne on arrival and a four-course dinner and coffee in the Peers Dining Room. Drinks with dinner (alcoholic and soft) may be purchased at the bar.

A guided tour of the House of Lords is available at an extra cost of £5 per person.

Reception & tours from 6.30pm, dinner at 8pm. Dress: Black Tie.

Please complete the registration form at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events/ wa-annual-dinner-2018 and return, with payment, to the WA Office.

Alternatively, please send the correct payment directly to Lord Freud, by PayPal, at

https://www.paypal.me/DavidFreud.

For queries contact: 020 8633 9926 or e-mail: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk



Submissions for NEWSLETTER 378 covering July / August closes on Sunday 17th June. 2018. All news and photographs should be sent to editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk or via the WA Office at Haling Park. Tel: 020 8633 9926 if you have any queries.