



# The riverbank

2014-2015 Part 1

Committed to showing the activities that unfold behind the walls of Shiplake, this edition of *The Riverbank* is packed as ever with news, photos and videos of life at the College. The magazine has taken a slightly different format, as we move into the era of electronic communication. This has enabled us to include a range of digital content, which I hope add to your enjoyment. With so much modern technology being integrated into our teaching, we must ensure our school magazine follows suit!

The first half of the 2014-2015 academic year proved highly

eventful. Highlights included ever-popular concerts which wonderfully showcased the musical talent being nurtured in our impressive new Music Department, housed in the John Turner Building. A richly entertaining school production of *Oliver* will also live long in the memory.

Enriching learning and personal development outside the classroom is something which we continue to pride ourselves on, and there was no shortage of co-curricular opportunities. These accompanied stimulating, forward-thinking teaching and a number of interesting trips to complement the curriculum.

I warmly encourage you to read on and hear about all the goings on at Shiplake.

With best wishes

Gregg Davies, Headmaster



## Interactive Buttons

Keep an eye out for these buttons throughout the magazine to access more hidden content.

**Click the mouse to read the full news article**

**Click the camera to view more photos of an event**

**Click the play button to watch a related video**

\*Please note this interactive content may not be available on all browsers.

For an optimal user experience, we advise to use Google Chrome, or download the PDF to your device.

## Exam Results Celebrated

The moment of truth arrived in August for GCSE and A Level pupils as they received their examination results. On the whole we were very pleased with a promising set of results, particularly at GCSE where pupils achieved the best grades in the school's history. Sophie Arnold (A Level – A\*AA) and seven boys who achieved a clean sweep of A\*s and As at GCSE deserve great credit for exceptional performances.

Delighted faces included Freddie Lang (Mathematics, Economics, Biology) and Charlie Hancock (History, Economics, English), who both achieved ABB grades. Year 12 pupils also learned the results of their AS examinations. Overall, the module

grades were very promising and there is plenty for them to build upon in 2015. The Headmaster reserved special praise for Freddie Ireland and Jamie Mottram who performed admirably, achieving straight As and three As and a B respectively.

The Headmaster could not hide his immense pride, commenting: 'We are pleased with the results our Sixth Form leavers achieved, which put the vast majority of our students in a strong position to access higher education courses of their choosing. We are also delighted with the increase of grades achieved at the higher end of the GCSE spectrum, particularly given a national decline in the top marks awarded.



We enjoyed celebrating a record percentage of A\*s and A\*-A grades (28% compared to 21% in 2013), with the A\*-B percentage also rising to 58% from last year's 51%.'



## Prefects Appointed

Becoming a senior prefect is one of the most significant honours a pupil can experience whilst at school. For the 2014-2015 academic year, we have appointed 12 full prefects in recognition of the qualities and achievements they have demonstrated during their time at Shiplake.

The group, led by Head of College Yeem Chanthanawan and his deputy Emma Haynes, were selected based on their well developed sense of responsibility, leadership skills and maturity to recognise and understand the ideas, standards and goals of the College.

## John Turner Building Opens

A contemporary Thinking Space, state-of-the-art Lecture Theatre, high tech Recording Studio and fully-equipped Music, Art and Learning Development Departments are all housed in our brand new John Turner Building. The impressive new facility will provide a first-class learning environment for Shiplake pupils for decades to come. Old Viking and long-serving governor John Turner

visited the College in September for the official opening, and students across the school are already benefiting from the superb facilities.

The Headmaster outlined the rationale behind the new build and thanked Tim Eggar, Chairman of Governors, for his courage to support such an exciting project. Most prominently, instead of a traditional library, we have built a contemporary and exciting resource centre, called the Thinking Space. This provides an environment where pupils can go to conduct collaborative group work or quiet, independent study. The apprentice-style 'board room' and 'flow room' areas are proving particularly popular with staff and students alike.



## Leavers Reflect

At Prize Giving last summer, we asked our Year 13 leavers to reflect upon their time at Shiplake College. The cohort had all spent between two and five years here, generating countless fantastic memories along the way. Take a look...



## Hardest Workers

Following the Autumn Term reports, teaching staff collated pupils' grades across all subjects to determine the highest achievers and hardest workers in each year group. Pupils who performed particularly well were awarded certificates in assembly.



## Best Prep Ever?

A number of Year 7 pupils impressed their History teachers by going over and above the call of duty in prep tasks.



## Aerial Tour

Each year, the Bill Eaton Prize is awarded to two Year 9 pupils who have demonstrated the greatest academic improvement since joining Shiplake. As a reward, Bill takes each boy on a memorable helicopter flight. After the 2013-2014 winners Zeb Hjaltun-Rayner and Joe Tucker had enjoyed their trips, the Marketing team could not resist jumping in to record an aerial tour of the College.



## Building a Warehouse of Knowledge

An inspirational assembly gave pupils a fascinating insight into the inner workings of the brain, reiterating the importance of revision. The concept of short-term and long-term memory was likened to Argos. In the shopfront there is very little space, but in the warehouse at the back there is an unimaginable range of products which can be accessed easily. Long-term memory is developed by consolidating classroom learning with prolonged, focussed revision, ready to be used in exams.

## Turner Prize

To celebrate the opening of the new Art Department, we held a 'Secret Postcard Exhibition' which invited pupils, parents, alumni and local artists to submit A5 or A6 entries. They were all sold for same price in a secret auction, raising £1,500, with the artists' identities only revealed after purchases were made. Alfie Sheppard won a selection of art materials after his lino print was selected by John Turner as the best junior entry. Former Shiplake art teacher Catharine Davison scooped the overall honour. Click the play button to watch highlights of the Headmaster's live portrait during the Art Department's grand unveiling.



## Learning Skills

On Saturdays, Year 9 pupils undertake a 'learning skills' enrichment programme which supplements the rounded education they receive across the week. In a new slot dedicated to useful, creative skills, classes were challenged to solve problems using technology. Using the Music Department's Apple Macs, Jack Parrott and Bertie Whitfield created a promo film for the new John Turner Building.





## Funeral Directors Visit

As part of their GCSE Philosophy and Ethics course, pupils are required to understand what happens after death, and the grieving process which loved ones face. Head of Philosophy Mr Jon Brownley had forewarned pupils and staff not to be alarmed as a hearse rolled onto the school site, as funeral directors from Tomalin and Son of Henley visited the College to explain more about the events which occur during the immediate aftermath of someone passing on.



## Worldwise Quiz

In November, the College hosted its second annual 'Geography Worldwise Quiz'. As current cup holders, the pressure was on for a repeat performance from the Shiplake teams, but thanks to strong competition from Claires Court and Cranford House schools, the hosts did not have it all their own way.



## Business Award

Head of Business Mr Andrew White has announced an exciting new project to be run in conjunction with the Media Department, which will see the launch of the Headmaster's Business Project Award. The esteemed title will be awarded to the pupil who produces the most impressive response to a given project brief. In the inaugural competition, Sixth Formers will be compiling a documentary on the use of marketing within the fashion industry.



## Clips Capture Crash Impact

Whilst studying momentum in vehicles and the dynamics of crushing, a group of Year 11 Physics students used their smart phones to record the impact of a crash in slow-motion. The footage was used to analyse the effectiveness of vehicle crumple zones.

## Parents Go Back To School

In December, parents were invited 'back to school' to learn how to help their sons and daughters prepare for upcoming examinations. Head of Psychology Mr Ebbage was joined by guest lecturers who outlined key background research into the most effective revision techniques. The trio of experts also looked at appropriate, balanced revision timetables and websites to assist learning techniques. The night was very well received by parents, with one commenting: 'We thought the practical aspects that the speakers laid out were so helpful. At this stage it really helps that we are all in it together!'



## Parent Call Answered

In November, a weekly bulletin invited parents to come in and share their professional expertise with Sixth Form students. BTEC courses offer a 'hands-on' style of learning, with classroom topics frequently linked to careers in industry. Staff were delighted when Mr Reed, father of Jonnie in Year 12, offered to fly in from Jakarta to discuss marketing strategies utilised by Burger King Indonesia. Mr Reed explained how the fast food giants have advertised their products across South East Asia and differentiated from high profile competitors. Other presentations in the Autumn Term included a workshop on soft skills training from Old Viking entrepreneur Jeremy Blake.



## Year 7 Passover

Pupils in Year 7 sampled a new cultural experience as they prepared and enjoyed a Jewish Passover meal. The horseradish element certainly split opinions in the class... an acquired taste to say the least!



## Work Experience Pays Dividends

In June of Year 12, pupils undergo a week of work experience. Gaining familiarity with professional workplaces is invaluable for UCAS applications and building a CV. Four months on, we caught up with three Year 13 pupils who reflected on the value of their corporate experiences.



## Mental Health

To mark October's International Mental Health Awareness Day, the Shiplake Psychology Department ran a series of related events. Most notably, Year 12 pupils conducted a series of lectures to Lower School pupils, focussing on a mental illness of particular interest to them.



## Adventure Therapy

When delivering the Sixth Form curriculum, subject teachers are always looking for ways to apply students' learning to practical situations. A prime example was when leading clinical psychotherapist Richard Hall was invited to the College to discuss a revolutionary form of psychological treatment; marine adventure therapy. Richard attended Shiplake College himself in the 1960s.



## Focus Group Tests Messaging App

Ahead of the public launch of the 'Chattoo' instant messaging application, a group of Shiplake Sixth Formers tested the product in a series of focus groups. The feedback allowed the developers to fine tune the app and iron out any technical difficulties, whilst giving students an insight into the process required to bring a product to market.

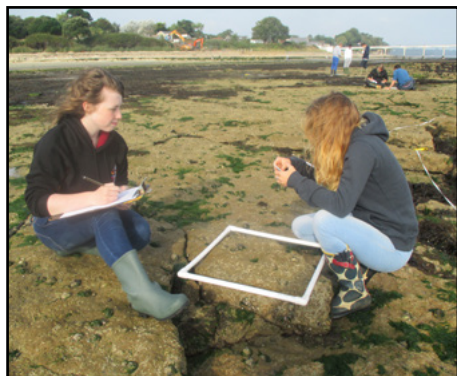


## ZSL Conservation

To prepare for a coursework task on topical scientific issues, Year 12 biologists visited London Zoo. Well known for its research and conservation work, the zoo provided an ideal place for students to gain ideas for their projects. Energised by what they had learned, many pupils chose to focus on animal conservation.



## Sites of Special Interest



Nine Year 13 Biologists travelled to the Medina Valley Centre on the Isle of Wight, to investigate a number of topics relating to their A Level course specification. This included conducting survey work at a number of sites of special scientific interest (SSIs).

Accompanied by Dr Bob Snellgrove and Mr Grant Lawson, the group of students travelled south and took

the short ferry crossing to Newport. SSIs are some of the country's best wildlife or geological sites, including spectacular and beautiful habitats.

Students analysed woodland management techniques, salt-marsh succession and limpet morphology on rocky shores. The weather was kind for September, and created ideal conditions for collecting data.



## Fashion Show



Year 12 and 13 Business BTEC students travelled to the NEC Birmingham for the Clothes Show Live. The students were studying Marketing and Creative Product Design, so visiting the Clothes Show Live was a perfect way for the students to experience the fast-paced fashion industry in action.

## Upper Class Customer Service

Year 13 Travel and Tourism students visited the Virgin Atlantic Cabin Crew Training Centre in Crawley, to gain an insight into the flagship carrier airline's outstanding customer service. The trip is linked to the

'Customer Service in Travel and Tourism' unit, being studied this term. The group had a packed day, learning about the Virgin Atlantic brand, attitudes to customer care and cabin safety.



## Shiplake Remembers

On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, the entire Shiplake College community of pupils and staff gathered outside Skipwith House, and fell silent for two minutes to remember those who have bravely fallen in war. The silence was served impeccably, followed in traditional fashion by the 'Last Post', played by Director of Music Mr Paul Jones.



## Bond Exhibition

A selection of full boarders visited the National Film Museum in Covent Garden, to take a look around the 'Bond in Motion' exhibition. The exhibition holds the largest official collection of original vehicles which featured in the iconic James Bond film series. The boys were able to enjoy some free time in the London hotspot, taking in the atmosphere and exploring the covered market.





### Economists Tour National Bank

In early November, Year 13 Economics students visited the Bank



of England Museum in London. Pupils listened intently to a presentation on monetary policy, interest rates and quantitative easing, and learnt about predicted consequences of increased interest rates and money fraud. The students also visited the Shard, having a guided tour of the viewing platform and enjoying the unparalleled views over the City.



### Pancake Day

With Shrove Tuesday falling during February half term, the traditional pancake-based celebrations were moved forward a week so that pupils could enjoy them together with pastoral staff in the Pavilion. 'The Rev' was on hand to talk about the reasons we celebrate Shrove Tuesday and the period of Lent. Pancakes, doughnuts and cakes were enjoyed by all. Congratulations to Emma Haynes for winning the annual pancake-tossing competition!

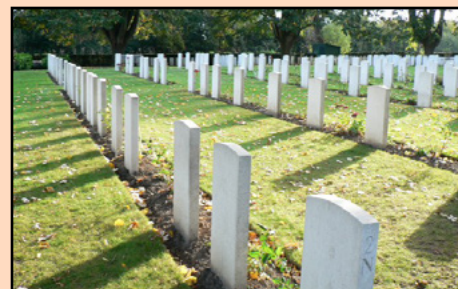


### Historians Visit Battlefields

39 Year 9 historians embarked upon a journey that traced the route that nearly a million British soldiers took in WWI. After reaching Northern France by boat, the coach trip to Ypres in Belgium used many of the same roads which the troops marched down 100 years ago.

The guided tour began in Belgium, concentrating on the war around Ypres, then on to German Langemark cemetery. The day's final appointment was at the daily playing of the last post at the Menin gate.

The following day focused on the Somme; a battle which remains the bloodiest day in British military history. Finally, students focused on the Commonwealth; Canada, in particular. Preserved trenches and a complex network of underground tunnels provided an insight into the layout of the front line, and



how incredibly close the two front lines were. Head of History Mr Liam Morgan commented: 'the pupils did us proud, asking intelligent and mature questions on a whole range of topics.'

### Lower School Explore Culture

During the Autumn Term, both Lower School year groups embarked on trips designed to broaden their cultural awareness. Year 8 took a trip to Baitul Futuh, designed to assist pupils' exploration of world religions in Theology and Philosophy.



Year 7 visited Warwick Castle. The boys explored the ramparts, weapons and even had a tour of the dungeons. Many American tourists were impressed by the eye-catching Shiplake blazers!

### Plastic Insight

Year 13 Design and Technology students visited Inplas, a plastic fabrication company. The trip was to give students an experience of design and manufacturing in action, and insight into the latest commercial technologies.





## Juniors Serve Up Oliver Spectacle

Actors from Years 9 and 10 joined the entire Lower School for the 2015 Junior School production of *Oliver*! Months of preparation, including line-learning, countless rehearsals and weeks of fine-tuning, culminated in seven superb sold-out shows in the Tithe Barn Theatre. The performances received a rapturous reception from parents and teachers in the audience, as the pupils' hard work yielded a hugely entertaining spectacle.

Unprecedented demand for tickets led to a number of additional matinee performances being arranged, adding to an already busy timetable of shows over the week. The pupils made light work of the demanding schedule, with no signs of fatigue as they served up brilliant entertainment night after night. Earning rave reviews, Mrs



Sally Satch was 'blown away by our fabulous superstars.' Main characters Luke Mullin, as Oliver, and Alfie Sheppard, as Fagin, were praised by directors Miss Jenny Unwin and Mrs Sian Pearson for their performances, offering convincing acting coupled with faultless solos. Matty Fitzgerald (Artful Dodger), Henry Hancock

(Nancy) and Will Bailey (Bill Sykes) ably supported Luke and Alfie, alongside a sterling cast. The sheer volume of choreography and song was equally impressive.

Costume and set design were in a league of their own, and played a crucial part in making the show such a roaring success. Headmaster Mr Gregg Davies commented that 'from the first scene onwards, the boys put on a fabulous show, well done to all involved!'



## On the Fringe

August brought the annual Edinburgh Fringe Festival and, with it, Shiplake's first production there in 10 years, which proved a smash success. Pupils, acting under the name Scruffy Penguin Theatre Company, travelled to Scotland to perform a new play, *Homeless*. The eleven-strong cast gave a heart-wrenching performance, dubbed a 'privilege to witness' by an audience member. It was not just giving an engaging performance daily for six days with which pupils were tasked; it also fell upon them to sell the show to a paying public, see a show a day and live in theatre digs.



## Drama Performance Hits Home

The senior drama production proved a hard-hitting success, following on from a tour at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2014. The Tithe Barn had been transformed into a run-down park, with trees, benches and graffiti. The serious subject of homelessness was interspersed with elements of humour, to lighten the mood. The 15-strong cast were GCSE or A Level Drama students, who made subtle changes to the plot following the show's successful Scottish debut.



## War Horse Wows

In October, the Drama Department took the whole of Year 9 to see the smash success *War Horse*, at the New London Theatre. Having studied the story the boys were eager to see if the experience would live up to expectations. The Drama Department also took students to see such hits as *Lion King*, *Rudy's Rare Records*, and *Matilda*.

## A Stage in a Box

Performing Arts pupils have been focusing on what happens behind the scenes of a production to create visually entrancing performances.





## Winter Concert Wows Again

'Tonight shows that if you want to enjoy music, you need to come to Shiplake!' These were the words of the Headmaster following another exceptional Winter Concert. Over half of the school population took to the stage in the Sports Hall, producing high quality music across a range of genres including Christmas classics, film soundtracks and contemporary hits.

The show was opened by the Lower School Orchestra, with a version of *Here Comes Santa Clause*. The Senior Orchestra followed, with *Dambusters* and James Bond theme tune *Skyfall*.

The Shiplake Community Choir are invited to every College music concert, and as always they did not disappoint. Performing an upbeat and energetic Beach Boys medley, including *I Get Around* and *In My Room*, the choir filled the room with

their voices. Performances from small groups of students followed, singing unique versions of hit singles, such as the Red Hot Chili Peppers' *Californication*.

The Headmaster took great pleasure in joining the Chamber and Rock choirs in their renditions of *A Child is Born in Bethlehem* and a *Sing/Rather Be* medley. The audience were thoroughly entertained throughout, with performances from the Clarinet Quartet, the Lower School and the Senior Accappella group 1st VIII to round off the event.

The concert ended on a high, with a version of *Baby It's Cold Outside*. This featured a duet by Ruaridh Sheppard and Rebecca Robinson, and earned a rapturous reception from the crowd.

Make sure you check out the video highlights video!



## Clarinet Silver

Shiplake's most accomplished clarinet players joined forces to perform at the 2014 Marlow Festival of Music and Drama. The quartet of Charles Marsden, Tom McCooke and Josh Hirst competed in the Advanced Ensemble Class, earning a Silver Medal. They have since gone to perform at further regional competitions.



## Wilfred Owen Remembered

The Dunsden Wilfred Owen Society exists to celebrate the life and work of the First World War poet who lived and worked in Dunsden from 1911-13. Several of Shiplake's senior musicians and actors took part in a special concert to commemorate the life of Wilfred Owen. The Shiplake pupils acted the part of Owen, followed by a scene in which they recreated the famous Christmas Truce of 1914. There were musical contributions and poetry recitals. Director of Music Mr Paul Jones said 'I am extremely proud of the contribution to a very important and poignant local event.'



## Lunchtime Gigs



The Music Department have launched a new series of Lunchtime Concerts. The concept is designed to give pupils experience of sharing their music live in front of an audience. The concerts have attracted pianists, woodwind and brass players, producing a wide variety of music styles. Each gig has proved hugely successful, entertaining large crowds of staff and peers.







### Lambs Call

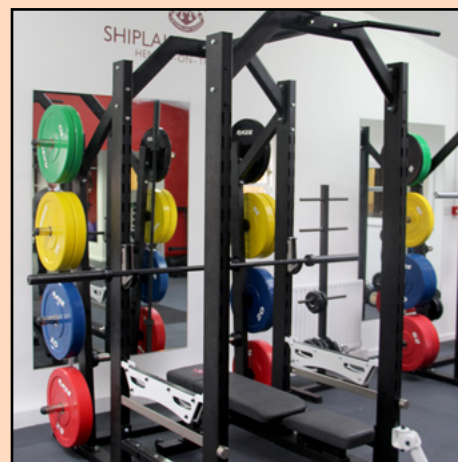
Two promising Shiplake rugby players have been rewarded for their fine form this season with call-ups to the England Independent Schools 'Lambs' set up. Sixth Former Ruairi Van Raalte has been selected for the U18 national side after impressing in a rigorous trials process, while Year 8 youngster Jerome Rocks will represent the U13 team on their national tour to Dublin in March.

### County Champs

The U14A rugby team travelled to Witney Rugby Club on Tuesday 9 December to compete in the U14 Oxfordshire County Cup Final. Their journey to the final had seen them convincingly come top of their group, with wins against Gosford Hill, Farringdon Community College and St Birinus School. Shiplake acquitted themselves superbly in the final against a physical Marlborough side, running out 31-12 victors.

### New Gym Open For Lifting

After months of excitement and weeks of renovation, Shiplake's Director of Sport Mr James Gaunt has unveiled a brand new strength and conditioning gym and cardiovascular training room in the College sports centre. The new facilities are now available for pupils to use during designated sessions throughout the week, to aid their preparation for outdoor training and fixtures throughout the season



### House Pride

The first Inter-House bragging rights of the school year went to Burr House, who emerged victorious in Junior House Rugby. Almost every boy in Years 9 and 10 took part, with many enjoying the chance to represent their House for the first time. In the senior competition, Everett took the title. Fielding an 11-man squad, the reds took advantage of their strength in depth to top the round-robin group.



### USA Rowing Tour

During October half term, senior members of the Shiplake College Boat Club embarked on a memorable tour of the USA.

[Click the buttons to find out more!](#)







## Headmaster's XV Selected

This academic year, Mr Gaunt has teamed up with the Headmaster to devise a new way to reward pupils consistently displaying exceptional commitment to Shiplake sport, in training and matches. This has led to the introduction of an all new Headmaster's XV, a 'dream team' of

the most dedicated pupils. Coaches from each team select one player at the end of each half term. Click the mouse buttons to find out who has been included so far.

## Building For The Future

Football remains in its infancy as a major sport at Shiplake College, but there are positive signs of a bright future ahead. Year 12 Callum Heppner-Logan has excelled as the senior 1st XI goalkeeper, while Year 11 pupils Cameron Goodliffe, Callum Murray and Miles Bridgman have all played key roles in the senior side, competing well against opponents two years older. At junior level, the U14s continue to impress, making an unbeaten start to the season.



## F1 Dream Alive



Year 11 pupil Shanaka Clay holds aspirations to race in Formula One, a dream shared by thousands of young karters around the globe. However, Shanaka's efforts on the European junior racing circuit are beginning show his dream could become a reality.

## Record Breaking Netballers

In the first half of the Spring Term, almost half of the entire cohort of Sixth Form girls stepped out to represent Shiplake on the netball court. This amounts to a record number of girls representing the College in an academic year. The girls have been making good progress on the court, with the most thrilling fixture coming against local rival Henley College. The two teams were separated by just one point!





## Friday Night Lights

Shiplake College secured a nailbiting victory over Lord Wandsworth College to delight their vociferous home support at Henley Hawks RFC in the school's annual Friday Night Lights rugby event. A healthy crowd of over 500 ignored the damp and dreary weather to roar on the Shiplake players, who rose to the occasion magnificently. Tries from Tom Harman, Fili Savou and Ruairi Van Raalte helped to build a comfortable lead, but the Hampshire side threatened a comeback with two tries of their own. In a frenetic finish,



Shiplake stood firm on their own try line to secure a narrow 15-10 victory.



## 7s Curtain Raiser

On Sunday 1 February, Shiplake hosted an invitational rugby 7s tournament which marked the beginning of the schools' 7s season. As always, the event captured the attention of rugby blogs and websites. Click the link to see how the tournament unfolded on social media.



## Mixed Success For Shiplake Hockey

The 2015 hockey season has already earned proved 'momentous', after Orla Brown became the first girl to represent the College 1st XI in history. Orla follows in the footsteps



of Eleanor Waite, who last season represented the senior cricket side. There is no doubt she has earned her place, with Orla winning the 'player of the match' award on her debut against Pangbourne College. Year 10 pupil Tim Herbert's outstanding performances for the Junior Colts also earned him a call-up to the senior set up. The 2nd XI have produced the best results of all hockey teams, with Tom McCooke's lethal goalscoring form helping them to notch notable wins against Pangbourne, Reading Blue Coat and Windsor Boys. We are most

## Coaching Legends



Excitement around the College reached fever pitch in January as two England rugby legends arrived to deliver a Year 9 coaching session. The session was won at a charity



auction by parents of Skipwith pupil Harrison Richards, who kindly chose to share his prize with his Shiplake teammates. Mike Catt (2003 Rugby World Cup winner) and Mike Haskell (Current England squad member) developed the boys' teamwork, ball carrying and tackling, with plenty of time afterwards for questions and photos.



thankful to Shiplake parent Mr Baker for all his wonderful sports photography. Take a look on our Media Gallery...



## Memorable Kenyan Expedition

During July and August 2014, 10 members of the Shiplake College Expedition Society spent four exhilarating weeks in Kenya. With prolonged camping spells and up to five days at a time without the luxury of washing facilities- not to mention the huge culture shock for many of the students- the trip was both challenging and rewarding for all involved.



Amongst a packed programme of activities, highlights included meeting local villagers and children at the Kikundu Schools Project, for which they built 36 desks and redecorated classrooms. The group also spent five days climbing 17,000ft to reach the summit of Mount Kenya, and enjoyed white-water rafting, fishing and even trying the local dish - curried goat.

Trip leader Marcel Wagner explained that 'there are days when it is really difficult; a sandstorm filling your tent with grit, the cold 2.30am start on summit day on Mt. Kenya, those long drives on impossible tracks to get where you want to be next, heat, thirst, and then, the ultimate, the



culture shock. 'It is only in the last days- those days designed as a reward, that the realisation slowly dawns on what has been achieved. The 'go-pro' trip video by Year 13 student Beth Jones really is a must-watch!

## Orchard Win House Art Exhibition

The Great Hall was adorned with high quality artwork for the inter-House art competition. A number of pupils excelled individually, but a level of consistency was also required to build up House points and win first place. After much deliberation, the judge awarded victory to Orchard House. Local artist Beryl, who owns a studio in Buckinghamshire, was on hand to judge the competition. Impressed by the diverse array of artwork on display, she found it incredibly difficult to select the winning entries. Head of Art Mrs Hema Gillings congratulated all pupils who entered.



## Reindeer Revival

Every December, the Henley Round Table accompany Santa around the town on a float. After some heavy winters, our Design and Technology Club agreed to renovate the float and ensure that it was ready to deliver sweets and joy to the community. The boys completely redesigned the float, complete with six fresh reindeer!



## Capsize Tests



In September, the new intake of Shiplake pupils completed their rowing capsizes tests. Director of Rowing Mr Currie commented that it is a great experience 'to ensure our pupils are fully prepared and know how to react if the worst was to happen.' The task is seen by many as an 'initiation' into Shiplake life!

## Bingham Inspires

TalkSport star Georgie Bingham was a guest speaker for the Sixth Form Society. As a successful sports anchor and radio host, she had plenty of sound careers advice. Georgie advised attentive students to be patient, determined and resilient, whilst ensuring to follow their dreams and use their passion as motivation towards success.



## Bake Off Final



Weeks of honing skills in Shiplake's most popular club, Cookery, came to a head in the Bake Off finale, that left Mrs Parrott's team of Robbie Rayne, Anton Renouf, Darius Braun, Tom Ibbitson and Matt Aldridge victorious. Judges Mr Davies, Miss Knight and Mr Brown made a tough panel, but the boys managed to win them over with a main course of chicken and vegetable fajitas, followed by delicious chocolate brownies with vanilla ice cream.

## Silverware for Ballroom Dancers

Many Sixth Formers have been taking ballroom dancing lessons, mastering various disciplines in preparation for a grand ballroom dancing ball at Queen Anne's School. The big day arrived, and the boys did Shiplake proud by returning home with widespread respect, gleeful satisfaction and a shiny trophy.

Orchard matron Mrs Julie Knight takes on the prestigious role of ballroom coordinator, overseeing the boys' transition from two left feet to Strictly Come Dancing pedigree. Donning bow ties and tuxedos, the students made sure that their appearance impressed as much as dancing prowess at the event.

Sam Ryder-Smith was the pick of the bunch, claiming victory in the Waltz and the Jive competition. The Shiplake quintet, of Sam Ryder-Smith, Liam Peachey, Tom Foster

and Harry Berkley came together for the team contest, claiming the impressive Schools' Challenge Competition Trophy.



## Co-Curricular Autumn Highlights

An exciting new co-curricular activities programme launched at the beginning of the academic year, and is now in full swing with pupils taking advantage of the new activities



on offer on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. In total, a whopping 22 clubs and societies take place over the course of two days! The main crowd pullers include the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and our very own 'Outdoor Experience', which covers a range of adventurous pursuits. Some students choose to spend more time on areas they enjoy in the curriculum. Programme leader Mr Nick Brown commented:



'The dedicated co-curricular sessions help pupils to discover a whole host of new hobbies and skills. This has a positive effect inside the classroom.'

## Gold Outdoors

Shiplake's Senior Duke of Edinburgh's award groups travelled to Scotland to complete their Gold expedition attempt. Despite the wind, all pupils successfully completed and passed the expedition in their chosen activity.



## Alumni Advice

The first Sixth Form Society event of this academic year saw two familiar faces return to the College and share some valuable advice on the transition from school to adult life. Old Vikings Nick Lowry and James Wilkinson shared their experiences.



## Christmas Cabaret

Year 13 boys and girls pitted their music talents against each other in a 'Battle of the Bands' competition. It was a straight race between two favourites, Prangatang and Ken's Boyz. The adjudicating panel of Mr Joel 'Louis' Rowlinson, Mr Chris 'Simon' Ham, and Ms Suzy 'Cheryl' Andrew had the difficult task of picking a winner, and it came down to the final song. Ken's Boyz took the spoils with their final performance, demonstrating not only powerful vocals, but variety in their choice of backing accompaniment.



## Pupils Excel at Wartime Memorial



A selection of Shiplake musicians, CCF cadets and Media students joined the Headmaster in attending a memorial service to the B17 Flying Fortress 'Sunrise Serenader'. The WWII bomber crashed over the

fields of Shiplake and Wargrave 71 years ago, killing nine American servicemen. More than 100 guests attended the memorial unveiling, held at Hennerton Golf Club where parts of the stricken aircraft fell. In addition to two eye-witnesses of the tragedy, and family members of the soldiers, high profile guests included Home Secretary Theresa May and Brig. General Dieter Bareihs, US Defence Attaché. Year 12 pupils Cam Whitelaw and Carl Harris kindly

volunteered to film the service, much to the delight of the event organisers. It is well worth a watch.



## Life Shavers

Mr Tom Crisford announced that if he could raise £50 for the CLIC Sargent Charity, which exists to support children going through treatment for cancer, he would shave off his hair... and if the total reached £100, Mr Keith Settle would also be persuaded to take part! Just five days later and the two teachers were overwhelmed to have received over £3,500 from staff, pupils, parents and friends. The event was a result of Mr Crisford's young son Samuel losing all his hair



after six months of chemotherapy, to treat a Wilms Tumour on his kidney. We are extremely delighted to say that Samuel has since been given the 'all clear'.

## Movember Money

Since its introduction in 2004, the Movember charity initiative has grown in popularity. In 2014, nine staff and six Year 13 pupils in College House took part by attempting to grow a moustache. The unofficial winner was Head of Media Mr Marcus Milburn (pictured fourth from right). Perhaps unsurprisingly the pupils were not quite so successful! In total, the group raised over £400!



## Pupils Complete Charity Challenge



Over 400 pupils and staff from Shiplake College embarked upon a monumental 20 mile challenge to raise money for five worthy causes. The bi-annual charity event brings the entire College community together and provides a real sense of achievement at the finish line.

Setting off from Moulsoford Prep School in groups, the route took the group through Goring, Whitchurch-on-Thames and Purley. Some chose to walk the distance, whilst others committed to running and even

rowing! All those who completed the challenge deserve great credit. The walk raised a total of £15,000, and five charities each benefited from a cheque for £3,000. The money went to Gap Africa, Sue Ryder, the Thames Valley Air Ambulance Association, the Chiltern Centre, and Children on the Edge.



## Staff Football

The Shiplake staff football team enjoyed memorable victories over BMW and the Oratory School, much to the delight of a passionate crowd of boarders!





## Macmillan Cakes

The weekly Parent Coffee Morning on 26 September was a particularly special one, as about 50 parents and staff gathered in the OVR to take part in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning. A delicious aroma of baked goods permeated the air, and parents' arrived laden with contributions to the ever-growing array of treats. Donations flooded in as cakes of all sizes were snapped up. A fantastic total of £274.60 was raised for Macmillan, which will go to help those affected by cancer.



## Sir John Jones

'We are in the magic-weaving business' announced Sir John Jones, when he visited Shiplake College to present to the staff as part of their INSET training. Knighted in 2003 for Services to Education, Sir John worked in challenging schools across northern England. Drawing on experiences of teaching and leading, Sir John looked at the qualities of a good teacher, and took the staff through theories of how someone thinks, and how to encourage an 'anything is possible' mindset.

## City Reunion

In November, over 90 Old Vikings gathered in Covent Garden for the 2014 London Reunion. Former pupils and staff from five decades were in attendance, with at least one representative from 25 year groups. We hope many leavers from the 'Class of 2015' will join us at the next event!



## Christmas Comes Early

Another successful Shiplake College Christmas Fayre generated a charming atmosphere in the transformed Sports Hall. Decorative chandeliers, an indoor marquee and the tamesis chamber choir all added to the festive spirit.

An array of enticing stalls were set up, offering decorations and gifts such as flavoured vodkas, candles, limited edition prints and luxury jewellery. Tasty treats were also on offer; everything from pretzels and turkey rolls to mince pies proving

popular. The Parents' Association were delighted with how things went, and thanked everyone involved.



## SCBCSA River Cruise

In September, the Boat Club Supporters' Association hosted a picturesque evening cruise along the River Thames. Parents and friends boarded The New Orleans, a paddle steamer kindly donated by Hobbs of Henley, to help raise money for the Boat Club's latest fundraising initiative: Blade Aid. Guests enjoyed a clear evening and beautiful views from the upper deck, a delicious buffet, drinks and

a raffle. Chairwoman Katie Potter commented: 'It has been a pleasure to receive so many wonderful comments; they are very much appreciated by all involved. What a way to spend the evening!'



## Vikings Return for Sports Festival

The annual OVS sports festival took place on Saturday 13 September 2014, attracting hoards of former rowers and rugby players back to the College. On the New Field, the OVS rugby team resumed their former rivalry with Old Pangbournians. Players from both sides belied their advancing years by putting their bodies on the line for their school. In a close contest, Shiplake were made to rue missed opportunities as Pangbourne edged to a 15-7 victory. Down by the river, rowers spanning four decades assembled

for a friendly regatta. Crews included the very first Shiplake IV from 1964, the 2013 and 2014 1st VIIIs and a hybrid VIII from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s stroked by double world champion Will Satch.

