



The riverbank

2014-2015 Part 2

Another academic year has flown by, and it is strange to think that it was my eleventh at Shiplake College. I have often experienced feelings of immense pride since making the move to Henley. On the river, in the classroom, on the sports fields, in music concerts or on results days, I have frequently been inspired by the scale of our pupils' achievements.

2015 has already proved a particularly notable year of pride and achievement. Shortly after Easter, the College underwent a full ISI inspection. Although it is always a daunting experience, we were confident and eager to show off the progress we knew we had

made since the previous inspection in 2010. We encouraged a theme of 'show and tell', amongst staff and pupils alike. It paid off, and we achieved a remarkable judgement of 'excellent' across the board.

I hope the 'show and tell' theme is also evident in this edition of *The Riverbank*, as we summarise the academic, co-curricular and community life of the College.

After our first digital magazine was successfully launched earlier this year, we have decided to continue along the route of electronic communication. Hundreds of parents downloaded the previous edition, and I hope, whether you are reading



this on a laptop, mobile or tablet, you gain another enjoyable insight into the day-to-day hustle and bustle of the school.

With warm, good wishes

Gregg Davies, Headmaster

Interactive Links

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



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Camera

Click the link to view more photos of an event



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Shiplake Deemed Excellent Across the Board

Following a full ISI inspection in April 2015, Shiplake College has been judged as 'excellent' across every single inspection category, the highest possible grade of achievement. Commendation of this magnitude is rare in independent education, placing Shiplake amongst a select group of leading schools. Indeed, no other local competitor schools have received such high praise in recent inspections.

“The school is highly successful in maintaining a friendly atmosphere, which enables pupils and staff to enjoy their busy working lives.”

ISI Integrated Inspection - Spring 2015

The inspection team observed lessons, attended co-curricular activities, conducted formal interviews with staff and pupils and examined samples of work. The inspection report gave a clear judgement on each aspect of the school. These headline statements are based on a four point descriptor scale ranging from 'unsatisfactory' to 'excellent'. After collating and analysing evidence in each of the nine domains, the inspection team deemed Shiplake to be 'excellent' – the highest accolade – in every field.



The positive attitude of pupils towards learning was frequently referenced, alongside the individualised curricular and extra-curricular programmes in place, which 'allow all pupils to develop self-confidence, achieve a measure of personal success and be challenged inside and outside the classroom.' ISI noted that 'pupils display a cheerful confidence and ready courtesy to all members of the community, and flourish in the school's nurturing and supportive atmosphere.' Inspectors cited numerous opportunities which allowed pupils to 'develop their character, confidence and leadership skills.' The report also praised the pastoral care offered by staff throughout the College.

“Pupils' behaviour towards one another is excellent. They listen carefully to each other's views and are supportive of one another.”

ISI Integrated Inspection - Spring 2015



“The teaching observed makes a very positive and effective contribution to pupil's progress, and amply fulfils the school's aims to unlock the potential in all pupils.”

ISI Integrated Inspection - Spring 2015

[Click here to read the full ISI Inspection Report](#)

[Click here to read the ISI Inspection Summary](#)

The Headmaster commented: 'It is a great honour to be classed as 'excellent' in every domain, affirming our belief that the College has progressed significantly in recent years. I am particularly proud that our teaching and learning, personal development of pupils, and ability to inspire creativity and innovation amongst young people are now applauded alongside the outstanding pastoral care and co-curricular provision for which we have always been known.'

New Management Structure

The Headmaster and Chairman of Governors are pleased to share details of a new management and leadership structure at Shiplake College, taking effect from September 2015. The changes followed the news that Deputy Headmaster Rob Jones has been appointed as Headmaster of HMC school Rendcomb College.

In response to Shiplake's recent growth and our increased proportion of day pupils, the Headmaster has taken the opportunity to revert from a vertical management structure to a more horizontal arrangement. This is in line with HMC guidance, and closely replicates structures which have worked effectively in other leading schools. The role of Deputy

Headmaster has now been split into two domains, covering academic and pastoral responsibilities. Ian Munro, formerly Director of Studies, has been appointed Deputy Head Academic, while Nick Brown, formerly Assistant Head Co-Curricular, will become Deputy Head Pastoral.

Mr Munro will oversee all activities relating to teaching and learning, including the monitoring of standards and practice, reporting and assessment frameworks, and preparing pupils for examinations. Mr Munro will work alongside two new Academic Assistant Heads,



Paul Jones (Year 7-11) and Richard Curtis (Sixth Form), to monitor the curriculum across all key stages. Mr Brown will manage all aspects of pastoral care at Shiplake College. This includes child protection and safeguarding, pupil discipline, mentoring and tutoring. He will be supported by Senior Housemaster Andrew Dix, Assistant Head Co-Curricular Alex Hunt and Director of Sport James Gaunt.

An Inspirational Final Day


On Wednesday 24 June, the Shiplake College community of pupils, staff, parents and governors gathered to celebrate the end of another academic year, and bid a fond farewell to departing Year 13 pupils. The Prize Giving ceremony is an annual event, held to acknowledge the academic achievements of pupils throughout the year, as well as contributions to sport and the wider life of the College. The opening address was given by the Chairman of Governors, Tim Eggar. Mr Eggar acknowledged all members of the school – teachers, support staff and pupils – and their part to play in helping to earn the 'excellent' ISI inspection report.

Guest of Honour Amar Latif was then invited onstage with the Headmaster, to present the prizes to the winning pupils. Awards were given to the highest achieving pupils in Years 7-10, before being broken down by subjects for GCSE and Sixth Form students. Special awards included the Eaton Award for academic development, the Lashbrook Award for outstanding service to the community and the Darwin Quaich award for Contribution to the life of the Lower School. The prestigious SCR prizes were then presented.

Barney Aldridge won the Edinburgh Prize for being the non-school prefect who has contributed most to the life of the College. Oliver Walker won the Matthew Bevin Prize, for the most industrious Year 11 pupil, and Daniel Di Guilio won the Caston Prize for showing notable determination and tenacity during his College career.

Head of College Yeem Chanthanawan addressed the audience with a heart-warming speech about the value of time. Yeem discussed how his time at Shiplake allowed him to develop and flourish, creating lifelong bonds with peers. Entrepreneur and world traveller Amar Latif then spoke about the challenges he had faced when he turned blind at the tender age of 19. Despite the life-altering challenge ahead of him, Amar told the audience how he had moved from 'why me' street, to embrace the opportunities around him. Amar gave an earnest and profound address about the importance of



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optimism in life, encouraging the pupils to use positivity, creativity and determination to overcome obstacles. Amar went on to say that 'we are all shareholders in this beautiful experience called life, and we must invest our heart, our soul, our everything, into making the most of this gift.'

[Click here to view the full list of 2014-2015 prize winners.](#)

Prefect Team Announced

Following a rigorous application process, the College has appointed a team of 14 prefects for the 2015-2016 academic year. Dom Allen, Chris Baker, Greg Cooke, Connor Cummings, Anna Davies, James Fenton, Claire Fifield, James Hargreaves, Callum Heppner-Logan, Zach Heppner-Logan, Scarlett Martin, Toby Orchard, Charlie Sichel and Andrew Turnill were selected by senior staff after successfully competing individual and panel interviews.

At Prize Giving, Everett student Greg Cooke was announced as the new Head of College. Greg will lead the new prefect team and represent the College at numerous public

events. The College would like to congratulate all new prefects on their excellent achievement.



A Level Reform

In response to the upcoming reform to A Levels, the College has given much thought to identifying the best strategy for our pupils moving forwards. After considerable discussion and deliberation, we firmly believe the decisions we have made are in the best interests of our students, and will allow them to achieve the best possible results in their Sixth Form studies. In the video available to watch below, Ian Munro, Director of Studies, outlines Shiplake's strategy to provide a route through government reform. Students will benefit from more time learning, and less time being tested.

[A Level Reform Strategy](#)



Author Visit Inspires Budding Novelists

Pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 received a visit from London-based author Andy Mulligan, known for such works as *Trash* and *Ribblestrop*. Having spent a decade working as a theatre director, Andy gained experience teaching in India, Brazil, Vietnam and the Phillipines, before turning his attention to writing full time.

Ribblestrop, published in 2009, gained national acclaim, and was shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny



Books prize. *Trash* followed this successful foray into writing. The film rights to the book - about three dumpsite boys who make a life-changing discovery - have also been snapped up.

The boys had been busy reading and studying *Trash* in class, and thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the author. Andy spent time explaining, using photographs, the story behind the novel. The group then split into small classes, and experienced a writing workshop with the author.

Andy had an attentive audience, as he told pupils how he had borrowed stories from friends and family, building on anecdotes to create episodes in the narrative of a tale. The pupils then tried their own hand at writing, constructing



novel openings and using dialogue to develop stories and characters. Andy offered the budding authors constructive direction.

Teacher Mrs Hallam was 'immensely impressed with the passion that was ignited throughout the day; we may well have awoken a budding novelist or two! We very much appreciated the time Andy spent with us.'

East Meets West

During the Spring Term, students had a unique cultural opportunity in lessons. Visiting from the north west provinces of China, four Chinese teachers came to the school to give Shiplake students a taste of lessons in the Far East. Working their way through numerous different subjects during their week-long stay, the teachers took classes ranging from Languages to Geography, observing lessons taught by Shiplake staff, as well as delivering classes themselves.

Organised as part of a Continuing Professional Development scheme funded by the Chinese government, and linked to Reading University, the Modern Languages Department coordinated a placement for the teaching quartet to visit the College.

Pupils enjoyed the challenging and interesting lessons, including an introduction to Mandarin, Mongolian culture, Chinese cookery and life in a Chinese school.



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Pupils are enthusiastic and committed in their learning, underpinned by excellent teaching and learning support.

ISI Integrated Inspection - Spring 2015



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Entrepreneur Visits

During the busy month of March, the Business Studies Department managed to welcome three speakers from very different backgrounds. The guest speakers were available to give students an insight into the world of business, entrepreneurship and charity work.

Entrepreneur and Youth Performance Coach James Davey offered pupils an insightful understanding of how the 'real world' of business operates. James started his own company, which focuses specifically on young people and the challenges they face in today's society. The Bursar Mr Walne then spoke to students from Year 12 about the school's finances, forming an invaluable introduction to the students studying financial affairs.

Finally, CEO and founder of AMECA, Ruthie Markus, opened up a world of possibilities about raising money for charities working in Africa. Horizons were expanded and students galvanised, and skills necessary in an increasingly competitive workspace were learnt.

Awarded for Business



The final of the inaugural Headmaster's Business Project Award competition took place in April, with six finalists from Year 12 and 13 battling out for the top prize. Sixth Form Business students compiled a video documentary, outlining marketing in the fashion industry, combined with an advert to market a chosen product. Year 13 entrant Emma Haynes took the Award for her work on Nike running shoes, while the Year 12 winner was Jack Tooley, who looked at luxury Gucci watches.

Emma's Winning Documentary



Pupils display a very positive attitude to their work. They concentrate well in class, working with purpose and high levels of motivation.

ISI Integrated Inspection - Spring 2015



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Rising to the Challenge

In March, a team of four boys attended the UK Mathematics Trust Team Maths Challenge. Year 8 pupils Jack Underwood and Cameron Jones, and Year 9 pupils Joe Kerrison and Josh Howard, went with Mr Keith Settle to compete in the competition for the first time in Shiplake's history.

Teams from across the South of England came to compete, tackling different problems across four rounds. The Shiplake team put in a fantastic performance, coming in 21st place against some very tough competitors!

The Oscars

The Media Department hosted the first ever 'Shiplake Oscars' - an evening to showcase and celebrate the practical work produced by pupils in both Year 12 and 13, with a number of awards presented. The practical work, part of each year's coursework, counts for a significant portion of the overall mark achieved by students. The work ranged from film openings to music videos.

Head of Media Mr Marcus Milburn, dressed in a tux, had pulled out all the stops for the event, hosting



the inaugural event in the Lecture Theatre and screening each piece of coursework.

Prizes were awarded across a range of categories, including 'Best Editing', 'Best Production Design' and 'Best Cinematography'. Winners were announced from a list of nominees.



The big winners on the night were Cam Whitelaw, Zach Heppner-Logan, Louise French and Connor Cummings, winning 'Best Film' for their thriller *Anonymous*. Harry Chapples, Lucy Collings and Emily Holloway took home two awards, for their music video *Glory and Gore*, by Lorde.

A Productive Day in the Workshop

GCSE Design and Technology has undergone a restructure, meaning that coursework previously completed during Year 11 is now finished in Year 10. As such, each boy from Year 10 participated in a 'Manufacturing Day', dedicating time to complete the majority of the projects.

The day replicated a 'work' day; arriving in workshop appropriate attire, the boys came armed with a plan of manufacture, ready to get started. Using a wide variety

of techniques and materials, pupils set their mind to creating, using wood, plastic and some incorporating electronics. They will now have more time for exam preparation in Year 11.



Higher Education Week

As part of Higher Education Week, pupils from Year 12 attended presentations and discussions to offer an insight into the many different paths open to students following the end of their Sixth Form studies.

Presentations were far-reaching, focusing on everything from the Oxbridge application process, applying to American and European



universities, picking the right courses and perfecting personal statements.

Talks were also given on popular career paths, such as media, sport and business management, as well as information about apprenticeships, gap years and work experience.



Unusual Antix

London based hip hop artist and rapper Alex Nimier - perhaps better known as Antix - delivered a workshop based around the power of music and rap to boys in Year 9. The BBC Introducing star explained different ways to express emotion. The boys enjoyed using music to communicate feelings, composing their own pieces before performing them in a 'rap battle'.



Spanish Dinner

Pupils from Year 9 and 10 enjoyed a Mexican themed social, following a trip to Spain earlier in the year. With music, cuisine and a pinata, a good time was had by all!



Elevate Education


Year 12 students were given a formal presentation from Elevate Education, on the subject of optimising examination performance. Entitled *Ace Your Exams!*, the presentation was an enlightening session featuring tips, advice and key areas to target in order to boost grades.



Brecon Beacons Adventure

Pupils working towards their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards, accompanied by Mr Steve MacPherson, travelled to the Brecon Beacons in South Wales to conduct their assessed and practice expeditions.

The Silver groups took part in a walking expedition, whilst the Gold teams were tackling cycling, kayaking and canoeing. The less-than-favourable weather conditions made the already-challenging tasks harder still, as high winds and torrential rain bore down on the Shiplake teams. However, despite Mother Nature's best efforts to deter

[Click here to view more photos](#) 

them, they performed well and remained cheerful!

Loaded with camping supplies, the Silver team hiked through the Brecon Beacons, successfully completing their expedition three days later. The Gold group took to the river and the roads, digging deep into their energy reserves and warding off fatigue to complete their expeditions. Fortune looked favourably upon them, offering slightly improved weather conditions, meaning that they finished slightly drier than before!



Lower School Adventure

Pupils from Years 7 and 8 enjoyed an action-packed adventure week during the second week of June. Year 8 headed to Beaulieu and the Ferny Crofts Scout Centre, whilst the Year 7 group headed to Barton Hall in Devon.

The Year 8 boys enjoyed a packed few days. Nestled in the heart of Brockenhurst, Hampshire, the activity centre provided the ideal backdrop for activities such as rafting, learning to shoot with an air rifle, and even leaping off a 15 foot high pole to catch a trapeze bar! Year 7 tried their hand at fencing and archery, as well as jumping on mountain bikes and riding round the hilly estate. Abseiling was also on the agenda, along with a vertical obstacle course - giving the ambitious pupils a real head for heights!



Big Apple Experience

An excited group of Philosophy and Psychology students visited a chilly New York City in February. The main purpose of the trip was taking time to visit the World Trade Centre tragedy site and memorial museum, hearing some survivors' stories. This sobering experience left a lasting impression on pupils and staff.

Pupils also visited other attractions including the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the New York Public Library, New York University and the Museum of Natural History. The group enjoyed sampling New York's diverse cuisine, taking a tour through China Town and Little Italy, as well

A Barcelona Break

Travel and Tourism students embarked on a sunny visit to the cosmopolitan city of Barcelona. Accompanying the European Destination unit of the course, the excursion gave pupils the ideal opportunity to visit tourist sites in the popular Spanish city.

Students enjoyed seeing the picturesque gothic quarter, Las Ramblas and Boqueria Market, as well as the Gaudi-designed Roman Catholic basilica, La Sagrada Familia. The group also packed in visiting the local zoo, Barcelona Marina, and Camp Nou - the home of Barcelona FC.



Year 9 Adventure Week

Year 9 enjoyed the beautiful weather during a recent Adventure Week, which saw them try their hand at various different activities, including sailing, canoeing and raft-building. Sailing saw the groups head to Dinton Activity Centre, whilst the walking groups took in the Thames Path, camping overnight at Longridge Activity Centre in

Marlow. The other adventure sports took place a little closer to home, down by the Boat House on the River Thames.



German Capital Trip

A group of GCSE historians headed to Berlin to explore the famous sites, visiting the Reichstag Building, Checkpoint Charlie, the site of Hitler's Bunker, and a Jewish Holocaust Memorial, as well as sampling the local cuisine. Head of History Mr Morgan explained the boys 'enjoyed a valuable, moving and interesting trip'.

Dorset Data Collection

Year 10 Geographers headed to Dorset to collect data for their GCSE controlled assessments. The busy visit took in a plethora of local sites, including Hengistbury Head, Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Famous for displaying natural occurrences, the boys collected data on beach profiles and appreciated seeing different forms of geography in action.

House Singing

The annual House Singing competition took place in February, with over 95% of the school's population taking part, wowing audiences and judges by singing a range of contemporary and classical hits.

Competition was fierce; whole House performances included such songs as The Script's *Superheroes* and The Foundation's *Build Me Up Buttercup*.

Ensemble pieces included Ed Sheeran's *Thinking Out Loud* and Rihanna's *Diamonds*.

The overall winner was a deserving Orchard House, who accepted the trophy to tumultuous applause.



House Singing Highlights



Chamber Choir

For the first time in the history of the College, the Chamber Choir and Music scholars took to the stage in Christ Church Henley, to perform to staff, parents, fellow students and members of the public.

The musicians performed a selection of pieces, and ended with John Rutter's *Requiem*. Pupils embraced the opportunity to perform in the community, gaining experience and recording GCSE and A-Level coursework. They were accompanied by an orchestra of professional musicians, and showed no nerves as they embraced the challenge of performing to a wider audience.

Click the link below to listen to the Chamber Choir's fantastic rendition of *Pie Jesu*.

Pie Jesu from Rutter's Requiem



Spring Concert

The Spring Term offered another fantastic opportunity for the College to showcase its musical talent; this time in the Spring Concert.

Shiplake's best musical talent was joined by Mr Paul Jones, Mr Chris Ham, Mrs Louise Rapple Moore and the Shiplake College Community Choir, to give an accomplished performance to a packed audience. The Lower School Orchestra opened the concert, with an upbeat arrangement of movie songs. The Senior Orchestra, in-keeping with the theme of films, performed *Mission Impossible* and *The Great Escape* theme tunes. The Headmaster's Choir were testament to Mr Davies'



commitment to widening the musical community at Shiplake, with their crowd-pleasing version of M People's *Dreaming*. Other renditions included Lloyd Webber's *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again*, Joplin's *The Entertainer* and Bernstein's *Somewhere*.

The First Eight's version of *All About That Bass* is a must watch!

The First Eight -
All About That Bass



Click here to view more photos



Lunchtime Music

Lunchtime concerts, which proved such a success during the Autumn term, returned throughout the Spring and Summer terms, offering up a variety of music during lunch, to give the school's musicians a chance to gain experience performing to a live audience.

Pupils from all years and abilities can get involved with the concerts. They provide the perfect backdrop for all students to share their music-making in an informal setting.



Year 9 Drama



Year 9 have had a very dramatic few months, hosting a variety showcase evening. The evening was a smashing success, with seven short plays keeping the audience highly entertained! Meanwhile, Skipwith House reigned victorious in a hotly-contested House Drama competition.



Term Ends On Crescendo



Shiplake's budding musicians took to the stage - some for the last time in their College careers - to perform to a packed marquee a variety of music, including pieces from musicals as well as modern chart-toppers.

The Covers Band, the First Eight and the Shiplake Community Choir were just some of the acts performing for the full audience, covering such hits as *Uptown Funk* by Mark Ronson, Gnarl's Barkley's *Crazy*

and a medley of Queen songs. A particular highlight of the evening was a performance by 'The Heads'; Mr Gregg Davies and Head of College Yeem Chanthanawan, accompanied by the Prefects, performing numbers from *Les Miserables*.

The newly formed Shiplake College Big Band also enjoyed making their debut appearance, with a rendition of Gershwin's *Summertime*.



[Click here to view more photos](#)

Year 7 and the Chocolate Factory



The entire Year 7 cohort donned costumes and wigs and took to the stage to perform Roald Dahl's classic, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Lower School productions are always a highlight of the Drama calendar, and this year was no different. The Tithe Barn, decked out with giant sweets and candy cane trees, was packed to the rafters. The clever manipulation of the space made the audience feel as if they were indeed stepping into Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory.



[Click here to view more photos](#)

Comedy Voyage

A group of Year 11 Drama students performed an original exam piece to the delight of visiting Year 5 pupils from Shiplake Primary School. The comedic piece was entitled *Into the Beyond: A Voyage of Discovery*.



Alice Underground Leaves Audience in Wonderland



Year 12 and 13 dramatists took to the stage to perform their coursework pieces to a live audience. Year 12 performed



Alice Underground, a take on the fantastical *Alice in Wonderland*. The stage was wonderfully manipulated to go from the Mad Hatter's Tea Party to the Red Queen's palace, and even Lewis Carroll's home.

The Year 13 group took the action away from comedy and madness, beautifully tackling the very sombre subject of marital disharmony, in an original play called *Unspoken*; a very consuming play, with fragments of contemporary dance.



CCF Scholarship

Year 13 pupil Phil Green was awarded a Royal Air Force cadet flying scholarship, which saw him head up to Dundee to attend the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme. Phil, a Cadet Sergeant within the College CCF, received the prestigious scholarship for his exceptional commitment to the RAF Association.



History Debate

A team of five top historians from Years 10 to 13 went to Lord Wandsworth College, Hampshire, for the inaugural History Debating Competition. Tackling rounds on topics such as Hitler's reaction to the Treaty of Versailles and the historical benefit of television for modern day analysis, the Shiplake team pitted themselves against local rivals such as Reed's School.

Much to the delight of the History department, the Shiplake team came out victorious!

Burr Top Inter-House Debating

A brand new House competition, Inter-House debating, made its debut in February. Introduced by Philosophy teacher Mr Tristan Elby, teams from each house were selected to battle it out across a range of topics to reign triumphant. After giving a researched and rehearsed discussion on the topic, a round of quick-fire questions followed. Concluding statements were made, and the judging panel deliberated before awarding a score out of 20. Rounds that followed saw topics such as government surveillance, the mansion tax and the living wage discussed, and the bottom teams had to leave the competition.

The final debate saw Gilson, Skipwith Eggar, Burr and Orchard argue topics such as private sector involvement in the NHS and military action against ISIS. Burr House came out on top with 86.3 points, narrowly beating Orchard Lapping with 85.6 points.



Easter Service

In keeping with tradition, a full College Easter service was held, with Reverend Stephen Cousins being joined by guest speaker the Right Reverend Jonathan Goodall, Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

The entire College population congregated in the Sports Hall for a service to reflect on the significance of Easter, and why it continues to be celebrated today.



CCF Celebration

A celebratory black-tie dinner was held for the CCF, to say farewell to the senior cadets departing the College. During their time at the school, the cadets undertook many different training courses and expeditions. The CCF is designed to give young people the opportunity to tackle a broad range of challenging and adventurous activities. The students approached each task with dedication and ardour, trying their hand at skiing, flying and adventure-training, to name a few. A sumptuous three course celebratory banquet was served to mark the occasion. CCF continues on Wednesday evenings next year.



A significant number of pupils develop their physical skills and powers of resilience through participation in the outdoor education programme.

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Wallingford Regatta

On Sunday 3 May, senior rowing squads travelled to Eton Dorney Lake for the beginning of the regatta season. Shiplake crews performed well, with the elite 8+ finishing just a canvas down on Hampton in their final. The J16s



laid down an impressive marker in their heat, securing a place in the final before bad weather intervened.

Seniors Strike Gold at Nat Schools

The May bank holiday weekend was one of achievement and celebration for Shiplake, as the Boat Club recorded unprecedented success at National Schools' Regatta. The prestigious event is the pinnacle of the schools' rowing calendar, providing an opportunity for the nation's best young talent to battle for school pride. The Boat Club entered 78 students, from different year groups, across 15 events over the course of the three day regatta. For the first time since 1986, Shiplake's senior 1st VIII claimed gold in the Child Beale Cup, seeing off the likes of Latymer Upper, Bedford School and Reading Blue Coat in the final, which they led from



start to finish. Having come away with a silver medal last year, the boys were incredibly motivated to improve on last year's performance, and dominated the field from start to finish. Shiplake's J16 IV showed the future is extremely bright with astonishing performances in the premier 'championship' race category. The J16 IV of Seb Newman, Henry Blois-Brooke, Hugo Oglina and Christian Hjortland-Marks claimed silver medals in their final, finishing narrowly behind Eton College. The Year 11 quartet were joined by teammates in the Championship VIIIs event, missing out on a medal by just 0.23 of a second.



Fili's Toulon Deal



Year 12 rugby scholar Fili Savou will begin his professional career next season, after signing a 3 year contract with RC Toulon. Toulon are widely recognised as the leading force in European rugby, having won the Heineken Cup for the past three seasons. Powerful centre Fili has represented England and Fiji in youth internationals, and emerged as a key member of Saracens' academy squad. He now follows in the footsteps of British talents including Jonny Wilkinson, in making the trip across the channel.

Valiant Effort at Royal Regatta

The Henley Royal Regatta provided further signs of a bright future for Shiplake rowing, as the 1st VIII tasted victory for the first time in five years. A stellar day one performance by the bees saw them overcome Bedford Modern School, before narrowly missing out on a spot in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup quarter finals. An early start and scorching temperatures did nothing to dispel local pride, with a sea of iconic Shiplake blazers out in force to support the boys in their first race. The senior crew of Waller, Green, Carey, Thomann, Cawthorne, H Berkley, T Berkley, Gerrard and cox Pond made a fast start and immediately built a healthy lead. This was extended gradually across the famous course, with Shiplake clocking an impressive time to beat their opponents by 4 lengths. In the next round, a tough draw pitched Shiplake against Radley College,

touted as one of the favourites for the title. There was nothing to split the boats in the opening stages, but once Shiplake settled into their rhythm, Radley kept pushing to build a narrow lead. The bees continued to battle bravely but could do nothing to reign in the Oxfordshire powerhouses, eventually succumbing to defeat by two lengths. Meanwhile, Shiplake's J16s missed out on qualification for the Temple Challenge Cup, which features Britain's top



Shiplake's Race vs BMS



universities, by just 1.2 seconds. Director of Rowing Dave Currie commented: 'I am pleased by the progress made this year, and getting a win at Henley caps a successful season. I hope this year's 1st VIII will serve as role models to the younger rowers coming through, as there is no reason why we cannot start competing in the latter stages of Henley in the coming years.'

Girls Cherish Groundbreaking Season

As the Summer Term began, our Sixth Form girls gathered together for the annual Girls' Sports Dinner; an awards evening dedicated to recognising the commitment and enthusiasm shown by the girls in all sporting endeavours.




This year's guest-speaker was England netball star Rosie Allison. Rosie was particularly impressive for the girls, as she has managed to juggle academic pursuits alongside her sporting career, allowing her to study for a Masters degree. A very motivating speaker, Rosie gave the girls an illuminating speech about

the power of teamwork, and the inspiration she finds in her fellow teammates. Sports captain Eleanor Waite and Head of Girls' Games Mrs Armstrong were on-hand to distribute the awards, congratulating winners on their accomplishments.

The girls have had another season of development for netball, coming together as a team and showing an unparalleled ardour for their sport. In fact, over half of all the girls at the College played netball this academic year, making for record-breaking numbers! Key player Hannah Cartwright won the coveted 'Sportswoman of the Year' award. Hockey was also popular, with Orla Brown becoming the first girl to represent the College 1st XI, while Lucy Walker won 'Rower of the year'. Our sportswomen are looking forward to another successful season next year, with Orla appointed the new girls' captain.


The evening was rounded off with a speech from Director of Sport Mr Gaunt, who commented that 'the girls have shown incredible hard work this past term and I'm very proud of them - they never wavered, even when the opposition was a far bigger school, and they were a credit to the Shiplake name!'



[Click here to view more photos](#) 

Flying South For Easter

Ahead of the regatta season, 44 rowers spent a week in the South of France to hone their skills and bond as a squad. Despite the picturesque setting, the week was far from a holiday. Long days meant hours of hard training for the, spending early mornings rowing amongst the mist on the river, and not hanging up the oars until the sun had set. The breathtaking photos are certainly worth a look...

[Click here to view more photos](#) 



Headmaster's Selection

The Headmaster's XV sporting recognition scheme continued in the Summer Term, with cricket, tennis and rounders players amongst those battling it out for selection. Click the link to find out who made the grade in May.

Spring Awards


Following the of the hockey and football term, coaches and players cast their votes for the end of season awards. The 1st XI hockey team finished undefeated in the second half of their season, while the 2nd XI enjoyed a highly impressive record largely down to free scoring Tom McCooke. Year 12 goalkeeper Callum Heppner-Logan won the football player of the season award, with Year 11 Cameron Goodliffe also impressing in the 1st XI.



Schools' Head

The main rowing event of the Spring Term was Schools' Head of the River. The course is the reverse of the University Boat Race, from Chiswick Bridge to Putney embankment. A strong performance from the 1st VIII saw them rank as the 10th fastest school in the country, while the 2nd VIII ranked 13th in their category. The J16 squad beat Shrewsbury and Eton on their way to an impressive 5th place, while the girls squad and two J15 boats enjoyed their first taste of a big competition.



[Click here to view more photos](#) 

Shiplake Sporting Summer

The busy Shiplake sporting calendar continued in the Summer Term, with the College fielding squads across all year groups in tennis and cricket. A youthful 1st XI squad experienced a challenging season, but will look back on an exciting clash against the Oratory and an exceptional bowling display against Reading School as their highlights of the term. The 2nd XI enjoyed two convincing victories against local rivals Pangbourne College, while plenty of promise was shown in younger year groups, with U13 and U14 squads both enjoying




winning records across the season. Josh Howard and Callum Theodorou stood out in Mr Dix's promising young side.

Out on the courts, the 1st VI registered 3 wins, a draw and 3 defeats in a season of mixed fortunes.




Edging a tense, closely fought battle with Pangbourne by 5 matches to 4 will live long in the memory. The U15 squad, skippered by Marcus Hillman, recovered in superb fashion from an opening week defeat against Lord Wandsworth College by winning all of their remaining games. This included comfortable wins against Reading Blue Coat, the Oratory and Abingdon School.

[Click here to view more photos](#) 

Welsh Claim Record Haul

The Inter-House competition calendar culminated with an action-packed day of sporting action. Congratulations to Everett and Welsh who won the senior and junior athletics championships respectively. Year 9 pupil Alex Shean wrote his name into the record books with a time of 2.21.6 in the junior 800m, whilst Charlie Scales recorded the school's best ever distance in girls' long jump. Orchard Bevan stormed to a landslide victory in junior House Swimming, with Welsh edging out Burr by 1 point in the senior competition. Welsh also claimed the prestigious Tug of War trophy! Their dominance on sports day, combined with consistently strong performances throughout the year, saw Welsh House win the Baldry Trophy. The purple House claimed more silverware events in many other fields, including the Bevan Cup for the most excellent slips, much to the delight of House captain Tom Harman and Housemaster Mr Howorth.



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Ascension Day

As they approached the end of their time at school, Year 13 enjoyed an Ascension Day service in Maidensgrove - a high point on the 'Chiltern Way'. The customary rounders match was played, before a delicious breakfast and prayer, to reflect on their time at Shiplake.



Team Spirit Brings Ring Reward

The summer season saw the return of cricket; a sport cherished by the nation. Welsh Housemaster Mr Howorth proved that the perils of playing cricket are further reaching than anticipated, when he lost his wedding ring during a coaching session! Hours of fruitless searching with a metal detector ensued. When the Headmaster saw Mr Howorth's frenzied seeking, he relocated the Junior Assembly from the Parish Church to New Field, instructing pupils to line up along the field and

help the hunt. Orchard House pupil Finn Wallace was the most eagle-eyed, spotting the ring and returning it to an extremely grateful Mr and Mrs Howorth! A real triumph of Shiplake spirit!



Art Department Host Private View

After all exams had finished, the Art Department held a private viewing in the Great Hall, in order to showcase the artwork that had been created by GCSE, AS Level and A Level artists.



The exhibition took place at the end of June, and family, friends and fellow pupils headed to the College to admire the hard work.

Pupils exhibited two pieces of artwork each - one which was taken from their coursework, and one from the externally set assignment. Every free surface in the Great Hall was covered, and guests saw a mixture of disciplines such as print-making, ceramic sculpture, wire sculpture and oil on canvas.



Family, friends, and fellow pupils packed the hall, and were incredibly impressed with the high level of work. Indeed, one parent commented that 'some of the work wouldn't look out of place at a degree exhibition!'

Leavers Moving Forward

The end of the Summer term saw the Shiplake community bid farewell to pupils who are moving on to pastures new. A moving Leavers' Service was held by the Rev, and pupils were joined by staff and family to mark the momentous occasion.

Head of College Yeem Chanthanawan opened the service, before prayers and readings were given by School Prefects. Departing Deputy Headmaster Mr Rob Jones was

tasked with delivering the Leavers' Address, encouraging students to look forward with positivity and excitement. Quoting Disney, he said that 'around here we don't look backwards for very long, we keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.' Teaching staff lined up outside the church to bid a fond farewell to each student.



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Tories Win Key Seat

The general election in May sparked a flurry of politically-themed activity amongst the Shiplake cohort. A very successful Question Time was



followed by a mock election, giving pupils from all years the chance to cast their vote. The OVR was transformed into a polling station, with separate booths and ballot boxes for pupils and staff to register their vote.

Over 70% of the College population attended to vote, and the Conservative party received a landslide victory! Their nearest rivals were UKIP, although they received a quarter of the Conservative votes.

Staff Leavers

The Spring and Summer terms saw the College bid a fond farewell to much-loved members of staff. Mr Jon Brownley, Miss Claire Guilbert, and long-standing member of staff Mr Mike Edwards left Shiplake in the Spring Term, whilst Mrs Stella Clark, Mr Rob Jones, Miss Hilda Sarfo Frimpong, Mr Liam Morgan, Mr David Greer, Mr Christiaan Jones and Andy Grable left the College for pastures new at the end of the academic year.

Deputy Headmaster Mr Rob Jones leaves after four years, to become Headmaster of Rendcomb College. Mr Jones commented that 'of all the many things that I will miss about being here, the people are definitely foremost.'

Mr Mike Edwards, having spent 23 years at the College, pioneering numerous sporting successes and establishing Business as one of the College's most popular Sixth Form subjects, retires. Mike will be remembered for his unparalleled dedication to the OVS, and for coaching and umpiring cricket - a memory he admits he will miss most about Shiplake. Mike looks forward to writing and travelling.

Head of History and Middle Years Coordinator Mr Liam Morgan leaves Shiplake to assume a post as Head of Humanities at Stantonbury campus in Milton Keynes.

Mr David Greer, Estate Manager at the College for 14 years, retires to enjoy continental motorcycle tours.



Learning Development teacher Mrs Stella Clark leaves after nine years. Mathematics teacher Miss Hilda Sarfo Frimpong heads to a school on the edge of London.

Popular ICT technician Andy Grable leaves to manage a brewery in London. Mr Christiaan Jones, covering Design and Technology, goes to a school in London.

Head of Philosophy and Theology Mr Jon Brownley leaves after five years to a school in Chester. Languages teacher Miss Claire Guilbert returns to France.

Question Time



Ahead of May's general election, the College played host to a 'Question Time' in collaboration with the British Youth Council. Shiplake welcomed Council trustee Mariam Waseem to chair the debate, with over 100 students from Queen Anne's and The Piggott School listening to speakers from the main political parties highlight their approaches to national issues. Students met the parliamentary candidates in a Welcome Reception, before the panel were seated for formal questioning. The panel consisted of candidates for the Henley council, including former Henley Mayor Ken Arlett and Lib Dem candidate Sue Cooper. Challenging questions covered topics such as immigration, the budget deficit, the NHS and tuition fees. The evening was a great success, encouraging thoughtful and absorbing political debate amongst students.

Helping Muvea

Burr House organised a quiz for boarding students, raising money for Gap Africa to fund the education of Kenyan student Muvea. Paying £1 to participate, the fundraising total was boosted by the sale of soft drinks and food. 13 teams of up to five students entered to win the grand prize - free Domino's pizza. The winning team of Year 12 pupils emerged victorious after four challenging rounds.



Tri Henley Aquathon

Shiplake College played host to an 'aquathon' - a swimming race which pitted the Tri Henley club against the Thames Valley Triathletes. Students from Shiplake were joined by other schools to participate.

43 competitors made their way to the swimming pool, swimming 350m followed by a tough three and a half kilometre run. Year 9 Shiplake pupil Tom Nike walked away with victory in the T3 age group.



River Communion

Shiplake held the annual riverside communion service in a beautiful setting on the banks of the Thames. Guests were invited from local schools such as Queen Anne's School, as well as members of the local community, Shiplake Parish and Dunsden Parish. As the sun began to set, Mr Nick Brown gave an interesting address about river connections, relating this to different aspects of the College and the congregation. Live music was provided by the Chamber Choir, led by Director of Music Mr Paul Jones. Following the service, the College hosted the congregation in the Old Viking Room, where pupils, staff and members of other schools enjoyed refreshments.



Pupils have strong self-esteem and are confident in their personal values, appreciating the sense of belonging and significance which the small community engenders.

ISI Integrated Inspection - Spring 2015



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#ShiplakeIsExcellent



Pupils enthusiastically take on a wide range of positions of responsibility across many aspects of school life, so they develop their character, confidence and leadership skills.

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Lower School Bake Sale

A bake sale was organised and held by the Lower School, raising over £260 for local charity Daisy's Dream. Parents and staff had kindly baked and bought a smorgasbord of delicious baked goods to sell to pupils and fellow staff members. Donations of cakes, flapjacks, brownies and cookies came flooding in, and the Lower School was well stocked for the crowds to arrive. Summer diets were all but forgotten as the sweet treats were devoured - made all the sweeter knowing that the money raised was for a worthwhile cause.




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Families Enjoy Summer BBQ

The sun shone for family, pupils and friends to make the most of the Parents' Association Summer Family BBQ. Held on the lawn outside Skipwith, the event included a circus skills workshop, a dog show and a variety of House stalls.

The barbeque, bar and cake stall received a healthy number of visitors, but the highlight of the day came in the form of the dog show. Dogs of all shapes and sizes descended on the lawn, with rosettes awarded to the best in each category. Learning to spin plates, hoola hoop and juggle proved immensely popular, along with a penalty shootout. Live music was provided courtesy of Mr Paul



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Jones and senior musicians, and the event was a smash success, bringing the community together.

Gold Anniversary

2015 marks 50 years from the founding of Welsh House, and on Saturday 25 April a celebratory dinner was held to mark the momentous occasion. Staff, parents and Old Vikings gathered in the Great Hall to celebrate the founding of a now-iconic Shiplake house. The guest of honour was David Welsh, the founding Housemaster. He was joined by many long-serving staff members including Peter Gould, Alex Hunt and current Welsh Housemaster Jonnie Howorth. A drinks reception followed an open house tour of Welsh, with photos of alumni and current pupils displayed on the walls, before a sumptuous three course dinner was enjoyed. The Headmaster gave an entertaining speech on the traits of Welsh House boys - a commitment to sporting achievements being chief amongst these!



Business Award

Edingtons Property Search has won the coveted Small Business Award, set up and run by Theo Paphitis' Small Business Sunday initiative. Former Shiplake student Sam Edington, co-owner of the Mayfair-based buying agency, tweeted Retail Entrepreneur Theo about their business and was thrilled to be selected as the recipient of the award! Sam was recently recognised by our Business department in their display of Old Viking entrepreneurs.

Chelsea Show

Old Viking Anthony Berry, an innovative landscape gardener, was requested by multi-award winning horticulturist Alan Gardner to attend this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, to construct a show garden. The garden, sponsored by Viking River Cruises, won a silver award!



Vikings Return for Cricket Fixtures

OVS cricketers returned in June for fixtures against the current staff and 1st XI. The staff edged home in the Twenty20 match, reaching the target of 137 with 3 balls to spare thanks to an explosive knock from Mr Gaunt. The following day, another close match ensued. The OVS emerged victorious in the penultimate over, successfully reclaiming the trophy they won in 2014.

Artists' Work in Exhibition

Former Shiplake College pupils have been making a splash in the art world, exhibiting work and being shortlisted for nationally acclaimed photography competitions. Bunty Rowbotham took the opportunity to display artwork at the Clarendon Fine Art Grand Gallery opening. The prestigious gallery, a popular place in London's Mayfair, has recently opened its doors to the public in Marlow. Harry Williams has also been experiencing success in the art world, taking part in a national photography competition held by PhotoVoice, a company that aims to give a voice to disadvantaged and marginalised communities.



Arctic Challenge

Old Viking Mike Shepherd tackled the 2015 North Pole Marathon, braving the below-freezing conditions to raise money for a charity called 'Invest in ME.' The charity raises funding for biomedical research into the disease; a cause about which Mike is passionate after his daughter developed the debilitating condition in 2008. The 26.2 mile challenge involved 9 gruelling laps of a Russian science station in the Arctic circle.