

# Hillcrest Highlights

Issue 1: April 2015



Welcome to the Summer Term 2015:

## Celebrating 100 Years of Faith in Hillcrest Road

The Summer Term 2015 at St Augustine's Priory looks set to be a wonderful term of events and excitement as we look forward to H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols' visit on 30th June together with, among many other events, our Summer Arts Evening, the continuation of our 'A Stitch in Time' project, several speakers and the Parents' Committee Social.

So, in preparation, we thought we would remind you of a few of the highlights of the Lent Term through some of our Priory Post articles. We hope you enjoy reading them! Catch up on others and read future articles either on the App or the website.

## Prep III and Florence Nightingale: A visit to London and History

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March saw Prep III visit the Florence Nightingale Museum and then tour the centre of London. The Houses of Parliament, Downing Street and Horse Guards Parade were all visited by these intrepid explorers.

Prep III met Florence Nightingale who told them all about her life in the Crimea and about her work in the hospital at Scutari where she nursed soldiers during the Crimean War.

Comments were varied about their visit to the Museum, with Olivia Hardey commenting, 'I liked looking at Florence Nightingale's medicine chest' and Evie Ward tells us, 'I learnt that Florence was often ill when she came back from the Crimea'.

Lucia Puccetti, 'liked the activity sheets in the Museum. We learnt about the soldiers' diet' and Mahika Sohdi comments, 'Florence Nightingale met us in the Museum. She was strict, she told us about her life'. Chloe Hearth enjoyed 'listening on the headphones' and other items commented on were Sienna St Paul's who 'saw Athena, the owl' and Lucy Kerr who 'saw the shell of Jimmy the tortoise who was in the ward with soldiers'.

After the Florence Nightingale Museum, Prep III enjoyed walking around some of the major sites of the capital.

It was a great day for studying History!



## Marvellous Maths!: Success in 2015 Intermediate Maths Challenge

Our pupils achieved superb results in this year's Intermediate Maths Challenge. Mrs Bennet fills us in: 'The Intermediate Challenge is an annual event, organised by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT), aimed at pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 (Upper IV, Lower V, Upper V). The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is taken in school under normal examination conditions, with this year's competition taking place on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Sixty-five of our most fearless maths students from the three year groups



joined approximately 200,000 pupils from 4,000 other schools and colleges across Britain to test their problem-solving abilities. The scoring process means that pupils are penalized for incorrect answers, so it is no use guessing and hoping that this will result in a prize! Harder questions are worth more marks, but therefore lose even more marks if incorrectly answered.

About 40% of the entrants are awarded certificates, with the ratio of Gold:Silver:Bronze being 1:2:3. In other words about 1 in every 15 pupils will get a Gold certificate, and the threshold this year for that was a score of 64 or higher. The top 5,500 pupils across the three year groups qualify for the follow-on European rounds, called the Grey and Pink Kangaroos. The thresholds for these competitions are 61 (for Year 9) and 68 (for Years 10 and 11). The top 500 pupils in each year group are invited to take part in the Intermediate Olympiad, with the thresholds being between 81 and 95, depending on the year group. The UKMT acknowledged that this year's competition was "a particularly challenging paper" so imagine our delight when the following results arrived during the half term holiday!

Top in school with a score of 113 was Mayuko Yoshie (Lower VA). This far exceeds the Olympiad threshold and puts Mayuko, according to the UKMT, in the top 0.1% of entrants this year. We also have three qualifiers for the European Kangaroos: Anna Szyszko (Upper V Alpha) and Kaho Oishi (Lower VA) both qualify for the Pink Kangaroo (Years 10/11), and Francesca Tyrer (Upper IVA) qualifies for the Grey Kangaroo (Year 9). Stunning results all round!

The results in full: Three Gold certificates go to Anna Szyszko (Upper V Alpha), Mayuko Yoshie and Kaho Oishi (Lower VA). Six Silver certificates go to Helena Merron (Upper V Alpha), Shieru Watabe (Lower VA), Manisha Thukral (Lower V Alpha), Michelle Munyi (Lower VA), Ayla Dumenci (Lower VA) and Francesca Tyrer (Upper IVA). Fourteen Bronze certificates go to Samara Roach-Keiler (Upper V Alpha), Rebecca Ball (Upper VA), Lonika Manektalla (Upper VA), Aliyah Ahmad (Upper V Alpha), Amy-Elizabeth Roye (Upper V Alpha), Emma Loffhagen (Upper VA), Daniela Povinelli (Upper VA), Priyanka Balakrishnan (Lower V Alpha), Olivia Upcraft (Lower V Alpha), Aisha Toussaint (Lower V Alpha), Katrina Richardson (Upper IVA), Agata Krynska (Upper IVA), Josephine Hoesel and Rayna Thukral (Upper IV Alpha).

## Historical Researchers: Lower I investigates Stonehenge

On 9<sup>th</sup> January the girls in Lower I embarked on a historical quest. With the assistance of the clues spread around their classroom they investigated the story of Stonehenge, the massive prehistoric monument in Wiltshire.



This site has fascinated historians and archaeologists for centuries and now, with the help of Form Teacher, Mrs Round, Lower I has joined the ranks of those exploring its secrets! The pictures here show the Lower I historians as they undertook their research.





## Bear Hunt!

### Nursery and Prep I gather round the camp fire

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February Nursery and Prep I took full advantage of our Forest School and went on a bear hunt. This involved wrapping up warmly, trekking to the Prep Meadow, setting up camp, building a camp fire (actually Mr Smith and Mr Mortimer were responsible for this aspect of the proceedings, but Nursery and Prep I oversaw the whole enterprise) and then hunting for the elusive bear.

Fortunately, the bear was found without too much trouble and was more than happy to join our intrepid explorers as they gathered in a circle around the old camp fire to enjoy hot chocolate and chocolate biscuits supplied and served by the Nursery and Prep I teachers.

Bear made sure that he visited every group of Nursery and Prep I children and shared the warmth of their camp fire and their hospitality before it was time for the children to return to school.



As Mrs O'Connell, one of our teaching assistants remarked, as she distributed the hot chocolate, 'Nursery and Prep I like to share!'



Our pictures show our Nursery and Prep I enjoying the warmth of their Forest School and the company of each other and Bear.

### Senior Biology: Upper IV study the lungs

Mrs Harley has been guiding Upper IV through some hands-on work in Biology. Upper IVA and Upper IV Alpha have been studying the structure of the lungs and gaseous exchange in the lungs.

Gas exchange is the delivery of oxygen from the lungs to the bloodstream, and the elimination of carbon dioxide from the bloodstream to the lungs. It occurs in the lungs between the alveoli and a network of tiny blood vessels called capillaries, which are located in the walls of the alveoli.

In order to complement their studies in this area and deepen their understanding of the topics involved, pupils in Upper IV undertook a sheep's lung dissection on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March where they identified

the structures of the lungs as well as comparing the tissue of the heart and lungs.





## 'The Comedy of Errors'

### Our 2015 Senior School Production

Our production of 'The Comedy of Errors' by William Shakespeare was a great show, a highlight of the year. From the crew to the cast the hard work and talent of our pupils was apparent in a show that combined smooth-running, great design and excellent performances.



Mrs Murphy, Head of Drama, had drawn together a team which had worked together over several months to put on this show which ran from 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February in the Questors Theatre main playhouse.

The play is one of Shakespeare's most farcical comedies revolving around two sets of identical twins, accidentally separated at birth and the mishaps and adventures that befell them.

It would be impossible to single out any one area for commendation – a sentiment obviously shared by the audiences, as on the first and last nights the end of the show was greeted by standing ovations!



Set in Asia the design of the stage set was effective and deceptively simple. Light and sound were used to create an atmosphere which intertwined beautifully with the setting and the cast looked the part in great costumes with hair and make-up stylishly applied and worn. All these factors were woven together (with hard work backstage by a skilful stage management) to form a seamlessly integrated production.

The dancers performed the well-thought out choreography with grace and style and the actors gave excellent performances.

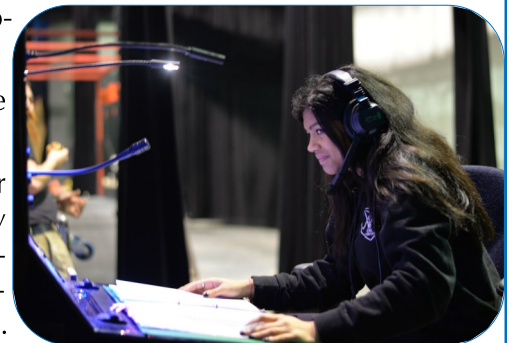


Whether in the main roles or as secondary characters every actor's well thought-out character took the stage with confidence and believability. The comedy acting was sublime

with the actors combining adept farcical physicality with a truth and creativity crafted with thought and precision.

This was definitely a show 'not to be missed'. Congratulations to Mrs Murphy and all her collaborators for a wonderful evening's entertainment.

The photographs of 'The Comedy of Errors' accompanying this article give a definite flavour of the show and were taken by Kiranjeet Sandhu, Upper VI.





## Lower II and the Tudors: Visit to Hampton Court Palace

Mrs Griffiths reports on Lower II's recent foray to Tudor times: 'On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March Lower II pupils visited Hampton Court Palace as part of their History curriculum. They are studying the changing power of monarchs and their current focus is the Tudor period. Our visit included a Tudor portrait workshop, a tour of the King's apartments and the kitchens. We were delighted to bump into Cardinal Wolsey and to be able to quiz him on the politics of palace life.'



Maysa Ahmad Hitt in Lower II Alpha commented: 'I loved my experience at Hampton Court, but I mostly enjoyed looking at all of King's Henry's wonderful tapestries, they were so elaborate and incredibly detailed. I also enjoyed our portrait workshop and learning about what people did in portraits to make them look wealthy or strong'. Priya Rodney, Lower II A, had this to say: 'I was amazed when I spoke to the Chancellor of King Henry VIII (Cardinal Wolsey), about how Henry treated them! I was impressed when I saw the kitchen and how big it was'. Lily Rai, also Lower IIA, said that 'I did not know about the different types of roses. We learnt about drawing the faces of royal people and I liked seeing the different foods they ate in the kitchen.' This was echoed by Maryam Kamar, Lower IIA, 'I really enjoyed going to the kitchens because I like how we were able to smell some things and I loved the special effects. I also enjoyed going to the Great Hall - I loved the view from Henry VIII's table.'



Lily Rodney, Lower II Alpha, said: 'We looked at the wine fountain, then went to the shop. After this we did a wonderful workshop where we drew a girl in our class. After that we went into the kitchens and there were great and bad smells. We went to the beautiful Chapel and saw some lovely tapestries and the famous portrait of Henry VIII. I had a great time and learnt a lot'. Sofia Kronic, Lower II Alpha, adds: 'I loved learning the

history of the six wives of Henry VIII. I especially enjoyed going to the Chapel and standing exactly where all the six wives stood. I am very excited about finding more information about Jane Seymour and Catherine Parr. In total, I absolutely loved the visit!'

## Careers Day: Upper IV prepare for GCSEs and beyond

On 27<sup>th</sup> January Upper IV took part in Careers Day, designed to help the pupils prepare for life following school and university. Amanpreet Bains, Upper IVA, gives an account of the day. 'Careers Day gave us an insight into the preparation needed for university and our future careers through writing CVs and university applications. Dressed like businesswomen in heels and suits we were ready to take on all the day demanded! Before the day commenced we were split into 7 groups and all given a particular career to research for a presentation later in the day. We were asked to show the different aspects of the career, share what we had discovered about that particular career and why we might choose it. From this we gave each other advice about how to approach the career of our choice.'



The day started with Mr Murphy (Director of Sixth Form, UCAS) giving us a talk on CVs. This was very useful as although we are in Upper IV we are choosing our GCSE options and learnt that we should see clubs and any extra-curricular activities as an advantage in writing a CV. Throughout the day we discussed the various careers which need the same subjects to be studied and the skills needed. There are many questions which will keep us thinking until the day we apply for university. Some of these are: why is this course/career so special, what

are my achievements, what are my skills and why do I stand out from the other applicants? We were assured that it is fine at this stage to not know what you want to do at university and to learn the subjects you enjoy and are interested in for GCSE and not be influenced by the subjects your friends are taking. Don't follow the crowd, be yourself! Many of our questions were answered. For example, Mrs Murphy (Senior Form Teacher, Upper IV), gave a talk on why GCSEs are so important and how to tackle the issues that arise when finalising our options. A word of advice for the year below - when it's your Careers Day come prepared ready to learn and have your questions ready!'

## Feast Day 2015: Celebrating One Hundred Years of Faith in Hillcrest Road

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February saw our annual celebration of Feast Day. During the years the religious community resided here it was a celebration of Reverend Mother's Feast Day, and is now celebrated as the School's Feast Day. Founded in 1634 in France and arriving in England in 1911, in September this year we mark One Hundred Years of Faith, the centenary of St Augustine's Priory's establishment on the Hillcrest Road site. The year will be filled with occasions of celebration to mark this event.



Feast Day always begins in the morning with the 'Wishing', a coming together of the whole school community when we hear reports from the Captains and Vice-Captains of the four school Houses: St Gabriel, St Michael, St Raphael and St George. The House Captains eloquently spoke of the qualities of their House patrons, qualities and values which we strive to develop as Augustinians.

St Gabriel's Captain, Kajal Bal, told us of her pride at being St Gabriel's House Captain and went on to say, 'Gabriel means "God is my strength". In our House we believe in drawing out the best in one another, through St Gabriel, our archangel of revelation. St Gabriel is here for us to help clear away confusion and achieve the wisdom we need to make decisions and obtain the confidence we need to act on those decisions. St Gabriel can help us to express our truth openly and honestly. He is the patron saint of small children and he looks after and nourishes the child in each of us, a child who may be arrested in growth or wounded and in need of love. His guiding hand is always there to protect what is pure within us. He lights the way to the truth within our hearts, and helps us to see what is the right path for us to follow for our highest good and greatest joy.'

Megan O'Flynn, Captain of St Michael's House told us that 'St Michael is known as the protector against evil, a healer. As a house we look out for one another, we make sure that we are there to support our friends in times of need, and we have the courage to go on despite any doubts we may have.

In artwork St Michael is portrayed carrying a sword, a sword of courage. We may have not won some inter-House events, we may have not always won Sports Day but as a House we always strive to do the best we can, not to fulfil someone else's expectations, but to fulfil our own. Now as the exam season begins to catch up with most of us in the senior years, particularly those taking GCSEs and fellow Sixth Formers taking A Levels, we can use the courage and strength we have in our House to get through these examinations. We wish those taking exams the best of luck and to remember that we do the best we can. Now let's begin Feast Day with courage and determination in our hearts and work together as a team to achieve our goals.'

Billie Morrison, Captain of St George, shared this with us, 'St George was brave. But what does that mean? What does it really mean to be brave? Going to war? Fighting an illness? Standing up for what you believe in; your religion? Your family? Your friends? Or can it be as simple as speaking to a girl who is sitting on her own?

St George is recognized for being brave, courageous, the epitome of strength and heroism. But what can we do, as young women, to be brave? Is it brave to tell your friend that she is doing something foolish on Facebook? Is it brave to attempt to shoot a goal in a netball match?



Is it brave to ask a teacher for help? In St George's House we encourage and value every act of bravery, no matter how small. We all have our own dragons to fight. They are not always 20 feet tall fire-breathing reptiles. Dragons come in all shapes and sizes. They are people. They are exams. They are ideas. And no matter what shape a dragon takes, they can all be overcome with a little bit of bravery.'



The House Vice-Captains went on to tell us of the achievements of the Houses over the past year and the charities for which each House will raise money during the forthcoming Charities' Week. For example, Jasleen Deu of St Gabriel, spoke of her House's achievements : 'In 2014 St Gabriel's won Sports Day through excellent team work, energy, hard work and enthusiasm. We have also demonstrated our superb skills in sports through achieving the highest score in inter-House netball this year. Let's carry on this amazing performance and win Feast Day!' (Following the Wishing the Sixth Form organises activities for the school for which marks are awarded on a House basis).



After the speeches there followed the presentation of the Catherine Aylward Award, named after a former pupil of this school. It is given to girls for being 'the best that they can be', living life to the best of their abilities. Qualities which Catherine demonstrated when faced with adversity. This year's recipients of the award were Sennen Powell, Upper IIA, and Victoria Lohead, Upper VA. Many congratulations to both girls on receiving this award.



After the 'Wishing', the speeches, the presentations and the morning of organised games and activities we celebrated the centre of Feast Day, the Mass at Ealing Abbey at which all girls, from Prep I to Upper VI and staff join together in a festival of community and thanksgiving for our school and its members, past and present.

The Abbot of Ealing, Fr Martin Shipperlee, once again welcomed us to celebrate our Feast Day Mass at Ealing Abbey and Fr Peter Burns joyfully celebrated Mass, delivering a thoughtful homily on our patron saint, St Augustine of Hippo, and his values and their relevance for us today.

To conclude the proceedings, our Headteacher, Mrs Raffray, wished us all a happy and restful Half Term and announced the results of the Feast Day activities. A tightly fought contest, but St Gabriel's House won the day!



Words from the second reading in Mass, from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians, remind us of the faith the first community of our school demonstrated when it was founded nearly three hundred years ago and which has been the cornerstone of our community ever since:

'Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for the good works which God has already designated to make up our way of life.'

Photographs courtesy of Kiranjeet Sandhu, Upper VI, and Aneae Rodriguez, Upper VA.

## Congratulations to Innovatrix

Just before the end of the Lent term we heard the great news that Innovatrix, our Lower VI Young Enterprise group, had won the Ealing & Hammersmith & Fulham Area finals of Young Enterprise!



Innovatrix now go through to the West London regional finals on 29th April.

Their 'Pure Essence' range of products, including candles, bath salts, soaps and bath bombs, has proved extremely popular and we wish Innovatrix every success in the forthcoming regional finals.





## Modern Languages Day: We welcome St Gregory's

*'If you talk to a man in a language he understands,  
that goes to his head.  
If you talk to him in his own language,  
that goes to his heart.'* (Nelson Mandela)

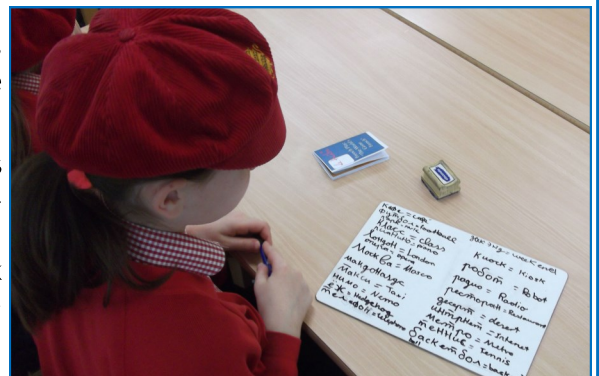
Two of Ealing's Catholic schools joined together on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March when our Lower II was delighted to host Year 5 of St Gregory's RC Primary School in spending a day together exploring the magic of modern languages.



At St Augustine's Priory we believe in the importance of learning languages early. Whether French, Spanish, Mandarin or Russian (or the classical languages of Greek and Latin) we know that the earlier you start to learn, the more proficient you become, the more doors that will open in your future life. We were therefore very happy to share our facilities, skills and teachers with St Gregory's, a fellow Ealing school.

Mr Alejandro, Head of Modern Languages, together with his colleagues, put together an itinerary which encompassed the discovery of a variety of languages.

The day was spent in a multitude of language-based activities commencing with a session on Artistic Poetry (students listened to a poem and then drew what they felt) and a session on learning the basics of Cyrillic script. After morning break there was a Modern Languages Quiz and taster sessions in Armenian, Cantonese and Punjabi.



Following a modern languages themed lunch, the children went into the grounds and learned Salsa and Irish dancing. After this, learning to sing in Hungarian was on the menu with the afternoon continuing with the play, 'The World's Gone French', performed by Onatti Productions.

Both schools enjoyed this opportunity to share learning and laughter; one St Augustine's Priory pupil commenting, 'I loved hosting my school with

others and we had a very memorable day' while another participant said, 'Yay! This day was a day to treasure and I'm so happy I was part of this experience!'

Further comments included one pupil stating, 'Today I learnt a lot of new words from different languages and I thought it was fantastic' and yet another said 'I made some new friends, it was the best.'

We loved having St Gregory's RC Primary School here and look forward to more opportunities to experience learning together.

In the words of one of our Lower II girls, 'Today we had a lovely time with St Gregory's. We would like to do this again'.





## Hockey Rules!: Internationals visit St Augustine's Priory



Our hockey players had a wonderful time on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January as St Augustine's Priory played host to two England and Team GB hockey internationals, Georgie Twigg and Sam Ward. Our P.E. staff and coaches had organised the visit - a fantastic encourage-

ment and a terrific help to our enthusiastic girls as they seek to improve on and expand their hockey skills.

Georgie and Sam ran a great training session for our girls on the astroturf and then followed this up with a question and answer session over tea. The Nuns' Refectory was filled with junior and senior hockey players, parents and staff as the girls bombarded Georgie and Sam with questions ranging from the technical and tactical to the light-hearted.

After the question and answer session both Georgie and Sam were happy to sign autographs and pose for photographs with girls and staff.

Georgie Twigg has played hockey internationally for several years and, among other successes, was in the GB Bronze medal winning team at the 2012 London Olympics and also in the Silver medal winning England team at the recent 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Sam, a recent addition to the England squad, and Georgie have an exciting year ahead of them as they prepare with the rest of the GB Team hockey squads for the summer qualifying competition for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.



This was a fantastic afternoon and a not-to-be-missed opportunity for our hockey players to meet and learn from two wonderful exponents of the sport. Thank you to Georgie and Sam for spending time with us and sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for such a great sport!

## Lower I visit Celtic Harmony: A day's travel back in time

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February saw Lower I travel back in time to Ancient Britain by visiting the Celtic Harmony Camp near Hertford. Celtic Harmony's website states that they provide 'hands-on cultural heritage education of ancient Britain to increase understanding of the natural world and create a more sustainable way of life for future generations.'

Hannah Shahid and Pavneet Dhaliwal reported on their visit: 'When we arrived at



Celtic Harmony we met a Celtic lady who showed us to her village. When we got to the village we had to go through gates. We saw a guard named Aryas. Aryas said, 'Do you come in peace'. We said, 'Yes'. So we went through the time travel gates and said our names. We were welcomed by being face painted and we then went into tipis. And then the lady told us how to make a bracelet and then dye it. We had a choice of yellow and red. After lunch we made flour and then made it into bread. Then we had to go in groups of three and we made clothes and used a loom and a loom bar. Then we used special brushes to comb sheep's wool. Then we went to the shop. At the shop we traded coins for Celtic money. There were gemstones, bracelets, Celtic cards, helmets, shields and more. We went to the tipi and played a game called the trading game with grain, gemstones, pots and yarn. Then we went home on a coach.'

Lower I learnt a great many useful skills on their visit to Celtic Harmony - thank you for sharing your knowledge with us!





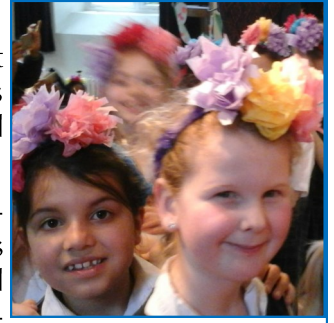
## Spring arrived!: The Preps' Spring Concert

Although Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March is the first day of Spring, for us at St Augustine's Priory it was Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – the day of the Preps' Spring Concert. Entitled 'God's Wonderful World' this was certainly a wonderful afternoon of music, poetry and song.



In a packed Hall, against a backdrop covered with flowers, Preps I, II and III regaled us with poetry and songs focussing on nature and the environment with the need for the conservation of water, anti-littering and the importance of recycling to the fore.

The girls had helped make the backdrop and had also made their headdresses – butterflies in Prep I and floral headbands for those girls in Preps II and III. Prep III musicians began the concert and then, accompanied by Miss Johnson on the keyboard, the Preps performed their songs and poems in turn, beginning with Prep I. Congratulations to Claudia Bileckyj, Prep II, who was one of the poets performed, having written 'It was Fun at the Zoo.'



The finale of the programme brought all the Preps joined together in song, ending with 'If I were a butterfly'. The Prep Form Teachers had produced a show full of energy and great performances and it was very well received by all the parents present. A most enjoyable production! Thank you, Preps, for a wonderful afternoon's entertainment together with a great deal of food for thought!



## Ski-ing in Italy: Upper II and Form III hit the slopes

During the February half term girls in Upper II and Form III spent a wonderful five days ski-ing in Tarvisio, Italy. Mr Judson, Mrs Costello and Ms Gambrill accompanied this trip and comments and pictures from Italy engulfed the Ski trip's Twitter account.

The first five days were filled with ski-ing, plus some sledging, during which the girls received five hours tuition per day. Après-ski, they wound down with several events including a disco, a quiz night, a cinema night, a pamper night and a pizza night.



The final day was spent in Venice during which the girls had a guided tour of this beautiful city, including a private boat tour along the Grand Canal.



## Life in our Sixth Form: The future after GCSEs ...

It is an exciting time to be going into our Sixth Form at St Augustine's Priory. We are improving and refreshing our provision for the Sixth Form with a new Sixth Form Study area, new computers in the Tribune area (next to the Sixth Form Common Room) and re-vamped IT provision in the Scriptorium.

Add to this a jam-packed programme of events, visits and trips to complement the A Level curriculum and our Sixth Form will be an even more stimulating and inspiring place to learn.

At St Augustine's Priory we pride ourselves not only on the great examination results our pupils achieve, but also on the development of the whole person. We delight in sending out into the world young women ready to face the challenges of life with courage and faith and to contribute to the world they live in, developing their talents and abilities throughout their lives.

As we reach the end of the Lent Term and look forward to a Summer Term of celebrations and also examinations, Katarina Krneta, a member of our Lower VI, here talks about her decision to stay at St Augustine's Priory for the Sixth Form and sit her A Levels here.

'Upper V is a long and stressful year and there are many important and emotional decisions that one has to make. One of these was whether or not to stay at St Augustine's Priory or to go to another school. Many girls wanted to stay and I decided to investigate the reasons why. Here are the comments of some of these girls:

"At St Augustine's Priory there are so many opportunities to develop personal interests outside of the classroom."

"You might think the Sixth Form is too small but really it's a tight-knit community that I couldn't live without."

"The teachers understand you and do their best to help you develop as a person as well as a student."

"The teachers genuinely care about us and our futures."

"There is a warmth that I didn't experience when looking at other schools."

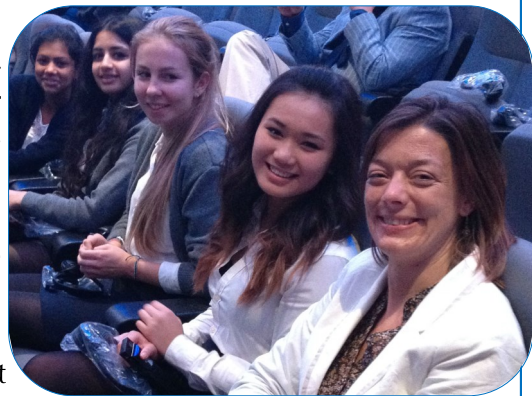
We are a family in the Sixth Form and although we are all strong-minded individuals we are also a collective and a team. We have learnt to work together, through events such as Feast Day and Charities Week where a lot of responsibility is placed upon us, and together we are able to deliver and make our teachers proud. We are a community that supports one another through the good times and, most importantly, through the bad. I am so glad to have stayed because although Sixth Form life is not always dandy, it's certainly made easier by all the Augustinians around me.

I wouldn't ever change the decision I have made because I wake up every day, happy to go to school!



We wish all the examination years well as they enter the Summer Term and face the challenges of their exams.

And do remember - Upper VI can anticipate a new, exciting career at university and Lower VI to continuing with their A Levels. And with new and improved facilities in place for Lower and Upper VI and an exhilarating programme for the year ahead, we very much look forward to working with Upper V as they start the adventure that is the Sixth Form!





## We prepare for Easter: The End of Lent Term 2015

At St Augustine's Priory the final days of the Lent Term 2015 were filled with anticipation and celebration as we continued our journey through Lent and looked forward to the events of Holy Week.

The Preps started us off with their early celebration of Palm Sunday on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The Prayer Garden was filled with the sound of 'Hosanna to the King' as the Preps gathered in a circle, waving their palms and greeting Jesus, who entered the circle on a donkey and rode round and round, followed by his disciples. The girls all then listened as they read the story of Palm Sunday to each other after which they all processed back to school and, unbidden, all began singing 'Hosanna to the King' once more.

The last day of term, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, began with our intrepid Preps



going  
Meadow.

on their Easter Egg hunts in the Prep. All the girls had made baskets in which to collect their eggs and were brilliant at helping each other if some girls did not have the same success as others in locating their treasures. This meant that all of our Preps came away with a share of Easter eggs!



In our Chapel there was a beautiful Junior Lenten Service as the Juniors, together with Form III and Lower IV, focused on the Stations of the Cross. The Senior Lenten Service also focused on the Stations of the Cross, using CAFOD's Stations of the Cross which meditate on Jesus's journey to the Cross with the people of Myanmar. This was a mixture of Scripture, reflections, images and the stories of those affected by cyclone Nargis which the Head Girl, Deputies, House Captains, Orators, Faith Life and R.E. prefects led us through reflectively and with great thoughtfulness.

It was then time to visit the Nursery. To

herald the arrival of Spring the Nursery have triumphantly built an igloo out of plastic cartons. This is a very solid, firmly fixed together and roomy edifice which will provide great shelter when needed.

Added to this, the Nursery was awash with a vibrant display of Easter gardens which each member of the Nursery had brought in. This is a colourful display of many different plants carefully tended by those in the Nursery, helped by their teachers. To end a packed day the Upper I LAMDA showcase took place, an event for which the girls had worked hard and to which their families had been invited. This was enjoyed by everyone, a happy end to a wonderful day.



## And remember...

There are several ways you can access Priory Post and more:

Our App is available from the App Store (for Apple phones) or Google Play (Android phones) and you can use these to keep up to date with News, Priory Post articles, the calendar and more.

For those people with phones, tablets or other devices which are not Android or Apple and fall into the remaining percent there is a platform agnostic version of the app so that any device with browser access to the internet can access the app content. This is an online version only.

The address for this WebApp is <http://saintaugustinespriory.apptree.co.uk/>

Available on the WebApp is the same information you can access on the App, including information on the calendar, weekly menus, Priory Post and Twitter updates. Priory Post articles are also available on the website - there is a 'News and Priory Post' button on the Home Page (bottom right hand corner).

Our Twitter address is (@staugustinesp).