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From The Headmaster's Desk:



The admissions round for September 2011 has just been completed, with an unprecedented number of applicants at all the entry stages of 10+, 11+, 13+ and Sixth Form. This follows record attendances at Prospective Parents' Meetings throughout the Autumn Term. CLS will be a very full school next year.

Why is this? Academic success aside, potential students (and their parents) must surely be attracted by what the school has to offer on so many fronts. For example, music continues to flourish with outstanding performances from the scholars, supported by substantial general participation by boys in concerts and recitals. Most impressively, the Lower School Concert involved all 250 boys in the junior years. This was followed by a wonderful Joint Concert with the Girls' School, which featured the Mozart Requiem.

Sporting triumphs abound, too. At the time of writing:

- The 1st XI Football Team is progressing in four cup competitions with the Club fielding as many as seven teams at U19 level;
- The U19 Basketball Team were invited to compete in the National Schools' Competition for the first time this year and have reached the last 32 in this nationwide competition;
- Water Polo maintains its reputation as a premier City sport with over 80 players regularly representing the

School. All age groups are contesting regional finals and the first team won a prestigious European Competition in Paris over half-term. In addition, the Fourth Form water polo team (unbeaten in all 15 matches this year) are the champions of the London Schools' League, beating King's Grantham, Eton and Habs in the final round;

- U16 & U19 swimming teams won their year groups in the London Secondary Schools' Swimming gala, beating St Paul's and Dulwich in the final.

At City we also understand the importance of the learning that can take place outside the classroom. London is acknowledged as the cultural centre of the world – a fact we are determined to exploit. This term there are over sixty visits to sites in and around London, complemented by a number of trips further afield to the USA, Spain, France and Germany, not to mention Hadrian's Wall and Wales. City boys do get out and about! The School has also benefited from prestigious speakers visiting us. Amongst those addressing the boys recently include Sir Gus O'Donnell (Cabinet Secretary), Baroness Morgan (former aide to Tony Blair in Downing Street) and Jason Cowley (Editor of the *New Statesman*).



The cast of *Anything Goes*. See the back page for more pictures.

Without doubt the most gratifying development this term has been the success of our university admissions process. This year has seen the greatest number of undergraduate applications ever for a reduced number of places at university, as students strive to beat the pending tuition fee increases. However, 99% of our current Senior Sixth are holding at least one university offer and 92% of these have succeeded in securing them at Russell Group universities. This is a testimony to the hard work expended by boys and staff both inside and outside the classroom.

As another busy and positive term draws to a close I wish you all a peaceful holiday.

David Levin

The Fourth Plinth Schools Award 2011

CLS student Joshua Fortes has won the best entry from the borough of City of London, writes Ms Gill.

The winning artwork

The Fourth Plinth Schools Awards is a competition open to primary and secondary schools in London, which provides an opportunity for students to design an artwork inspired by the contemporary art commissions, past and present, for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square. The current Fourth Plinth Commission, Nelson's Ship in a Bottle, is by Yinka Shonibare MBE. Shonibare's work explores issues of race and class through the media of painting, sculpture, photography and, most recently, film. His signature material is the brightly coloured 'African' fabric he buys at Brixton market.

Yinka Shonibare was this year's judge for the Fourth Plinth Schools Award 2011 and he selected the artwork *Playing with Science* by CLS 2nd year student Joshua Fortes as 'The best entry from the borough of City of London'. Joshua was delighted and surprised to hear the news, in part because there were so many excellent entries from his classmates in 2B, all of which can be viewed at: www.fourthplinth.co.uk

Joshua explained how he created his fabulous, colourful artwork. He was not satisfied with his first idea for his sculpture maquette, saying it looked like

an alien! Perhaps it was with this idea of outer space and the unknown on his mind that his final idea emerged. He was working with all sorts of material, as contemporary artists do, such as clay, modrock plaster bandage and pompoms. He was 'playing' with making different sculptural forms balance on his plinth during art lessons. Through this process of exploration and imagination, he was inspired to follow his ideas through to a very successful conclusion. The idea just seemed to come to him, he said.

He placed one sphere on top of the other and attached soft bendy wires adding the final touch with pompoms. It made him think of atoms and science. But he also said of his artwork 'it is an abstract piece which means that it could mean anything you want it to mean.'

All borough winners will have an image of their artwork included in the Fourth



Plinth Schools Award exhibition at City Hall in April 2011. First, second and third prizes will be awarded for the top three submissions. Borough winners will also receive prizes and all winners will be given a special certificate at the Fourth Plinth Schools Award ceremony at City Hall on 4 April 2011 which Joshua, his parents and school representatives have been invited to.

New Steinway piano

Mr Harrison is excited by the latest arrival to the Music Department

It was with great excitement that we recently took delivery of a brand new Steinway 'model D' Grand Piano. For those unsure what that means, this is a full-size instrument that is 8' 11-3/4" (274 cm) long and weighs 990 pounds (approx. 480 kg). This is the overwhelming choice of piano for concert artists and educational institutions throughout the world. It is synonymous with high quality, perfect sound and unsurpassed touch responsiveness. This instrument replaces the piano that was in the Great Hall which was purchased 25 years ago when the new school was built.

It was just before Christmas when Mr. Everett, Mr. Hayburn and I visited pianos in the impressive Steinway Hall to look at the instruments available. Independently, Mr. Hayburn and I chose the same instrument for its remarkable touch and warm tone. We are so privileged that, through careful financial planning over the past five years, the school is able to secure an instrument of this quality for our most talented and promising pianists.

The piano arrived in the school after a nail-biting effort involving 8 specialist movers from Steinway as they hoisted the instrument up

the steps from the embankment to the staff entrance under the Millennium Bridge. We were also attended by Maura Romano from Steinway & Sons who was on hand to make sure everything went smoothly.

The piano will settle for a while before being tuned and regulated during half-term. The first major event using the piano will be on Wednesday May 11th when the 'world-renowned' pianist Joanna MacGregor will give the inaugural piano recital preceded by a masterclass involving boys from CLS.

The Churchill Museum

Sam Packer records a fascinating trip to the Churchill Museum.

On the very first day of the reserve days a handful of budding Sixth Form historians under the command of Churchill fanatic P.T.B met under the dreary grey skies of Westminster on the corner of the treasury at one of London's best hidden historical landmarks, the Cabinet War Rooms.

Following a hilarious incident where Mr. Brooke was forced into retreating from entry on three separate occasions by a surprisingly hostile front desk attendant, we were eventually led into the "education room" at the heart of the underground series of tunnels where Churchill and his government were largely based during the Second World War. Upon being introduced to our teacher for the morning, we embarked on a series of source analysis of various documents related to Churchill's dealings and attitudes towards to Stalin.

After a few moments composure loss following the introduction of both a Velcro wall and tables which could be

converted to whiteboards (!) the group calmed down and entered the Churchill museum itself. The recently updated museum provided an incredible level of information about all aspects of Churchill's life, from childhood to army life, from the political wilderness to, most interestingly for us, his time as war premier. The number of interactive gadgets and touch screens added to the detail ensured that there was no way of accessing all the seemingly never-ending store of information in the time available. Yet despite the wealth of information on show in our collective post-match analysis of the museum the conclusion was drawn that the museum had a strong bias in favour of Churchill, emphasising personal and political triumphs and underplaying darker moments such as his infamous comment that "I am strongly in favour of using poisoned gas against uncivilised tribes" in relation to Iraqi Kurds. This was unsurprising given the Churchill family's funding of both the War rooms and the museum itself.



Winston Churchill by Henry Mayo Bateman (1912)

Post a disastrous Mr Brooke-inspired lunch (along with a predictable touristy look at the Horse Guards) we returned to the education room and to the great disappointment of the senior sixth formers looking for some pre-University 2 on 1 tutoring, everyone decided to remain and join in the group discussion of Churchill and Stalin's characters (supported by new sources).

Overall, the trip proved to be both enjoyable and useful, in particular by providing info that goes beyond the A-level syllabus.



Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference

CCF Ski Trip

On Tuesday 4th January 22 boys met up at Heathrow Terminal 5 for their flight to Stuttgart. We went through security and boarded our flight. After a twenty five minute wait due to yet another BA mess-up with the baggage system we were on our way to Stuttgart.

A short hour and twenty minutes later we landed in Stuttgart. We then met our bus driver, Stephan. After having embarked on a two hour coach journey to Sonthoffen, where we rented our ski equipment, we arrived at the Haus am Brunnenbach which was our ski lodge. Once inside we were told to go upstairs for our evening meal which was cooked by Colonel and Major Woodhams.

The next morning we went skiing and decided which groups we were going to be in before enjoying a full day's worth of skiing. The next day we went to a different resort which was slightly more challenging than the first one. It included a snow park, lots of jumps, some off-piste skiing and of course mogul fields! We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and returned to the ski lodge tired. After our evening meal we went swimming in a water park, which included a few slides, a heated outdoor pool a massive indoor pool and many jacuzzis.

After enjoying a full day of skiing we were taken out for our evening meal – some fantastic currywurst mit pommes – before starting the 9-pin bowling competition with teams chosen by our instructor.

The teams were called 'Super Hans', Slinky's Sliders, Ric's Racers and Gilly's 'Hill Billies'. The numbers of the players per team were slightly different, but this did not matter as each team had ten bars each. After a fierce tournament Ric's Racers came fourth and Gilly's 'Hill Billies' came first. The prize? A match with the adults, who (sadly) won their match 88-48.

On our penultimate day of skiing we went to the biggest resort of the five that we went to. It was called the Grunten. Hans, the



skiing instructor who took the beginners had to leave for another job with the army but after a quick re-shuffling of the groups we were skiing again.

The next day we went to a much smaller resort where there was not a lot of snow. The weather was on the change, but fortunately the snow had held out long enough for us to have enjoyed a great trip. In the evening we packed before going downstairs for a quiz night, which was a great deal of fun. The level of competition was very high and in the heat of the battle teams like The Future proved us that they were clearly not. In the end it was clear that only two teams had

what it took to win and they were 'Seb&co' and 'NegativeLOL'. In the end 'Seb&co' narrowly lost due to a point reduction.

The next morning we woke up at quarter to six tofly home, arriving at Heathrow Terminal 5 exhausted. It was at that point that we all remembered that we had school the next day.

I would like to thank all the adults who came along. I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Woodhams for their cooking, which was excellent. Mr Gregory put the trip together and it would not have been possible without his help.

Philippe Rottner



Student Day

3rd Formers **Ethan Silverstone** and **Daniel Pare** report on an important part of the academic calendar, while **Kyle Da-Cunha** enjoys some African drumming.

Student Day

Student day kicked off with a lecture from some magistrates, in which we learnt about the magistrate's court, what it does and how it works. As well as being informative, we had a quiz at the end, making it fun.

However, we then came up to the important part of the day: the talk with our form tutor. In this, we discussed our report, how good or bad it was, and what we could improve upon. We set some targets, and were then told to go away and tell the next person to come and see the teacher. Most people found this talk very helpful, as it gave them an in depth assessment of their report that they might not have got otherwise.

However, now we had the fun part. The drumming. We were escorted to the Coulson studio, where we were sat in front of an elaborately decorated drum. Our teacher for the day was sat in a position so that everybody in the room could see him clearly. He taught us several simple rhythms, and as the hour progressed, slowly cranked up the speed and difficulty of the beats. Unfortunately, our session drew to a close seemingly very quickly.

We bounded out of the room and out of school with speed the like of which had never been seen before.

Thanks to our form tutors, the magistrates and our African drumming teacher for such an interesting day, it was very helpful, and will contribute to improving us over the coming year.

African Drumming

Water polo, basketball, football,



swimming: where should I start? Let's face it, last term Mortimer sucked. Stranded more than a decade of points behind Beaufoy, it seemed the 3rd Form House Cup had already deluded our path. Being 'King of the Geeks' was an insult – a title only Seeley would be proud of. We have the credentials, such as the leadership of Eden Salmon, the skill of Freddie Dillon Hatcher, the enthusiasm of Marco Coronelli and the sheer determination of Oscar Pain, not to mention the tidiness of Tom Gordon Brown.

But something was missing, like a hole in a form room ceiling. Had we failed to reach the Enlightenment Miss Earl was prophesying about? Was God punishing us for being banned from Room 323 constantly? Should Christian the Lion be sacked after failing as an inspirational mascot? These were the sort of points that were raised during Mr Flower's constant motivational speeches, of which all were intended to deliver the same message: must do better! Student Day. Three hours comprising two talks and a student-bonding session. This year, we were escorted to the beaches of the Ivory Coast, as we got a taste of African Drumming. What we did during the hour was self explanatory – hit a drum. But who would have thought that slapping the skin of dead antelope would boost our morale and strengthen our lacklustre determination?

For, within a few beats of the djembe, the men of Mortimer were strutting their stuff, unlike Seeley and Abbot, who naturally were struggling. The question still stands though – is this the great catalyst of Mortimer that we have patiently waited for? Or will this blue herring



quicken our downhill run of form? Finally, as that old Chinese wise-crack Confucius once said, 'Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do (and crushing Beaufoy in the process)'.

London Geography East End expedition

Louis Ross enjoys a journey down the Thames.

Over the half term, a select band of Geographers gave up their Valentine's Day to explore the wonders of London's East End. The DLR zoomed us from place to place faster than a river's thalweg as the twelve boys frequented numerous locations in an effort to assess impacts of regeneration.

Starting off at Canary Wharf Pier, we glared enviously at the City's financial centre as we thought back to the days of Thatcher and the deregulation of the financial industry that led to the creation of the banking centre that is the Isle of Dogs. Empty offices and doorways reminded us of the recent economic downturn.

Moving along the Thames, further development was witnessed at the Excel Centre and the new Olympic site.

However, we were reminded that poverty is always close at hand. The downtrodden area of Canning Town and Old Ford, yards from the richer climbs of City Airport and Westfield Stratford respectively, illustrated that whilst money is being pumped into the area, it is not to the benefit of all. Finishing at Stratford International, just a few minutes away from the Olympic stadium, West Ham's future home, we were able to see the full scope of the challenge facing the East End of London. The 2012 redevelopment is a drop in the ocean compared to the wider ambitions for the Thames Gateway region. The Crossrail and proposed Kent Marshes airport projects will not be completed within the school life of many currently at CLS, and this is



only the starting point for many future ideas that are being planned for this, the traditionally most deprived area of London. With the budget of every public purse being increasingly squeezed, and the private sector evermore reluctant to fund public-private partnerships, the question is what will the future hold for East London post-2012?

Docklands

Carlos Austin heads off to the Thames Barrier.

On the first of the reserve days, Friday the 11th, the 4th Form Geography contingent made an excursion to the London Docklands to investigate both the urban development taking place in the area and the control of the massive tidal river that is the Thames. This comprised a balanced mix of human and physical geography, the two almost always being interlinked.

The trip had two main geographical themes about it: the human aspect, which was studying the fall of the industrial docklands as industry grew too large for the thin London Thames to contain, and the rise of commercial industry in its place. Canary Wharf was a prime example of this, where banking enterprises have been encouraged to settle by the absence of building restrictions and tax bonuses in order to revitalise the area, after the move of industry to larger ports downstream. The class identified the effects of this, such as improved transport due to busy commuters and the improvement of housing near the commercial centre, where workers earning a lot of money through banking

could live near to their workplaces, which also brought up the expansion of restaurants and supermarkets to supply the residential growth.

Later on in the day, the group made their way further East along the South of the Thames, towards the Thames barrier. Started in 1974, finally completed and in service ten years later in 1984, the barrier was constructed to protect London from the Thames, which, being a tidal river, is prone to being affected by the behaviour of the sea and its weather systems and thus poses a threat. With a river capable of flooding large areas, then, the water levels from London upstream have to be protected, and the trip learnt how at the site itself enormous rotating semicircular barriers, weighing over 3,500 tonnes are positioned to block the flow of water, to allow flow, or to maintain a balance between the two.

Alongside many interesting questions asked and answered, and analyses given by both students and teachers (including Mr. Pike's opinion on the uselessness of the millennium dome, now the O2 arena...), the trip made for



an overall enjoyable and relaxing, yet densely informative and challenging day.

Old Grammar Geography Field Trip

Ethan Radus has a great time in Hemel Hempstead.

Snow and ice were not the only things that would excite OG boys as it was the day of the Geography Field Trip. As we stepped on to the coach, the excitement gradually built up, and the whispers of anticipation and delight expanded to become shouts and cheers throughout the coach. Accompanying us were three teachers: Mr. Pike, Miss Robin and Mr. Davies. Like us, they were ready for a fun, educational day out.

At RES (Renewable Energy Systems), we learned about solar power, generating power, wind turbines and much more. We even received a tour of the site, which includes a 50m tall wind turbine and a large array of solar panels. We also had enough time left to do some experiments demonstrating wind direction etc.

Unfortunately, time flew, and our hour and a half had been spent – it was time to go to the Paper Trail.

We got out of the coach to the sight of a fairly large building entirely surrounded by a small, narrow river. The only connection to the 'outside world' was a thick metal bridge allowing workers or visitors to cross the river. So essentially, we were visiting an island!

Once in our groups, and after a tour of the mill, we set to work on a printing and paper making lesson. Apsley Mill was originally a water mill, using water as a power source. Gradually, over time, it changed to become a paper mill due to the amount of recyclable waste. Apsley Mill makes its very own paper by crushing the microscopic fibres within the material of the object, and then mixing it with vast amounts of water. Then it is collected on a special tray and left to dry. After a while, you have a fresh, new piece of paper!

Overall, the day out was extremely fun, and a lot was learned. I, as well as the rest of OG,



am very grateful to the teachers for organising this wonderful event.

Epping Forest

1M students Daniel Schlomo and Roy Peleg put on their wellies.

On the 25th of January 2011, all the boys in First Form came to school in their own clothes. Nobody else in the school was allowed to do so, as we were being treated to a brilliant trip to



Epping Forest to study rivers. After the compulsory health and safety talk on arrival, we walked outside to start our day. There were lots of lakes, grass and most of all, MUD! There was so much mud around us that we could barely walk. We were treated to a hands on exhibition about geology and river sources. We had the chance to feel the different types of rock, and discuss how and why rainfall does or doesn't infiltrate. We learnt that the Pebble Gravel and Bagshott Beds were permeable, but the Claygate Beds were not, and therefore they are the source of

Loughton brook. The brook we would study in the afternoon. We even got to drill into the ground and examine some of the mud.

After a packed lunch, we put on our wellies again and walked into the forest for a second time, ready to investigate Loughton Brook. To get to each site, we had to cross other rivers, slip on mud and get our feet stuck in deep puddles. We had to measure the depth, width, velocity, pebble size and pebble roundness in each site using stopwatches, tape measures and rulers. We were allowed to go in to the rivers to measure all of this and many of us couldn't get out because the mud was so sticky! Eventually we all made it out and back to the field centre. After a long, but fun, day of walking, measuring and mostly getting muddy, we got on the coach back to school having learnt a lot about rivers!

Patrick Buchanan makes paper at RES

1M students study rivers

Exchange Visit with Hamburg School

Ms Heaf says that Anglo-German relations are at an all-time high.

CLS students (and friends) in Hamburg

In November last year boys from the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth forms at CLS who are studying German hosted a group of boys and girls from the Helene-Lange Gymnasium in Hamburg. The first meeting is always a little nervous but with the boys keen to impress so many pretty girls, the visit soon got off to a good start. The younger German students visited the sights of London during the day, attended some of our lessons and seemed to spend quite a lot of time in Topshop. The Sixth Form girls started their four-day work experience on Monday in the City, which had been kindly organised by Mr Levin. When Friday came around and they all had to leave, it was clear that friendships had been formed and we were all looking forward to the return trip.

We arrived in Hamburg in February to be met with freezing temperatures and snowfalls on the first weekend, much to the delight of the boys, who took every opportunity to throw snowballs at each other and at the staff accompanying them! After a weekend of relaxing with their partners and, I hope, speaking a lot of German, the Middle School boys attended some lessons, noticing the lack of school uniform and the more informal atmosphere in the classroom, visited the attractions of Hamburg, which included an amazing model railway, an exhibition run by blind people which all took place in the dark, and a climbing wall. We then all went by train to Lübeck, a medieval town famous now for its marzipan, which was purchased in large quantities to take home



to parents and siblings. The Sixth Form boys worked in finance offices, with property developers, in a shipping company and at the Hamburg courts during the day and at night partied, from all accounts. It was agreed as we said fond farewells that a good time was had by all and that English-German relations had never been better.

Le Mans

Alessandro Ceretti has a great (work) experience in France.

Nervous excitement and eager anticipation are phrases which describe the sentiments of the sixth form taking their first, shy steps, on the icy platform of La Gare du Mans, as they awaited their new host families. The days ahead would prove to be a rite of passage for all the sixth form French students of City of London School's Modern Languages Department, as they immersed themselves, single-handedly, into French language and culture of the Pays du Loire region.

The first day provided an opportunity for the group to visit some locations of cultural and local

importance. There were visits to Leonardo Da Vinci's French home and the Le Mans world famous, vingt-quatre heures racing circuit. This was followed by a group lunch of crêpes and a riverside walk along the Loire River in the village of Amboise.

Following a weekend spent with the host families exploring Le Mans, the group reunited in the old medieval centre of the city and was directed towards the language centre where they would have three hours a day of intensive French lessons. For those attracted by French cuisine, lunch would be spent lounging at 'le restaurant

d'à côté', eating the local delicacy of Boeuf au Poivre, while debating recent French literature and films they had experienced while in Le Mans. During the trip, boys spent their afternoons working in local shops, offices and primary schools exploring different aspects of French life, before heading back to their families to watch the seven o'clock news, hosted by Melissa Theuriau.

The group would like to kindly thank the members of staff Miss Vincent, Mr Laidlaw and Mr Eteson for organising the trip and for their guidance and help throughout the week.



German Christmas Markets Trip

Every year the Modern Languages Department takes boys to the Christmas markets in Germany. **Ryan Kochberg** in the Second Form reports.

1. Travelling on the Rhine;
2. The long walk uphill;
3. CLS students enjoying themselves in Germany;
4. A beautiful view;
5. Snowballs!

Two weeks before the end of the school term a large proportion of the 2nd year woke early to take a ten hour marathon of a journey to the enchanting Christmas markets. The boys arrived weary eyed and with the exception of a few late boys and one who just didn't show up we set off. After a shuttle trip and a journey on a motorway that never seemed to end – accompanied by the usual sounds of Gameboys, films and books and 2nd years buzzing with excitement – we finally arrived at our unexpectedly fancy looking hotel via France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The boys were then marched through the beautiful, sleeping town of Rüdeshiem and even though we had just been on a coach for ten hours, we were all lively and during our street snowball fight I witnessed for the first time a "snowball throw up", (the process of ejecting snow in a throw up like fashion from the mouth). Hilarious!

After our filling breakfast the next morning we walked literally across the street from our hotel onto the large boat that would take us down the River Rhine and allow us the opportunity to take many photos of the wonderful landscape. After the boat trip we walked up a tall hill and once at the top we all got our first glimpse of Germany, with the stunning river and the glorious, snow-covered town below. After the long walk down the hill we were

rewarded with a long drive back to our hotel and then a short walk to the musical instrument museum. Upon arrival we were amazed by these expensive instruments and perhaps even more by the guide's accent.

Next up, the markets. It is very hard to describe the markets to someone who has no idea what they are like. The atmosphere is more wonderful than at a football match, the shops filled with sweets, souvenirs, clothes, candles and many strange contraptions that captured our imagination. The next day we drove to a so-called nearby market (by no means was it nearby!) but it was easily worth it. This market was bigger, it had even more sweets, souvenirs, clothes, candles than the one in Rüdeshiem and many of us started the long process of buying gifts for the family. When we arrived back at our hotel we splashed into the small but lovely little pool and were packed in like sardines but it was still lots of fun.

Sadly the next morning was a horrible sequence of events. First, an early morning wake up, then the realisation that we were leaving Germany and finally the ten hour drive back to England.

I speak for all the boys when I thank Mr. Easingwood, Mr. Laidlaw, Mrs Heaf and Mrs Ralph for organising the trip and executing it all so professionally.



Granada Trip

Fourth Former Ben Lee reports.

On the Thursday before the half term holiday, over 20 boys from the 4th and 5th forms studying GCSE Spanish set off to Granada, a historic and symbolic town and a one and a half hour journey from Spain's southern coast. Upon arrival in the centre of town, each pair was greeted by their designated host family. The initial walk to their home was very nerve-racking; however, after spending the evening with the family, we began to settle in and started to get a feel for the Spanish way of life, whilst talking only Spanish all the time.

Our hosts walked with us to the language school on the first morning of the trip, where the Fourth and Fifth form would have separate lessons each morning, and already it was clear how beautiful and old Granada was. However, this would be the last time we would come to the language school accompanied, as from then on we would have to make our own way there and back.

For lunch each day, we would split into smaller groups to try to explore all areas of traditional Spanish cuisine, before regrouping for the afternoon's excursion with the other boys and our teachers, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Edmundson and Mr. Sykes.

On our first full day we had a guided tour of the Albayzín, which was the Arab quarter of Granada, and began to grasp the history of Granada, which we would learn more and more about throughout the week. From 711 up until 1492, the majority of modern day Spain was ruled by Arabs and the key significance of Granada was that it was the final place to fall to the Christian conquerors of Spain in 1492. Other highlights included a visit to the Alhambra Palace, built under Arab rule, which was quite extraordinary, not least because from the castle's watch tower, we were able to see the snow on the mountains in the Sierra Nevada range only a few kilometres away.

On the weekend, Saturday

consisted of a day trip to the coast, with visits to the incredible cave at Nerja and afternoon on the beach. Sunday was a day spent with the families, and it was then when I really started to feel my Spanish improving. Absolutely nothing compares with speaking and hearing Spanish all the time when it comes to improving language skills and we all felt progress being made in communicating with our hosts and in conversation with them, something which was extremely satisfying.

We all enjoyed a fantastic week in Granada and everyone on the trip would like to thank the teachers, especially Mrs. Robinson for all her hard work in the organisation of trip and I am sure we will all reap the benefits of the week spent in Spain in our upcoming lessons.

Model United Nations

School Captain Ed Stroud reflects on a successful MUN conference.

This year's Model United Nations was our biggest yet. City played host to over 200 delegates from 53 different schools, and the weather seemed to recognise the importance of this glorious occasion, as the sun beamed down on proceedings. However, this pathetic fallacy did get a little bit out of control when one of the committee rooms in which a heated debate about Peace Keeping and International Security was taking place became too hot and had to be relocated following a strategic coffee break.

This only served, however, to make the whole day that bit more engaging for the delegates, and when this was mentioned to guest speaker Roland Smith (a British diplomat), he remarked that this was systemic of the international collaboration that he had experienced. What's more it had been a regular occurrence throughout his career.

All in all the conference was a huge success, with confident and less confident speakers both enjoying themselves and taking away something

meaningful from the experience. City's MUN conference is always a great success and well attended, but this year it seemed that everything was just that little bit more polished than usual, thanks to the professional chairing of City boys.

It was my last MUN conference at City and an excellent one to finish with; moreover, it was an excellent one for the boys coming through City to build on. No doubt next year it will be that little bit better than 2011's!

Buddhism

Rakin Choudhury gets a taste of life in a Buddhist temple.

For those who do not carry on with GCSE RS, Buddhism is a relatively unknown religion. Even at GCSE-if you have the chance to study it-it does not help that it is completely different to the Abrahamic religions and consequently difficult to learn. However, the Fifth Form RS students were lucky enough (thanks to Miss Baldwin, Miss Earl and Mr Holiday) to go on a trip to the Buddhapadipa temple in Wimbledon for some first hand experience.

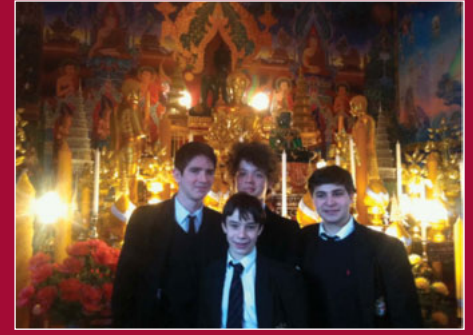
After an hour's coach journey, which allowed us to catch up on missed weekend sleep, we arrived at the Uposatha Hall, the first in the UK, which moved from Richmond in 1976 with the support of the Thai government. In the shrine room, we were given a thirty minute talk by a Theravadin monk (or bhikkhu) wearing simple saffron robes (but with a jumper to keep warm!) who explained the basic dhamma (eternal laws) of Buddhism; aspects such as meditation (both half and full-lotus), celebrations, kamma, nibbana, samsara, the Buddha's life and the middle way as well as the laity and monastery.

This was followed by an hour of questions



from those of us who were squirming on the floor-sitting cross-legged and shuffling forward. This was particularly interesting and a broad range of topics from rebirth to evolution were covered. The bhikkhu's responses to some questions, such as how he managed to carry out a basic life in modern urban London, were especially funny as he solved the problem of not being able to handle money with an Oyster Card. Just as humorous were Miss Baldwin's questions; ones that are likely to come up in exams.

After the talk, we spent a few minutes in the shrine room, completing a sheet. The large golden statues of the Buddha (one



representing the Emerald Buddha) dominated the room, with his disciples, candles and offerings of flowers surrounding them. The mural pictures, which depicted his life, were remarkably graphic and easy to understand as well as including some seemingly random elements such as Margaret Thatcher and aeroplanes.

Afterwards, we walked around the exquisite and scenic grounds in order to have what we were all waiting for; the hot chocolate and biscuits. The outing was very interesting and the perfect start to a long school week. My perception of very serious and impractical monks has changed drastically and I would encourage everyone to take RS for GCSE.

Water polo

Mr Silcock celebrates a fantastic performance by the 6th Form water polo team.

During the half term the 6th Form water polo team travelled to France as a part of their preparations for the English Secondary Schools Water-polo Nationals. Although the focus was on water-polo the team sampled some works of art, looked at a large number of human bones and watched a man do handstands with a football stuck to his foot.

On the first evening they took on the Montmartre Men's team. City started strongly and were ahead 2-1 at the end of the first quarter. The next two periods Montmartre jumped ahead and were leading by three goals with the last quarter to play. City worked hard in the last period and clawed goals back but unfortunately ran out of time and finished the match 8-9.

The following day they were entered into

a tournament hosted by Libellule. City won their opening matches comfortably against their Spanish and Italian opponents and drew their last preliminary match. The two teams for the finals were very evenly matched and the game did not disappoint. City played strongly and opened with some excellent goals but Libellule answered before the end of the half. The second half of match was close and both team made the most of their limited scoring opportunities. The match finished with one team holding onto to a single goal advantage and City claiming the silverware.

The trip was very successful, not only



because of the trophy but also because of the chance it gave to sample different styles of water-polo and practise some French!

Anything Goes

The most recent production in the Winterflood Theatre was Anything Goes by Cole Porter. As the photographs below attest, this was an exciting and energetic production, with many fantastic performances by CLS and CLSG students.



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