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From The Headmaster's Desk:



I am frequently asked which universities CLS boys attend, given that at least 98 per cent and usually 100 per cent go on to Higher Education. The answers are instructive. Over the past three years between 76 and 79 per cent of CLS Leavers have gone to Russell Group Universities. These are older universities, typically with Medical Schools attached and are commonly regarded a proxy for the Premier Division of UK universities. If one adds Durham, St. Andrews and other London medical schools then the percentages rise to between 82 and 85 percent of the CLS cohort.

For the past six years the School has had between 24 and 29 successful candidates entering Oxford or Cambridge each year. Given that the competition has become more intense, this is a very satisfactory performance. This is equivalent to approximately 20 percent of the cohort with a further 10 percent winning places at medical school, often in London. Another distinguishing feature is the proportion (32 percent) attending London University in recent years, with Imperial, UCL, LSE and KCL being the most popular destinations.

Otherwise the School continues to flourish, with record numbers sitting the January entrance examinations, frequent and well-supported theatre visits, numerous debating, public speaking and Model UN Conferences and a healthy representation in a number of London and National football, water polo and basketball Cup Competitions. This is a short term but much activity will have been undertaken before the Easter break, including a boy-directed play, An Ideal Husband, and the annual joint concert with the Girls' School.

Morale has certainly been very high in this very busy short term!

David Levin



Skiing in Canada.
See page three for the full story.

CLS students take in the atmosphere at the Christmas markets

2nd Form Germany Trip

The Modern Languages Department regularly organises a visit to a German Christmas Market in the Rhineland. Neil Connell gives us a look into his diary of the trip.



Day 1: A very early start! We took the coach to Folkestone, where we began our journey to Rudesheim, via France and Belgium. After finally arriving, at 8pm German time, we ate a much-needed dinner and walked around the markets to get our bearings. On return to the hotel we went straight to bed, because we had an early start the next day.

Day 2: After breakfast we took a boat to the Lorelei, which is a statue of a mermaid carved out of a rock, on an island in the Rhine. It used to be believed that it was this beautiful siren singing who caused so many shipwrecks on these rocks. We disembarked at a village called St. Goarshausen, where we were "encouraged" to walk up and down the side of the valley. It was very tiring! After the long walk we got the coach back to Rudesheim where we got on a little train that took us around the vineyards. The driver told us about the town's history, and its special wine. From the terminus we walked to Siegfrieds Mechanisches Musikkabinett, a museum of mechanical music boxes. These ranged from a tiny bird on a tobacco box to a massive instrument that had eight violins and a piano inside its cabinet. After that we split up into groups and went shopping in the Rudesheim markets, which were bright and colourful and very

Christmassy. They sold things ranging from big fluffy hats to small wooden cats – and just about everything in between, including a huge range of sweets. We met back at the hotel quite late. After dinner we had a short German lesson and were given a sheet of useful phrases to use in the market the next day.

Day 3: We went to Trier on the coach, but before going to the markets we looked at the Roman gateway and visited the ruins of the Roman baths. We went to the town centre, where we enjoyed a four-hour shopping spree, before travelling back to Rudesheim for even more shopping. Having seen the markets of Trier, the Rudesheim markets now seemed much smaller in comparison.

Day 4: This was a day of travelling. We took the coach back to Calais, boarded the shuttle, and continued with the long drive from Folkestone to London. We arrived back at school at 7:30 pm ahead of schedule, tired, but very happy, and (of course) pleased to see our parents.

All in all, it was a fascinating trip, and we were excited to have had the opportunity to see the famous Christmas Markets. I would like to say "danke schon" to the teachers for looking after us, and giving us such an enjoyable time.



The Lorelei



A mechanical music box at Siegfrieds Mechanisches Musikkabinett



The steep-sided valley at St. Goarshausen

Skiing at February half-term

The annual skiing trip is an essential part of the year for many CLS students. Mr McBroom reports on this February's trip to Canada.



This year the 2nd-4th Form Ski and Snowboarding Trip was to the splendid resort of Tremblant, Canada. 49 boys and unfortunately only 5 staff (Mr Silvester was unable to come due to a bruised knee) departed London Heathrow at lunchtime on Saturday, arriving at our hotel the same evening.

Tremblant is one of the premier resorts in Canada, a reputation it deserves given the beautiful pedestrianised village and fantastic skiing conditions. The first day began with a 30 minute address from our slightly unhinged 'rep' Eve – just what you need after 22 hours travelling and five hours sleep; but it was not long before we were through ski-fit and on the slopes.

The mountain catered well for both beginners and experts and the snow conditions were excellent, with two

'powder days'. The boys, divided into groups based on ability, were expertly taught by their instructors and evidently made progress. It was particularly pleasing to see those skiing for the first time gain real confidence and negotiate 'black-runs' by the end of the week. The staff also enjoyed their time on the mountain, although I will never forgive Mr Cornwell for hoodwinking me into attempting to descend a virtually vertical slope of ice. The sight of him and Mr Farrelly laughing at my many falls was not helpful. No major injuries were sustained, despite Mr Norman's insistence on 'extreme' boarding.

On the food front, we were well looked after at Casey's, although exercising self-control at the self-service American breakfast buffet was a challenge most of us failed.



I suspect that, despite the exertions of skiing and snowboarding, a few pounds were added.

Evening activities included swimming (in pink bathing hats), bowling (alongside a surprisingly aggressive seniors team) and tubing (with a less than good example set by certain members of staff.) There were the usual amusing moments - the look on Jack Wearing's face when he realised, on his return to the hotel, that he still had on his rather fetching bowling shoes particularly tickled me.

Although we should expect no less, the good behaviour and positive attitude of all 49 boys was notable (despite Nabil O'Toole and Bharat Velani's attempt to make us miss our flight by waiting for their necklaces to be engraved – I'm sure they look lovely).

Needless to say Mr Farrelly should be congratulated for organising and running a fantastic trip. Given the various administrative burdens and difficulties with the travel company, it was no mean feat.

Mr Norman gives his Darth Vader impersonation



Debating and Public Speaking Society

James Wells gives the vote of thanks at the Rotary Club Conference

The City of London School continues to produce fine debaters and public speakers. Ms Samuels and Mr Williams report on a successful year so far.



This has been a busy and successful year for debating and public speaking at CLS, and we have participated in a number of tournaments.

First we took part in a World Schools-style debating competition at the University of Bristol, sponsored by the English speaking Union (ESU). We took a team of five Sixth Form students, Conan McKenzie, James Wells, Lawrence Anfo-Whyte, Robert Van't Hoff and Daniel Pyzer-Knapp, and they took part in three debates on international adoption, the environment and compulsory charitable work in schools, winning over several of the judges.

In the same week Conan and Robert, with James Thompson and William Pimlott of the Fifth Form, took part in the first round of the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition at Mossbourne Academy in Hackney. They participated in two short-preparation debates on the topics of whether beauty pageants should be banned, and whether prisoners should be given the vote. Both teams were successful in being chosen to progress to the Finals Day in Oxford later in the year.

The following night Robert and Lawrence participated in the first round of the prestigious ESU Schools' Mace competition at Colfe's School in South East London. They were given the difficult task of opposing there being any limits whatsoever on free speech. They nevertheless performed very well indeed, and will also progress to the next round.

At the time of writing there are a number of competitions coming up. The same teams that entered the Oxford tournament will take part in

the second round of Cambridge University's equivalent tournament, having both won their first round debates in the Autumn term. Several teams are also due to take part in the Jewish Lads and Girls' Brigade Competition, and we will also be attending a residential weekend tournament at the University of Durham. There will also be a House Debating Competition, and the three internal weekly debating societies continue to thrive.

In other news, CLS has excelled in two recent public speaking events. James Thompson, William Prince and William Pimlott were victorious in the first round of the Rotary Club's prestigious annual Youth Speaks competition, held at the American School in St. Johns Wood. They overcame strong opposition to win the event, at which they spoke on the theme of "The Future", and will go on to represent the school in later rounds, as well as at other equally well-known events. Last year's semi-finalists in the same competition, Alex Reut-Hobbs, James Wells and William Granger, were also invited to reprise their successful performance at the Rotary Club's annual conference in Eastbourne. Delegates from around the country were impressed by their presentation on education, which questioned the value of our current system of examination and assessment.

Congratulations – and good luck – to all those involved in forthcoming competitions. The continuing dominance of City of London School students at such events is a testament both to the health of our Debating and Public Speaking Society, and to the thoughtfulness and independence of mind of its members.



City of London students representing the school at the Rotary Club Conference

Music tour to Holland

Alex Reut-Hobbs writes about his musical experiences during the February half-term.

On the second day of our tour, we spent the morning seeing a sculpture copy of Rembrandt's Night Watch, before lunching in the heart of Amsterdam, enjoying the antics of a cockney fire-eater and temporarily hijacking a busker's guitar to warm up for that night's concert. This took place in a beautiful church just outside Amsterdam called Hervormde Kerk, where CLS played to its first very appreciative audience.

The next day we performed a matinee at Our Lady Immaculate Church, also just outside Amsterdam. The morning service finished just before our performance was scheduled to start and to our delight practically the whole congregation stayed behind to watch. The stage was big enough to accommodate all our major numbers and there was also an organ, which meant that we could break out Pachelbel's Canon for the first time. The refreshingly musical congregation was full of praise and seemed particularly to have enjoyed the CLS Close Harmony group – incidentally invented for this tour. The rest of the day was taken up by a visit to Delft: particularly exciting was the precariously leaning Oude Kerk (Old Church) in the centre of the city. We returned to Delft the next day, this time to the famous Royal Delft pottery factory, before proceeding to another matinee performance at a home for older people in Delfshove.

That evening proved to be a scintillating experience for all: Mr Harrison had arranged tickets to see Wagner's Vorspiel en Liebestod and Messiaen's Turangalila-symphonie (the combination of which he described as "a cross between Romanticism and Star Wars") at the Concertgebouw – Amsterdam's main concert hall, and quite possibly the most prestigious in the whole of Europe. No words could do the Wagner justice: the audience must have sat in total silence for at least two minutes after Yakov Kreizberg (my new favourite conductor) teased the final strains out of the immense Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest. We were completely saturated by the music. The Messiaen followed after the interval – the Turangalila being a particularly innovative piece of music as it incorporates the Ondes Martenot: an electric instrument for which Messiaen had a soft spot. Though nowhere near as subtle as the Wagner, the tumultuous, thunderous, heaven-splitting cymbal crashes at the end of the fifth and tenth movements felt like God himself had stuck a fishhook in your heart and was almightily reeling you in. We walked out of the concert hall feeling like divine helium balloons.

The next day we left to see more of the sights of Amsterdam, starting with Anne Frank's house in Keizersgracht. At lunch, we discovered an odd

looking square in the middle of a park which turned out to be a set of bells operated by stepping on any of the square's nine pads with one's foot. Although our concerts were officially over, this did not stop us giving an impromptu performance of a piece we had just devised especially for these curious minor pentatonic 'foot bells'. The crowds drew in, and once again we had the pleasure of knowing that the music of CLS – in whatever shape or form – was being propagated.

After a visit to the Van Gogh museum we set off back to the hotel for our final evening. Dinner was particularly eventful: Mr Haskew treated us to an a capella song he had written to the tune of Amazing Grace (performed by the Close Harmony Group the day before) to commemorate the trip. There was also a CLS Music Tour quiz. Emotions ran high as it slowly dawned on us that we had just taken part in a moment of CLS history: we had successfully completed the school's first ever tour. The future of CLS Music is assured: we have committed musicians across all the year groups who have seen how the department can galvanise and function as a whole and we have teachers prepared to spend time and, more importantly, to invest emotion in these musicians. The highly successful results will be on display at the Joint Concert on March the 11th.

Below: The Brass Ensemble, playing at Delft
Left: Sharing some of Holland's famous hot chocolate



The Magic Flute at the ENO

City of London School students have recently appeared in the English National Opera's production of The Magic Flute. Harry Bradford and Johan de Silva report.



During the summer holidays and the first half of the Winter Term, we had a great experience at the ENO (English National Opera), where we were cast as two of the three spirit boys in the opera The Magic Flute by Wolfgang Amedaeus Mozart. Our job was to help Prince Tamino, played by Andrew Kennedy, to attain both wisdom and the love of his life Pamina, the daughter of the wicked Queen of the Night.

During the period of five rehearsals at the National Youth Theatre, the six boys required for the production – two boys were needed for each part – were split up into two teams, each to perform on alternate nights. Harry and I were put in the same team, and our second was a boy named Alok. We worked extremely hard during this short period of rehearsals and in the end our hard work paid off with the news that our team was Team 'A', which would perform five out of nine performances, including the first and last night.

The 22nd of September saw our first one and a half hour rehearsal, at which

we practised our first number. This involves the three boys coming with Tamino, a prince, out of a forest. We leave him at Sarastro's temple of Nature, Wisdom and Reason. We sing for about one minute: however, all three boys have to be perfectly in tune, because when one person is out of tune, the others tend to follow.

However, our next rehearsal was even more stimulating. We got to rehearse three more numbers, including the one in which the boys prevent two attempted suicides; those of Pamina (Tamino's lover), and Papageno. The Pamina suicide is the song in which the boys sing the most; however, the Papageno suicide is more enjoyable, as the boys lean out of three windows built into a structure and remind Papageno that he has Magic Bells that will bring his love, Papagena, back to him.

But it was not all to be plain sailing. The third stage rehearsal was a nightmare (but during the day, so I suppose you would call it a daymare!). During this rehearsal, we wrecked the set, threw an apple into the orchestra pit and almost sent Pamina

crashing to the ground because Alok stepped on her dress. Luckily, though, it turned out that the set was repairable and we were able to continue rehearsing.

However, things turned out for the best. Our fourth stage rehearsal on the 28th of September was the dress rehearsal. It was a fantastic experience, as we were singing to a big audience. We sang and acted well, receiving a huge whoop from the audience at the curtain call.

The first night came soon afterwards, on October the 1st. We were very disappointed to hear the news that Alok had been struck down with a cold and that we wouldn't be performing, but fortunately he was able to perform at the 2.30 matinee a few days later. Our subsequent performances went really well, and the last night was made extra special by the fact that a party from the school was watching. After the show had finished, we celebrated in style in the dressing room, throwing Celebrations chocolates up in the air.

Robin Ince

Edward Allnutt and Ben Ferris invited the comedian Robin Ince to talk to their fellow students about his career.

On Monday 28th January, we welcomed Robin Ince, a professional comedian and writer, to the school. We were very lucky to have such a guest to talk about the world of comedy - aside from opening for Ricky Gervais on his recent tour, he has been on the television programme *Mock the Week* and written for such shows as *Have I Got News For You*.

He began by explaining that his greatest flaw was his inability to say no to giving any kind of talk - even to schools or libraries. We were grateful for this failing, because he went on to give a very funny insight into the world of comedy - from stand-up comedy to screenwriting. (Robin is the screenwriter behind the somewhat obscure *Razzle-Dazzle: A Journey Into Dance*.)

Robin also discussed some of his colleagues and acquaintances, most notably Jimmy Carr, who apparently began his career as a mumbling and shy young comedian. Now, of course, he is hugely well-known, and renowned for his quick, witty put-downs of members of his audiences. Our guest highlighted the difficulty of starting out in the comedy world: unless you are a famous name, you will be quickly booed off the stage.

All in all, Robin was both a very funny and enlightening speaker, and we were very grateful both to him and to those who came to see him speak.



Staff and students enjoy Robin Ince's talk



Robin Ince speaks in the Great Hall

The Square Mile Club

Alex Reut-Hobbs reflects on a busy period for the Square Mile Club.

So far this year the Square Mile Club has maintained its reputation for attracting an eclectic blend of high quality speakers. One of the first was Professor Sarah Harper – Director of the Oxford Institute of Ageing. This was swiftly followed by a talk entitled 'Inter-Generational Oppression', delivered by Ms Camilla Cavendish from *The Times*. Opening with her controversial idea that age, not class, now divides society, Cavendish went on to say that today's generations of students should feel oppressed, and that generations of "youthful looking baby-boomers such as Mr Levin" have something to account for! She raised the point that not only do the youth of today have to pay for things which older generations got for free, but also that the former are the victims of unfair financial burdens. The talk was made especially relevant for us students when Ms Cavendish brought in the examples of rapidly rising university tuition fees.

The Club was also treated to a talk by Sir Christopher Meyer of the Press Complaints Commission, entitled 'The Right to Privacy'. In using his admirable experience in the field, Sir Christopher compared the press of the UK to that of the US and revealed the sheer variety with which the same event is interpreted and reported in our country. It was partly because of this, he said, that we should join him in calling for British newspapers to be regulated. With regards to privacy and the press, he ended with the provocative claim that "privacy is not as challenged as accuracy" in today's society.

Another coup for the Club was the visit of Jon Moulton – the founder and managing partner of the legendary private equity firm Alchemy Partners. At a time when the subprime crisis had just come to global attention following the collapse of Northern Rock, this was a particularly pertinent talk. When quizzed about his latest venture capital schemes, however,



Christopher Meyer with members of the Square Mile



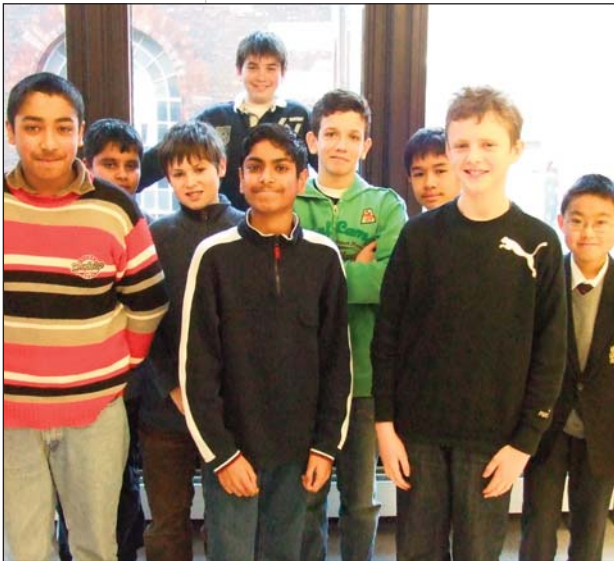
Jon Moulton with the Headmaster, Mr Levin

Mr Moulton was understandably vague!

The Square Mile Club could not have hoped for a better term, and with the imminent array of eminent speakers, we have only great things to look forward to.

Second Form Hardspell 2008

Mr Norman decided to challenge his second years to a spelling competition. He was pleasantly surprised by the outcome...



Hardspell competitors. Winners, in the front row: Rakin Choudhury, Alexander Bowmer and Damien Amendra

It was a long haul whittling down the entire year group to the last man standing, speller-of-hard-words-extraordinaire, Damien Amendra of 2K. Kicking off with the heats, ably led by Prefects during Tutor time, 24 brave contenders took to the microphone on

the Beaufoy stage near the end of Autumn Term.

Faced with tricky customers such as 'baccalaureate' or 'vinaigrette', boys had to verbally spell the words, letter by letter, as their loyal peers intensely listened, or in Rakin Choudhury's case, nodded to each letter. Just when the competition was to be re-named 'Nodspell', (in affectionate imitation of Rakin's intriguing nodding technique), it became known as 'Toughspell', (or for some, 'Evilspell'), when the remaining 14 were hit with a new list of words which included 'daguerreotype', (an obsolete photographic process), or 'suffrutescent' (which means, of course, partially woody). Wordy fun was had, but 9 spellers still clung on. Lured onwards by the promise of HMV Gift Cards, the following boys re-met on Friday 1st February for the 'final Final': a private sudden-death spell-off in the Junior School Hall.

Representing 2D were Daniel Hu and Alexander Bowmer; from 2K came Sam Alberman, Patrick Benjamin and Damien Amendra; whilst 2V offered Vishnou Mourougavelou, Tiago Dias, Andrew Thong and nodder Rakin Choudhury. With tension high, and all 9 boys fearing the slightest faulty slip of the tongue, the groans of dismay were heard as one by one they fell. Putting a letter wrong on 'xerophyte', 2V's Rakin Choudhury's nonetheless secured 3rd position. 2D's Alexander Bowmer stumbled on 'laparoscopy' but sailed in at second, whilst Damien Amendra spelled his way to become this year's champion.

Hearty applause and commendations galore are in order for all the boys who put a lot of hard work into this new competition. I might be an English teacher, but I hadn't appreciated that words could be so cruel and yet such fun at the same time.

First Impressions



Our new Australian teacher Mr Williamson writes about his experiences at CLS.

The vast majority of responses I received upon informing my Australian colleagues that I was moving to London for at least a year consisted of one of two warnings: the first that it was cold in winter, the second that it was expensive.

The alarming regularity with which my fellow Melbournians gave these warnings suggested that maybe I was either mistaken with my estimation of the climate and economic situation here, or that both those concerns were somewhat exaggerated and that we antipodeans were neither as tough nor as intrepid as we would like to think. Notwithstanding my previous time here in the spring of 2005, I was yet to experience the full monty of an English winter, so to speak, nor the bemusement of paying for a licence to own a television. How could I resist the allure?

Arriving with my wife, Lisa, a few days before the New Year, I was, as expected, pleased to find both prophecies

of doom rather misguided. The weather was relatively mild and I was quite happy to hand over three pounds for a pint of this country's finest. Admittedly it was a little colder than Melbourne, and the fortification a little more taxing, but all in all not too much of a culture shock.

My first experience of The City of London School was neither frosty nor close-fisted. Having spent the last five years of my pedagogical career teaching English to Australians, I was now to find myself teaching Australian slang to the English- at least for a few minutes before returning to the exciting, challenging, and glorious world of literature.

There are many similarities between CLS and my previous school CGS (Camberwell Grammar School), acronyms aside. Both are boys' schools; both are staffed by intelligent and attractive teachers; and both are led by revered and scholarly administrators (thanks for having me, Mr Levin). And of course, both offer excellent educational opportunities to its hardworking and able students.

So while there are obviously several differences between Melbourne and London, I have been warmed by your welcome, school lunches are affordable, and there is always another episode of Neighbours on the fairly priced television set. Now I ask you, who wouldn't want to visit?

Mr. Williamson

The Barnes-Amis Society

The Barnes-Amis Society continues to thrive. Dan Pyzer-Knapp discusses its recent activities.



This year, the Barnes-Amis Society has been very busy, discussing texts during the regular Friday lunchtime sessions and visiting the theatre. And it is perhaps the theatre visits that have most captured the imagination (and free time) of the boys at City.

Mr. Williams and Ms. Sénéchal have organised many enjoyable trips to the theatre, ranging from a production of Macbeth with Patrick Stewart, to Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* at the Royal Court. Other productions, from a varied selection, have included *The Homecoming* and *Cloud Nine* at the Almeida Theatre.

But most recently, during the reserve days of half-term, Ms. Sénéchal and Mr. Williams organised a trip to the Royal Court Theatre to gain a greater understanding of both acting and directing on the professional stage. Our brilliant guide and tutor, Lyndsey Turner,

first showed us around the theatre; afterwards, we discussed some play scripts and took on the role of artistic director in deciding if they were to be staged or not. This was a fascinating process, with students taking a variety of positions: some wanted plays to be given a full production, while others opted for a rehearsed reading or expressed their opinion that the piece would only be staged "over my dead body". The afternoon finished with a drama workshop, which we concluded by shouting out lines from the selected playscript, by Mark Ravenhill, from the stage of the theatre itself.

This term has continued the trend set by Ms. Sénéchal and Mr. Williams following their arrival at City. I am sure that everyone involved, from every part of the school, is looking forward to seeing many more plays to come.



Left: A scene from the Royal Court's production of *Rhinoceros*

Far Left: Members of the Barnes-Amis Society onstage at the Royal Court Theatre

Barnes-Amis Reviews

Alex Foley regularly reviews the plays seen by members of the Barnes-Amis Society. This is an extract from his review of *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco, translated by Martin Crimp, at the Royal Court.

"The play first opens out onto a midday summer Sunday, and the square of a small provincial French town. There are some shoppers leaving the grocers, two friends walking along talking, and our two main characters - Monsieur Berenger (Benedict Cumberbatch) and Jean (Jasper Britton) - sitting outside a cafe, conversing and waiting to be served.

Soon the tranquillity of the village is disrupted by the distant sound of breathing, followed by the sound of the headlong dash of a wild animal. Jean jumps out of his seat and shouts "Christ! A rhinoceros!", a refrain that is soon chorused by all the others - all except Berenger, who seems to take no notice. Instead, he stays seated, expressionless and half-dazed.

The play climaxes with Monsieur Berenger, surrounded by rhinoceroses, standing centre-stage, wielding a gun and exclaiming "I'll take on the world - I'll take on the whole world. I'm the last human left. And human I'll stay. I'm not giving in." This witty, dramatic and climactic play is definitely worth seeing, a night out that is both cleverly and subtly meaningful, as well as being hugely funny."

Trip to Hamburg

The Modern Languages Department organises a large number of foreign trips every year. At Easter, German students are given the opportunity to go to Hamburg. Gus Emerson writes.



CLS students – and friends – in Lubeck

Touching down just before midday on Friday at Hamburg Airport, we reclaimed our luggage and went off to meet our exchange partners. After spending only one evening at my adopted family's home, I was very impressed by their language skills, which were superior to mine. (Understandably so, given that German students are taught many subjects in English.)

We spent the rest of the weekend with our exchange partners, going shopping in the delightful city of Hamburg and visiting all the main tourist sites, such as St. Michaelis and the Hamburg Rathaus. We also went ice-skating one evening and had a movie night the next. We found it very exciting to use our German to buy food and drinks in the bakeries and to get our travel cards for each day.

On Monday morning we went to school, which starts at 8.00am, and spent the first three lessons in class with our partners. It was interesting to see how different their school was, but everyone was very friendly and we soon felt at home. After the morning lessons we set off with Mrs Heaf and Mr Reardon as a group, going first to the "Dialog Im Dunkeln", an exhibition in which you find out what it is like to be blind. It was quite an experience to walk around very dark rooms, with only a stick to find my way, and the experience gave me a real insight into the life of a blind person. Afterwards,

we went to the Modelleisenbahn, a huge model railway. Each day we had a different excursion arranged for us, such as rock climbing and a day trip to Lumburg.

The trip was a great experience for me as it was my first time in Germany and being the only fourth former on the trip I got a chance to meet some boys from City who I wouldn't normally have spent any time with. I also felt that I improved my German. For all these reasons, I look forward to returning next year.



Students enjoy a rare moment of relaxation

Young First Aiders

Junior 6th PSHE included the voluntary option of gaining a first aid qualification this term, as Miss Eastman arranged for a series of workshop sessions led by Miss Smith, the school nurse. Over 30 boys took part in a 2-hour course covering basic Life Support skills, which taught them how to recognise a life threatening emergency and respond by performing CPR. Miss Smith demonstrated the techniques as well as stressing the importance of getting help quickly and assessing other dangers, and the boys had a chance to practice on dummies before being tested individually on the skills and information picked up during the session. The course was a great success and all the boys successfully gained the Young First Aider qualification, certified by St John's ambulance. All involved seemed to enjoy the sessions and reported it to be a very worthwhile course, giving them the confidence to help where needed, and the reassurance that they could have a massive impact on a patient's chance of survival with only basic training. It is hoped that further sessions will be run to allow more boys to have this great opportunity.



Old Citizen Brian Millo recalls two eminent figures.

Proceeding by degrees



Douglas East (36-39) has recently added a PhD to his collection of degrees: MA(Oxon), MALibr(Lond) and MPhil. He left CLS in 1939, which

brought him directly into the war, when he served in the Navy. At the end of the war Douglas went up to Oxford and took his first degree before beginning



his 'working' life. He taught in various schools for 20 years and then decided to share his effort in a variety of

activities: conservation studies (in the Public Record Office), archival conservation and bookbinding.

Having retired in 1984, Douglas was 'dragged back the following afternoon' to teach bookbinding at Westminster School, and is now in his 24th academic year there! He still sings with the Westminster Choir in the Abbey for morning services and comments that it is "Always a pleasure."

Douglas says that he has enjoyed the 56 years at school level, and it has clearly kept his brain active. If you want to see what has recently kept Douglas busy in his 'spare time', you will find it lodged in the library at the University of Essex under the title: *The Great Westminster Missal of Abbot Nicolas Litlington (1384): Its Structure, Form & Purpose.*

Aidan Tolhurst: A Master remembered



Andrew Mackie (78-80) was at CLS for only a brief period, and was not in any of Aidan

Tolhurst's classes, but he found the few encounters with Aidan (through the CCF Naval section) to be truly inspirational.

"He persuaded me and another boy," writes Andrew, "to take on O-Level Sea Navigation. 'Who will teach us?'

we asked. 'Teach yourselves,' was the response. 'Here's a book - you'll do fine.' And we did!

"A couple of us asked one day if we could start a sailing club. 'Sure!' he said, without hesitation, and for many happy days in the summer he drove a minibus full of us out to a reservoir somewhere to mess around in little boats. The School even entered its first Mirror dingy team into a large race on the south coast - we led for a glorious minute, then came last

because I misjudged the tide. We commiserated around the post-race barbeque as Aidan created and dolled out his Tolyburgers.

"He was so easy going, approachable and kind. In thirty five years his cumulative contribution to the happiness of CLS boys must have been enormous. And I bet he was a good teacher too. Thank you Mr Tolhurst!"

Old citizens

Trip to Valencia

Alon Margolin reports on an exciting week in Spain.



On 10th February, twenty-three Spanish enthusiasts, Fourth and Fifth Form, accompanied by Miss King, Mr. Sykes and Mr. Edmundson, left England for (allegedly) sunny Valencia, on the east coast of Spain. Shortly after arrival, in pairs, we met our Spanish families, with whom we were going to stay for the next seven nights.

The week kicked off with excitement; on the first night, we watched the Betis v. Valencia football match, where many of us mastered the art of eating "Pipas" – sunflower seeds, a traditional Spanish snack.

Each day, the morning was spent at the CILCE language school, based in central Valencia, where we reinforced and practised many of our linguistic skills. The lessons were inspiring and the teachers friendly and enthusiastic. After lessons, we wandered the streets to find lunch and discovered some of the real flavour of the city.

During the week, the group paid visits to the wealth of recreational and cultural sites that Valencia has to offer. Amongst these was a visit to the

"Oceanográfico," the biggest aquarium in all Europe. The group watched a spectacular dolphin show with the rain pelting down. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all, but at times we weren't sure if we were in the pool or out of it! We also spent an afternoon at a CILCE teacher's farm on the outskirts of the city, where we put together delicious paella with her home-grown artichokes and fresh herbs.

One of the most memorable days was our visit to Peñíscola, an hour's drive north of Valencia, where we visited a Templar castle dating back to the thirteenth century, with exceptional views of the coastline. In the afternoon, we hit the beach and frolicked in the sand and sunshine. A perfect end to a very busy week, during which every aspect of the trip had been planned to perfection. Hearty thanks to Miss King, the chief organiser, for such a wonderful trip. The consensus was that fun was had by all – and we even improved our Spanish!



Community Service

Before the Christmas break the CSO Volunteers ran some art sessions with the help of Mr Farrelly. The classes were given to the Children from Coin Street Community. The children were given the opportunity to learn ceramic techniques and skills. These were put to good use as they produced some excellent Christmas decorations.

