Dear Parents

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

It has been a very busy half term. There have been several fantastic trips over the last few weeks. Students have gone to the battlefields in Belgium, Yr11 have been to Poetry Live and Yr10 and Yr12 language students have been in Paris, Berlin and Liege. We have also had students competing in the Big Bang Science fair at the NEC, the Surrey Satro Challenge, the UK Maths Challenge & a Mock Trial.

All of which just highlights that a great deal of learning goes on beyond the classroom. We have had a brilliant Girls in Sport week. The PE department organised a huge variety of activities all of which highlight the importance of sport in terms of wider personal development. Linked to this, the school has just submitted a planning application for a sports pavilion and all weather facility. I would be extremely grateful if parents would go on line to look at and support the application. The proposed development would allow us to offer a greater variety of sports and extra-curricular clubs.

Further details can be found at:

http://eplanning. epsom-ewell.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?
activeTab=summary&keyVal=N1ABMNGY8H000

The school has also submitted a planning application for a new extension. The extension is likely to accommodate a new space for drama, a library and a sixth form centre. The school has made a bid to the Department of Education to fund this project and we will be informed of the decision in late April. The planning application is quite separate from the funding bid. However, as with the sports pavilion we would be grateful if parents could go on line and support it:

http://eplanning. epsom-ewell.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?
activeTab=summary&keyVal=N0W4SUGY8H000

I am very grateful to the many parents and former students who ran sessions at the recent Careers evening. It was a well attended event and Mrs Tingley (Careers Co-ordinator) found speakers for a very wide range of careers. One of the consistent themes in the talks related to the importance of wider skills: teamwork, decision making, problem solving and above all good communication skills. Through the Learn to Learn programme and through the school curriculum we will continue to build in opportunities for students to develop these skills.

Some parents have asked about the school’s specialist status. The coalition government has formally ended the specialist school programme. As a result, schools in England and Wales no longer receive additional funding for their specialism. As a school we have benefitted from the Science specialism funding which has been used to buy additional resources. Nonsuch remains committed to its Science curriculum. Over 100 students in Yr11 have opted to study Biology and Chemistry A level next year and the Science department continues to run a very wide range of Science clubs and workshops.

Finally, the exam season will soon be upon students in Yr11, 12 and 13. Focused revision sessions interspersed with exercise, leisure activities and rest are the key to success. It is important to get this balance right so students are confident that they have covered what they need to, but have also had the chance to relax and replenish their energy reserves - both physical and mental. Parents could assist with this by helping students to plan their use of time effectively.

I hope you all have a very pleasant and peaceful Easter break.

Peter Gale Headteacher.

Oliver!

The recent school production of Oliver was enjoyed by all. The largest ever cast of 63 students was accompanied by the Pit Orchestra of a further 18 students. Local Primary school students were seen skipping down the school corridors singing Food Glorious Food after they attended the dress rehearsal.
Northern Lights

What were you doing on Friday 21st of February 2014? Relaxing with a film and getting ready to party all weekend - I hear you say; well I would argue that no special effects or sparkly dress can compete with my Friday evening. Confused? What could possibly outdo sequins? Two words: Northern Lights.

Also known as Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights is a natural wonder and I was lucky enough to experience it through a school trip. Thanks to the outstanding organisational skills and hard work of a group of Nonsuch teachers, a party of teachers and students (from Nonsuch and a neighbouring school) travelled in search of the Northern Lights.

Swiftly, after a talk from various different astronomers about the formation of an Aurora and why our chances of seeing a display in the sky was not guaranteed; the whole group went through the usual airport security and promptly boarded the plane (notice how we did not go shopping in the duty free area - yes it was heart-breaking). After sitting comfortably in the aircraft, screaming wildly during take-off whilst pretending that we were in a rocket ship and consuming the refreshments in what felt like record-breaking time, we finally arrived over the Shetland Islands.

Here, we circled the aircraft in the night sky in order to find the Northern Lights. This would have been amazing in itself, but we got to do something even better…we took on the journey of finding the Northern Lights with very few lights turned on in our aircraft. This meant that we were in complete darkness which maximised our vision of the night sky. Obviously the pilot and other professionals knew what they were doing, or else I would not be here today writing this article but it was still an unforgettable experience.

After a few too many misjudgements such as “Oh look it’s a shooting star; oh no, it’s an oil rig” and “we’re in outer space”, we finally spotted the green glow of the Aurora. As a teenager myself, there are very few things that I know of other than chocolate which can silence excited people of my age. However, just the sight of an outstandingly prodigious and phenomenal green band of light made the plane silent enough to hear a pin drop. It was remarkable.

Other than the Aurora, we also viewed numerous star constellations such as Orion, through our plane window. Although the views were amazing and I learnt a lot of astronomy on my school trip, there was one thing which I found extremely challenging. This was the task of swapping seats with the people sitting next to me frequently (in pitch black darkness - yes, darkness) in order to take turns sitting next to the window. Hopefully this is not a skill that I need to acquire for the future.

My school trip in search of the Northern Lights (a school trip like no other) was both inspirational and wonderful. In fact, it was a dream come true.

Mathura year 11
Magistrates Mock Trial Competition

In the early morning of the 15th March, looking very smart in our outfits designed for each of our roles, a small group of Nonsuch girls from Years 8 and 9 set off to Lavender Hill Magistrate’s Court for the mock trial competition.

We were all very excited, and spent most of the journey there making last minute arrangements, with lawyers practising their examinations on the witnesses, and all the other roles preparing in their own way too.

When we arrived, we were given our own court room as our ‘base,’ where we could go whenever we weren’t taking part in a trial.

We took part in the 1st and 3rd rounds. The defence team went against St Cecilia's in the first round and the prosecution team went against Tolworth in the third round. Both our teams succeeded in their goals - the defence team proved the defendant not guilty, and the prosecution team found Tolworth's defendant guilty. Unfortunately, we didn’t manage to win the heat, instead Rickards Lodge High School were the ones to go through to the next round.

Despite this, we all returned back to the school in high spirits - the weather was beautiful and we knew we'd done our best.

Lorna Y9

Space Design Competition—UK National Final

On Sunday 30th March 11 Nonsuch students from years 10 to 13 were part of the winning team at the UK finals of the space design competition held at Imperial College London. They worked through the night and together with students from around the country were part of a winning team of 40. They put together an amazing proposal in less than 24 based on mining an asteroid in earth orbit. This is an amazing achievement in itself but even better, 3 of our year 13 students, Priya, Francine and Surika have been selected to be part of the UK team taking part in the international competition at the Kennedy Space centre in Florida!
The finished novelty package produced in the 3D printer.

It is completely hollow inside, so that the chocolates can be stored inside.

It took about 9 hours to make.

Look at the other fantastic Novelty Chocolates & Packaging made by Year 10 Product Design students

Marietta Shorubhi

Sophia Kanya

Athira Kiely

Sophia

Sara

Athira

Kiely

Marietta

Next Issue: Showcase - GCSE Controlled Assessment products
On Monday 3rd of March a group of six girls from Years 9, 11 and 12 went to St Philomena’s School in Carshalton to take part in a Surrey Satro event.

When we arrived we were greeted and taken to a hall where the tables had been laid out for the many schools that attended.

Our group was anxious to know what was inside the envelope that sat on our table, as inside were the contents of our challenge.

The leaders read through the instructions and made us aware of the rules and expectations and then we were ready to begin. At first when we opened our package we were overwhelmed but after reading through what we had to do, as a group we managed to discuss our options and come up with the best strategies and methods to use.

We split the tasks that needed to be completed between us and discussed our ideas. We wrote these ideas down on a sheet that had to be completed and handed in with a diagram of our plan in the first 30 minutes of the challenge.

At first we went through a trial and error process in the making by experimenting with the limited materials that we had. Some of the materials that we were provided with were Sellotape, paper, a motor and straws.

Our challenge was to make a contraption that would spin a motor around a point in the air by a propeller. There were certain regulations that we had to stick to; for example the motor had to be at least 15cm away from the mid-point of the design. In the end we were tested on how many spins the motor took round the centre. We had practice runs throughout the process and altered our design to make it go faster and work more efficiently as a result of these.

Other aspects that we included in the design were a banner with our school name on it and a base for the motor to sit on while rotating.

We all found the task extremely challenging but managed to overcome our initial worries coming second in KS3 with just one point less than the leaders.

While we waited for the results we were doubtful as we felt that some of the practice runs went smoother with our contraption than when the judges were watching and we were ecstatic when we found out that we had come second and were going through to the finals.

We cannot wait to take place in the finals and face some greater challenges as a team.

Next Issue: Results from the Problem Solving Challenge Final
Learning 2 Learn

In L2L lessons this term we have been developing the ‘Managing of our Learning’ skills through the researching, designing and making of kites.

We worked in groups of 3, with students from different year groups.

The project aims were to:

- work independently & as part of a team
- work out what you need to find out to help your progress
- feed back and adapt plans as your work progresses
- take risks trying things out & come up with alternative ideas if they don’t work

Throughout the project we were able to test our kites to see if they would fly.

Some kites didn’t fly & others broke, but this enabled us to modify our kites and try again.
Visit to Corpus Christi College

Corpus Christi, which was established in 1352, is one of Cambridge’s thirty-one colleges. On February 26th, twenty Year 11 students, including myself, went there for a visit. We were very lucky as the sunny weather was perfect for looking around the beautiful grounds.

The stunning architecture took everyone’s breath away as we arrived at the grounds. We were then divided into two groups. While one group went to a lecture on natural sciences to look at questions on estimation, e.g. ‘How many Mars bars would you have to eat to provide you with enough energy to climb Mt Everest?’, the other half, who went to a lecture on languages, were taught about Medieval Spanish fables and stories.

After that, we ate lunch in the College Hall joined by the undergraduates. The food was absolutely delicious and the undergraduates were very friendly. We then had a Q&A session with them about what life at Cambridge was like. During the session, they addressed any queries we had and informed us that Hugh Bonneville (who plays Lord Grantham in Downton Abbey) attended the college in 1981. Then, we went to the Parker library where all of the antique books are kept with some dating as far back as the Anglo-Saxon era. It was amazing that we were allowed to see, touch and be given a talk about some of their valuable collection. We were all in awe of the precise calligraphy and the fact that some of the illustrations in the books had been painted with real gold leaf.

Finally, our last activity was a tour of the grounds where we learnt that the mascot of Corpus Christi College was a pelican as we saw them everywhere. Furthermore, in the college’s old court we were told of the college’s ghost stories which fascinated us. Moreover, on the way out we saw the Corpus Clock, one of Cambridge’s most distinctive attractions which was designed by Dr John C Taylor. This clock, with a slightly morbid chime of banging and chains rattling at the beginning of every hour, demonstrates the principle of relative time. Furthermore, its Chronophage (time-eating creature) at the top, symbolises that time should not be wasted.

Overall, we had an excellent time and were sad that we had to leave. We would all like to thank Corpus Christi College for being excellent hosts and Ms Kyrke-Smith and Mr Murdoch for taking us on this trip which has now inspired us to work hard in the future.

Jemima Y11

Greenwood Theatre Trip

On February 13th, the philhellenes of Nonsuch congregated to watch Aristophanes’ “Wasps”, adapted and performed at The Greenwood Theatre by students at Kings College London. After an interesting lecture on Aristophanes’ technique, we became immersed into a play rich with (occasionally bizarre) wit, drama and an intriguing musical score; all in fluent, expressive Ancient Greek. The play had a selection of both speaking and non speaking roles - from Philoceleon and his son Bdelycleon, to Labes (a dog on trial) and the personified Cheese Grater (a witness), all of which were well-supported by the Chorus, the Wasps, as any Greek comedy is. Boss Wasp, Nostalgic Wasp, Excited Wasp, Wise Wasp and the others were charmingly choreographed and were the main source of humour, aside from the post-performance party-like curtain call. From beginning to end, “Wasps” was both a totally enjoyable and memorable production that inspired us all in our classical studies. Thank you to Mrs Kyrke-Smith and Mr Dant for taking us.

Ade Y11
Girls in Sport Week

Girls in Sport Week is an annual event, which took place between Monday 10th and Friday 14th March. The aim is to get as many girls as possible involved in sporting activities and also to give taster sessions in different sports to encourage the girls to try these sports outside school perhaps leading to lifelong participation in physical activity.

This year we had lots of fun with sessions such as archery, pilates, jive dancing, boxercise, badminton coaching, cardio tennis, basketball and self-defence. The Year 7s also had the opportunity to take part in a Sports Hall Science session on the Thursday which applied both maths and science to sporting activities. For example working out the speed at which they could throw a ball, their power output on an exercise bike and their reaction times on a ‘Batak’ wall. This was an enjoyable session which highlighted the many cross-curricular links that PE shares with other subjects.

The Year 10 GCSE group also had the opportunity to visit the gym at the David Lloyd centre in order to bring their theory lessons to life in a practical way. Other activities during the week included the Year 7 skipathon which raised money for the British Heart Foundation. The staff versus student volleyball is always a hotly anticipated event and this year the staff triumphed in a close match, winning two games to one!

In conjunction with Food Tech we also held a Healthy Cookery Competition with many delicious meals being made. The GCSE Dance group also enjoyed a special contemporary dance session with dance teacher Tanya. The most popular activity of the week was Zumba which is a great high energy, fun workout.

It was great to see so many girls participating during Girls in Sport Week and we hope they will be inspired to go out and get involved in activities or perhaps join one of our summer clubs which start after Easter.
Surrey Schools Netball
On 2nd March our U14 netball team gathered at Croydon High School to compete to become the best team in Surrey from 80 initial entries. They had already beaten off strong competition to reach finals day, becoming the top state school in the county. They had a hard section and did not reach the semi-finals but they played with grit and determination and held the eventual winners to two goals. I could not have been prouder of them and they represented the school impeccably.

The girls that were selected were Scarlett, Anna, Lauren, Gemma, Mollie, Saj, Gabriella, Simi and Riley (Captain)

Surrey Schools Swimming Championships
The Nonsuch Swimming Squad attended the Surrey School Individual Swimming Championships on Saturday 8 February. This event attracts the top swimmers in the county. Nonsuch girls gained medals in 3 of the events, which is an excellent achievement.

Sophie in Year 10 won bronze in the individual medley (already presented)
Daisy in Year 9 won silver in the freestyle and Alice in Year 7 won silver in back stroke.

Surrey Schools Sports Acrobatics Competition
Nonsuch entered both the Under 19 A and B team Surrey Sports Acrobatics Competitions which were held at Streatham and Clapham High School on 18 March. Nonsuch was the only state school represented in the competition. The girls performed brilliantly, especially as training time for the pairs had been extremely limited as a number of the team were also involved in the school production. The girls all managed to hold their balances and supported each other enthusiastically and they enjoyed the day. In this Under 19 competition, the girls were placed 5th in the A event and 4th in the B event. The final scores were very close and they just missed a medal. The oldest member of our squad was 14 so this was an excellent performance for a young team. You can see the squad in action at the Gym and Dance display in April.

Sutton Schools Netball
On Saturday 8th March Years 7, 8 and 9 attended the Sutton Schools Netball Tournament at St. Philomena’s. All teams played extremely well and a high level of netball was demonstrated. Year 7 won their division, getting through to the semi-finals where they came 3rd overall. Both Years 8 and 9 played all the teams in a round robin, coming out as winners in both year groups. Overall it was a very successful morning and we would like to thank the coaches who spent a lot of time and effort throughout the season working with the squads.

Individual Achievement
Well done to Suzy in Year 12 and Daisy in Year 9 who have been selected to swim for Surrey Schools in the inter-county swimming championships on the 30th March.

Maddy in Year 11 has been selected to play for the SE regional volleyball team in the inter regional championships at the University of East London on May 3rd and 4th. Her own club, Ashcombe, also made it to the final 8 of the nationals a few weeks ago. Well done Maddy!
Ball Girling for World Tennis Day at Earls Court

The idea of ballgirling for Pete Sampras, Pat Cash, Ivan Lendl and Andre Agassi was not one that any of the 15 girls who were chosen to ballgirl at World Tennis Day could ever have imagined. World Tennis Day, an international event that celebrates tennis, occurred on 3rd March this year and was held at Earls Court. We left school at 2pm in order to get there in plenty of time as the first event we ballgirled for was a demonstration of cardio tennis.

The main events of the evening were two matches, one between Cash and Lendl, and the other between Sampras and Agassi, who hold an unbelievable 31 grand slam titles between the four of them. The match between Cash and Lendl was great fun to ballgirl for as it was relatively light-hearted, with the players sharing jokes between them. We were lucky enough to receive one of Pat Cash’s signature headbands at the end of the match! This was followed by a short match of wheelchair tennis, and the last match of the evening was Agassi vs Sampras, which was more competitive yet still great fun.

The ballgirls were chosen from St. Philomena’s as well as Nonsuch, and the whole experience was one that none of us will ever forget. My personal highlight was when Jonathan Ross, who was sitting behind me, complimented a catch I made! Thank you to Mrs Holmes for organising this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Holly Year 10

South London Regional Indoor Athletics

After winning the first round of the sports hall athletics at Nonsuch we progressed to the South London Regionals at Thomas Tallis in Blackheath, representing Sutton for an opportunity to compete at the London Youth Games. It was a very competitive event with some outstanding performances from our individual athletes, Elsa Palmer winning her six lap in style. The results were all very close and we waited eagerly to find out where we had been placed. The Year Sevens came 6th and our team came 5th, but were only three points of fourth place. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed having the opportunity to represent our borough. By the Year 8 Indoor Athletics Team.

U12 London Hockey Tournament

Early March saw a team of 8 excited Y7 hockey players leaving Nonsuch for James Allen Girls’ School (JAGS) in Dulwich to play in the London U12 Hockey Plate. The team played in a pool with 5 other teams, ranging from the familiar (Sutton) to the unknown (St Augustine’s Priory and West London Free School). The team were very quick to learn the rules of short-game tournament play and knew that they had to waste no time at all from the first whistle as they had only 10 minutes to put the ball in the goal. Losing only one game, and ending with extremely creditable draws against some tough opposition, they ended the day 5th in their pool. They came away with a wealth of new experiences and had a great opportunity to see different schools and players, learning new skills to try and new tactics to take into their hockey next season.

Year 7 team: Tilly, Amirah, Andrea, Emily, Elaine, Ellen, Alice and Liliane.

U13 London Hockey Tournament

The U13 team travelled to JAGS on March 13th to compete in the London Tournament Cup event with some strong opposition such as Kingston Grammar School, Harrodians and Thomas Clapham in their pool. Despite several losses, we had an excellent scoreless draw against the JAGS ‘B’ team and, as the tournament went on, the players learnt increasing amounts about their own capabilities and areas for future development and improved with each game. We saved our best play for the final two games against KGS and Harrodians and although we lost both matches, we looked competitive and increasingly skilled. The afternoon sunshine was enjoyed by all as we watched some of the play-off matches (the tournament was eventually won by Wimbledon) and we rounded off the day with a visit to an artisan bakery for some well-deserved sustenance on the way back to Nonsuch.

Year 8 team: Olivia, Molly, Annabel, Daria, Kate, Kitty, Sue Ee, Calli, Olivia and Ella.
P.E

**Football Report**

Our U13 and U15 football teams are approaching the end of the season for the Sutton Schools Girls’ Football League. The girls have battled against the elements this year with driving rain and even hailstones making matches extra challenging! Our U13s are in 8th position with 4 draws and 3 losses but we have learnt a great deal across the season, particularly developing our strength on the ball and ability to pressurise our opponents. Our U15s are in 2nd place with two more matches to play, one against Stanley Park who are currently 1st – this match should decide who wins the league! It is to be played on Tuesday 1 April. Our U13s ended the term with the 6-a-side Goals tournament run by Crystal Palace FC. Attendance at training has been very good this year so we were able to field two teams! Although we came away without the title, we had a great day and enjoyed some high spirited competition with a good standard of play being demonstrated by all the teams involved. Well done to all our footballers!

**COMMUNITY SPORTS LEADERS**

Our Y12 Sports Leaders have been extremely active this term, gaining valuable volunteering practice in several different sporting activities, both primary- and community-related. They have taken positions of responsibility in coaching, organising and officiating at the local primary school, Quicksticks Hockey Festival and the Girls’ Football Festival, both of which were hosted here at Nonsuch. They also organised, officiated and scored the Sutton Secondary Schools Sportshall Athletics round, Nonsuch Y7s and 8s winning and going through to the next regional round at Thomas Tallis School in Blackheath. Finally, many of them are officiating at the Epsom and Ewell Sports Relief Mile which is being run in Nonsuch Park in late March. The students would like to thank the staff who enabled them to clock up their volunteering hours in preparation for their Community Sports Leaders Level 2 Award.

**Sport Relief Mile**

Last Thursday 27th March, over 300 girls took part in the biannual Sport Relief Mile to raise money for charity. Girls completed four laps of the field in all manner of fancy dress costumes and in all manner of ways… we had leap froggers, tumblers, three and five legged, back to back whilst doing GCSE revision and many more. Well done to everyone who participated including the teachers: the Chemistry department were particularly well represented! This was a really fun event and we are currently in the process of counting the money raised which will go to a very worthy charity.
Science

Teacher Science Club
As part of National Science Week, students and staff took part in a range of activities to engage with and develop their understanding of science. The week started with year 9 and 10 students taking part in national online Biology Challenge, and was followed by a Philosophy Society debate dedicated to the role of Quantum Physics in understanding our Universe and the question "Can something be created from nothing". Christian Union discussed the overlap between science and religion, and the week concluded with a fascinating lecture from Dr Nick Achilleos from University College London on space missions to the moons of Jupiter and Saturn. A highlight of the week was "Science club for teachers" run by a group of our year 12 science students. As part of this activity staff from a range of departments worked with students to make Sherbet, construct the ultimate marshmallow tower, and create a human table.

Will Dixon

Trip to Wakehurst Place
On Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th March 77 Year 12 Biology students visited Wakehurst Place to carry out fieldwork and view the Millenium seed-bank. This international project is a repository of seeds from nearly 25% of the known plant species on Earth, and students were afforded the opportunity to view the facility and meet some of the scientists working on the project. Students also sampled the biodiversity of plants in a range of habitats and looked at the effect of woodland management on the species found within an area.

Will Dixon
The Big Bang Fair

Following several weeks of training, we were lucky enough to get the rare opportunity to attend and participate in The Big Bang Fair 2014. The fair was held as part of National Science and Engineering Week (14th-23rd March) and celebrated STEM careers for young people in the UK. It was held in Birmingham so it was an early start for us all. As we arrived, the venue was already preparing for a busy day full of exciting and inspiring activities. Over 200 varied organisations participated in the event, highlighting the surprising possibilities in the field. From Formula 1 Racing, making fireworks, designing airplane engines, the chemistry in art, to trekking with the BBC and creating futuristic robots, there was something for everyone. As a result of this, school students from ages 5-19 rushed from one stall to the next, eager to cover as many activities as possible before the day was over. As representatives of the Big Bang Buskers, we prepared a range of practical activities at one of the stalls for school children. It was a very rewarding experience as everyone was fascinated with the experiments (one seen later in the day on QI) and challenged our own knowledge of science. A packed day filled with experiments, information, selfies and friendly banter, it was well worth the journey.

History and Politics

Year 12 History & Drama trip to Stratford

On Wednesday 5 March Ms Budden and Ms Cowdery took Year 12 History and Drama students to see Mike Poulton’s dramatisation of Hilary Mantel’s Man Booker Prize-winning novel Wolf Hall in Stratford-upon-Avon. Year 12 History students study Henry VIII and his court and the play did not disappoint in its creation of the atmosphere and politics of the Tudor period. Drama students enjoyed the innovative nature of the production and the excellent acting.

Mr Coy

Year 13 History Conference

On Tuesday 18 March, Ms Budden and Mr Coy took Year 13 History students to Camden to listen to eminent academics speak about key themes of the later Tudor period. Professor John Guy from the University of Cambridge gave two thought-provoking talks about Elizabeth I. One dealt with factionalism and court politics, the other with the issue of Elizabeth’s gender. Dr Steven Gunn from the University of Oxford talked intelligently and persuasively about the much debated rulers in Edward VI’s reign, Somerset and Northumberland, and the security of Elizabeth’s regime overall. It was a great conference to study different interpretations of the period, a key component of the exam in the summer.

Ms Budden
Year 9 Trip to the National Army Museum

The History Department made its annual trip to the National Army Museum on Monday 3 March. The aim was for Year 9 students to understand the nature of warfare in World War One, their current topic of study. They had a chance to hear a talk from a World War One expert about what life was like for ordinary soldiers and then handle (with care!) some of the weaponry involved. An actor then played the part of a soldier in the War and they asked a range of different questions about his experience and how it had affected him which gave pupils a more personal perspective. Lastly, they had the opportunity to look around the fantastic galleries and learn more about what a trench looked like and some of the battles of the War. The research that they gathered will be used for work in lessons to try to comprehend some of the key aspects of such a complex and horrific war.
Unfortunately this trip will not be possible next year as the museum is being redeveloped but we look forward to going to see the new museum in a few years’ time.

Year 10 trip to Belgium

On 7 and 8 March 53 Year 10 students went to Belgium to explore the First World War battlefields of the Ypres Salient. We left Nonsuch in darkness early on the Friday morning, but were rewarded with glorious sunshine when we arrived in Ypres, which stayed with us throughout the visit. We began with a visit to the cathedral, which had been completely devastated during the war and was painstakingly rebuilt afterwards, and then walked through the town to the Ramparts Cemetery and then the Menin Gate, where the names of 54,896 soldiers with no known grave are recorded. The girls enjoyed a visit to a set of restored trenches, partly because the trenches gave an insight into the difficult conditions soldiers had to endure, and partly because they were able to watch a boy from another school fall into a muddy crater… That evening we returned to the Menin Gate to take part in the Remembrance Ceremony, which has taken place every night without interruption since 1928. Zoe Duhaldeborde and Nancy Robertson laid a wreath on behalf of the school in memory of all those who lost their lives in the conflict.

Having enjoyed a night in the Munchenhof Hotel in Langemark, we visited the German cemetery that was close by and saw the graves of thousands of soldiers who lost their lives, including a pit containing 24,916 bodies. Many students were moved by the mournful atmosphere of the site. We travelled on to Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world, and then visited the “Flanders Fields” museum in Ypres, which told the story of the conflict in the region very effectively. After lunch and chocolate buying we headed out into the countryside and found an enormous crater, where British engineers exploded a mine underground with devastating effect against the German battlements above it. Unfortunately the falling debris also killed 70 Irish soldiers, whose graves lay in the cemetery across the road.
Our last stop was at the Essex Farm dressing station, where Ms Thompson spoke to us about John McCrae, whose work dealing with the injured and dying inspired him to write the poem “In Flanders Fields”.
Music

Local Community invited into Nonsuch to enjoy Tea and Talent!
Mr Gale welcomed a hugely supportive and appreciative audience from local community groups to the March Tea. Once again girls from every year group took part and presented a rich and varied programme – ranging from Bernice’s (Yr 8) toe-tapping rendition of *On - Off Boogie* by Tim Richards, via Rameau, Mozart, Chopin and Debussy to Michelle’s (Yr12) delightful performance of Sonata in D by Loeillet on the oboe.

Rhian (Yr13) fresh back from gaining her choral scholarship at Cambridge treated us to *Qui sedes ad dexteram* from Vivaldi’s *Gloria*.

Erin, accompanied herself on the guitar and sang *Fields of Gold* by Cassidy.

Safia (Yr 9) preparing for her Grade VIII next week with a beautiful performance of *Allegro con spirito* by Clementi.

Lorna (Yr 9), having just passed her Grade VIII Violin exam with distinction, played the fiendishly difficult Kreuzer’s *Study No 30* for Violin.

We are thrilled that Natalia (Yr 13) has been offered a place for next September at the prestigious Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music where she will continue her study of music. She has been busy arranging a variety of ensemble pieces and performed a gorgeous arrangement of *Pavane pour une infante défunte* by Ravel with Lorna, Sally and Catherine.

The Music Tea finale was a hugely impressive performance by Yasmin (Yr 9) on her beautiful harp of *Etude de concert* by Tournier. Later that evening she went on to win, with the same piece, the Sutton’s Young Musician of the Year competition. Congratulations!
A team of two Year 8 pupils: Theodora and Sivanusha and two Year 9 pupils: Lorna and Sally took part in the UK Maths Team Challenge Regional Finals on Friday 14th March. They competed with 34 other teams from the region and came in 13th.

In the 2014 UK Maths Intermediate Challenge, 62 year 10 and one Year 11 pupil were awarded certificates for their achievements: 12 gold, 27 silver and 24 bronze. Eight of them are in the top 2200 or so high scoring students and were invited to participate in the UK European Pink Kangaroo Competition. The results of this competition will be used to help select candidates for the National Maths Summer School for Girls to be held in Oxford in summer 2014. Last year three pupils, Natalie, Eleanor and Supamathy were selected to attend the Maths summer school as a result of their performance in the Pink Kangaroo competition.

On the 24th of March twenty students from year ten, were chosen to attend the Maths in Action lectures in the Institute of Education: University of London. Upon arriving at Euston and entering the university, we were submerged in the crowds of many other GCSE students from other schools and after ten or so minutes, we filed into the auditorium and took our places.

The first lecture, at eleven o’clock, was taken by author Simon Singh (MBE) who specialises in writing about mathematical and scientific topics, in a manageable way for readers. During the lecture, he talked about his recent book “The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets” (2013) and revealed the mathematical ideas and theorems hidden in episodes of The Simpsons and Futurama. It was fascinating to discover these ideas concealed within such a popular and well-known sitcom and we all were very much entertained with the concept of such high level mathematics in a simple TV show, due to the writers of the Simpsons and Futurama being Maths geniuses.

Next we were joined by Dr Calvin Smith from the University of Reading, who helped us tackle the big questions about life and death, from a mathematical point of view. We used models and graphs to understand the circles of life from rabbits to humans and even zombies! We understood the patterns and factors that contribute to their lives and many of us had fun exploring them.

After a break, we gathered in to listen to Dr James Grime from the University of Cambridge talk about his passion for code breaking and how important it was and still is. He also brought along an original Enigma machine from WW2 and showed us how it worked for the German army and how the British code breakers managed to break its secret. It was incredible to see the actual machine and how important it was for shortening the war due to the incredible code breakers working with Churchill.

The penultimate lecture was given by Dr Emma McCoy of Imperial University after lunch. She teaches Statistics and Maths to undergraduates and came to talk about Pascal’s triangle. We explored the diverse uses of Pascal’s theorems and the probability patterns within his findings. We learnt a lot about Pascal and the ideologies of the patterns.

To end the day, author Paul Sloane enlightened us about lateral thinking. Being a public speaker he tested us with seemingly simple puzzles that required us to think outside the box with many of us not succeeding. He made us laugh and yet still taught us about the importance of using lateral thinking when doing Maths as many of us know that reading and understanding the question gets us half way there in answering the question correctly.

All in all we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and would do that again any day!

Ayesha and Miru Y10
House Events

House Karaoke

2014’s House events kick started with the supremely popular House Karaoke Party. This year, most girls sang with a large group of friends making for a very lively atmosphere! 7M organised a big group of performers and we also had a Year 10 collaboration between Neptune, Jupiter and Saturn singers. We were treated to a lovely duet from sisters Ella Y11 and Daria Y8 singing ‘Royals’ by Lorde. Ellie and Tayo Y11 performed ‘Roar’ by Katy Perry which was a big crowd pleaser! All singers have been awarded 5 credits.

There was a special MUFTI day for the forms in each year group that finished 2013 with the most House credits in their year group. Congratulations and I look forward to finding out whether they can remain in top spot!

At Half Term we said ‘farewell’ to the 6th Form House Officials team. Huge thanks to all of the girls, whose fantastic work has helped to boost the profile of the House system. The new cohort of fourteen Year 12 pupils took charge of a major event in their first few weeks:

The Recycled Fashion Show!

Students were asked to create an outfit from recycled materials and upcycled clothing to link with this year’s Schmag theme of ‘Happily Ever After’. Each year group was given a particular fairytale character for them to design their outfits around. 7J were the winners creating a multi-layered fairy dress, with a train made from newspaper. The outfit was complete with wings and accessories such as a handbag made from an egg carton! 7M, 7My, 7N, 7S, 7P all entered wonderful creations using plastic bags, CDs and old clothing. The Year 8 theme was princesses with the winners being 8S’s ‘Princess and the Frog’ outfit. Their design really stood out as they used hoops to create a full skirt with layered plastic bags to complete the look. 8J’s Cinderella outfit demonstrated her transformation from rags to riches. There were some other great designs from 8P, 8My and 8M – who had made their own shoes out of fabric and cardboard. The Year 9 students truly came up trumps this year with their mermaid designs; the judges commented that this was the most difficult round to select an overall winner. 9S made a shiny fish tail from foil and 9N took pains to create an origami tail! 9My used old fabric for the skirt and cut out numerous shells to create a lovely embellished tail. It was 9M’s outfit that stole top spot, with students piecing together 272 bottle caps, numerous wrappers and a variety of ring pulls to create their finished design. In Key Stage 4 we had one entry but 10N’s Wizard’s dress was thoughtfully designed with a star theme and the monochrome colours made for a stylish effect. The winning forms receive 30 credits and a box of chocolates, with all other entries receiving 20 credits and Haribo!

Girls in Sport Week was celebrated with the Y11 Interhouse Benchball competition; fast becoming a Nonsuch tradition, competition was as fierce as ever and made for a lively atmosphere on the day. Eventually, the final result was a 3-way tie between Jupiter, Mars and Neptune – they receive 25 credits with other forms receiving 10 credits.
Individual Achievement

**Acting Success**

Nonsuch student Martha Y9 is busy rehearsing for a new all child production of John Marston’s Jacobean tragicomedy, The Malcontent, which is to have a two week run at the Globe Theatre in April. Martha is one of a cast of 18 Young Globe Players and plays the part of Aurilia. The play was first performed in 1603 by the children of the Queen’s Revels, a boys’ company based at the indoor Blackfriars Theatre, a converted part of the Blackfriars Dominican priory to the west of St Paul’s. The play is rarely performed today and this will be the closest production to its original premiere using as it does a cast of young actors.

We wish Martha every success.

**WINGS OF HOPE CHARITY EVENT**

England netball stars visited Cheam at the weekend to watch a tournament organised by charitable schoolgirls.

Friends Lauren, Anna, Amy, Mollie, all in year nine at Nonsuch School and Natasha, in the same year at Greenacre School, organised a netball tournament for under 11s to raise money for the charity Wings of Hope, which raises money for children in India and Malawi.

The event was attended by England international Rachel Dunn, Surrey Storm players Hannah Reid and Katy Holland as well as Carshalton and Wallington MP Tom Brake and Bernard Sande, the High Commissioner for Malawi.

The group of girls, known collectively as the Young Volcanoes, arranged the tournament as part of a school project.

Lauren said: “We really want to help the children who are less fortunate than ourselves and empower the children in India and Africa through education.”

**HOUSE CREDITS TOTALS**

**SEPTEMBER 2013—MARCH 2014**

**TOP YEAR—YEAR 7**

**TOP HOUSE— JUPITER**

**TOP FORM— 7 PLUTO**

**TOP STUDENT—**

**AMY YEAR 7 182 CREDITS**

**Forthcoming Music events**

1st April  Nonsuch Young Musician of the Year – an opportunity to hear the talented finalists from KS 3, 4 and 5 perform in front of our expert judges
1st May  Annual Concert featuring performances from all our larger ensembles and choirs
8th May  Jazz Evening - come and be thrilled by some glittering jazz numbers from our very own Jazz Band and special guest artists
26th June  Recital Evening - another opportunity to hear more from some our most talented students
9th July  Final Music Tea of the Year - more delicious treats and temptations!