



**OUNDLE**

School

**Speech Day Report**  
**2018/19**

# The Governing Body of Oundle School 2018/19

- \*+ Mr RH Ringrose, Chairman
- + Mr DA Hutchinson, Vice Chairman
- + Mr CJ Bartram
- + Mr JH Cartwright
- Mr N Chippington
- Mr H Clayden
- Ms K Hall
- + Mr KI Hodgson
- Mrs J Kibbey
- Mrs R Lawes
- \* Mr C McAndrew
- Mrs D McGregor
- Mr MCB Spens
- \* Mr TW Stubbs

## Ex Officio

- \* Mr JN Whitmore, Master of the Grocers' Company
- \* Mr R Uloth, Second Warden of the Grocers' Company
- \* Mr T Coleridge, Third Warden of the Grocers' Company
- Mr DJ Toriati OBE, Bursar and Secretary

+ Old Oundelian

\* Member of the Court of the Grocers' Company



# Contents

Governors <i>Staff Valete and Salvete</i>	4
Chapel and Chaplaincy	5
Academic <i>Exam results, awards, lectures, debates, exhibitions and trips</i>	6-9
Co-curricular <i>Music, the Stahl Theatre, Community Action, CCF, OSCAR Radio, Cripps Library and other awards</i>	9-14
Sport	15-20
Building Developments and New Facilities <i>Including the new Sports Centre, the opening of the athletics track and Scott House</i>	21
Oundle Society <i>Including reports on charities and the Old Oundelian Club</i>	22
The Archive	22
Laxton Junior School	23
Final Word from the Head	23

*With thanks to the School Photography Club, led by Mr  
Quetglas.*



## Governors

Two members of the Governing Body retire at the end of the Summer Term 2019. Mr James Whitmore stands down from the Governing Body following completion of his tenure as Master of the Grocers' Company. Mr Whitmore has served a total of seven years on the Governing Body and during this time has served on the Estates and Laxton Junior School Committees and the Project Development Steering Group. Mr Jonathan Cartwright joined the Governing Body in 2010 and has been a member of the Finance, Development and

Remuneration Committees and the Project Development Steering Group during the past nine years. His most recent appointment was Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mr Whitmore and Mr Cartwright are warmly thanked for their contribution and distinguished service to the School.

## Staff

### Support Staff Valete

Mrs AE Cashmore, Director of Human Resources, has served the School for more than fourteen years and retires this summer.

Mrs K Atkinson, Director of Communications, completed her maternity cover contract in December.

Long-serving Support Staff who have left the School this year: Mr D Forscutt, Maintenance Plumber (fourty years); Mr S Palmer, Head of Grounds (thirty-one years); Mrs Julie Moore, Domestic Operative (nineteen years); Mr J Young, School Constable (eighteen years); Mr G Benton, Laxton Caretaker (seventeen years); Mrs Susan Grantham, Sign Language Tutor (fifteen years).

Their loyal and distinguished service to the School is highly appreciated and we thank them for their service.

The School's Support Staff have continued to make a telling contribution to the life of the School and its community. Whether through the maintenance of the grounds and buildings; the pastoral support provided by the medical staff, caterers and House teams; the vital administrative tasks which go on behind the scenes; and the technical support to teaching, these essential elements combine to produce an environment and community in which pupils learn and thrive

### Academic Salvete

The following members of the academic staff joined the School in September 2018: Mrs AL Barker (Psychology), Mr PA Batterbury (Biology), Mr AE Bounds (Registrar Elect), Mr C Bradnam (Physics), Mr JH Broun (Music), Miss FF Edge (Physics), Miss SA Ford (Modern Foreign Languages), Miss EK Furber (Chemistry), Mr SJ Janes (Economics), Miss J Kaur (Economics), Mr PA Liston (Classics), Mrs AL Lynch (Mathematics), Mr P Meadows (Chemistry), Mr NV Salvi (Mathematics) and Mrs EMA Talbot (English). Mrs HJ Whitehurst (Educational Support) returns after two years away. Miss R Bennett, Miss C Curuth, Mr S Eldridge and Miss F Scutt joined as Sports Fellows. Mr Q Barthelemy, Ms A Chambazi, Ms S de la Fuente, Ms B Hänert, Mrs AMJ Lockyer, Ms A

O'Grady, Ms T Verite and Ms X Wang joined as Language Assistants. Ms EA Bull, Miss LK Clayton, Ms IS Farras, Mr MCH Ho, Miss RM Jackson, Miss RE Lawrence and Mr MA Probert joined on short-term contracts.

### Academic Valete

Three long-serving teaching staff leave following many years of distinguished service. Mrs V Gascoine (TPR, Head of Laxton, Lay Chaplain, previously Dryden Housemistress) retires after thirty years, Mr G Phillips (Registrar, Laxton Tutor, Geography) and Ms M Smedley (English, Laxton Tutor) retire after twenty-eight years.

Mr PG Pitcher (Geography, Laundimer Deputy Housemaster) leaves after five years, Miss RA Blacknell (Modern Foreign Languages, Dryden Deputy Housemistress) leaves after four years, Mr RAJ Finch (PE, Assistant Director of Sport, St Anthony Deputy Housemaster) and Mr DJ Grewcock (Director of Sport, Fisher Tutor) leave after three years. Miss AM Harmer (Head of Classics, Wyatt Tutor) and Mr SR Akeroyd (Geography, Grafton Tutor) leave after two years.

### Teachers on One Hundred Terms or More

Mr AP Ireson, Mr RF Hammond, Mr DA Turner, Mr AB Burrows and Mrs V Gascoine.

## Chapel and Chaplaincy

The commemorations surrounding the centenary of the end of the First World War dominated the Michaelmas Term. Central to this was the School's Service of Remembrance on Sunday 11 November. To include as many members of the School community as possible, this was streamed live from the Chapel to the Great Hall. During this service a new altar cross, given through the generosity of Harry Williamson (StA 55) and dedicated to the Old Oundelians who died in the War, was blessed. Afterwards both congregations gathered by the Eric Yarrow statue on the Chapel Lawns for the Act of Remembrance. In addition, the short early morning ceremonies in the Cloisters, to commemorate individually the Old Oundelians who died in the War, were completed in November.

Other notable features have included, firstly, the three Christmas Carol Services, presided over by Mr H Dustagheer. Among the highlights were the Choir's singing of J MacMillan's setting of the Christmas antiphon *O Radiant Dawn* and J Rutter's *Christmas Lullaby*. Secondly, the Church of England Confirmation took place in the School Chapel on 16 March when Bishop Edward Condry confirmed forty-three pupils, at a service which was well attended by parents, family members and godparents.

From a Catholic perspective, Fr Brian Leatherland's retirement in the autumn and the arrival of a new priest working from Corby has led to changes in the provision of services. The Sunday morning Parish Mass has replaced the Saturday Vigil Mass.

Finally, the Chaplaincy bids farewell to Mrs V Gascoine at the end of this academic year. Five years ago, after stepping down as Housemistress of Dryden, she inaugurated the position of Lay Chaplain. In that time her service to the community and support of the Chaplaincy and the Chapel, through preaching, confirmation preparation, pastoral care and general wisdom has been huge, and all this while subsequently being appointed as Head of Laxton! We are enormously grateful and appreciative of all her endeavours.



# Academic

## Pre-U/A level Results

The School maintained its impressive record of attainment at Pre-U and A level: as with 2018, over one in five grades (22%) were awarded A\* or equivalent; in Pre-U subjects, 29% of all entries received the Distinction Levels 1 and 2 (and 10% were D1, equivalent to the higher echelon of an A\*). Overall, 10% of the 2017/18 Upper Sixth secured at least three A\* grades, and one in five pupils achieved two A\* or better. The highest achieving pupils, all of whom received the equivalent of four A\* grades, were Chingis Idrissov (Sc), Rebecca Siddall (L), Kadi Sun (F), Arthur Thomson (StA), Samuel To (S) and Kimi Xie (C).

Pupil performance was strong across all subjects: noted success came in Chemistry, Greek, History, Italian, Further Mathematics, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Physics and Russian, where a third or more of all pupils secured A\* grades or equivalent. Twenty Oundelians secured grades to meet their offers of places at Cambridge or Oxford University. The top destinations of last year's Upper Sixth formers were again Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Manchester and Newcastle: a notable feature of Oundelians' applications in recent years has been the breadth of courses and the identification of the best courses at a wide range of universities all over the country and in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, Europe and South-East Asia.

## I/GCSE Results

The Fifth Form produced an outstanding set of GCSE and IGCSE results. This year, pupils received a mixed economy of grades on the 9 - 1 and A\* - G scales: amongst the assortment of numbers and letters, 57% of all grades awarded were 9, 8 or A\*, the second highest proportion of top grades for over ten years. Fifteen pupils achieved a clean sweep of the highest grades available to them, whilst over 40% of the year group recorded the equivalent to all A\* and A. Amongst the reformed qualifications, a very impressive 33% of all results were grade 9, the highest grade, and 62% of results achieved grades 8 or 9. Performance was strong across all subjects with Classical Greek, English, Latin and Russian leading the way with over 70% A\* grades or equivalent. More than three quarters of all candidates received grades 9 or 8 in English Language and English Literature IGCSEs. Fifty-nine pupils were awarded Senior Academic Exhibitions in recognition of their results.

## Curriculum Changes

Following on from a review of the academic programme offered to our First and Second Forms, a similar analysis has taken place of the Third Form, the remaining section of our Key Stage 3 cohort. This has tied in with a whole-School analysis of the structure of the teaching week: the Deputy Head Academic and his team have been working on proposals for a new timetable and schedule for the day, to be launched in September 2019. Amongst the aims to be realised in this project are an increase in

lesson length - the School will move to a model based on fifty-minute periods - and an increased contact time in the Sixth Form. Longer lesson length will enhance teaching and learning opportunities in all years, and the revised timetable structure will look also to give more equal distribution of lessons at KS4, recognising the need to weight the allocation for English and Mathematics more heavily; there will be more time given explicitly to tutorials and to our successful Learning for Life programme.

## Life of Learning and Colloquia

Under the leadership of Scott Jessop, the School has renovated and expanded the opportunities and activities associated with scholarship throughout the School. The Life of Learning ethos seeks to instil in all Oundelians a love of learning for its own sake and an intellectual curiosity and restlessness that will last them well into adulthood. All pupils have attended regular Monday lunchtime assemblies, when colleagues have at once delivered carefully crafted and aspirational messages to do with the life of the mind, and at other times evangelised about their own extra-curricular academic passions — all in such a way as, hopefully, to inspire the pupils to follow suit. Recent sessions have discussed the magic of libraries, the power of words, what constitutes truly outstanding oratory and the pleasure to be found in spending a lifetime immersed in and translating a single poet.

All Academic Scholars attend Colloquium (Conversaz for the Third Form) sessions on Tuesday evenings during prep once every three weeks on average. Meeting under the guidance of a member of staff, they have been presented with challenging and thought-provoking evenings which, rather than seeking to teach timetabled subjects in greater depth, have exposed the scholars to areas about which they have a peripheral knowledge at best. The broad array of themes has included the concept of 'Truth' in politics, the Science vs liberal arts debate through the prism of FR Leavis versus CP Snow, behavioural economics, the use of pharmaceuticals in MRI scanning and the Mathematics behind the game of 'Dobble'! Trips have taken in the British Museum and the RSC in Stratford, while a 'scholars' conference' saw a Consultant Neuropathologist invited to Oundle to lecture the entire scholar cohort on head injuries, before leading them through a vertically integrated and interactive workshop on medico-legal ethics. Senior scholars have been challenged in the development of their presentational skills and their own intellectual interests: from within the pupil body, there have been talks on Nietzsche and morality, and on whether China's Belt and Road initiative constitutes a form of Neo-Colonialism.

## Nicholson Engineering Award

This year the prestigious Nicholson Engineering Award has been given to Toby Acheson-Gray (Sc) for his work across a number of faculties in the Sixth

Form, in particular: his extended project qualification brief of 'How does an aerofoil with a twist angle affect the lift and drag characteristics of aircraft'; his Design Engineering project where he developed an automated lawn caddy for golfers based around Arduino microprocessor technologies; and his Physics PI where he chose to investigate propellers and motors used within model helicopters. Toby has also undertaken work experience at Williams F1 on two separate occasions and he has secured a place at Nottingham University to study Mechanical Engineering next year.

## Arts Exhibitioners

The focus of the Lent Term colours assembly was a celebration of the Arts. Annually, Arts Exhibitions are awarded for contributions to the intellectual and cultural life of the School beyond the limits of exam syllabuses and any scholarship awards already held. This year many of the successful applicants spoke in the assembly about what they gained from the many activities and projects that had underpinned their Arts Exhibition applications. They demonstrated their leadership in this area through reliable effort and displaying the attitude and commitment that made him or her stand out as an example to others. This year the following pupils received awards: Jake Addo (S), Evan Ball (G), Mark Bonner (Ldr), Alice Hamilton-Charlton (L), Alexander Hill (C), Sophie Lee (L), Gordon Lin (C), Lizzie Martin (N), Lily-Rose Tebbutt (W), Harun Tekin (S) and Charlie Willis (L). The range of activities in which they demonstrated leadership included acting, backstage work, charity events, debating, journalism, music, public speaking, radio plays, radio presenting, photography, and writing, directing and shooting a film.

## Trips and Expeditions

Every academic department offered day trips to help pupils deepen their love of learning. There was a variety of experiences on offer, from studying the Physics of antique timepieces in Greenwich to visiting the Tate Modern.

This year, there have been seventy-nine residential trips and, excluding sports fixtures, over 200 day trips. They were designed to provide a rich range of educational outcomes and every pupil has been given the opportunity to go on a wide variety of them. Day trips have ranged from a tour of the inside of number.10 Downing Street to Houses going to local theatre productions.

Overseas trips have helped to nurture an outward-looking, global perspective. Academic trip destinations have included Israel, Costa Rica, Nice, New York, Berlin, Prague, Rome and Pompeii, CERN (Geneva), Washington, Silicon Valley and Hamburg. Meanwhile, sports teams have successfully been on tour to South America (rugby) and South Africa (cricket) and have also gone away for pre-season training, with members of the tennis squad going to Barcelona. Closer to home, a very full Duke of Edinburgh schedule saw pupils developing character and confidence in a range of demanding expeditions, from cycling in Cumbria to walking in Dartmoor. Furthermore, Adam Hutchinson (G), Rory

Cronin (S), Louis de Gale (G) and Harriet White (L) completed the gruelling Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race.

## Language Trips/Exchanges

The Modern Languages department has continued to provide opportunities for its pupils to practise a language in the country it is spoken and to immerse themselves in its culture. Sixth Form trips have taken place to Paris, Argentina and Berlin/Leipzig, as well as work experience in Córdoba, while the ever-popular exchanges with partner schools in Orleans and Hamburg, the study trip to Nice and the junior trip to Southern Germany challenged the younger pupils. We have also trialled exploiting further the link we have with Schulpforte in Naumburg, the school that Nietzsche and Mobius attended, by offering exchanges to individual pupils who attend two weeks of school in each country. Throughout the year pupils once again enjoyed lectures from prominent academics on French politics and history, workshops with academics from KCL on the German set text and film, and the Russian department also invited speakers to inspire their pupils, one of them with their tales of expeditions into Ukraine and beyond. A large number of Fifth and Sixth Form pupils passed the rigorous DELF B1 and B2 French examination, Fourth Form Germanists and Hispanists sat the Chartered Institute of Linguists' 'Real Lives' exam, whilst a group of pupils studying Chinese also once again made it to the finals of the HSBC Mandarin speaking competition. The department also successfully trained five new trainee MFL teachers on placement at several schools in the area as part of the National Modern Languages SCITT programme.

## Sixth Form Lectures

The 2018 - 2019 Sixth Form lectures once again brought a mix of speakers from all walks of life. The Michaelmas Term started with a lecture by GB Olympian Gail Emms on her illustrious badminton career. We also welcomed Channel 4 film producer Jamie Berry to talk about his critically acclaimed film *Walking the Nile*. This gritty talk included clips from the film - some shocking, some life-affirming. Music producer Mike Hurst once again made a return to Oundle to entertain the Upper Sixth with his talk on the history of modern music. Mike captivated the audience with his trusty, and rather expensive, acoustic guitar.

Highlights of the Easter Term included Dr David Nabarro on the problems of feeding the world, art dealer and presenter of BBC's *Fake or Fortune* Philip Mould talking about the discovery of lost art, and scientific hero Professor Robert Winston, on the Science behind happiness.

The new lecture programme begins in September.

## Debating

On a grey May Saturday in Cambridge, our Public Speakers took part in the National ESU Public Speaking Finals at Churchill College, while just a mile down the road at the Cambridge University Union our ICYD (International Competition For Young Debaters) team did much the same. "If you can speak in this country, you can do anything," the team at Churchill told us, and it was an excellent reminder that the formal speaking and debate training that we do week in and week out during the School year is what will underpin successful futures for many of our pupils.

To find your voice takes time and effort but is, above all, fun and immensely rewarding. The Micro Debaters of Scott House and the Berrystead, led by Mr N Turnbull and his team of senior debaters, have been discovering this for themselves this year. Their 'graduates' of 2019 will move seamlessly up to the training group for Third Form to Fifth Form, led by Mrs A Gould and Miss R Hodgson, and supported by senior debating mentors. In time, they will have the opportunity to join the Parliamentary sessions for Sixth formers.

Our Public Speaking cohort, drawn from the middle years, met with considerable success this year, steadily speaking their way into the national final on topics as diverse as seeking happiness over what is right, the nature of Britishness and the power of a single voice. We enjoyed hosting one of the rounds, thus putting our social speaking skills to good use too! Oundle also provided the venue for the local round of the ESU Mace debating, and our team took part with skill and passion, winning a place in the regional finals.

2018 saw the first of our annual Year Seven and Eight Balloon Debates with other local schools. We enjoyed watching lively young speakers putting persuasive cases for assorted characters from children's literature before an audience of peers, teachers and parents. Our Junior Debaters won the Stamford Endowed Schools Oswald Elliott Shield for the third year in succession, and competition pairs represented the School at ICYD, Cambridge and Oxford Unions, Nottingham Schools, the Mace, Uppingham Local and our own ESU-style Arena Friendly. Back on home territory, and in addition to their regular coaching, mixed teams of Juniors and Seniors enjoyed the Christmas parliamentary debates, pleasantly fuelled by mince pies and hot chocolate.

The standard of Junior and Senior inter-House debating has been uniformly high. The committee prepared a collection of motions on issues of moral, philosophical, political and social importance which have engaged and challenged the debaters and resulted in excellent and lively floor speeches. We are grateful to the Head, Mr M Spens (Governor), Mr I Mcleod (former parent) and Mr A Burrows for adjudicating the final rounds this year. The Junior Mather Cup was won by Jack Campbell and Jerry Li of Fisher House, and the Senior Humphreys Gavel by George Brett and Saul Agar Ward of Bramston. Thanks as always must go to the senior committee and officials for their commitment and service over the year, and to the staff team of Mrs Gould, Mr Turnbull, Mr Wood and Miss Hodgson, without whom none of this would be possible.

## EPQs

This year ninety-two Lower Sixth pupils undertook the Extended Project Qualification, in which they chose to research a topic beyond their examined subjects and spent the year independently researching and producing a project with the supervision of a member of staff. Some pupils chose to write a 5,000 word written report, whilst others opted for the creation of an artefact informed by their research. As the process came to a close, the pupils' outstanding work was celebrated at the Project Presentation Evening in the Great Hall, where each pupil presented their work on their own stand to a walking audience, and it was wonderful to witness a real buzz in the air as they excitedly demonstrated all that they had learnt throughout the process with real pride. The wide breadth of research opportunities was as impressive as one would expect of an Oundelian, with topics ranging from mosaics, architectural drawing and app production, to prediction of economic crashes, the status of human rights, the effects of PTSD and Rousseau's Enlightenment. Whilst many traditional subject areas were researched, it was encouraging to see pupils look beyond their more formal studies, demonstrating an interest in wider global issues such as plastic pollution, domestic abuse, synaesthesia, the Grenfell Tower fire, and many more beyond. The final grades were impressive, demonstrating the academic independence and rigour that our pupils are capable of.



## Co-curricular

### Music

A year of music-making at Oundle School always offers quite a task in surveying the fruits of our labours. We commenced our year with a *Last Night of the Proms* themed evening that combined the Oundle International Festival with the School and the Rushden Town Band. The customary array of weekly concerts in St Peter's have flourished and provided good outreach to the community with invaluable platforms for our pupils. We enjoyed one of the strongest Scholarship Training Days in October, and our Massed Musicians' Day was a thrilling buzz as we hosted 280 fledgling musicians.

One main focus and serious demand was the superb production of *Sweeney Todd* in December. One of the toughest musicals to stage and perform, the pupils did a splendid job and the executions were most convincing with especially significant and incredible performances from Charles Willis (L) and Lizzie Martin (N)!

The annual Hepburn Competition involved typically large numbers, with 320 performances. Of note this year was the sense of learning and real value for the occasion, and adjudicators offered more of an ensuing masterclass than a simple announcement of a winner! Ed Pelham (Sc) won with his stunning performance of Brahms on the clarinet. Guitar Madness offered a sellout for the first time and proved an awesome occasion.

We took the Symphony, Chamber, Wind and Jazz Orchestras to West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge – an obvious venue to visit on our doorstep. This was an excellent and appreciated opportunity for these ensembles to perform properly in a good acoustic and in a venue large enough to accommodate them.

It has been an exciting year for woodwind. The Lagom Clarinet Quartet from the Royal Academy of Music offered stunning performances and masterclasses over three visits as part of the composition focus for the academic musicians. Their final visit ended with a performance of Mozart's *Gran Partita* for 13 Wind with Oundle pupils. New ensembles have been key to our development and include an advanced Diploma Woodwind Quintet, Double reed ensemble, Laxton Winds and various large wind ensembles.

In terms of brass, the CCF band has grown not only in numbers (now seventy-six!) but in quality also, leading the service once again at the Somme and at the parade through the streets of Oundle on Remembrance Sunday. A wonderful display by both the band and the Corp of Drums was highly complimented on their visit to Franklin's Gardens in March to support Northampton Saints, and through the Passing Out Parade in May. Our wonderful Jazz Orchestras offered three sold out fundraising performances across the year at St Peter's, (Oundle), Fotheringhay and Lowick churches.

In the piano department, Mason Lam (StA) gave two stunning performances of the first Movement of Shostakovich's *2nd Piano Concerto*, here at Oundle and at our West Road concert in Cambridge. On both occasions Jake Addo (S) followed, giving beautiful and captivating performances of the second movement. Our organists

have grown to ten in number under the guidance of our new organ teacher, Mr Nigel Kerry and a few are playing regularly for services.

As regards singing, Choral Evensongs at home and Lincoln Cathedral, the beautiful Advent Carol Service with Schola Cantorum, May Morning Madrigals and three offerings of Christmas Carol Services from the Chapel Choir were uplifting occasions. House Singing gets better and better, with the Part-Song offering exceptional quality and creativity. Laxton won Part-Singing, Laundimer the House Unison and Wyatt were winners overall in a hotly contested competition where just five marks difference lay between the top five Houses!



Our partnership with the Royal College of Music (RCM) deepened, with many an adjudicator visiting. But with a focus on our string department, one special highlight remains the visit from the RCM String Band under the guidance of their Head of Strings, Mr Mark Messenger. They visited in November and delivered performances full of vivid dynamics and dramatic pacing. The *Poulenc Organ Concerto* (soloist was our own Mr QP Thomas) was commanding, sensitive and colourful, followed by an inspiring performance of the Shostakovich *Chamber Symphony*. The Chamber Orchestra merged to form a huge string section for Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony 1st movement* conducted by Mr AP Gibbon, rounded off by Handel's *Royal Fireworks* featuring fifteen Oundle oboists and bassoonists and the real thing outside – quite magical!

Concertos performed during the year included Mendelssohn's violin concerto with Mark Bonner (Ldr) and the *Svendson Romance*, featuring soloist Sophie Lee (L). Dvorak *8th Symphony* for the Symphony Orchestra and Beethoven *3rd Symphony* (complete) for the Chamber Orchestra were the central focus works posing a major milestone for all of our musicians.

We thoroughly enjoyed masterclasses from Yibin Li (professor from Juilliard, NY and Mannes College NY) who provided inspirational coaching and Nicholas Roberts (Coull String Quartet) whose cello masterclass and evening of chamber music in January witnessed outstanding performances. Rhys Matthews, our own percussion teacher, brought drummers, beaters and bashers together in a high-octane concert of delight. We were fortunate to welcome the Stetson University Chamber Orchestra from Florida in May, who provided a further opportunity to play side by side in Elgar's *Introduction* and *Allegro*. Professor Jesus Alphonso (viola) gave a masterclass and Oundle Massed Strings welcomed our guests with a combined performance of Sibelius' *Andante Festivo*.

Amongst the many, many successes, special congratulations to those fourteen pupils taking Diplomas, and eighteen Grade 8s. My thanks to every one of the pupils and superb Music staff who bring such splendid endeavours and cultural pursuits to the School.

### Stahl Theatre

The Stahl is a creative hub for our pupils. It exists to inspire the next generation of theatre-makers by exposing them to the best professional practice and enabling them to explore all theatrical disciplines, and this has been particularly evident this year.

Pupil-directed work has, as ever, provided many highlights and Laxton's wry and devilish performance of *Screwtape* by James Forsyth was the first such example. Directed with real wit and clarity by Sophie Lee (L), and ably assisted by Charlie Willis (L), this was a remarkable evening as CS Lewis's quirky novella was skilfully brought to life by the excellent cast. Special mention to Joseph Meisner (L 5) and Edward Cubitt (L 5) as the principal devils who portrayed these supernatural fiends with a humanity that was pivotal to the success of the piece. In November we were treated to the rehearsed



brought to a spectacular close with a gripping production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd – The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Directed by interim Director of the Stahl, Mr SC Aylin with Musical Direction by Director of Music Mr QP Thomas, this was a vast undertaking. A cast of thirty-five and a band of twenty filled the Stahl with a raw and thrilling energy. With the help of a twelve strong team of pupil backstage crew, every inch of the stage was used, along with every light, microphone and plug socket, and the result was an extraordinary evening of high notes and low deeds. Charlie Willis (L) and Lizzie Martin (N), as the vengeful Sweeney and the grotesque Mrs Lovett, were a revelation, whilst Harun Tekin's (S 5) Anthony was as open and charming a performance as you'll see on any stage. This was a production full of gleeful dread that many will not forget in a hurry.

2019 was ushered in by a night of intrigue and deception with Grafton's performance of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. Evan Ball (G) took the helm as director of this claustrophobic masterpiece and proved very adept at leading the audience exactly where he wanted them to go. Crisp, sophisticated storytelling was in evidence as this impressive cast handled the twists and turns of the classic 'whodunnit' narrative with clarity and assurance. Whilst this was a real ensemble piece – with every cast member essential to the play's success – special praise goes to Minty Kunzer (N) for her spirited portrayal of heroine Vera, and to Arthur Burgess' (G) for elegant portrayal of Mrs Rogers. This was a gripping evening's entertainment – and just what the doctor ordered on a gloomy January evening.

In February Ed Hodgson (Sc) and Lily-Rose Tebbutt's (W) compelling 6th form production of George Orwell's *1984* burst on to the Stahl stage. Directed with clarity and a vital urgency, the production demonstrated just how capable and theatrically literate our senior pupils are. Declan Boyle (L) shone as the central character, Winston, and together with Henry Worsley (Ldr) as the calm, calculated and undeniably alluring O'Brien the pair delivered a truly chilling torture scene which triggered the play's alarming denouement. Lily Hunter's (W) Julia was full of revolutionary energy, whilst never losing the character's necessary fearless charm. Matthew Dunster's taut adaptation brings the political and moral questions of the play into sharp focus and this young ensemble met the challenging subject matter with a maturity and understanding that would have been impressive from a professional cast. The technological complexity of this production, mixing real-time theatrical wizardry with live and recorded multimedia, was startling and at the end of the night the packed auditorium was left breathless.

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is an ambitious task for fourteen and fifteen-year-old performers but in Mr MA Probert's production the talented cast embraced the complex material and made it their own. There were excellent performances from Amelie Holtby (Sn) as the all-powerful Prospero and Luke Seymore (L) as his chastened slave, Caliban. Isabel Macintosh (K) and Henry Gardiner (StA) brought an admirable innocence and wonder to their performances as the young lovers, Miranda and Ferdinand, but there was huge strength in



depth in the cast as a whole. Relocated to the Edwardian era the piece looked visually stunning thanks to the ever-inventive backstage team at the Stahl, with beautiful costumes by Mrs JG Henderson and set design by Mrs R Cox.

The First and Second Form production is always the highlight of the Summer Term at the Stahl and this year's *Son of Sherlock: The Case of the Hirsute Housemaster* was no exception. The piece, which was specifically written for our youngest performers by the show's director, Mr SC Aylin was a sheer joy. Full of all too familiar characters and hilarious one-liners, the piece provided a wonderful platform for these gifted young actors. Thomas Kemp's (Sco) likeable, if a little stupid, Harold Horatio Holmes made a perfect foil to the quick-witted and spirited Mildred, brilliantly played by Arya Samrai (By), whilst Nathan Raudnitz as Dicky Dickens oozed charm and presence as he delivered his continuous narration. Directed with skill and dexterity by Mr Aylin the production was the last in his tenure as Director of the

Stahl as we welcome Miss NM Jones back from maternity leave. Special thanks go to Simon for his careful management of the theatre and his directorial vision from which so many of our pupils have benefited.

The Stahl's busy programme culminated in the annual Wontner Masterclass and lecture, led this year by OO and Artistic Director of the Park Theatre, London, Jez Bond. Jez, who credits much of his success in the professional theatre to the training and opportunities he enjoyed at the Stahl twenty-five years ago, was delighted to return to Oundle to work with some of our most talented pupils. He led a small group of pupils in a technical theatre workshop, quickly followed by a masterclass with some of our more experienced performers. In the evening he delivered a fascinating lecture about his formative experiences in theatre and how they have helped him found and lead one of the most exciting and innovative new theatres in London. It was truly an inspirational afternoon in the theatre and a fitting reminder of what is possible for our pupils.

### Community Action

Over 330 pupils were involved in a rich tapestry of Community Action (CA) activities over seven days of the week. Highlights over the two Field Weekends were the annual St Basils Sleepout, which this year raised over £11,500 to support the homeless in Birmingham, and hosting over 600 adults and children with physical and/or learning difficulties at three Have a Go Days (HAGD). In addition, Fourth Form pupils joining CA in 2019/20 hosted one hundred elderly residents at their Grand Day Out in Great Hall, serving afternoon tea along with activities including a nail bar, photo booth, bowls, music and yoga sessions.

The programme of CA talks included speakers from International Needs Uganda, Anna's Hope, PEDS, Hope Into Action and Alastair Taylor (L 2016) talking about the Durham Winter Night Shelter he set up over Christmas.

The *Oundle Chronicle* newspaper printed its 50th edition in May.

With sadness we said farewell to our Sign Language teacher of fifteen years, Mrs Sue Grantham, who has helped over one hundred pupils achieve their BSL1 Sign Language qualification over the years. This year's CA Speech Day prizes were awarded to Katharine Spurrier (W), Zoe Onyett (W) and Izzy Das Gupta (N) for their outstanding commitment to their CA activities and the pupil committee.



### CCF

The highlight of the CCF year was the third trip by the whole of the Fourth Form and CCF Marching Band to the Somme. 250 Cadets visited sites across the Somme, finishing under the Thiepval Memorial where an evening Remembrance Service was held to remember all those who lost their lives during WW1, particularly the 256 Old Oundelians.

The focus of CCF training is the development of leadership skills amongst senior Cadets, and teamwork and self-discipline amongst younger Cadets. The Upper Sixth Training Cadre gives senior Cadets the opportunity to deliver training, and this year eleven Lower Sixth pupils completed a Level 3 Award from the Institute of Leadership and Management.

A wide range of activities have been conducted on Wednesday afternoons, including sailing and rowing for the Naval Section; infantry exercises, orienteering and shooting for the Army; flying and airmanship for the RAF Section; kayaking and climbing in the AT Section, and fire-fighting for the Fire and Rescue Section. For the CCF Band there was the chance to play at Franklin's Gardens at half time during the match between Northampton Saints and Bristol Bears.

We organised annual summer camps for eighty Army Cadets at Warcop, ten Navy Cadets at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall, and a successful Alpine Ski Development Camp for fifty-two Cadets in Switzerland in February.

The annual Passing Out Parade for all Fourth Form Cadets was inspected on 16 May by Brigadier Alex Macintosh OBE. The Parade Commander was Cadet Warrant Officer 1st Class (RSM) Maddie Terrell (W), and Warrant Officer Charlie Forbes-Leith (Ldr) commanded the Colour Party. The parade was greatly enhanced by the CCF Marching Band under the leadership for the final time of Band Captain, Cadet Sgt Freddie Stewart (B).

### Charities

Pupils have continued to be active in raising money for a range of diverse causes. Of particular note was the charity fashion show organised entirely by a number of Sixth formers from Wyatt House, which raised over £7,500. Lower Sixth Form pupils organised an enjoyable Charity Fair in September and participated in Oundle Charity Ventures during the year. Fourth formers have once again taken part in the 'Big Give', pitching for donations for their chosen charities from a pot provided by the OO Club, and developing both their awareness of the workings of charities and their presentation skills in the process.

### Sanderson Fellow

Dr MJ Bessent continued in the role of Sanderson Fellow. The exciting new collaboration with Imperial College London continues to gather momentum and we have now appointed an Imperial Fellow to start at Oundle in September 2019.

SciTec welcomed sixty-two pupils from local junior schools for a day of STEM challenges across the traditional physical Sciences and Design and Engineering. This able and interested event is a key STEM event in the Oundle calendar and reinforces the drive to make SciTec a community centre for scientific study. We also welcomed thirty-six Year six pupils from nine feeder prep schools for our annual STEM challenge.

Dr Bessent organised the 2019 Oundle Lecture, which this year was given by Prof Maxwell Hutchinson. He delivered a lecture titled *The Rules and Manners of Good Building – Notes towards a fuller understanding of the built environment around us.*

### Partnership Activities

The launch of the Oundle, Peterborough and East Northants (OPEN) Learning Partnership this year has allowed the School to formalise its ties with local schools and other organisations. This provides opportunities for pupils to meet and work with those from our partner schools and for staff to work alongside each other, illustrated effectively by the four presenters from 4 partner schools who delivered seminars for our brightest Mathematicians at this year's OPEN Mathematical Enrichment Conferences. Oundelians also benefited from a careers event at Kettering Buccleuch Academy, a Fit for Life event exploring physical and mental resilience at Thomas Deacon Academy (TDA) and all partner schools received a visit from the spectacular Royal Institute Science Show. The annual STEM Challenge with TDA, 'Able and Interested Science' for local primary schools and Greenpower Engineering project all continue alongside new events such as Balloon Debating and a Business Language Champions MFL event which saw the first ever joint Oundle School/Prince William School team entered. Through these events and many others, our institution and its pupils have the chance to learn from, and contribute to, our local community of schools. Oundle's relationship with Imperial College London also continues to mature with the launch of an Oundle version of the College's successful STEM Potential



Programme which supports pupils into good university STEM degrees and targets those who have the ability but who are statistically least likely to do so due to other life circumstances. Oundle has also employed our first Imperial College London Outreach Fellow who will, from September, join our teaching staff but also support our outreach programmes as a representative of both the College and the School.



## OSCAR

OSCAR Radio continued in its position as the foremost pupil-run radio station in the UK as it celebrated its 20th birthday in October 2018. The station has continued to flourish with its forty-first broadcast on FM since it started in 1998. This was the final FM broadcast as OSCAR Radio Digital marches forward embracing the increasing demand for Internet broadcasting. The March digital broadcast attracted well over 2,000 listeners from all over the globe through the web stream at [www.oscar-radio.org](http://www.oscar-radio.org).

Managing Directors for the autumn broadcast were Pandora Bannister (N) and Edward Hodgson (Sc), who handed over to the current Managing Directors, Ian Chung (StA) and Freya Neame (W) in January 2019. The Managing Directors have led their teams through two broadcast sessions, which included a record number of pupils taking part in the varied programme schedule. Highlights include the new live band programme, *Oundle Presents, Go Get A Life* (a programme that discusses pupil concerns and PSHE issues) and the excellent interview with Fiona Onasanya by the *Don't Mock The Week* team (Her last interview by the former Peterborough MP before her court case and subsequent incarceration).

During the past twenty-one years, OSCAR has been on the air for 872 days, and over 2,400 pupils have been involved as directors, broadcasters or technicians.

## Cripps Library

The hundredth anniversary of the Armistice saw the conclusion of the Library's five-year WWI commemoration project during which every Third Form pupil researched the life of each of the OOs who died in the war. At Thursday afternoon electives, pupils learned the craft of book making, and for this year's Carnegie Medal shadowing scheme, every Third Form English set read one of the shortlisted books, and created a presentation for an assembly at which the author and illustrator Chris Priestley adjudicated to determine who had made the most convincing case for their book to win the Medal. Acquisitions to the Special Collections included the donation by an OO of a book from 1540 in its original oak boards. The most interesting detail was the "wastage" used by the binder for endpapers, which was determined to be two 13th century manuscript leaves on vellum from a medieval textbook of Gratian's *Decretum*, copiously annotated and doodled on by medieval students. The leaves have now been conserved for handling by pupils.



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has continued to attract the interest of pupils, with Oundle School being the second largest centre in the Central England region, over 1,000 different DofE centres. Seventy Lower Sixth pupils have embarked upon their Gold Award, with participants choosing to walk or cycle their expedition section with the School, a few choosing alternative methods through AAPs. The practice expedition to Dartmoor in April again proved a valuable way for the pupils to develop their navigational skills in a location with few distinguishing features. They will head to the Lake District for their assessed expedition in the last week of the Summer Term, whilst eight pupils will complete their assessed expedition by cycle in the surrounding area. Forty-six Fifth Form pupils completed their Silver Award expeditions in the Peak District. 168 Third Formers completed their skill, physical and volunteering sections of the Bronze Award by Easter, thereby progressing onto their expedition at the end of the academic year.



## Sport

### Rugby

With over 400 pupils playing rugby this year across eighteen teams, rugby participation levels at Oundle School have never been higher. Despite competing in one of the most challenging fixture cards in the country, the boys have remained resolute throughout the season and persevered with implementing the three Cs (confidence, courage and creativity), which has led to a more enjoyable and exciting brand of rugby both to play and to watch.

There are too many to name, however notable mentions are the U14F for playing (and winning!) their first ever game of rugby; the U14B under Mr CH Bradnam who won seven out of their ten games; the 3rd and 4th XV with Mr PA Liston, Mr D Vincent and Mr PH Meadows for beating Haileybury, Stowe, Uppingham, Bedford and Oakham; Mr NV Salvi's mighty 5th XV for beating the likes of Radley College, Stowe School, Bedford School and Welbeck Defence 6th Form College all within the dying minutes of the game; and an individual mention to Geordie Irvine (Sc) for his mature yet driven leadership with the U16A. Captained by William Lankfer (F), the 1st XV experienced some agonisingly narrow losses in the majority of their games; on another day, the result could easily have gone the other way.

### Girls' Rugby

With record numbers signing up to Girls' rugby this season, and Mr JR Ingle, Mr ID Clark and Mrs SJ Waring at the coaching helm, the Girls' rugby squad were set for a fine season and commendably led by Iris Cecil (W) and Petra Glazebrook (Sn). The girls began learning the principles of rugby in the cold winter months of November and December (many of them having never played before), before facing stiff opposition in a mixture of XV-a-side, XII-a-side and VII-a-side games against the likes of Welbeck Defence 6th Form College, Peterborough RFC and Wisbech Grammar School. The girls were able to apply their newly learnt techniques in a match scenario and this helped develop their confidence in the contact area too.

In the 7s season, the Reigate 7s was a real highlight, not only because we won the Shield, but also because Natalie Gaunt (Sn) even volunteered to help make up numbers for Wisbech... and they went on to win the Plate! The eleventh annual Thommy Purbrook charity match raised about £1,500 for the Purbrook Scholarship fund and was an incredibly close contest. The season culminated in the world's largest school rugby tournament: the National 7s at Rosslyn Park. A challenging yet hugely enjoyable experience, the girls beat Peter Symonds College and lost to Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf and Kings of Wessex Academy.

### Rugby 7s

A very different game to the XV-a-side version, rugby 7s gains further popularity and momentum this season as it continues to become a more recognised and enjoyed sport in the Lent term. Teams used training and 7s warm-up tournaments to learn about the game before





the challenge of competing at the world's largest school rugby tournament, the National 7s at Rosslyn Park Rugby Football Club.

The U14s used the Ipswich 7s as vital preparation and applied learning of 7s before the National 7s at Rosslyn Park, where they lost by a try to Harrow in the last ten seconds of the game.

The U16s showed huge progress and learning of 7s, from losing every group game at the Oakham 7s, to then ending runners-up at the Uppingham 7s. The U16s faced a challenging group at the National 7s and had a great experience which they will carry through to the U18s next year.

In a similar vein, the U18s used the Oakham 7s and Uppingham 7s to gain crucial match preparation before the National 7s, where the squad favoured well in winning three out of four games but unfortunately they needed four wins to progress through the competition.

### Boys' Hockey

The Boys' Hockey Club put out more teams than any other on our circuit this year. Head of Hockey Mr GJ Mansell-Grace asked teams to play an attacking game with a great emphasis on skill and the 1st XI boys played some exciting hockey and at the same time developed game awareness, looking at changing defensive shapes mid match. Oundle had an excellent 5-2 victory away at Uppingham, which was by far the best result. The U16 Cup team got through three rounds of the newly structured National Cup and many will be involved in the 1st Team next year. Our Third and Fourth Form teams are showing signs of playing some good attacking hockey and the U14 Cup team did well reaching the Midlands Regional Finals for the first time

### Girls' Hockey

The Girls' Hockey Club continues to demonstrate strength in depth throughout the age groups and the teams. The U16s did exceptionally well to reach the Tier 2 National Finals at the Olympic Park, London in the restructured National Cup. The side was a good mix of U15 and U16 players and we look forward to seeing their progress with some joining the 1st Team group. The 1st Team did exceptionally well in the Tier 1 National Cup, narrowly missing out on the quarter finals having played some excellent attacking and creative hockey all season. The U14 Cup Team reached the Midlands Regional Finals again.

### Cricket

The second half of the 2018 cricket season saw Simon Fernandes (Ldr) continue his rich vein of form, finishing the season with 947 runs at an average of 94.7. Due to his fine season, he was selected to represent the English Schools Cricket Association in an invitational match at Lords, a great accolade for him and one the School should be very proud of. In one of our last games of the summer we had a great victory over the highly reputable MCC.

In the 2018 House cricket, Fisher won the senior boys', Wyatt won the girls competition whilst Bramston won



the junior competition. At the time of writing, Fisher, Grafton, St Anthony and Laundimer have made it to the semi-finals of the senior competition and the girls are set to play in the first week back after Half-Term after being washed out despite valiant efforts to play on through what turned out to be torrential rain at the first attempt. The 2019 cricket season saw Mr DW Foster as the new Head of Cricket. The 1st XI captains for the season were James Esler (C) and Freya Wilson (K). After a comprehensive winter programme, the season started with a pre-season for the 1st XI, 2nd XI, 16A's, 15A's, 14A's and the girls' 1st XI, with fixtures then coming thick and fast in a short and busy term. We have over 350 pupils and twenty-eight teams from First to Sixth Form playing cricket at the School, with girls' cricket in particular continuing to blossom. We now field three girls teams in the senior School with over fifty girls having chosen cricket as their summer sport. In addition, all girls in First and Second Form play at least one Half-Term of cricket, with five teams being represented in those two year groups. Our girls' teams have recorded impressive victories over Uppingham, King's Ely, Wisbech, Bromsgrove and Stowe, and at the time of writing this, our U18's find themselves in the national quarter-finals where they will be playing Malvern.

On the boys' side of things, we have had some very competitive and close block fixtures against Stamford, Rugby and Stowe so far, with honours about even across the board. Our 1st XI have been going from strength to strength after a tricky first few fixtures and are gelling nicely as a squad. We unfortunately lost to a good Stamford outfit in the second round of the U17 cup after comfortably beating Uppingham in the first round and narrowly lost by five runs to The Leys in the national T20 cup. We look forward to block fixtures against Norwich, Haileybury and Oakham in the second half of term before travelling to St John's, Leatherhead for a 1st XI festival along with Abingdon and Brentwood.

### Netball

The netball season started during Michaelmas Term, where the 1st, U16A and U14A compete in the National Schools county rounds. All three squads qualified for the regional finals in January.

Sienna Rushton (Sn) was again selected to represent England at U19 level, along with playing for the Vitality Netball Super League franchise Wasps, at U19 and U21 age groups. Her contribution to the U21 resulted in the squad being unbeaten and winning the league for 2019.

The netball club put out as many as twenty-six teams across all year groups, and the U15 age group had A to G teams which was a fantastic number of pupils engaging in the sport. During the season the U15, U12 and U13 teams also entered the county tournaments, all hosted by Oundle School, with the U15 team coming a respectable 2nd and both U12 and U13 finishing 5th in their age groups.

The School entered (for the second year) the ISNL (Independent Schools Netball League) for this area, and our first block was against Repton, with senior teams travelling away. The first team, led by Hannah Wakeford (Sn) and Ella Johnsrud (Sn) played their match in Repton's superb new sports hall, and came away victorious.

The finals this year were held again on Exeat weekend, but with the parents' and Schools support we took the 1st team, U16A and U14A to Leicester Soar Valley. All teams fought hard during the preliminary rounds, unfortunately they all finished in 3rd place thus playing off for 5th and 6th place overall

Inter-House ran competitions on the last Thursday of term, where the weather was kind to us, although a little chilly. All houses were out in full voice and colours, and as always this provided a lovely atmosphere for us to see some fantastic team netball played. There was an incredible show of House camaraderie and sportsmanship but the eventual winners were Kirkeby (seniors), Wyatt (U15) and Laxton (U14).

The final Saturday was a showcase of netball with a full block fixture against Rugby and a triangular versus Sedburgh for the 1st, 2nd, U16A, U15A and U14A teams. A fabulous end to a very busy netball season.

### Girls' Tennis

Girls' tennis has continued to be a very popular summer sport option, with 200 girls playing each week. Of these, nearly one hundred have competed for the School in fixtures against schools both near and further afield. The first half of term saw some rather unseasonal weather including strong winds and driving rain, which made playing conditions interesting. But the girls persevered and over the same period achieved thirty-two wins out of forty-two matches played. The U15 and U14 teams played particularly well, winning every single one of their matches, many by some considerable margin. The seniors had a mixed season, with some good competitive tennis and convincing victories against Haileybury and Stamford, and narrow defeats against Rugby and Stowe. Particular mention should go to Pippa Bourne (L) who has played in the 1st team for the last four years, and



who has been a great captain in her final year at Oundle. The upcoming L6 have been enthusiastic at taking up the mantle as the U6 have focused on their exams, and this bodes well for the future of the club next year.

### Boys' Tennis

It has been another fine year for the boys' tennis club with impressive wins over The Leys, Haileybury and Stowe and a narrow loss to Rugby, who are traditionally the strongest team on our circuit. The School again took twenty-two pupils to Girona, Spain for five days of intensive pre-season training on the clay courts and this certainly set the pupils up well for the coming season. A superb example has been set in training and matches by the captain, Gordon Lin (C), who has had his fifth season training in the senior squad and fourth season representing the 1st VI. It has been a young 1st team with two Fourth formers and one Fifth former also playing regularly in the squad and this all bodes well for the future. The additional professional coaching which the boys have received this year from our visiting coaches has been first-rate, and the vast majority have bought into the ethos and aims of the club in training and in matches, with levels and standards clearly rising.

### Football

Football has continued to go from strength to strength. Over 125 pupils have participated in the sport during the Michaelmas extra training and Lent Term, and as a club we won well over half our fixtures. 127 goals were scored across forty-seven competitive games. The 1st XI were capably led by Miles Seymour (StA) and Lucas Nabarro (C) – and these two boys have worked hard to help shape the positive identity of the sport and support the younger players. Joseph Barker (Sc) has put in some admirable performances in goal for the 1XI too. Our strongest team in the club were the 2XI remaining undefeated all season – and the most exceptional performance must be the header from Artem Fakhretidinov (Ldr) during the fixture against The Leys. The Colts and Junior Colts had a good season, with plenty of talent promise for future years. The club is looking to grow a third Junior Colts team next year with demand for the sport increasing.

## Girls' Football

The Girls' Football team had a successful second season. The team remained unbeaten with wins over Uppingham, Oakham and Stamford, and a creditable draw versus Repton. The team was expertly captained by Flora Stocks (W). Other standout performers included Amy Ratcliffe (L), Beatrice Wells (L) and Zoe Onyett (W). Girls' football continue to grow in popularity at Oundle.



## Swimming

This has been good year of achievements for the swimmers. They have achieved an amazing 409 personal best, 25 School records have been broken. A special mention must be made to Melvyn Richards (Cx) 3rd, he has broken five school records and Austin Shum 1st (By) has broken seven school records.

This year's 24 hours swim in aid of the Alzheimer's Research UK raised over £1000.

I would like to thank the Captains for all their hard work.

## Sailing Club

The Sailing Club has had a moderately successful year. The Michaelmas Term provided many challenging days, and we regularly managed to get out on the water with winds right at the top of our allowable wind-range, and had no cancelled sessions all term. This gave the sailors much practice in strong winds, with some fun and rewarding training sessions despite the cold and damp. Towards the end of the term, we were using spinnakers in really quite strong winds, preparing our sailors for things to come when we start sailing skiffs. We fitted in a number of matches against local schools and the BSDRA Midlands regatta, with some pleasing results. The Summer Term has been much less satisfactory in terms of weather. We have had either very light, or very strong winds on many occasions, meaning that a number of sessions have had to be cancelled. However, early in the term we had an enjoyable six-way match with teams from Rugby, Solihull and Oundle, which our A team won. At the BSDRA Easterns at Rutland the team had some success against strong competition in challenging conditions, whilst the newer sailors in the group have been introduced to racing and have been improving their skills on and off the water.

## Cross-Country

The Cross-Country club had a successful season with a number of individual achievements in the English Cross Country Championships as well as good performances in the local independent schools league. Thirteen Oundelians represented Northamptonshire at the Anglian Trophy with five pupils making it all the way to Nationals Schools in Leeds at the end of term. After the last of 7 league races the girls' team brought silver medals home, a great achievement given the fact that some of the best School runners represented the county instead of the School on most of the league races. The boys had a good season and faced very strong opposition, finally pushing 3rd overall after a few years of 4th place. The team as a whole showed great commitment and spirit throughout the season and this showed in the brilliant match reports written this season.

Freya Neame (W) and Oscar Salvesen (Ldr) were winners of the senior Whole School XC races, the Fisher Brothers prize, recently created by Bill Fisher (B75). Laundimer and Sanderson won the overall trophy. Scott House won both First and Second Form races, Laxton won both Junior races, Laundimer and Sanderson won the Intermediate races, while Laundimer and Wyatt won the Senior races.

Most pupils displayed a great House spirit and approached the challenge in a positive way. For the second year running, staff participation was high and I hope pupils found inspiration in seeing their teachers, tutors, coaches and matrons join in. A special mention must go to Archie Parkinson (L), who not only won the Intermediate race, but also asked to guest in the Senior race and came first as well.

## Squash

As ever, both squash terms were busy ones, with overall results pleasing and significant improvement made by so many pupils.

In the Michaelmas Term, the Boys 1st V, captained by James Simpson-Dent (Sc) managed a winning season with six victories and four losses, but a failure to capitalise on some winning opportunities led to a few defeats being 'snatched from the jaws of victory'! Happily, strength in depth resulted in the 2nd V winning all their matches, and a very able U16 team showing much promise. Given the usual struggle (with many players moving to other sports after Christmas), the boys' 1st V enjoyed one of their more successful Lent Terms in recent years under the enthusiastic leadership of Tom Baker-Cresswell (Ldr), with six wins and two losses. Throughout the year, Teanna Puthuchearry (W) led a capable girls' 1st V with determination and by example. Catherine Swanston (Sn) maintained her very high standards at number one, despite her full-time commitment to other sports. As always, it is regretted that the girls' fixture list remains rather limited, but, when at full strength in the Lent Term, the team gave an excellent account of themselves, with home-and-away wins against Uppingham, and narrow 2-3 losses against Oakham. A number of our beginners were 'thrown in at the deep end' in 2nd V fixtures, but invaluable match

experience was gained in the process.

Squash colours were awarded to Teanna Puthuchearry and Ella Foreman, with School House and Wyatt House winning the boys' and girls' inter-House competitions respectively. The Carol Abbott trophy for the most improved player was deservedly won by Ella Foreman

## Badminton

This year saw the first badminton electives, and it was brilliant to see the younger students throwing themselves into the sport. This practice enabled us to enter KS3 teams into the national Schools Championship for the first time. The Girls (Daphne Ngan (N), Pearl Potluri (Sn), Season Fung (By), Unne Fung (By), Khayali Kanabar (Sco)) performed superbly well winning the county round and then acquitting themselves exceptionally well in the regional finals last week. Dawn Ngan (By) performed superbly only narrowly losing to a girl who is ranked sixty-five (all ages) in the country and winning all her other singles games. Pearl also won games against established county players. They ended up joint second, losing out on a medal on games difference. Not bad for a first attempt, and with all but Pearl eligible for the same age group next year we are hopeful that they can reach the same stage better. Both Dawn and Pearl have represented the first team throughout the year, winning the majority of their matches too. Dawn has also represented Northamptonshire at U16 and is their most successful player this year. Mentions should also be made to Chon Tanchotikul (By) and Sanjay Ashwin (Lx) who are also members of the county squad.

Daphne Ngan has continued to represent the School with distinction, playing as first Man in the team this year and still winning most of her games. She has also represented the senior county team winning several games against other counties as well as winning the Senior and U19 county singles title this year. It has been pleasing to see some good potential players coming through, too. Ben Cadell (C), David Gazaryan(C), Millicent Riordan (Lx), Ginny Jong(K) and Stephanie Shen (K) have all represented the second team with distinction with Ben, David and Millicent winning all of their games.

The teams this year led by Brian Cheng (C) and Katharine Spurrier (W) have performed well but narrowly lost out to a very strong Uppingham in the local league. We did manage to draw games against them but lost out narrowly at both 1st and 2nd team level. Credit to Katharine who has been unable to play due to illness since Christmas, but has still organised matches, helped to run the badminton elective and organised the all-important team dinner. Brian became U19 county champion this year, and was joined by Eugene Lau (St A), Krit Pichedvanichok (StA), Ian Chung (StA) in the county elite squad. Kay Yip (W) has an been ever-present member of the 1st team, and Conrad Hilton (C) has been an excellent ambassador for the sport, helping out coaching newer players and giving his all in his games, gaining a reputation for full-length slides across the court in his efforts to retrieve the shuttle. He must have worn out several pairs of tracksuit bottoms!

## Athletics

With a new athletics track and a record 136 pupils signed up this year, the athletics squad were set for a fine season, commendably led by Toby Dixon Smith (G) and Antonia Simpson (N). Thanks to enthusiastic and experienced staff, pupils trained hard in the weeks leading up to meets at Bromsgrove, Oakham, Rugby, Oundle and Uppingham. Even though there were times when pupils competed in less preferred events, pupils always gave their best effort as they recognised that competing meant more points for the School, such as the teamwork of the group.

Sports Day was the most captivating and enthralling event in the athletics calendar, and almost every pupil in School participated in at least one event. The afternoon coincided with the official opening of the track by OO and former CEO of Sony, Sir Howard Stringer. Innovative events such as the Medley Relay, the 1500m Drop Out, and the Dreilauf were introduced by Mr JR Ingle and the excitement of these events was enjoyed by all due to tactical challenges that they posed to all the Houses involved.

Notable mentions go to those who broke School records on Sports Day;

U15 Triple Jump – Coleman Sham (Sc) 10.76m  
U17 300m – Matilda Somerville-Cotton (L) 42.40s  
U17 100m – Archie Thorpe (L) 11.20s  
U20 100m – Eldad Eradiri (N) 12.50s

## Boat Club and Rowing

The Boat Club has not only been making waves on the water this year but across the whole School. The year started off with the Senior squad returning to single sculls, going back to rowing fundamentals and skill development which led to vast improvements in the Michaelmas Terms performances where the Boat club saw wins at Newark and St Neots Head of the Rivers.



The Lent Term saw the introduction of the Inter-House Indoor Rowing competition where over 750 pupils took part on a snowy Tuesday afternoon in January. Kirkeby and Laxton boys were successful in winning the overall House competitions on the day with many new personal bests achieved and School leading times being set.

The indoor event put the rowers into a great position in preparation for attending the National Schools Scullery, Northampton and Peterborough events where wins were had by many crews. The Boat Club has been under excellent leadership over the year, with captains Holly Kunzer (N) and Henry Stringer (Sc) taking the reins and showing great enthusiasm, support, guidance and sharing of experiences and wisdom to the younger rowers. We will be sad to say goodbye to Mr T Cowley at the end of this term, as he has been involved in the Boat Club for over twenty years. We appreciate his support and expertise in developing rowers from grass roots up to international representation. The year will be coming to an end with the Boat Club attending both Star and York regattas in the Summer Term, with the entire Boat Club racing and representing the School. This academic year has seen many changes at the Boat Club; the rowers' training programmes and activities, whole Club events at the boathouse and upcoming developments to the welfare facilities at both boathouses over the coming months.

#### Water Polo

Water polo has shown a great improvement, with the team demonstrating commitment and determination. The top goal scorer of the year is Ben Hampden Smith (B). The team has been led very well by the captains.

#### Fives

The Fives season has spread across both Michaelmas and Lent Terms. With twelve new (and very competitive) Fifth Formers playing in the Michaelmas Term and some more in the Lent Term, we have potential for a very competitive squad of team players over the next two seasons. The phase of developing team players over the last eighteen months has been very productive, and though the match statistics for this season read only two wins out of eight they do not reflect the number of very close fixtures that were narrow losses. Most importantly the game has been played as Fives is meant to be played – strategically and honourably! The recent House doubles competition was a very good example of this with Laxton (Crawley and Hollund) taking the title.

#### Junior Games

This year has seen large developments in junior Boys sport with progress across all three sports. The boys have all had moments where they were confident, creative and courageous. Boys who've previously never played the sport have shown progression and a willingness to learn. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of this year been the sportsmanship shown regardless of the result. Sport is a great tool for pupils to build friendships and this has been evident across all the teams.

This year has bought new rivalries within the school as shown with the inaugural house matches between Scott vs Berrystead. House Sport has been played in good spirit, competitive and saw boys express themselves well whilst maintaining a high level of Sportsmanship.

Congratulations to Thomas Kemp and Joseph Hancock who've both been selected for County and District Hockey and Cricket teams and to Will Chapman who has been selected for the Northampton Saints Developing Player Programme.

The Junior girls have had a fantastic year trying their hands at a wide variety of different sports. The Girls have competed in hockey, netball, tennis and cricket whilst a handful of girls had the chance to opt for rowing. This is the first year that girls have been able to have rowing as an option in junior sport. For many girls this is their first experience of these sports and a massive credit goes to them for the willingness and eagerness to learn and represent the school in competitive fixtures.

Everyone has shown immense improvement throughout the different terms of sport. Although important; the girls characters have also been developed through acts of creativeness and courageousness in each session. The girls confidence has grown throughout the year and many friendships have blossomed. A mention should go to Rosie Baker although who has been injured for the most the year has come to every fixture to support her peers. A congratulations should also go to Rosie for representing county hockey and county netball.

Whilst Oundle is very busy many girls have also given time to train outside of school. A massive congratulations should go to: Ava Brammer, Milly Hamilton-Charlton, Camila Spencer, Evie Park, Georgie Locke, Grace Ford, Iona Morgan, Lily Obagi, Strom Rieck-Boscawen and Coco Lanni for competing in county hockey.

It is an exciting time for Oundle School Sport and congratulations to everyone involved.



## Building Developments and New Facilities

#### Estates

It has been another busy year across the estate. The year commenced with the completion and opening of Scott House, the new day House for First and Second Forms. This facility was created through linking the Berrystead Wedge with the former Psychology department building. Sir David Attenborough opened the building in September 2018.

Work has progressed with the construction of the new Sports Centre building. Previously hidden behind the hoarding that surrounds the site, the structure is now rising above it and the full scale of the project is becoming increasingly evident. The new building will provide a 50m swimming pool, with submersible boom and floating floor. There is an eight-court hall, which will be available for multiple sports. There will also be retractable seating along one wall and this will enable whole-School assemblies for the first time in generations. On the first floor there will be a fitness suite with a capacity for seventy workout stations. There will be a dedicated dance studio, and three additional studios with folding walls that can make a large open space overlooking the playing fields; these will be used for sports hospitality. This facility will be completed and open for use in spring 2020 and will complement the existing Sports Centre building, as well as the other outdoor sports provision.

Work has commenced to convert additional space in the Cobthorne Stables. The reconfigured building will provide office space to accommodate the Marketing team as well as the School's archives. These link well with the OO Society and Foundation activities, which are housed in the Cobthorne Stables. The conversion of this building will be completed before Christmas this year.

The athletics track and pavilion have been completed and are now being used regularly. The first Sports Day on this new facility took place on Friday 24 May, when it was formally opened by Sir Howard Stringer, who has been a generous donor to the Sports MasterPlan.

#### Sports MasterPlan

The Sports MasterPlan continues to progress. We look forward to Nick Beasant, our new Director of Sport, joining us in September and continuing to develop the School's sporting vision which is at the heart of the development.

Much has been achieved this year, not least the opening of the new Athletics Track. The new style Sports Day was a fitting celebration and it was a pleasure to see so many pupils competing in various events over the course of the afternoon.

The new Sports Centre is now rising impressively above the hoarding and is starting to take shape. The vision of how the whole sports campus comes together with the Sports Centre at its heart is now becoming much clearer and the aspect of the balcony over to the JM Mills Pavilion is impressive.

The coming months, ahead of the full opening in Spring 2020, will see the start of a co-ordinated marketing campaign to promote membership of the Sports Centre. The School remains committed to ensuring that the Sports Centre, built first and foremost for our pupils, will also offer a commercial programme that will broaden access to sporting and leisure opportunity for the local community, whilst helping ultimately to offset the running costs of such a facility.

More details on the development will be made available to the School community next term.



The new Fitness Suite



The new 50m Swimming Pool

## Oundle Society

The Oundle Society and Oundle School Foundation have once again supported a large number of diverse events, both around the UK and across the globe. The School has been humbled once again to receive substantial donations in excess of £1.5m, in support of the new Sports Centre, bursaries, and other projects which enrich our School. Notable amongst these was the beautiful new Chapel cross, commissioned and donated by Harry Williamson (StA, 55) which is a wonderful focal point on

## The Archive

The planning and setting up of the World War One Commemoration Exhibition, *Here am I send me*, made sure that the start of the Archive year was a busy one. For over a week the Yarrow Gallery was full of archival memories, stories, photographs and artefacts from the War. All the exhibits were connected to the School or Oundle town. The Yarrow recorded its highest number of external visitors and it was also well supported by Old Oundelians, members of staff, pupils, individual History classes and other School groups. The feedback was very positive and it was felt that it was a fitting tribute to commemorate the Oundle boys and men who fought and died in the War

Cataloguing of the collection is ongoing, as are the numerous requests for information that have been sent into the Archive. Over 250 enquiries have been logged this year and some very interesting facts about pupils or the School way of life have been uncovered along the way.

The sales of the Sir Peter Scott Charity Notecards have been popular and it has been possible to send a second donation from the proceeds to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and to the Bursary Fund. Another highlight in the Archive calendar is the Second Form Culture Week. This year a workshop featuring the 1960s pupil publication, *Frame* proved to be popular.

Presentations of vintage photographs have also featured at a 660 Club afternoon, A Grand Day Out and the Oundle Lecture. Displays of historical facts, photographs and memorabilia can be seen in the foyer of SciTec, Scott House and outside the Archive office. Archive material has also been used by local businesses and the Oundle Museum for their displays, the latest being the Vintage Festival held in May.

This year we are delighted to be the hosts for the School Archivists' Group Annual Conference, with over eighty Schools represented. A day of talks will be held in the Great Hall and tours will be arranged to explore the historical delights of the School Chapel, the Cloisters and a joint Library and Archive display in the Cripps Library.

what had been a largely unadorned altar, since the loss of the previous cross in the 1960s. Renovation work has also commenced to the Society's base in the Cobthorne Stables, which will provide a home for the Foundation, the OO Club, the Marketing department and the School Archive from early in the next academic year. It will be a welcoming place for any and all members of the Oundle community, visiting any of those departments.

## Old Oundelian Club

The Old Oundelian Club's primary object of fostering 'union and good fellowship among Old Oundelians' has continued to be fulfilled this year. The largest OO gathering of the year, the annual London dinner, took place at Lord's Cricket Ground in November under the stewardship of our President, Richard Ellis (Sn 86) and attracted almost 200 OOs.

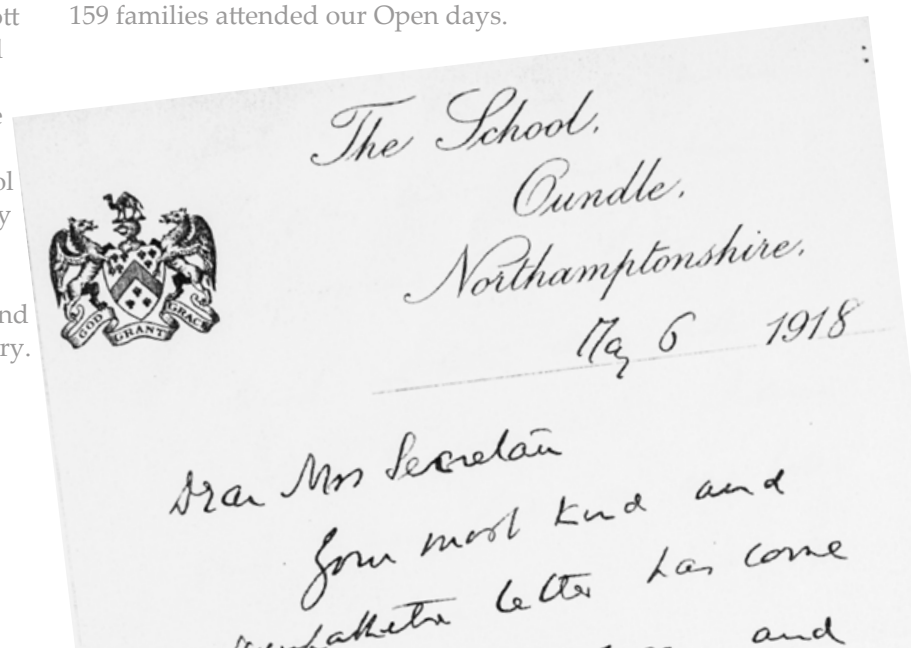
Other events this academic year have included the West Sussex dinner, the Over-60s' lunch and the OO Sports Lunch.

The Multisports Weekend, at which OOs play against pupils from the School in various sports, continues to be a big draw with many Old Oundelians returning to Oundle to take part in rugby, football, tennis and other sports. This year resulted in an overall win for the School, which retains the trophy.

To commemorate the sacrifice of Old Oundelians and staff who gave their lives in the First World War, the OO Club has donated a bell to be installed in the bell tower of the Chapel. This will be dedicated at the Remembrance Day service in November 2019.

## Open Days and Visits

Interest from prospective parents remains high from all over the UK and beyond. This academic year, the admissions office has welcomed 633 individual visits which is the highest annual figure on record. In addition, 159 families attended our Open days.



## Laxton Junior School

It has been a sensational year at Laxton Junior School, during which we enjoyed some spectacular moments and have continued to improve the opportunities and outcomes that are available to our children. Embedding the community-inspired vision and values work from 2017/18 has been an essential part of the academic year, with a new strategic plan shaping our developmental direction and a range of initiatives designed to immerse our community in the language and behaviours of our School values. Major changes this year exemplified our determination to be a forward-thinking School that is not afraid to challenge the status quo. In conjunction with Oundle School, the first group of Year Six children were able to pass from Laxton Junior School into the Senior School without having to sit an entrance exam in January; our assessment data and in-depth knowledge of each child supported the decision-making process. Also, for the first time, we have offered girls and boys a choice of sport this year; options are no longer bound by a traditional view of which opportunities relate to each gender and our children are now empowered to learn, play and compete in their preferred, rather than designated, sport. This year has seen the introduction of a number

of brand new and hugely engaging projects. The Community Partnerships Scheme has seen children and staff collaborate and interact with peers from a number of local schools, through cross-school events, the OPEN Learning Partnership and shared professional development. An exciting outdoor learning experience has been developed, also, which will support children's learning beyond the classroom, and will provide opportunity in some amazing new directions! We will be saying farewell to a number of our staff as the year draws to a close: Mrs Janet McFadyen, Deputy Head; Mrs Sarah Newman, Assistant Director of Music; Miss Jessica Williams, EYFS Teaching Assistant; and Mrs Jane Ingram, Griffin Club Supervisor. To the School, we welcome Miss Stacey Crump, our new Deputy Head, from the British International School of Washington; and Miss Eleanor Farquhar, arriving as English Lead and Year Two Teacher. There can be no doubt that the future continues to be enormously bright for Laxton Junior School and we look forward to another exciting and progressive year in 2019/20!

Mr Sam Robertson, Head of Laxton Junior School

## Final Word from the Head

I hope this wonderful publication has given you all more than a glimpse of your children's life at Oundle. We are fortunate in our pupils, as are they in the opportunities they embrace. Very little would happen without the utter commitment of teaching and support staff to our

pupils' education, however, and I should therefore like to close this Speech Day Report by thanking them all for everything they do.

*Samuel Kenline*





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