

WHITGIFT LIFE

MICHAELMAS 2020



Virtual success

Whitgift's very first Virtual Graduation event An incredible performance of Fantastic Mr Fox **Whitgift Chamber Choir** unites community in song A perspective from the NHS Front Line **Commemorating 20 years of Primary Project OW** and Indy 500 race winner returns to Whitgift and more inside...

Commemorating 20 years of Whitgift Primary Project

Whitgift Primary Project has been running for 20 years, and in that time over 25,000 pupils from local primary schools have attended a week of classes at the School. The Primary Project consists of an exciting week of lessons and activities, all acting as an opportunity to ignite further passion for learning in the students who attend. The visiting pupils are taught by Whitgift teachers and also have the chance to interact with Junior

Years pupils, who act as fantastic role models. The main focus of the week is on developing skills in Computing, through coding, robotics and animation software. In addition pupils receive stimulating lessons in Science, Music, Languages and Sport.

Director of Partnerships and Community, Mr Marlow commented, "We are pleased to be celebrating 20 years of this project and to have developed

strong relationships with local Headteachers who provide us with insight about how the programme can be adapted to best meet their student's needs."

He added, "We have reached out to a number of local schools for the 2020/21 academic year. Circumstances permitting, we're hoping to host a further 1,000 Year 5 pupils from around

30 primary schools in the London Borough of Croydon."

For many pupils, this is one of the highlights of their year, and one which is eagerly anticipated by pupils and staff alike.



'An exciting week of lessons and activities'



Academic Enrichment programme goes virtual

Whitgift's Academic Enrichment programme continued during the lockdown period through an exciting series of virtual seminars delivered by teachers on topics which fascinated them. The series had two goals; to enable students to encounter new ideas and to challenge them with those ideas.

Virtual seminars covered a broad range of interesting topics such as *The Philosophy of Mathematics*, *The Modernist Dilemma*, *Beginning Arabic* and *A Practical Introduction to Jazz*.



Head of Academic Enrichment, Mr Piggott, also organised numerous enrichment challenges including the Prism Prize where students were tasked with answering the question 'What is hope to you?' in any way that inspires them – in words, in paint, in performance etc.

The winners were:

Riley Thomas (Lower First) – *Painting*
Ethan Gilbert (First Form) – *Piano Composition*
Tom Bennet (Form 2) – *Writing*
Tom Peterson (Form 3) – *Painting*
Gilbert Wright (Form 3) – *Writing*
Yasser Hassan (Lower Sixth) – *Writing*

Shine School Media Awards – Whitonomics

From the start of the academic year, a team of Lower Sixth Form students challenged themselves to create a student-led magazine. They carried out all the writing, editing, artwork and design with the guidance of Economic & Business Studies Teacher, Mr Al-Hasso.

Editor-in-Chief, Ryan Ho explained, "Putting together this year's edition of *Whitonomics* was a challenging but rewarding experience. I had the pleasure of working with a diverse and creative team, and would like to thank Mr Al-Hasso for his invaluable guidance during the process."

The magazine was entered into the Shine School Media Awards 2020, and their hard work was rewarded with the following accolades:

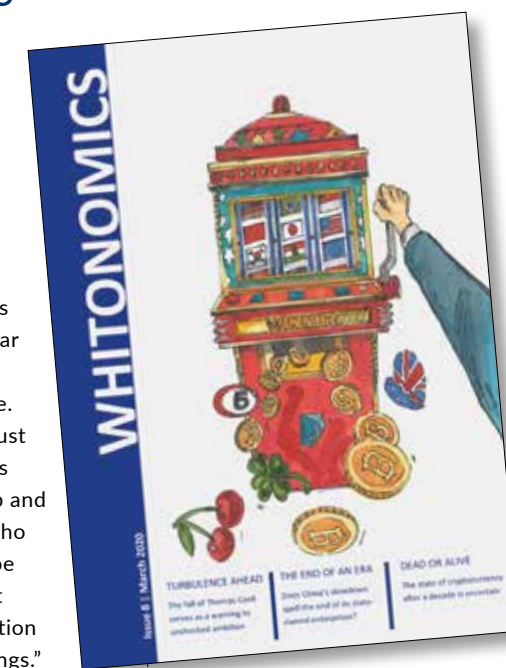
Best Magazine Cover – Highly Commended

Best Illustration and Artwork – Runner Up for "Whitonomics Jackpot" by William Hughes

Best Stand-Alone Piece – Highly Commended for "The end of an era – Does China's slowdown spell the end of its state-owned enterprises?" by Ryan Ho

Best Magazine – Highly Commended

Mr Al-Hasso summarised, "This is truly an outstanding achievement from this year's team of students. Achieving commendations and runner-up in multiple categories is incredible, as this year the competition was exceptionally intense. A huge thank you must go to Ryan Ho for his incredible leadership and to the entire team who contributed. We hope they inspire the next *Whitonomics* production team on to great things."



A virtual Celebration of Whitgift Life 2020



Headmaster, Mr Chris Ramsey, opened this unique celebration, live from the School site at 3pm on 3 July 2020. Almost 700 devices were tuned in during the 30 minute celebration, the first ever live streamed Celebration of Whitgift Life in the School's history. The students who were on site, Lower First Form and some of the Fourth and Lower Sixth Formers, all tuned in from their venues around the School.

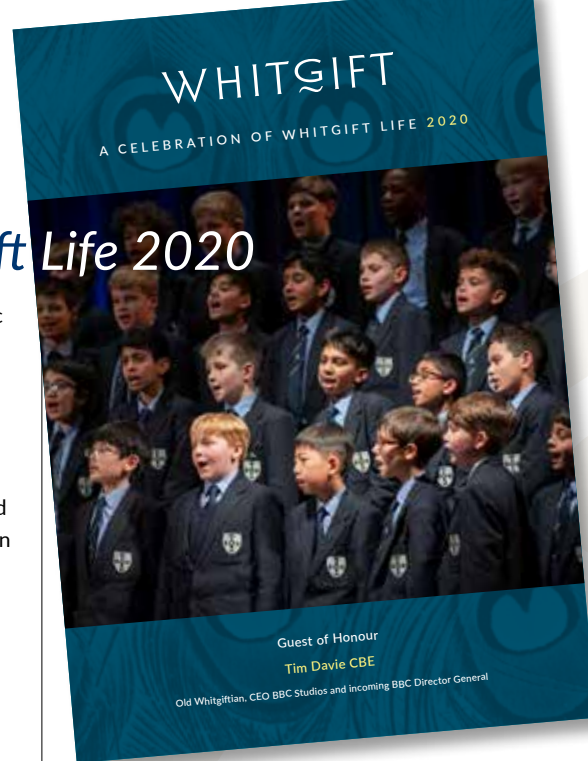
Instead of returning to the School in person as is usual for the Celebration of Whitgift Life's Guest of Honour, Tim Davie CBE - Old Whitgiftian and BBC Director General - prerecorded a 10 minute message from Television Centre for this year's live streamed celebration.

Over 500 prizes were allocated, and each was a surprise as none of the prize winners knew about their awards until the live event. It was a fitting end to a unique year, and despite it being shorter than the usual event, it captured as much of the same sense of occasion as was possible remotely.

The event recognised academic attainment and progress of students in all year groups and subject areas, including House Awards and Co-curricular Achievements. Heads of Year rewarded students for all-round engagement and commitment in their cohort.

The celebration of Whitgift sporting achievements was a story of two halves: pre lockdown Rugby, Football and Hockey match highlights followed by a montage of home videos sent in by students, showing back garden skills practice challenges that kept students engaged and active during over 100+ days of digital learning.

The adapted Co-curricular programme continued once the School community switched to remoting teaching and learning on 23 March. The Whitgift Soul Choir's recording of *Lean on me* provided an apt soundtrack to a compilation of memorable moments from 'School Life in Lockdown' including highlights from Microsoft Teams lessons, student presentations for the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), Academic Enrichment online seminars, virtual House competitions in Art, Music and Drama; online



choir performances, remote assemblies, mask production for the NHS, food deliveries to local schools and more.

While much of the occasion was recorded in advance, the Headmaster was live on YouTube throughout the 30 minute event to reflect on the extraordinary year and recognise the exceptional achievements of students.

The celebration traditionally closed with a message from the new School Captain, Gus Bradford and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.



'It was a fitting end to a unique year'

Sixth Form Virtual Graduation

Despite a challenging few months for the Upper Sixth, (since school closure and the cancellation of exams) they have all displayed incredible patience and resilience during an exceptionally demanding period in their lives. After finishing their respective courses, they completed a Pre-University Enrichment programme which provided them with an early insight into university study and the various requirements of their chosen undergraduate degrees.

In July 2020, the School was pleased to offer Sixth Formers the opportunity to tune in to Whitgift's very first Virtual Graduation event, celebrating their individual and collective

achievements over their school journey. The event marked a major milestone in their lives - the passage from school to the outside world, and to all the challenges and great opportunities that lay beyond Whitgift.

Prior to the pre-recorded Graduation ceremony, Mr Burnside (Head of Sixth Form), Mrs Bedford (Head of Upper Sixth Form) and Dr Mansfield (Deputy Head of Upper Sixth Form) delivered yearbooks and leaver's hoodies to the local Upper Sixth Formers while others received theirs by post. Mrs Bedford commented, "Everyone at Whitgift wishes this remarkable cohort the very best for their next steps. Congratulations!"



'The event marked a major milestone in their lives'

**GRADUATION
2020**





Whitgift students and staff demonstrate their community-mindedness

Whitgift's 'think global, act local' philosophy encourages students to explore and support causes that are personally meaningful to them and over the past year they have dedicated over 3,500 hours to volunteering*.

As the Covid-19 pandemic began impacting the local community, Whitgift students and staff embraced this ethos and volunteered in large numbers to support the NHS and organisations in Croydon and the surrounding areas, using their skills and time to make a difference.

Many students used their talents to fundraise: School Captain Zain Peerbhoy became a vegan for a month and cycled the equivalent distance of Whitgift to Paris while Fifth Former Myles Alcindor set up the 2.6 Basketball challenge – to get 26 balls made from socks into a basket from 2.6 metres! First Former Hugo Ong-Seng and his younger brother joined an initiative in Wimbledon, baking and delivering muffins to keyworkers in the area and



Third Former Louis Hammond completed a 10 km run in just 51 minutes. Many students also wrote thoughtful letters to care home residents which were very gratefully received.

After goggles and equipment were donated to the NHS, the School's 3D printers were used to make the parts for visors, following a design by Mr Wendes (Design, Technology & Engineering), which were then assembled by staff volunteers



'Many students used their talents to fundraise'

and delivered locally to hospitals and GP practices. "Over 3,000 had been produced by mid-April", stated Mr Marlow, Whitgift's Director of Partnerships and Community. "The School's fleet of minibuses, driven also by staff

volunteers, delivered meals to local schools, distributed supplies from food banks to vulnerable residents and provided transport to and from care homes for key workers."

*Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, volunteer service participants 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.



Whitgift community – letter from the Headmaster

10 June 2020

Dear students,

Until now I have hesitated to make any public comment in the wake of powerful protests following the appalling death of George Floyd in America. However, there is a strong view that not to express our community opposition to racism at such a time means to 'turn a blind eye'. Since the Whitgift community is as racially, ethnically, and socially diverse as you can get in an independent school, that would be wrong.

I was glad to be present, alongside around 80 students and staff, at a (virtual) meeting of the Whitgift Afro Caribbean Society yesterday. The meeting discussed recent events in the light of what race means to those present. I want to commend Mr Powell, Miss Williams and those Whitgiftians who spoke at the meeting for what was a measured, deeply felt and courteous discussion. I want to highlight one contributor especially, who asked 'what can regular people like us do to prevent that kind of thing happening again?'

There are many possible answers to that question, including some of the ideas suggested by black students in recent letters to the press, and petitions to schools and governments. We need to listen to, and consider these, and I undertake to do so. That will take time, but while we do so, I publicly repeat what all leaders of organisations should, that every student and member of staff at Whitgift should be respected for who they are, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or background, and that we will not tolerate open or covert discrimination.

For us to look deeper in to creating a culture where we celebrate our differences and tackle unconscious bias, everyone has a role to play in sharing their experiences, good or not so good. If you have anything you wish to share or discuss concerning the matters above, your Tutor or Year Group Team are always available. Myself and members of the Senior Management Team are also here, so please do approach us.

Together we can make our school the very best it can be, for you as current students, and for the generations of Whitgiftians that will follow.

My best wishes to you all.

Chris Rowley

Headmaster

Home Learning Initiatives

HomeHack course leads to innovative ideas from Second Formers

In June, the whole of the Second Form participated in a three-day virtual entrepreneurship course, *Homehack*. The course is part of IGNITE, the Independent Research module, and was delivered by an external company called 7 Billion Ideas. The organisation provides students with the opportunity to turn a homegrown idea into a world changing product.



Group coaching with students from New York

At the beginning of Trinity Term, Whitgift started a coaching partnership with Riverdale Country School, a co-ed private school in the Bronx, New York. Weekly group coaching sessions were held between students from both schools to allow for more meaningful interactions beyond Whitgift. The sessions were tailored around topics chosen by the students, including discussions on the Covid-19 lockdown situation affecting both sides of the Atlantic.

Students were given the opportunity to connect with other pupils in a completely different country going through similar experiences.



Reflections from the NHS Front Line

Dr Barke, OW, school doctor and Orthopaedic Surgeon, reflects on the Covid-19 crisis from the front line as he is redeployed to Intensive Care.

Initially asked to work at NHS Nightingale North West in Manchester, he was pleased to receive fewer patients than Nightingale had prepared for.

Currently working in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Dr Barke reached out to his colleagues to find out how their working lives had changed as a result of the coronavirus. Responses including longer hours, higher stress levels, and disruption of normal routine were counterbalanced with positives; more efficient processing, camaraderie in the workforce and appreciation from the general public.

His biggest takeaway has been the potential of what can be achieved when 'needs must'. New working practises have been developed and implemented across all NHS hospitals. In a situation of uncertainty, healthcare workers are having to adapt quickly and are required by necessity to work out of their comfort zones.

Dr Barke summarised, "I have felt great pride in seeing my junior colleagues, many who are only a year or two out of medical school, take on responsibilities that are usually reserved for far more experienced doctors and doing so with great professionalism."

He also felt privileged to watch patients reconnect with their families (via FaceTime) after weeks of being on a ventilator,



seeing them take joy in eating for the first time in months and clapping as they are discharged from ICU. Admitting that most of his work has been upsetting, he felt fortunate to have been able to care for the dying; passing on messages to loved ones, holding hands in final moments and being there to say goodbye.

In time, non-emergency healthcare services will resume,

and Dr Barke awaits the phone call that will enable him to return to orthopaedics. Although the temptation to return to 'normality' as quickly as possible will remain, he suggests taking a moment to reflect on the positives that have been seen during this crisis, taking the opportunity to implement change that is long overdue and ensuring it remains.

Senior House activities in Lockdown

Whitgift's students enjoyed a packed programme of House activities throughout the Trinity Term, while most continued remote learning.

Over six weeks, students from Second Form to Upper Sixth Form took part in competitions made up of Art, Photography, Sculpture, Creative Writing, Drama and Music.

"I have been very impressed with the quality of the compositions and performances that have been submitted for House Music," said Mr Motley, Head of Music. "From Beethoven to Van Halen, there has been an astonishing range of talent displayed. A special mention goes to Smith's House for their moving group performance of *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, with parts recorded individually by students in their own homes, and then arranged and produced by Lower Sixth Former Daniel Munks. "It's fantastic to see our brilliant Whitgift musicians continuing to compose and perform at home," he added.

Other achievements from the competitions include the following:

- > Fourth Former Fraser Murray (Dodd's) achieved first place for his excellent rendition of Cassius' speech persuading Brutus to join the conspirators against Caesar.
- > Second Former Quentin Sauve won the photography competition for Brodie's with his montage of rainbows in windows thanking the NHS.

- > Senior sculpture winner for Smith's House was Fifth Former Tom Saba with an impressive sculpture of an owl made from cardboard boxes.
- > Third Former Reuben Karas won House Drama for Mason's with his drumming solo.
- > Fifth Former Cameron Still won House Art for Cross's.
- > Creative Writing winner for Ellis' House was Third Former Bakari Leon

- > Tate's House won the Third Form sculpture competition
- > Andrew's House won the Third Form photography competition.



- 1 Cameron Still, Fifth Form, Cross's
- 2 Smith's House
- 3 Quentin Sauve, Second Form, Brodie's
- 4 Tom Saba, Fifth Form, Smith's



Mr Fox? Fantastic!

As the first half of Lent Term drew to an end, the Lower First and First Form took Roald Dahl's tale of *Fantastic Mr Fox* to the Whitgift stage.

Before opening night, 120 pupils from local primary schools filled the PAC for the first of the three performances and the 45-minute show was packed with entertainment.

Long before the students had taken on the personas of foxes, badgers, moles and weasels, the Creatives were hard at work producing a mechanical digger, matching anything you would see in the West End, and giving the show a real WOW moment as it appeared from the side of the stage!

The cast did a great job of making every character distinctive. The audience watched apple cider-swigging Farmer Bean become increasingly deranged as he led Farmer Bunce (renowned for his goose liver donuts!) and Farmer Boggis (who smells of chickens) in his plan to stop Mr Fox stealing their ducks, chickens and turkeys once and for all!

In doing so he destroys the countryside and launches a war against nature.

The set and staging were like a layered woodland cake; cleverly placing the animals in their subterranean burrows while at the same time showing the farmers in action above ground.

The projected animations, courtesy of the Whitgift Audio Visual Department, tied together the digging and tunnelling with the world above perfectly.

Sixth Former and co-director Sam Kelly worked tirelessly with the young cast – some of whom had never appeared on stage before – who loved having an older student to learn from.

Director of Drama and English Teacher, Mr Pirrie commented, "These young actors, the youngest in our school, have worked incredibly hard for each other, and Miss Seal (Head of Lower First Form) and I are incredibly proud of them all."

Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of this production.

'The cast did a great job of making every character distinctive'



performing arts



Exam Results 2020

Congratulations to all the Whitgift students and the staff who supported them for their excellent achievements, hard work and commitment during this exceptional year.

In 2020, A Level and GCSE grades were awarded by the School following a lengthy and rigorous process. Heads of Department collated all relevant data for each student and consulted with class teachers before deciding on the most likely final grade. Senior staff moderated each Department's projections, cross-referencing against the progress of previous cohorts of Whitgift students. As a check, members of the Year Group Team who knew each of the students well, went through the list student by student to look for anomalies or inconsistencies. The grades awarded were in line with those achieved by previous cohorts of Whitgift students.

A summary of the 2020 results:

A LEVEL

98% of all grades awarded were A*-B (or Pre-U equivalent) and nearly a third of all grades were A*.

10 A Level students gained all A* grades and a further 53 achieved all A or A* grades.

IB

International Baccalaureate (IB) students achieved an average score of 39 points out of 45; matching the same average achieved over the last 3 years.

Over half of students achieved 40+ points, a feat typically achieved by only the top 10% of students worldwide. This year, one student achieved the top score of 45 points.

Whitgift is in the Top two UK's boys school for IB.

BTEC

Nine students completed the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science. All grades awarded were D or D* including five pupils gaining the maximum D*D*D*.

Eight students completed the Extended Diploma in Business. All grades awarded were again D or D* and five pupils gained the maximum D*D*D*.

GCSE

88% of all grades awarded were at 7/8/9 and 37% were awarded the top grade of 9.

14 students achieved 9s in all their entries and a further 33 achieved all 8 or 9 grades.

45 pupils completed the challenging Additional Mathematics qualification, with 29 obtaining the top grade.



Black. Lives. Matter.

The conversation is not a new one. It had its humble beginnings in the whispered debates held in the cotton fields and plantations of old. Slaves would debate their worth and value beyond the chains which had enabled the development of the modern world to be financed.

It rumbled on into the 20th century where it raised its tone to be heard in the corridors of power as old empires tried to resolve issues of bias and prejudice long engrained.

One can only hope that the events of 2020 were the final crescendo. That the conversation will now subside into determined action and change.

The Whitgift Afro-Caribbean Society was a part of the conversation. Students and staff gathered (virtually) to discuss matters of race that affect our own society. Students bravely told stories of racial profiling, harrowing thoughts and the discomfort at feeling like they straddle two worlds.

This has led to a series of actions being taken to further develop

a diverse and inclusive school environment. From INSET days, guest speakers to activities throughout the School year, it is our desire to reinforce the value and worth that our Afro-Caribbean community carries, building a more harmonious learning environment for all.

It may not have been a new conversation. But it was needed. Here at Whitgift, we welcome the opportunity to learn and grow together.

Written by Head of Fifth Form, Old Whitgiftian and founder of the Whitgift Afro-Caribbean Society (WACS), Mr Powell.



School Captain Team and New Prefects

Whitgift is pleased to introduce the 2020/21 School Captain Team: Gus (School Captain), Arjun (School Vice-Captain), Connor and James (Deputy Vice-Captains). The School Captain, aided by a team of Senior Prefects, organises the Prefect body for the fulfilment of their various duties. This includes conducting visitors around the School and issuing duty slips to students for minor instances of poor behaviour or untidy appearance around the School. We wish them the best of luck for this academic year.



performing arts



In mid-March, a cast of 10 performed the Sixth Form production 2020 over three nights in Whitgift's Performing Arts Centre.

French Without Tears is a charming comedy from the 1930s set in a 'crammer' in the South of France where five

young men, hoping for careers in the Diplomatic Service, struggle to learn French.

As they fall in (and out of) love, the play looks at society's expectations of men and in this unusual setting, follows their struggles and childlike solutions to the problems they are faced with.

Challenges that include savvy and ambitious young women.

The production is another of Whitgift's great collaborations between teachers and students, with Mr Hunt, (Head of Modern Languages & Head of Oriental Languages) taking on the part of Professor Maingot, the irascible French teacher and father of Jacqueline.

All actors delivered believable and authentic characters.

Brian with his terribly bad, but very assured mastication of French, an obvious disdain for his study of the language, and his constant pursuit of 'the green light' from willing females as he parties through life.

Naval officer Rogers is a splendid personification of British dignity

and would-be novelist Alan conceals his emotions under a layer of cynicism.

Director and English Teacher, Mr Alcock commented, "Our cast more than rose to the challenge of this play, proving Rattigan a firm advocate of the necessity of comedy and the virtue of civility." He added, "Nearly 80 years ago when the play premiered it was immediately heralded as a "masterpiece of frivolity". There is, however, a texture underneath the façade of this play which I enjoyed discovering during the rehearsal process."

Students from Old Palace of John Whitgift joined the cast for the roles of Diana and Jacqueline. Thank you to all cast and crew who made the production possible.

French Without Tears



'All actors delivered believable and authentic characters'

performing arts

Whitgift Chamber Choir unites community in song



'Rehearsing and recording during lockdown was a challenge, but it always brought a smile to my face'

The lockdown has been particularly difficult for choirs around the globe, as singers rely so much on hearing each other during rehearsals and performances. So what to do when meeting up is no longer an option? Adamant not to be beaten by Covid-19, Director of Choral Music, Dr Krippner came up with a new singing scheme which allowed our choristers and choral scholars to continue with online rehearsals – and even online performances. Sixth Form student and Minster Choral Scholar, Xabi Geering commented, "Rehearsing and recording during lockdown was a challenge, but it always brought a smile to my face. Seeing my choir mates (albeit on a computer screen) and working together as a group was great fun and made lockdown that little bit easier."

All in all, the Whitgift Chamber Choir recorded ten virtual choir performances, arranged

and collated by Dr Krippner and Mr Connery (Graduate Music Assistant and Choral Scholar). Whilst some were recordings of choral pieces (such as the famous *Ubi Caritas* by Maurice Duruflé), the choir also performed hymns to be used in services at Croydon Minster and the wider Croydon community, allowing congregations everywhere to sing along. The joy of traditional hymns sung across the aether was evident, giving particularly elderly members in Croydon (and further afield) a sense of normality during such uncertain times. Whitgift Minster Chorister, Hugo Gupta-Wright (First Form) summarised, "I think that the digital choir was a great experience for me especially as it was very fun and allowed me to continue to improve my singing. It is exciting to know singing in the Minster is not far away from now and we know that if anything like this happens again, WE CAN DO IT!"



sport

Table Tennis

In March 2020, Kai Sun You (First Form), Jacky Lee (Second Form), Ollie Maric-Murray (Fifth Form), Thomas Sullivan-Ferrarin (First Form) and David Aboagye (Second Form) became the U13 Table Tennis ETTA Schools' National Champions 2019/20. The students worked tremendously hard and have been undefeated

since starting the campaign last term. Winning 15 team matches, they became the first Whitgift side to win this prestigious and highly competitive National U13 Title. They follow in the footsteps of seven other Whitgift sides to win a National Table Tennis Team Title since 1991. Congratulations to all!



Pass it on

During lockdown, Whitgift continued to support students at home by holding weekly well-being webinars which students accessed via Microsoft Teams. There was also some fun to be had through a series of 'Pass it on' and skills challenges which helped pupils to stay active and connected. Head of Physical Education, Mr McCann commented, "Physical Education at Whitgift has evolved from

focusing on Sport to developing the holistic student. We want to ensure pupils have the

knowledge, skills, movement competencies and desire to make responsible choices that

positively impact their lifestyle, sport and most importantly, their wellbeing beyond Whitgift."



Welcome back

On Saturday 12 September 2020, the School welcomed just under 1000 pupils across all year groups to play six different sports. Well done to all those who participated and to the staff facilitating and managing additional Covid-19 secure measures to ensure safety.



From Beethoven to Oasis: House Music Competition

In February 2020, the much-anticipated House Music Competition took place. House Music Adjudicator for the evening, Mr Elsom, who at the time of the Competition was Director of Music at Wilson's School but has since joined Whitgift as the newly appointed Director of Music, commented "The boys who did well were the ones who enjoyed it". This indeed summed up the spirit of the night and is what makes the House Music Competition such a popular event each year.

Tate's performances included *A Change is Gonna Come* by Sam Cooke and *This is Me* from *The Greatest Showman*. Pianist Jerry Lin (Upper Sixth Form) played *Sonata in F minor* by Beethoven for Ellis' House in addition to their ensemble's rendition of *Valerie* by Mark Ronson and Amy Winehouse.

In the close-run contest, performances of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep* by Mason's, ELO's *Mr Blue Sky* by Brodie's and the Four Seasons' *Oh What a Night* by Cross' House also tried to secure the title and the points.

Sixth Former and Dodd's House Captain, Matthew Wilson commented, "House Music has always been my favourite time of the School year. Watching my talented peers performing as well as organising my own House's performance is always thrilling, especially when we win!"

And with a medley of Oasis songs and a duet of an extract from George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* on harmonica and piano, it was Dodd's House who lifted the cup at the end of the night.

Congratulations to everyone involved.



'The boys who did well were the ones who enjoyed it'

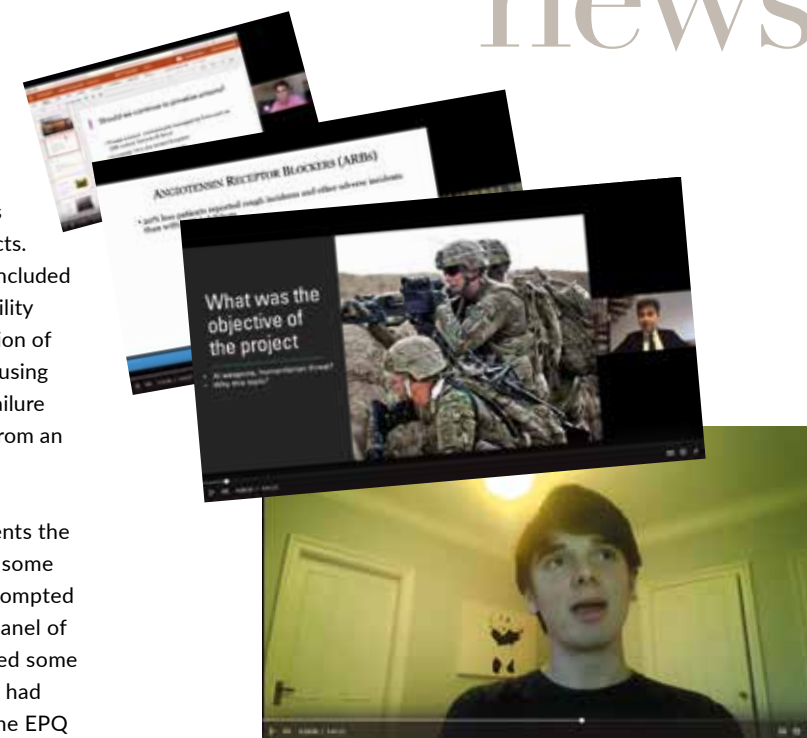
A celebration of EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a growing programme in the Whitgift Sixth Form, with almost 50 students submitting their projects in the Summer Term. This was a huge achievement, as the last few weeks of students' projects were completed during lockdown, meaning that they had to be truly self-sufficient and independent. Students even managed to record their presentations at home and send them to their supervisors for marking, making excellent use of their developing IT skills.

The EPQ programme culminated in a Celebration Evening, held as a live event on Teams, with dozens of students and their families tuning in to watch five students

deliver their presentations and talk about their projects. Topics varied widely and included Minsky's Financial Instability Hypothesis, the privatisation of UK prisons, AI weaponry, using stem cells to treat heart failure and creating a short film from an original film script.

This event gave the students the chance to get involved in some fascinating discussions prompted by the questions from a panel of senior staff, and showcased some of the fantastic work that had been produced by all of the EPQ students under very challenging circumstances. The School is incredibly proud of every one of them for getting their projects finished and for achieving some fantastic grades!



'Students had to be truly self-sufficient and independent'

Theology and Religion Essay Competition 2020

In June, Lower Sixth Former Daniel Munks was awarded first prize in the Keble College Theology and Religion Essay Competition 2020.

Daniel submitted an essay of up to 1,500 words in which he discussed the topic: 'The apparent reality of cosmic fine-tuning furnishes one of the most powerful and promising platforms for a dialogue between theology and physical cosmology'.

Cosmic fine-tuning is the observation that things/qualities in our world seem tailored to facilitate human life (if things had been slightly different, the universe wouldn't be habitable). For Christians, this might be seen as evidence of God's design, because it seems more than just a coincidence! Whereas secular physicists might find an alternative explanation, not agreeing that a God exists.

Daniel's essay explored what this notion means for religious and non-religious people, to see whether there could be any point of agreement between them. He commented, "My Theology and Philosophy teacher Mr White encouraged me to enter the competition and I was really surprised and happy when they emailed me to let me know I had won."

Keble College ran the essay competition to offer an opportunity for students to consider in more depth questions of contemporary and historical significance. Winners were chosen based on their essays being carefully researched, well-structured and well-presented, but which also reflect critical awareness and an ability to reason through an argument.

The School would like to congratulate Daniel on winning this prestigious essay competition.





Winning Race Car Owner returns to Whitgift

Old Whitgiftian and 2013 Indy 500 winner, Kevin Kalkhoven visited the School in March 2020, and reflected on the process of prepping the winning car and wanted to leave the students with the message that racing is a series of ups and downs.

A Whitgift student in 1962 with 'no idea what I wanted to do with my life', he explained to current students how his first job out of school developing computers became a passion, and with hard work and determination he was able to work his way up to being a venture capitalist at Silicon Valley.

He expressed, "You must try and learn to fail in order to succeed."

Kevin displayed his two race cars at Whitgift for the day and kindly allowed the pupils to sit in them and take photographs while he answered their questions about careers in Engineering.

The retired CEO owns the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach, Cosworth Racing and Cosworth Electronics and kindly donated his Indy 500 trophy to the Headmaster, which will be showcased proudly in the School's Design, Technology & Engineering Department.



'You must try and learn to fail in order to succeed'

Photography

Front cover: Dan Fearon

Inside: Bruce Atherton, Dan Fearon, Danny Fitzpatrick, Alex Hill

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