

WHITGIFT

LIFE

MICHAELMAS 2021



It's good to be back

Whitgift commemorates 425 years of the John Whitgift Foundation
Exquisitely played pieces in our Summer Arts Festival Points of Light
awarded by the Prime Minister to Lower First Former OW, Joe Choong
achieves Olympic Gold in the Modern Pentathlon Whitgift announced as
finalist in Independent Boys' School of the Year awards and more inside...

#WHITGIFTBEYONDTHECLASSROOM

During the last two weeks of term, Whitgift pupils engaged in a variety of stimulating learning experiences, with lessons and activities that went beyond the classroom.

Lower First and First Formers enjoyed a carousel of mask performance, circus skills and samba drumming, led by external facilitators. There were team-building activities including an Escape Room challenge and Global Citizenship Day. Other

pupils learnt to storyboard, film, and edit in a fantastic filmmaking workshop under the guidance of a leading video production agency, Chocolate Films. They all thoroughly enjoyed taking their creativity, imagination and skills to the next level.

Second Form students participated in a two-day course on Sustainable Entrepreneurship which culminated in pupils modelling an idea for an eco-initiative with the company

8billionideas, who delivered the remote course 'Home Hack' last year. It was taught using a hybrid of Zoom broadcasts, on-site external facilitators and teachers.

The two-week celebration ended with Third Formers participating in a Model United Nations on 'Vaccinating the World', while other Third Form students followed on from their Home Hack course last year, performing a pitch for a sustainable business.



*'They all thoroughly enjoyed taking their **creativity, imagination and skills** to the next level'*



FINALIST AGAIN IN 2021

We are delighted to have been announced as a finalist for Independent Boys' School of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Organised by the publishers of Independent School Parent magazine, the finalists were announced on 7 September 2021 with the winners of each category, plus the overall Independent School of the Year, to be announced at a virtual awards ceremony held on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 3pm. The judging panel is chaired by Dr Helen Wright, an international education adviser and Former President of GSA and Vice-Chair of the Independent Schools Council who is supported by a panel including Headteachers and representatives of several professional associations in the education sector.



In 2020, Whitgift was awarded the title of Independent Boys' School of the Year with "... a compelling entry that radiated the school's inclusive and collaborative values in the context of an all boys' school."



SCHOOL CAPTAIN TEAM & NEW PREFECTS

Whitgift is pleased to introduce the 2021-22 School Captain Team: Struan Fotheringham (School Captain), Max Bateup and Jack Godwin (School Vice-Captains), Haydn Rees and Joshua Tikare (Deputy Vice-Captains).

The School Captain, aided by a team of Senior Prefects, carry out various duties to support students, staff and the School overall. Some commitments include attending regular Student Council meetings, building relationships with peers and organising student events. We wish them the best of luck for this academic year.



IB MEGA COURSE

Upper Sixth IB (International Baccalaureate) students marked the end of their assessments with a two-week Post-IB Activities *#MegaCourse*. The programme consisted of six themes: Culture Club, DIY, Future Prep, Get, Social and Volunteer.

'Culture Club' incorporated crash courses in dinner party conversation proficiency and presentations from profound external speakers, including Documentary Filmmaker and Movie Fan Extraordinaire, Kiran Acharya and Private Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs to the Prime Minister (1982-1986), Tim Flesher CB. Students wishing to learn a new language were also offered a crash course in Polish with Modern Languages Teacher, Ms Young.

'DIY' activities featured independent learning, where students were tasked with challenges to take time out

of their day to show their appreciation for nature such as planting a tree, contributing to the wildflower meadow, growing vegetables, reading books outdoors or feeding birds.

Students enjoyed a wide array of 'Future Prep' sessions on topics from applying for a job to travelling the world. Mr Burnside (Director of Sixth Form), Mr Morgan (Geography Teacher) and Miss Flood (IB Administrator) gave insightful talks on their experiences of travelling to various parts of the world for extended periods of time.

The 'Get' series aimed to provide students with some of the relevant skills needed to succeed in life. Courses included a Business Management session on turnover and profit with Whitgift's Director of Finance and Operations, Mr Godwin and a financial crash course on taxes, rent, and mortgages

with Assistant Head of Higher Education, Mr Van Dort.

The 'Social' activities were a highlight for many students. From singing workshops with accomplished chamber choir, Pegasus Choir, to beginner guitar sessions with Second in IB, Mr White, the students had a broad range of activities to participate in.

Finally, the theme of 'Volunteer,' involved a wealth of opportunities collated by Director of Partnerships & Community, Mr Marlow. Activities covered were primary school placements, an outdoor music recital for Whitgift House (local care home) residents and the opportunity to teach a lesson to other pupils.

The action packed *#MegaCourse* concluded with a much deserved *#MegaFeast* provided by the School's wonderful Catering Team, following an afternoon of

sports and games organised by the PE Department.

Headmaster, Mr Ramsey summarised, "These are all valuable activities and deserve new followers and future experts. But we do encourage them to come out of their comfort zones, to learn new things, to learn from failure, to learn to work with others, to learn about themselves."

A huge thank you to Director of IB, Miss Mitchell, for organising this fantastic programme for the students.

'The students had a broad range of activities to participate in'





MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Monday 10 - Friday 16
May marked Mental Health Awareness Week in the UK, and Chief Executive of the Mental Health Foundation, Mark Rowland, chose 'nature' as the theme to explore this year.

Whitgift boarders, who reside in Founder's House, were encouraged to participate in a broad range of activities in line with this theme and wear the Mental Health Foundation 'Green Ribbon' pin, to raise awareness of mental health.

Throughout the week, pupils were given a range of activities that are proven to aid Mental

Health in young people. These activities included a daily mental health mile, lunchtime mindfulness, a sunrise meditation, random acts of kindness and daily thank you cards. The entire house committed to a digital detox, year group countryside walks and a Sunday bike ride to Richmond Park.

One pupil commented, "It surprised me how much of a boost these activities gave me. It felt great to do something kind for someone else and the good weather meant the bike ride helped me to clear my head and enjoy the environment."



UK LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD



The UK Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO) is a national competition in which students of any age or ability level are required to solve fiendishly difficult linguistics puzzles. Whitgift has been entering pupils into the UKLO since 2012. This year, 12 brave Whitgift pupils took part. Many of them are considering applying to read Languages at top universities.

The pupils competed in the Advanced Competition, challenging themselves in this head-scratching and intellectually rigorous test of code-breaking and linguistic aptitude. Visit the UKLO website for a flavour of the problems: <https://www.uklo.org/problems-2020>

Congratulations to all the pupils who entered the competition, and especially the following students, for securing medals:
Silver medallist – Khinley Trott (Lower Sixth Form)
Bronze medallists – Sami Haddour, Teddy Homes Summers, Joshua Tikare & James Vandrau (Lower Sixth Formers)
Bronze medallist – Oscar Gloux (Fifth Form)

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

In January 2021, 28 students took part in a remotely invigilated Chemistry Olympiad paper after school. The Olympiad is designed to challenge and inspire students and is the leading Chemistry

competition in secondary education across the UK. Students taking part have an enriching opportunity to push themselves further in the Chemistry field.

14 Whitgift students achieved an award at either Bronze or Silver level and were given their certificates just before the Easter holidays. The School would like to congratulate all the students for participating in what is a very rigorous and challenging competition.

Head of Chemistry, Miss Herring commented, "With the competition being primarily aimed at Upper Sixth students it was excellent to see half of the awards being won by students in the Lower Sixth after just a term of study."

PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

The British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) encourages the study of physics, running annual competitions to recognise excellence in students across the



UK. Over the course of the Lent Term, budding physicists in the Fifth Form and Lower Sixth took part in the Intermediate Physics Challenge (Year 11) and Senior

Physics Challenge events (Year 12), respectively.

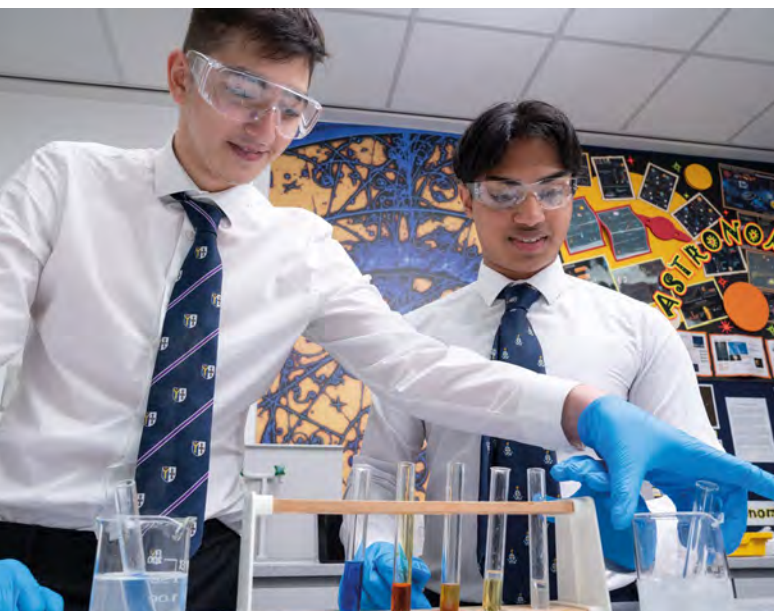
The students' enthusiasm and efforts were reflected in an impressive 16 Gold, 22 Silver and 1 Bronze award in the Intermediate Challenge. A special mention goes to Harvey Rendall (Fifth Form) who achieved Gold with a score of 38/40, placing him in the top 15 of almost 5,000 entries and putting him in the 0.3% nationally. Congratulations also to JinYingfan Cheng (Third Form), Si Ru Huang (Third Form) and Guanyu Wu (Fourth Form) for completing in the Year 11 category and achieving Silver.

In the Senior Physics Challenge 3 Gold, 9 Silver and 3 Bronze awards were achieved, with this event being completed as part of Whitgift's Physics Enrichment programme. Furthermore, subsequent to finishing in the top 100 nationally in the British Physics Olympiad round 1 event, Anant Gupta (Upper Sixth) was invited to take part in the ever more challenging round 2 event for a place on the British Physics Olympiad team.

Teacher of Physics, Mr Hanley commented, "Congratulations to our students on their success and hard work for these events, we are extremely proud of your achievements."

OXFORD GERMAN OLYMPIAD

Third Former, Oliver John's description of the mythical Alpine creature "der Wolpertinger" was selected as one of the joint winners for his age group in the prestigious Oxford German Olympiad, run and judged by professors and language specialists at the University of Oxford.



3 MODERN LANGUAGE GCSES



This year, seven Whitgift pupils sat three GCSE language qualifications each gaining 8 or 9 grades in all of them.

Congratulations to Daniel Aspandiarov (Chinese, German, Russian), Artem Boyarov (Chinese, German, Russian), Daniel Bronk-Navas (German, Japanese, Spanish), Eden Kong

(Chinese, German, Japanese), Thomas Faillenot (French, German, Spanish), Seb Rubio-Prida (French, German, Spanish) and Martin Van Domselaar (French, German, Spanish). A very

large number of our pupils also gained two GCSE languages with top grades.

Following on from this excellent news, three Sixth Form students had their Oxbridge places confirmed for Languages after excellent results: Gus Bradford (Spanish and Linguistics at Oxford), James Darsley (Japanese at Cambridge) and Eoin Finn (German and Spanish at Cambridge).

Head of Languages, Mr Hunt, puts the success in languages down to "Whitgift's strong ethos of international mindedness, dedicated teachers and language assistants, the extensive programme of trips and exchanges, and the innovative Languages curriculum which sees pupils start the First Form studying three distinct languages, rejecting textbook learning in favour of a more tailored and creative approach."

PEN PAL SCHEME

Senior Housemaster and Teacher of Spanish & French, Mr Morris started a pen pal scheme during lockdown for First Formers studying French. Whitgift students have been writing back and forth with students from a school in

Morez, North-East France; Collège Pierre Hyacinthe Cazeaux. This opportunity has allowed them to learn about different people, cultures and languages in a unique way while developing their writing skills in French.



SHINE SCHOOL MEDIA AWARDS – WHITONOMICS

From the start of this academic year, a team of Lower Sixth Form students challenged themselves to write, edit, and design a student-led economics magazine. The magazine was entered into the Shine School Media Awards 2021, and their hard work was rewarded with the following accolades:

Best Cartoon – Highly Commended by Ben Naylor
Best Piece on Covid-19 – Highly Commended for 'Salesmen or Samaritans? How should countries distribute Covid-19 vaccines' by Hasan Zaidi
Best Overall Content – Highly Commended





WATCH THE VIDEO »

UPPER SIXTH GRADUATION

A fantastic Graduation Ceremony took place on Friday 25 June for Upper Sixth Formers to mark the end of their time at Whitgift. It was a wonderful time to reminisce on all the impressive achievements of such an immensely talented year group. The moving 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. We would like to wish the entire year group the very best in their next steps!

EPQ CELEBRATION EVENING

To mark the end of their EPQ, Whitgift arranged a live streaming to parents of our annual Sixth Form EPQ Celebration Evening, which took place in Big School. Five students showcased their work

covering a broad range of topics, followed by a Q&A session with a panel of staff judges; Mr Ramsey (Headmaster), Mr Kirby (Pastoral Deputy), Mrs Goldberg (Assistant Head – Learning & Innovation), Ms Boon (Assistant Director of Learning & Innovation) & Mrs Bedford (Head of Lower Sixth).

Usually, the EPQ is completed in the Sixth Form, but this year Fourth Former, Femi Owolade-Coombes was keen to complete his and he did a fantastic presentation on 'What is the most practical approach to isolated sign language translation of British Sign Language?'

Sixth Form student, Spencer Ahearne took to the stage next to discuss the notion around 'Does violence in Social Media negatively impact the mental health of teenagers?' Following his presentation, he effortlessly answered some challenging questions put forward by the judges on real life scenarios.



WATCH THE VIDEO »

The next presentation was by Roshan De Silva who explored 'To what extent can neurological treatments improve the symptoms and quality of life for Parkinson's patients?' Roshan intends on studying Medicine at University and his EPQ project is excellent preparation for this.

Tobias Trafford discussed his dissertation and how he narrowed down his topic to 'Are humans meant to be monogamous or polygamous?' Tobias did a fascinating presentation, exploring many different disciplines in his project.

The final presentation from Finlay Webb was slightly different to the others as it was an artefact project rather than a dissertation. An artefact project is where a student creates something based on the research they've gathered. Finlay created an intuitive musical composition, and his presentation was based on the idea 'Rhythm is a saucepan: are found sounds the lockdown answer?'

Well done to all the students who completed their EPQ projects during this challenging year. All of them have demonstrated excellent research and organisational skills.

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE EXHIBITION

Whitgift's inaugural Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Exhibition took place on Thursday 24 June 2021 in Big School. TOK plays a special role in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, by providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, and on how we know what we claim to know. Lower Sixth IB students were required to demonstrate their understanding of how knowledge

manifests itself in the world. Each student selected a prompt to stimulate their selection and curation of three objects with knowledge connections.

James Vandrau produced a thoughtful piece on the relationship between culture and knowledge, while exploring

challenging experiences for Sixth Form students globally than this exhibition which is assessed as part of the IB Diploma, and yet I am proud to say that students tackled it with aplomb – supporting one another, having the courage to 'publish' their ideas and actively seeking robust conversations about their ideas."



knowledge between The Bible he received for his First Communion, a Native American war bonnet and Whitgift's School Uniform. Jack Godwin explored the concept around who owns knowledge by evaluating a pencil, his great-grandfather's CIA pencil-holder and the Oxford English Dictionary. Daniel Lindsay researched 'In what ways do our values affect our acquisition of knowledge?' by using a torture chair from the Spanish Inquisition, the Rosetta Stone and his iPhone.

All the students showed a clear understanding of the complexity of knowledge. Director of IB, Miss Mitchell commented, "In the classroom, students learn about disciplinary subject content. In their personal statements for university applications, students write about themselves. Theory of Knowledge requires students to develop their skills in something quite different: communicating the nature of knowledge itself. How do we know? There can surely be few more intellectually



She went on to express her gratitude to those involved in the TOK Exhibition; "I would like to thank Mr White and Ms Young for coordinating the Year 1 TOK course on 'knowing', 'the knower' and the relationships between knowledge, technology and politics with such assured expertise."

'AFTER WHITGIFT' WEEK

To support our Lower Sixth Formers as they consider their plans for when they leave Whitgift, the Higher Education team organised for students to engage in an 'After Whitgift' week of events at the end of June 2021. The highlight of the week was the 'After Whitgift' Conference, where students were off timetable for two days as they heard from a range of speakers about their options at university and beyond as well as receiving important subject taster sessions from their teachers.

Whitgift's Director of Marketing and Communications, Mrs Ghumra led a session about 'How to create a great LinkedIn profile', while Economics & Business Studies Teacher, Mr Al-

Hasso provided students with an insight into internships. Thank you to all the staff who created presentations, workshops, labs or training sessions, and to all the external speakers who have helped prepare our students for life beyond Whitgift.

Following the 'After Whitgift' Conference, around 70 Lower Sixth Form students participated in an Oxbridge Preparation Day, with an Oxbridge Dinner for current offer-holders in the Upper Sixth and OWs who are studying at Oxford or Cambridge.

AFTER TRANSITION COURSE CELEBRATIONS



To mark the end of the Fifth Form and Upper Sixth Transition Courses, a tremendous range of activities were held for students to engage in. Below is a summary of some of the events that took place.

Fifth Form Activity Day

Following a successful four days of Transition Courses, where Fifth Form students attended lessons to get a feel for what taking their chosen subjects in

*'After a tough year for the students, it was the **perfect** way to finish the summer'*



the Sixth Form would be like, the week ended with a day of teambuilding activities run by an external company.

The students formed teams and worked their way around a series of physically demanding but extremely fun head-to-head challenges which included human table football, bungee run, inflatable volleyball and jousting. There was an impressive buffet lunch halfway through the activities, put on by the School's caterers. The unpredictable weather was kind, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.

After a tough year for the students, it was the perfect way to finish the summer and we look forward to welcoming the students back for their Sixth Form studies in September.

Mr Read
Deputy Head of Fifth Form

Sixth Form Celebrations

To celebrate the end of the Upper Sixth Form Transition Courses, Head of Lower First



Form & Maths Teacher, Miss Seal, kindly treated her Upper Sixth Maths class to a pizza lunch using her own pizza oven, while Head of Science, Mr Elliott, prepared a voluntary Pirate Science activity programme for A Level and IB pupils intending to study sciences at university.

Pirate Science Activity Programme

For the last two years, Whitgift has not been able to participate in the IB Group 4 Project – a

programme that required pupils to focus on group work, tight deadlines, active participation, accurate practical work and creative and effective presentation skills. Knowing the importance of this project and the expectations from many science courses, Mr Elliott prepared a voluntary mini-Group 4 project for any A Level and IB pupils intending to study sciences at university.

The theme was Pirate Science and in small groups, pupils were tasked with using science to explore one aspect that could help make someone a better pirate. They used investigative skills, carried out practical work to generate data and gathered evidence to support their claims. Finally, each group had to present their findings in a walkaround business style.

Curing infections on-board the ship, testing different sails, choosing the right wood for the ship, and building an effective cannon to blow others apart were some of the tasks pupils chose to investigate. Mr Elliott commented, "Pupils approached the task with energy and enthusiasm, especially given this was a voluntary programme."

Mr Elliott was extremely grateful for all the help and inspiration from the Science Technicians, the Drama Department for the props and the Maintenance Department for building the bow of the pirate ship – a perfect scene for the grand finale.

A special mention goes to the 'Beating Infection Crew' who were voted the winners. Mr Elliott expressed it was "a tightly fought contest" but more importantly, "in a time when so many things have been different, it was great to give pupils a vibrant experience of what we know science can be."



‘It was great to give pupils a **vibrant** experience of what we know science can be’

COMMUNITY SUMMER SCHOOL 2021

Funded by money raised by the 2020/21 Upper Sixth cohort and donations by their parents, 186 pupils from 20+ primary schools in the Croydon area visited Haling Park over the holidays for the second Whitgift Community Summer School. Enrichment lessons in Art, History, Philosophy, Geography and Economics as well as the core subjects of English, Maths and Science helped to stimulate academic progress, alongside building confidence by trying out a number of activities from the co-curricular programme.

Feedback from parents was wonderful to hear and a selection of comments is shown here:

She no longer feels anxious when we talk about secondary schools.

My son thoroughly enjoyed his experience at the Community Summer School, trying new activities that he wouldn't have done previously.

He made new friends and the team building helped to increase his confidence.

She has learnt a lot in a really fun and friendly way. It has pushed her out of her comfort zone being on her own and having to make new friends.



The highlights for her were science and economics. She also really enjoyed laser tag/team games and PE.

He is such a quiet child and to see him come home everyday and tell me about his fun day and all the things he got up to it was a joy for me.

He really enjoyed the fencing which was a new experience for him.

Our daughter gained confidence and broadened her academic knowledge.

My son loved the games, the lessons were interesting & pitched at the right level.

It's been a great experience for him. He has grown in confidence, made new friends and feels ready to hit year 6.

She enjoyed her experience so much, made friends and absolutely loved the drama class that was on, and couldn't stop talking about it.

Our daughter really enjoyed learning all the subjects during the week, especially art history. She liked how welcoming the staff were and the amazing grounds of the school.

She had an amazing week, it sparked excitement and curiosity at learning new things. She was blown away by the facilities and grounds, loving the flamingos and peacocks.

RECITAL FOR WHITGIFT HOUSE RESIDENTS

It has been a challenging year in the world of live music, however, an outdoor recital at Whitgift House, provided musical light at the end of the covid tunnel, as Upper Sixth IB students headed across the field with voices and instruments tuned in May 2021.

Whitgift House residents who live just a stone's throw from the School and would normally receive two or three visits a term from students across all

year groups, were very pleased to see them back again. All enjoyed the live music, with a programme ranging from Bach to Oasis under the gazebo in the communal garden.

The visits are a wonderful opportunity to nurture communication and respect between different generations, resulting in students and residents looking forward to the next visit.



WELCOME BACK TO WAVPA

Saturdays at Whitgift were just not the same without Whitgift's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA). So, it was with much excitement that Mr Searle and his team were welcomed back during the Lent Term.

WAVPA has run sessions for students from across the community for seven years. Now that they are back in the studio, the WAVPA team have wasted no time in creating and devising. Returning members, and new faces too, have spent the term recording voiceovers, performing theatre sports, improvising, acting for camera in addition to developing characters, working with text and singing and dancing together.

"We are delighted to be back together in the studio to watch their confidence grow," said Mr Searle, "we are so proud of all our students, the quality of their work and what they have achieved."

This term's achievements include:

- > Imogen playing Jane Banks in Mary Poppins at The Prince Edward Theatre in the West End, and performing the role on 'Britain's Got Talent'.
- > Recent WAVPA graduate, (now at LAMDA), Kitty filmed 'The Break' BFF for BBC iPlayer.
- > WAVPA Alumni, Charlie is in a short film by Gucci called 'At The Vintage Shop'.
- > WAVPA Alumni, Luca was in the series 'Gangs of London' on Sky Atlantic.



If you are interested in finding out more, or joining WAVPA, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/wavpa.

MARKING 425

Trinity Term 2021 was peppered with activities celebrating the 425th anniversary of the John Whitgift Foundation and a reminder of his founding vision to educate and care for the people of Croydon.

The 425 Design Competition invited Whitgift students to create wall designs on the theme of 'Celebrating our past and looking to the future' for the newly refurbished Fountain Quad, while Lower First Formers planted seeds as part of the Grow with John initiative, to bring people in Croydon together in nature.



In the grounds of Haling Park, Whitgift's Grounds team carefully selected and planted flowers in a 4-2-5 design near the main gates of the School as a constant and colourful reminder for visitors of this significant Whitgift milestone.



PODCASTS

The Gift of Wellness

Supporting students' wellbeing with a robust and well-integrated PSHEE programme is at the core of Whitgift's curriculum. Alongside structured assemblies it covers complex topics, facilitating tricky conversations, as well as helping students in academic subjects and disciplines. Throughout the Trinity Term, Head of PSHEE, Mr Lewis and School Doctor, Dr Maxwell recorded a community podcast titled *The Gift of Wellness*. The nine episodes, available for students and parents to listen to on our website, include advice and tips

[LISTEN HERE](#) »

to 'Clean up Your Sleep', 'Move your body to help your mind', and to avoid 'Digital Dangers'. In Season two, the podcasts continued with themes for older students on topics around sex and healthy relationships.

New for Michaelmas 2021

The Michaelmas Term 2021 will see the launch of a new Whitgift Podcast with members of staff regularly sharing their insights on key areas of the School and aspects of school life. These 20-minute broadcasts are perfect for the commute to work, for those returning to the office. We look forward to sharing more about these with you soon.



RADIO PLAYS AND AUDIOBOOKS



In the Lent Term, under the direction of Miss Seal, a group of enthusiastic Lower First and First Form students created a radio play of *The Wardrobe*. Over 20 students were involved in rehearsing, writing the narrations and sourcing all the sound effects. As soon as Sound Technician, Mr Hill in the AV Department completed the editing, the play was shared across the School community.

Head of Lower First Form, Miss Seal added, "Students were keen to rehearse in their lunchtimes and after school and this is the fruits of their labour!"

Following the radio play's popularity, the Whitgift Community Audiobook was created which brought together nearly a hundred readers from across the community, and the local area, to perform Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic collection, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

From enthusiastic young performers of nine and ten years old, to wise and experienced readers of over eighty, this buccaneering selection of tales were brought to life with energy and passion by pupils, staff and children from our Primary Project schools.

Director of Drama, Mr Hammond commented, "This Audiobook has provided us with the opportunity to join in collective storytelling."

The Audiobook is available to listen to on Soundcloud [<https://soundcloud.com/whitgift-school/sets/the-adventures-of-sherlock>] Thank you to everyone involved in this Audiobook, including producers Mr Hammond and Miss Seal, our talented AV team and to Seyi Andes-Pelumi (First Form), Nicholas Seal (Third Form), Fraser Murray (Fifth Form) and Teddy Homes Summers (Lower Sixth Form) for their additional help with this project.

WHITGIFT
Listen together

EXAM RESULTS 2021



Whitgift's students have been celebrating exceptional GCSE, A Level and IB exam successes this summer. All grades were robustly and carefully calculated and reflect the work that both the students put in, and the members of staff who have ensured that they are well supported throughout their course studies.

Our 2020/21 Whitgift International Baccalaureate cohort achieved an average

of 41.6 points out of 45 – a success reached by just 12% of IB students globally – with three Whitgift IB students achieving the maximum score of 45/45.

Director of IB, Miss Mitchell commented, "We are so pleased for this year's cohort who have worked tremendously hard towards their final results. They have had a challenging few years, so this news is a very welcome reward, demonstrating their commitment."

Headmaster, Chris Ramsey added, "This has been a particularly tough year, so to have achieved these results is outstanding. IB results were not entirely teacher-assessed this year, and we are incredibly proud of these excellent students."

Meanwhile at A Level, 82% of grades were A*/A and nearly 90% of A Level students achieved grades for their first choice university.

Chris Ramsey, commented, "This year reflects a unique set of grade outcomes and given this backdrop, their hard work and perseverance, combined with support and dedication of their teachers has meant their results reflect their significant achievements. We wish every one of them luck as they pursue their chosen paths to university or apprenticeships."

93% of GCSE grades were 7,8 or 9 (equivalent to the old A/A*) and over 50% of grades awarded were a 9. We look forward to supporting many of our 2020/21 GCSE cohort as they move on to their Sixth Form careers at Whitgift in the Michaelmas Term.



*'Their results reflect their significant **achievements**'*

A SUMMER OF CRICKET

Summer Cricket Course

In July 2021, Whitgift hosted two 2-day Summer Cricket Courses for participants between the ages of 9-12. The first of the 2-day courses welcomed 65 participants on our school site each day and the second course welcomed 45 participants each day. The course was available to both Whitgift and non-Whitgift students of all ability levels and genders.

Participants enjoyed a balance of both hard ball and soft ball activities. Morning sessions covered batting, bowling, fielding and agility drills, while the afternoons were reserved for mini-matches and game-based activities.

Whitgift's Academy Head Coach, Mr Jackson commented, "It was wonderful to welcome so many smiling young cricketers to sunny Northfield over the few days of the Camp. The displays of enthusiasm and skill levels were exciting. We hope to have as many as possible return as either future Whitgift School students or on our future cricket activity Camps."



ACE Cricket Programme

The ACE (African Caribbean Engagement) Academy is a charity designed to engage and offer young people of African and Caribbean heritage access to Cricket. Whitgift's Cricket Academy Head Coach, Mr Jackson has been part of this ground-breaking scheme since its inception in January 2020 as one of their lead coaches and mentors to U14s and U19s. Read more about his involvement with the Academy here: www.whitgift.co.uk/sport/core-sports/cricket

During the Summer holidays, Whitgift hosted a 1-week residential camp for 21 male and female ACE cricketers from across the country and four additional ACE cricketers who came on site daily to join the group, with full use of sports and boarding facilities and full catering provided by Whitgift at no charge.

The programme covered grass nets, fielding sessions, an insightful presentation on 'Right Eye Vision', and even squeezed in some evening yoga. Despite the unsettled weather, players managed to enjoy several days of intense training, classroom sessions and match simulations.

The residential ended with two exciting T20s, with the ACE cricketers up against the Jackson Cricket XI team, which included current and OW cricketers. The Jackson Cricket XI won the first game with Whitgift 1st team player, Arjun Gill scoring a century. ACE XI won the second match of the day, top scoring with a half century. The games were streamed live on the Whitgift Sport YouTube channel and can be rewatched alongside many matches from the Whitgift School cricket season.

Mr Jackson commented, "All the participants and staff from ACE are extremely grateful for the opportunity to experience Whitgift's hospitality and facilities. The experiences gained and memories made by the players will last a very long time." Deputy in Boarding House, Mr Sherwin also added, "From my point of view, the passion, enthusiasm and unity of the group was awesome to see, and I have passed this onto them. The expectations they have of themselves and the trust between the players created a really

positive atmosphere throughout. I hope our connection with the programme continues to flourish!"

ACE Director, Chevy Green said, "THANK YOU for a wonderful welcoming experience at Whitgift. Special thanks to Mr Jackson and Mr Sherwin for looking after us every step of the way! I have already had many requests of when the next residential is!"

We look forward to working with the ACE Academy in the future.





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Whitgift - Boys U18 National Super 6 Winners 2020

M. Blood, J. Phillips, F. Hurst, L. Abai-Haddon, S. Rich, J. Farmer
B. Bithell, L. Wilcher, S. Kelly, D. Holland (Capt), M. Christopher, J. San Millan, O. Shelton

TRINITY TERM OF SPORT

The Trinity Term saw Whitgift Sport spring back to life. Over a year had passed since the last competitive sports fixture on-site and it was fantastic to see so many pupils involved in an array of activities and fixtures both home and away. During the first half of term, over one hundred rugby, hockey and football fixtures were played alongside our comprehensive cricket programme. Tennis and athletics provision also continued, it was brilliant, if not a little surreal to see football and hockey occurring next to cricket fixtures.

A year with no cricket had obviously invigorated and energised the pupils as the teams performed brilliantly across the board. The U14s won the delayed U13 David English/Bunbury Cup and they also won the Surrey Cup qualifying for the National Competition in 2020/21. The U15s won to progress through to the T20 national finals day, being held at Arundle Castle in September 2021. Not wanting to be

outdone, the U12s also qualified for the final of the Surrey Cup only to be thwarted by the weather and will play their final in September 2021 too, hoping to follow suit of the U14s and be involved in the National Competition next year.

The summer has also been one of Old Whitgiftian achievements too. Joe Choong's amazing performance in the Tokyo Olympics, winning Gold in the Modern Pentathlon, a phenomenal achievement. Jack Waller and Zach Wallace also represented Great Britain in the hockey teams, alongside Lawrence Okoye who once again threw the discus for Team GB. Four athletes in one Olympics is a proud achievement for any school and we hope it will act as a catalyst for increased participation for the next generation. Elliot Daly once again played for the Lions in their series against South Africa, Callum Hudson-Odoi was part of the Champions League winning team for Chelsea and Jamal Musiala became the youngest

player to represent Germany in a major tournament whilst playing in the UEFA Euros. On a cricket front, achievements and representation occurred throughout the season from many OWs; Rory Burns and Dominic Sibley opened together

for England in the test series against India, Jamie Smith captained Surrey in the Royal London Cup, and match winning performances came from both Jason Roy and Laurie Evans for The Oval Invincibles in the Hundred, to mention but a few.



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FENCING SUCCESS

Whitgift brothers, Omari Campbell-Okolo (Fifth Form) and Amani Campbell-Okolo (Second Form) have been recognised for their hard work, high performance and commitment to Fencing, resulting in both pupils signing a sponsorship and endorsement contract with Adidas.

Following the customary signing photos, the brothers also conducted a photoshoot at the Adidas Flagship Store in Oxford Street, London.

As you can imagine, they are rightly exceptionally proud of this achievement and we have no doubt that they will continue to act as proud Whitgift ambassadors on and off the piste.

In further good news, Omari has been selected for the British Fencing Athlete Development Programme, a talent pathway that spans from Cadet to Olympic level and provides dedicated training, analysis and support to selected fencers.



POINTS OF LIGHT AWARDED TO LOWER FIRST FORMER

It has been an exciting year for Lower First Former, Ishwar Sharma, whose passion for yoga has led to many impressive achievements, culminating in him receiving a 'Points of Light' Award from the Prime Minister in June 2021. In his letter to Ishwar, the Prime Minister wrote that he was particularly impressed with his charitable contribution in lockdown, when he conducted free online yoga classes to children all over the world.

Ishwar commented, "I am honoured and humbled by this recognition. There have been unprecedented mental health issues amongst children due to the pandemic. I feel it is a recognition for yoga

as a discipline which helps in balancing mental and physical health. This award has motivated me to continue my endeavour to spread the message of yoga all over the world. I thank my parents, yoga gurus and teachers who have been supporting me in this journey."

BBC South East Today visited the School to interview Ishwar about receiving this prestigious award and spoke to Head of Lower First Form, Miss Seal, regarding him being the School's first yoga prodigy.



performing arts

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS IN TRINTY TERM 2021



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Brasstonbury 2021

On Wednesday 23 June 2021, the School had the opportunity to hold the first concert for over a year and was fortunate it was a glorious sunny day. Brasstonbury 2021 was a different sort of Brass Concert from the usual annual offering, but the acoustic and stunning setting of the Andrew Quad provided the perfect and safest arena for the occasion.

The forty-five performers, comprising of Whitgift brass players and the brass instrumental teachers, performed to a socially distanced audience which included our very beautiful, vocal and appreciative peacocks! Along with performances of *James*

Bond Theme and *Soul Bossa Nova* by the year group ensembles, the senior ensemble Whitgift Ten, gave fabulous renditions of *Thunderbird* and *Borage* from the *Three Brass Cats* suite by Chris Hazell. The staff item, performed by the brass teachers, was Queen's *Don't Stop Me Now* arranged specifically for the occasion by Ms Duncan, one of the Whitgift trumpet teachers. Whitgift's Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Winter, presented awards to the finalists in this year's Solo Brass Performance and the winners in each category performed a solo, accompanied on the piano by Head of Keyboard, Mr Lane.

Thanks to the exquisite staging and timely guidance on social distancing, we were able to bring everyone together to perform two massed items *Summer Nights* and then the rousing finale with spectacular audience participation in singing along with *Land of Hope and Glory*.

The evening was the most wonderful collaboration of our superb Whitgift brass players, the brass teachers, the Audio Visual team and tremendous support from the Music Department. Not least of all the encouragement and support from the audience and parents of our boys was overwhelming and indicative of that which they have maintained throughout this extraordinary year.

Head of Brass, Ms Temple stated, "My enormous thanks go to everyone involved in Brasstonbury 2021, but most particularly to our talented young brass players, who were entirely responsible for making the evening a tremendous success."

Thank you also to our AV, Grounds and Facilities teams for the staging.

Whitgift String Competition returns

In June 2021, the Whitgift String Competition was the first music competition to return this term, giving all students who learn the violin, viola, cello, or double bass an opportunity to perform in a supportive environment.

All students were invited to enter, regardless of their ability or whether they take lessons with a teacher at Whitgift or outside of the School. The competition was split into three categories, based on achieved music grades.

Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Winter summarised, "The standard of playing in each category was of the usual high standard. For boys to have managed to keep this level of performance up throughout lockdown and school exam week, demonstrated the incredible resolve of the Whitgift students."





Thank you to Mr Winter for organising the event and to the adjudicators, Whitgift's Director of Music, Mr Elsom and special guest, Head of Strings at Trinity School, Mr Cristian Persinaru.

Lent Singing Competition Final

The final of the singing competition was a fantastic event to mark the end of the Lent Term, providing the competition finalists a welcome opportunity to sing live in the Concert Hall. The quality of singing and vocal repertoire chosen by the students was a diverse showcase of Whitgift talent and kept Head of Keyboard, Mr Lane on his toes, with a transition of music ranging from Beyoncé to Handel!

For the students, this was their first chance to perform in front of a live audience, both in-person (albeit limited) and virtual, in over a year. The Music Department has continued to offer such opportunities, as they provide a platform for those hard hours of practice to be brought to fruition.

The final was adjudicated by Teacher of Drama, Mr Wilson for the Junior class and Mr

Stainsby, who visited the School as our guest adjudicator for the Intermediate and Senior class. Mr Stainsby graduated from the Alexander Gibson Opera School at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and studied English at University of Cambridge. He has a varied musical career and has appeared in many operatic roles, ranging from the baroque to the contemporary.

Our thanks go to Mr Soriano for co-ordinating the event, to our adjudicators Mr Wilson and Mr Stainsby and to our AV Team who helped make this event possible. Well done to all the singers who entered the competition and congratulations to the winners of each class; Theeran Thirulinganathan (First Form), Bakari Leon (Fourth Form) and Adedamola Amusa (Lower Sixth Form).



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Whitgift Music Annual Piano Competition

The Piano Competition is a fantastic way to have the students' talents celebrated and the winners were selected by specialist external adjudicators. The Piano Competition ran in four classes and was open to any style of piece being performed, with entries being sent in by students from home. Submissions were sent to Mr Lane, Head of Keyboard and the prize winners were as follows:

Class A (up to and including grade 2) **1st prize** – Benjamin Schilling & Mathis Nier (First Form), **2nd prize** – Daniel Rahnama (First Form), **3rd Prize**– Kevin Croos and Oliver Nourouzi (Third Form)

Class B (grades 3–5) **1st prize** – Lucian Ng (Fourth Form), **2nd prize** – Jeremiah Carnegie (First Form), Si Ru Huang (Third Form) and Lucas Yin (First Form), **3rd prize** – Joshua Karpal (Second Form), Arnav Bhagat (First Form) and Dylan Viswanatha (Third Form)

Class C (grades 6–7) **1st prize** – Jacob Nurse (Fifth Form), **2nd prize** – Annas Touil (Fifth Form), **3rd prize** – Alexei Quinones (First Form) and Ben Naylor (Fourth Form)

Class D (grade 8 and above) **1st prize** – Elishe Lim (Lower Sixth Form), **2nd prize** – Jerry Lin (Lower Sixth Form), **3rd prize** – David Strong (Lower Sixth Form) and Ethan Gilbert (Second Form)

Barnett Cup for a performance showing outstanding potential from any class – Lucian Ng (Forth Form)

Mr Lane summarised, "It was a step into the unknown this year with a competition held completely online, but I was extremely impressed by both the quality and number of entries. There were 55 videos sent in from students in all years, and I have had so many positive comments from both the students and the parents – it seems it was a real highlight at the end of a long period of online learning from home! I would also like to say a big thank you to all the teachers who prepared their students so well, we could not have done it without them!"

Well done to all the pupils for participating and submitting their performances.

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performing arts

SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

Whitgift Music and Drama triumphantly returned to live performances with a three-night Summer Arts Festival.

A combination of exquisitely played pieces, featured iconic titles such as *Summer Nights* from *Grease* by the Brass Ensemble, the James Bond theme, as well as classical

who greeted them with the warmest of welcomes, to a wonderful experience. Led through the programme by Harry Hutchinson (Upper Sixth Form) as Master of Ceremonies, guests were presented with a myriad of scenes.

After the opening scene of 'The Life of Galileo', performed by

of Carol Ann Duffy's *Everyman*. An extract from *Our Country's Good* allowed us to ponder the importance of theatre and freedom, and the dramatic finale to the return of Whitgift Drama was a rousing and energetic performance of Ron Padgett's *How to be Perfect* from Luke Ward (Fifth Form).

Teddy Homes Summers (Lower Sixth Form) commented, "The evening was, for want of a better term...magical. The immersion created with the roaming peacocks and the fountains trickling onto the rocks within Andrew Quadrangle created an atmosphere fitting for a night of the Arts." He continued, "I think that this Arts Festival has fostered perseverance, hardiness and creativity in both the Music and Drama Departments that will no doubt be crucial to any future showcases of Whitgift's skill and expertise."

Thank you to all those who worked hard to prepare performances for this magnificent event and all those behind the scenes including backstage support, AV, and the Catering team who created a unique street food eating experience for guests to enjoy before the performance.



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'The evening was magical'

anthems such as the Senior String's rendition of *Praeludium* by Grieg and the String Sinfonia's performance of *Morning: Up and Doing* by Hilary Burgoyne.

A host of students performed during the festival, including the First Form Orchestra, a group comprised entirely of Lower First and First Form students, and there were solos from Upper Sixth Form students, Marlon Barrios Araya and Uriel Vilchez Meza. The night ended with a truly stirring recital of Boyce's *Symphony No. 1* by the Chamber Orchestra, which left the audience delighted.

The Drama Department overcame the challenges of zoning to treat the audience,

Jack Godwin (Lower Sixth Form), and Teddy Homes Summers (Lower Sixth Form), the audience enjoyed two monologues; *The Unknown Bird* performed by Bakari Leon (Fourth Form), and an extract from *Amadeus*, performed by Jude Keeper (Fifth Form).

Those in attendance were also given the opportunity to return to The Globe, at least in spirit, when pupils in the Lower Sixth Form and Third Form presented us with a pair of scenes from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, headed by William Allnutt's (Lower Sixth Form) charismatic performance of Malvolio. After a short interval for snacks, drinks and ice cream, Fraser Murray (Fifth Form) graced the stage with his moving delivery





A CELEBRATION OF WHITGIFT LIFE



In May 2021, when many in the School turned their attention to planning the end of year Celebration of Whitgift Life (CoWL), there was much still dependant on the Government's decision on whether or not the restrictions were being lifted on 24 June.

However, despite breaking news of the four-week delay, a hybrid-CoWL was born. As with previous years, the Sports Hall was transformed with stage and lighting but with a socially-distanced seating plan with prize winners and one year group in attendance. The

rest of the community joined virtually from their classrooms. CoWL would be the final event of the 2020/21 school year to be live-streamed to the Whitgift community.

The virtual event enabled School Captain, Stuan Fotheringham who was self-isolating at home to share his pre-recorded message during the Headmaster's welcome, while his place on stage was filled by Vice-Captain Max Bateup.

The guest of honour was Explorer, Palaeoanthropologist, Evolutionary Biologist and Stand-Up Comic Ella Al-Shamahi. Her

book *The Handshake* was given to Headmaster, Mr Ramsey, by a parent, and after reading it he invited her to visit Whitgift.

Mr Ramsey commented, "As the world starts to shake hands again, there can be no better analogy for the need to re-connect, re-state values, celebrate who we are and reaffirm what we want to be."

Before taking to the stage where she shared her past explorations, adventures and aspirations, Ella joined a group of Fourth Formers and Lower Sixth Formers for a round table discussion and book signing.



During the ceremony, School Vice-Captain, Jack Godwin and Teddy Homes Summers performed *Life of Galileo*. The musical interludes had the Whitgift Symphony Orchestra opening the event with a performance of *The Whitgift March* by Director of Music, Mr Elsom and the barbershop ensemble brought the CoWL to a close with *Goodnight Sweetheart*.



Mr Ramsey also took a moment to reflect and remember those in the School community who we lost this year; Mr Raeburn (former Whitgift Headmaster), Devon Hodges (School Chef), Mr Mike Knott (Science Technician) and Mr Keith Smith (Head of History and CCF Commander).

The School was delighted to welcome on-site a small group of prize winner parents to enjoy the live-streamed event from the Performing Arts Centre.



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trips



(Images above and below)
Lower First Formers enjoyed an action packed two days at High Ashurst's outdoor adventure camp, where they participated in a wide range of activities including climbing and abseiling, team tasks and woodland skills.

(Images to the right)
Whitgift students spent an afternoon in Surrey Hills participating in practice walks for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.



in memoriam

Whitgift mourns passing of esteemed Headmaster David Raeburn



In February 2021, it was with great sadness that we announced the death of David Raeburn, Headmaster of Whitgift from 1970-1991.

David was held in very high esteem by very many of his former pupils and colleagues, of whom a small number are still here at Whitgift; many others followed him into teaching and indeed Headship.

In his time, David expanded the school, overseeing the building of the science and design buildings; his close concern for and regard for pupils was evident throughout his life and retirement. During his last illness, many past students have written to Mr Ramsey to share their personal gratitude to him.

In 2018, at a Class of 78 reunion where David was guest of honour, one OW said of him, "Whitgift in the 1970s had an ethos that espoused the best values of Western civilisation, such as tolerance and mutual respect, and that came, I think, from David Raeburn." That observation was met with universal approval by all those in attendance. Francis Charig OW (1970-1978) wrote of the same event "The level of affection for

him [David] was a remarkable endorsement of the respect with which he is held and recognition of the rounded, liberal and ethical education that he sought for his students."

David had a distinguished career beyond Whitgift; after retirement he spent almost as many years tutoring Classics at New College, Oxford. Last summer, he recorded a piece from Ovid's Metamorphoses reflecting that 'sad times may be followed by happier days...'

We pay proper tribute to David's long and successful Headship at a memorial service in September 2021.

Whitgift mourns the loss of Head of History and Politics



In April 2021, we were deeply saddened to report the death in Maidstone Hospital of Keith Smith, Head of History and Politics, after a brave battle with cancer. He had been Head of History and Politics for many years, and a greatly loved colleague at Whitgift since the 1980s.

Current and former Whitgiftians will have known him for his leadership of the CCF, Fencing, his Housemastership and his wonderful teaching and mentoring.



JOHN O'GROATS TO LAND'S END

In June 2021, Upper Sixth Formers set themselves a challenge to complete the distance of John O'Groats to Land's End in the gym, all within one school day, in aid of the Whitgift Community Summer School (WCSS) fund. Having learnt that their parents were fundraising to pay for the WCSS's running costs, the pupils decided that they would raise funds for each WCSS participant to receive a special T-shirt and water bottle to commemorate their time at Whitgift.

Following a gruelling seven hours of running, rowing, and cycling (alongside some fantastic staff contributions!), the pupils completed the 874-mile distance just in time to catch the coaches home. Special recognition goes to Hector Revill who not only spent over four hours in the gym, but in that time completed a half-marathon run, then cycled a full marathon, and rounded out his efforts with a 5km row!

Many thanks to all the sports staff who supervised the event, and to Head of Upper Sixth, Mr Griffiths and Director of Sixth Form, Mr Burnside who helped organise the event.



Photography

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