

## Swimming Gala

Siege mentality inspires emphatic reprisal



Since the brave fightback of last years' gala there had been an ominous cloud hanging over the PE Department. No one could deny that the gap between Sotogrande and ourselves had been closing over the last few years, with only ten points separating the two schools last year. Rumours abounded that our foes were offering scholarships to aquatically gifted students and the number being selected to swim for Andalucia had apparently increased. 'Olympic style' coaching was reportedly taking place at Sotogrande and, if rumours were to be believed, EIC would soon be overwhelmed by superior marine foes. In addition Mr Izatt, (a Sotogrande resident) confirmed our worst fears: Sotogrande were coming to EIC fully expecting to win.

By the beginning of term there was already a noticeable buzz of excitement, as training began. Seemingly relentless training sessions were intensely attended, with Christopher Bailey, Ben Nicholas, Amy Webb, Isabella Williamson, making welcome new additions to both the school and the swimming squad.

You may recall last year my admiration for our Sixth Form swimmers who really stuck together and inspired the whole school as we came under more and more pressure. I was delighted to note that, although we had new faces in this year group, the resolve, commitment and desire remained the same. I was not to be let down by boys or girls in Years 12 & 13, who regularly gave up their lunchbreak to improve in the pool. What a fantastic example Alex Laliberte, Alex Davies-Salkeld, Leanne Peach, Phil Edwards, Bilal Abou El Ela Bourquin,

Ollie Zabell, and Nick Lynden Van Amstel all set to the rest of the school!

Despite only just moving into Year 7, Natalia Gordon was a familiar face to many in the PE department in early September. The first race is often one of the most daunting in big events like this. But I need not have worried. As I looked along the line of Year 7 girls who were about to start the Backstroke in the first event of the day, I was suddenly drawn to one face, totally focused and sternly blanking out



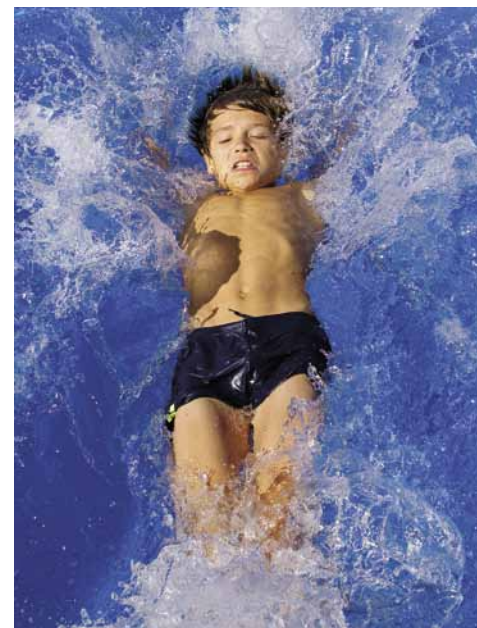
nerves, worries and excitement. In the style of a champion and with consummate ease, Natalia gracefully won her race and set the tone for our whole day. Following Natalia's lead we went on to win 8 out of 12 races, with notable performances from Laura Ainsworth and Ben Steiger who both reversed previous outcomes against the same opponents, claiming first place. In Breaststroke the squad secured 12 victories from 12 events, with emphatic winning margins for Davut Jones, Luna Sammon, Sam Hall, Millie Randerson and Frank Huismann. Special mention must go to Callum McClaren Stewart (Y10) who had been so consistent in training

that he pushed out any Year 11 rivals to be promoted into the Year 11 event where he cruised home emphatically.

In Freestyle, Michaela Bett and Piers Kicks set the team off on another successful run with convincing victorious performances, and Lukas Noritzch almost set fire to the pool with a blazing 27.8 seconds, school record, personal best and first place finish. In Butterfly, Phil Edwards majestically floated his way to victory, further embellishing the wins of Emma Bell, Phoebe Floyer, Mark Di Lucia, and Claudio Specking.

It was with some relief at this point that I was informed that even if we lost every single relay event, we had an unassailable lead. However, far from thinking about relaxing, the students refocused and pushed for first in each event. However, on a day of intense pressure there was one moment of hilarity that was to cap a wonderful day.

Of all the Freestyle relay teams, undoubtedly the quickest were our Sixth Form boys. As if to remind us all that nothing in sport can ever be taken for granted, Alex Fancis was to forget



to tie the string at the top of his shorts. With a forceful dive into the water, it unfortunately became apparent that Alex's explosive entry had been too much for his unrestrained attire and his shorts were heading towards his toes. Luckily the team had developed such a strong lead, providing Alex with a simple and dignified decision to stop and pull up his shorts!! If this gala had been as close as some in years gone by, I am sure Alex may well have had to keep on swimming in the name of the school. Thankfully, both Alex and EIC have maintained a dignity that remains unblemished. Thanks to all staff who helped on the day.

*Alastair Gibson*

# AUSCHWITZ



Having arrived in Krakow the previous day when we had a guided tour of the Jewish quarter, the main event - our visit to the camp - unfolded.

We were all in a pensive mood as we approached the steppe lands of Auschwitz. Our tour guide greeted us and we were all immediately gripped. Auschwitz is a converted army barracks and the buildings are inconspicuous. However, entering the buildings is a rude awakening and a chilling introduction to the horrific barbarity of the "the Final Solution": the one metre standing cells that housed 5 dissidents for days at a time, the mountain of human hair (appropriated by the Nazis for the war effort to make cloth for soldiers' socks or to insulate submarines) and, moreover, the human-sized kilns used to incinerate Jews, Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, POWs and dissidents. 1.1 million Jews, mainly from Poland and Hungary, were executed and burned at Auschwitz. Many were worked and starved to death at Auschwitz 111 before their final fate.

We eventually realised that Auschwitz 1 was the tip of the iceberg as we entered Auschwitz 11, Birkenau. Its sheer enormity and industrial nature blew us away. The railway line that ran into the heart of the extermination camp symbolized the efficiency and enormity of Nazi aspirations and its evil grand design. Even Jews from the British Isles and Oslo were transported to Auschwitz for execution. Prisoners had to buy their own train tickets although under twelves were granted half fare and infants travelled free! The former were not granted a place in the "good line" but were sent to the gas chambers where they were suffocated. Even the industrial incinerators could not cope with the demand and open fires were hastily built to dispose of bodies, thus destroying any evidence of mass genocide.

We remained at the far perimeter of the extermination camp and collectively gathered our thoughts. Poland was liberated by the USSR's Red Army but another dark cloud, Stalin's totalitarian form of communism, descended upon her for four and a half decades. We reflected on the scale of the Final Solution as we wandered along the railroad to the entrance of the camp. It was a sombre journey to the hotel.

That evening we gave Krakow an EIC toast and said our goodbyes. We ate pizza and danced to jazz.

I would like to thank Ms Kerr and all of our students who genuinely made us proud. They were very respectful and were eager to develop an empathy and compassion with those who were the victims of this dark chapter in our people's history not so very long ago. There is nothing unique in human history about mass genocide, but the Nazi mission to systematically destroy the Jewish people's spiritual, economic and physical is surely unique.

*Simon Hickman, Head of History*



*One Year 13 student, Jack McLaren-Stewart, effectively summarized the experience:*

For me, the enormity of Auschwitz was something that, before the trip, I was not able to comprehend. Even after extensive reading on the subject it is impossible to grasp the extent of Nazi atrocities during the war and only upon arrival at Auschwitz does one understand how truly awful the holocaust was, and the importance of preventing it from ever happening in the future.

*Jack McLaren-Stewart*

## Science Trip

EIC made its inaugural Science trip to London, Oxford and Cambridge in November 2010.

The trip was very successful, with the students having the opportunity to see a MASS SPECTROMETER at the research department at St. Ann's, Oxford, organized by Chelsea Sutcliffe, a former EIC student,



now studying there for her doctorate.

We visited the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum in London, with the highlight of the day being a lecture on "Aliens" at University College, London.

With so many of our ex-students reading at Oxford and Cambridge, it was inevitable that we should meet up with them.

Everyone had a wonderful time on such an inspirational trip.

*Dr. M.A.F.Sutcliffe*

*Douglas Cameron-Hobbs comments:*

Seeing ex-students like Lydia Mills, Mason



Edwards, Tristan Salas and Chelsea Sutcliffe really made the difference. It was their words, their advice, that had a real effect on me. When visiting Oxford and Cambridge, they were the all-knowing old friends that could tell you anything you needed to know. It was being around their magical colleges and talking to them about their fascinating University lives that really reminded me why I've got to work so hard these next two years. A newfound sense of motivation



and inspiration is, in my opinion, the best thing I've gained from the trip.

My thanks to Dr Sutcliffe for organising such a wonderful experience.

## Bioparc Visit



This year is the International Year of Biodiversity and this was the focus of three successive visits to the Bioparc in Fuengirola in October with our students from Key Stage 3. Our students were encouraged to take photographs of the animals on display and



enter them into a competition to discover our KS3 photographer of the year. Mr. Lawrence, an award-winning photographer, was good enough to offer expert advice on how to photograph animals before we went. I am looking forward to reporting the outcome of the competition once all entries have been received and judged! It is sad to reflect that many of the extraordinary animals that we, quite literally, focused on during our visit, are under threat in the wild for



a variety of reasons. I hope that our young students are aware of the global threat we humans pose to biodiversity and consider any action we can take, individually or collectively, to reduce our negative impact. On a positive note, the guides made a point of expressing how impressed they were with the excellent behaviour of our students and the interest they showed. They were, just like in previous KS3 trips, a credit to the school.

*Paul Hogan*

## Minstrels, Music and Magic!

### EIC Poetry Week

18th - 22nd October

As any chocolate lover will testify, Galaxy Minstrels can be just the thing to lift your spirits on a gloomy October morning. During our annual Poetry Week, however, we had our own set of minstrels to make us smile when Sixth Form Literature students helped to organise this year's Poetry Post. Having collected poems on a range of themes, they invited staff and students to choose poems they would like to send to a friend. To give the event that extra "frisson", our Vice President Jack McLaren- Stewart, Oliver Zabell and Tom Millar, donned top hats, flowing scarves and cloaks and, aided by the assembled voices of the Year 12 Literature students, guitars in hand, proceeded to serenade staff and students alike.

We clearly have more minstrels in the making if the poems performed on the "Poetry Steps" (the steps to EN1) were anything to go by. Tutor groups were invited to write group poems and then to declaim their poems to the assembled masses on the basketball courts. Were they unnerved by the task of reading their poems? Not one jot. In fact Mr Andrew and some of the Primary classes joined in the fun, one lunchtime, by giving their version of Brian Moses' "Ssssnake Hotel" amongst other much-loved favourites. It was genuinely uplifting to see secondary and primary students enjoying listening to each other's performances.

As an addition to the annual poetry writing competition, we also invited staff and students to vote for the Sixth Form Poet Laureate. Dougie Cameron-Hobbs was elected Poet laureate with Alexandra Burchett and Joseph El Khoury as worthy runners-up. Other prize winners were:



### Year 7

Winner: Piers Kicks  
Runner up: Martina Tessore

### Year 8

Winner: Jago Thomas  
Runner up: Danielle Fitchett

### Year 9

Winner: Amber Thomas  
Runner up: Armando Pierre

### Key Stage 4:

Winner: Nathalia Konigkin  
Runner up: Damian Lewis  
Tutor Poem: 11SH

Congratulations to all who took part: an excellent crop of entries this year!

Our celebratory assembly was similarly fun-packed. Year 8 Drama groups entertained us with some highly amusing and very professional performances of well-known comic poems. The Year 13 group, not to be outdone, to commemorate Language Day (13th October), acted out their own interpretation of the development of the English language, including a puppet show and a film of Viking invasion, complete with longboat (well actually a canoe) in the school pool (thank goodness, it is heated!). Thank you very much to SJ Avery and Rebecca Wilson for organising the assembly: a memorable event.

Having read this article, if any of you have a yearning to develop your inner creative spirit, please let me know. We could perhaps start a creative writing club for parents and then you too can be part of the magic of poetry!

*Dr Clare Morris*

## Rockschool

Rock school exams took place in June this year. Music students sat instrumental exams on drum kit and guitar, both taught at EIC by peripatetic teachers Paul Johnson and Dave Cale, respectively. Grades taken by students ranged from Debut/introduction, up to Grade 8, the highest prior to diploma level. The results were truly outstanding: no less than 100% pass rate with half reaching distinction level. The UK examiner, Mrs Jane Clarke, in Spain for one week of examining throughout the country, commented during the exam day on the exceedingly high standard of all EIC candidates. Fantastic work all round. Well done everyone! Keep practising.

*Paul Johnson*



# Hallowe'en

Gnarly, warty, evil witches; gaunt, vacant zombies and deathly demonic vampirellas (and that was just our teachers) turned the Primary School into something out of the Rocky Horror Picture Show! This annual tradition seems to be growing in status as a real community event. The costumes get scarier and cleverer each year and the levels of enthusiasm and participation continue to rise. As usual, we tied our celebrations in with two special poetry assemblies based around Hallowe'en. The children sang and danced their grisly songs and poems to an audience of proud parents and teachers. It is always a special moment to see our youngest children from Early Years up on stage for the first time and they certainly didn't disappoint. Indeed all our classes did us proud, offering such a variety of pieces from original poems, twists on popular songs (I Heard It In The Graveyard – brilliant!) and dramatic performance. The hall was flanked either side by smiling parents, cameras in hand. It was not



dissimilar to a West End premiere; the only thing missing was the red carpet! The children thoroughly enjoyed the attention.

The day continued with the curriculum as usual, but lessons had Hallowe'en-based themes. Yes, even in Maths! Lunchtime tied in nicely with the famous VIP table for the victorious yellow house, who had achieved the most team points over the half term. Their treat was a banquet of "not so healthy" treats alongside their usual lunch, to the sounds of Michael Jackson's "Thriller". Thanks Miss Nicola and the KS2 team for organising this.

After lunch was the class by class scare-off and the PTA had kindly laid on a cake sale with some very impressive Hallowe'en-themed cakes which proved to be really popular, especially with our primary parents at the end of the day. A special thanks must go to Corinna Black and her fund-raising team for their continued dedication and support. They really raised the bar with the decorations for the Hallowe'en disco this year which was particularly gruesome! Thanks also to the primary staff and Sixth Form students who made it a fantastic evening for the children. I think I even managed a bit of a boogie myself, only to be laughed at by those cruel Year 6 girls!



*Richard Avery*

# Some Swansong!

Dame Edna gave her farewell performance (or was it?) this term, closing what was probably the best PTA Variety Show I have seen.



Old...and not so old... favourites were warmly welcomed: the wacky Jerry Wallace with another musical mime; the ever versatile and wonderfully intense Clare Morris, accompanied superbly by guitarist Paul Michaels; maestro Mike Sutcliffe; and another dose of spoonerisms from the suave and debonair Alastair Fitchett. Paul Hogan's dead-pan delivery of his wonderful original material, this year based around the theme of "romance", had us all in the proverbial stitches.

It's always a treat to welcome new talent: Beatrice Naranjo's exotic oriental dancing brought a hush to the hall, while Anna Christou, accompanied at the piano by Simon Horsey, treated us to a medley of jazz numbers sung from the soul; songstress Pamela Tabizel's rendition of "Torn" was quite delightful but who, or what, were those crazy marching hats? Mad-cap comedy from Richard Avery and Barry Gardner! Barry was also in demand as compere with his jokes eliciting both chuckles and groans.

Geoff Lawrence got us all foot-tapping with

some great dancing numbers and The Ice Blues Band, with new lead vocalist and harmonica player Mike Izatt, opened and closed the show, concluding with a jazz medley featuring banjos and clarinet when Mike, Simon Horsey (how many instruments can he play?) and Dave Cale strutted their stuff around the tables.



Big thanks to Kate Jackson and David for an eye-catching set, to the great team of sixth form students who served us and provided technical support, to all of the performers and, of course, to Preeya Somaia and the PTA team who organised the show.

Farewell Edna (aka David von Niebel) and bon voyage! We shall miss you.

*Yvonne Stevenson*

# Morocco Trip

Having been on this trip last year, I was delighted when Dr Maria Sutcliffe asked me to go again. With a group of 20 Year 13 students and many bags packed with donated toys and clothes, we travelled by coach to Tarifa and then fast ferry to Tangiers. At the port, we were met by our bus and driver for the day, and Enrique, who organises a number of centres in Morocco.

First stop was a centre run by nuns for disadvantaged local people. One of their main aims is to help to educate young mothers, showing them how to look after their babies and ensuring that they feed them properly. Charity money raised at EIC helps to contribute to the supply of milk powder that each mother is given every week. Many of our students enjoyed helping out with caring for the babies while we were there.

We were then taken up to the Continental Hotel overlooking the port for the chance to buy some lunch. At this point we took the opportunity to present Enrique with the sum of 1000 euros, recently raised by the Peace Day coin collection and other charity events.

Our next destination was a centre for Down's Syndrome children, where teachers work with older children during the morning and younger ones during the afternoon,

with the aim of preparing them for a certain degree of independence when they are older. We were amazed by the sense of fun and positivity amongst the children, and I was really impressed to see how well our



students entertained and integrated with them for over an hour.

We then visited a school for deaf children, and although it was nearly time for them to go home, we were able to see them working in the computer room and baking biscuits for us to try.

After a drive through the streets of Tangiers, we caught the return ferry to Tarifa and arrived back at school at about 10.30 pm; it was a long day, but one that motivated many of our students to want to become more involved in helping to raise money in the future.

*Duncan Trafford*