

THE FROGNAL

UCS NEWSLETTER — ISSUE DECEMBER 2019

Celebrating the events and achievements of the Autumn Term at UCS Senior School.



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Welcome To The Autumn Edition Of The Frognal



As the Transitus and Sixth dispersed at the end of their sectional assembly on Wednesday, I witnessed a good many of them clutching some of the 211 end-of-term Certificates of Excellence I had signed just the day before. Many of the certificates were issued for Community Action and I wondered how much money we had managed to raise for charity this term. I knew that Big Band Christmas last Saturday had secured some £8,000 alone, that earlier in the term 65 Lower School runners raised £64,000 for Grief Encounter and Great Ormond Street Hospital, and that we donated a record 3.5 tonnes of food to the North Paddington Food Bank.

My mind moved to the Impact Report we published last week, detailing some of the partnership work carried out in the local community in the last twelve months. This includes 350 primary school children enjoying Science and Modern Languages lessons at UCS; 180 children marvelling at the Comedy of Errors

workshop and Matinee Performance; over 7,000 hours of voluntary work carried out by UCS pupils; and 132 staff, parents and Old Gowers involved with the partnership programme.

The Impact Report also details how the generosity of the UCS community has helped maintain some 60 bursary places at UCS and accelerate some of our capital development programme such as the AKO Creative Learning Centre, the Kantor Centre at the playing fields and, looking ahead to 2020, the extension and redevelopment of the Sixth Form Centre.

It then struck me how easy it would be to look at the progress of the school through the lens of such numbers and statistics. Last month, the Sunday Times Parent Power League Table, which combines A Level and GCSE results, placed us 22nd in the country, up from 75th in 2012. This month, we have 70 sixth formers being interviewed at Oxford and Cambridge - that's our largest number ever.

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This term we have played 169 Rugby matches, with the 1st XV enjoying their best win ratio (78%) since at least the turn of the century and the Under-12B team winning 7 out of 8 matches. At over 40 in number, the Netball Squad is at its largest ever. There were 11 concerts and, apparently, 188 lighting cues for Sweeney Todd. There were eight trips over half-term to different countries, including 22 pupils to Argentina - a UCS first - and 16 boys involved with the 25th Hamburg Exchange.

I could easily go on with the numbers and, by extension, present them in some kind of spreadsheet, consigning us all to a bit of data stored as a magnetic imprint in a virtual cloud. Job done! But, yet, this does not feel quite right. That electromagnetic signature will one day be erased, buildings will eventually crumble,

paper certificates will fade over time. It is, of course, people who matter and, behind every single number we might possibly conjure as a measurement of UCS, lies a human being.

The Frogнал Newsletter is one account of such people's lives. I hope you enjoy reading it whilst appreciating the diversity of what UCS pupils get up to and the value of their contributions to both the UCS, and wider, community.

I wish you all a lovely winter break.

— Mark J. Beard, Headmaster

A Spotlight On... Sport At UCS



Edward Sawtell has been the Director of Sport at UCS since 2016 and is responsible for all matters relating to Sport, PE and Games in the UCS Foundation. With the opening of the impressive new facilities at Farm Avenue, we spoke to Mr Sawtell about his thoughts on sport at UCS.

Why is sport such an important part of life at UCS?

Everyone is aware of the positive impact playing sport has on physical and mental health and it is an essential part of life at UCS. Inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do in my department. Every pupil at UCS is given the opportunity to play a sport they enjoy at least once or twice a week. The choice for our senior pupils is staggering – on a Wednesday afternoon they can choose from up to 17 different sports. Our aim is for every pupil at UCS to fulfil their sporting potential. Everyone has the opportunity to represent UCS at sport and a win for the netball team is celebrated as much as the 1st XV lifting the Middlesex Cup.

What impact have the new facilities at Farm Avenue made on the UCS pupils?

The pupils are delighted to be back on home soil, as am I! The Kantor Centre is truly fantastic and pupils, parents and staff have been unanimous in their praise for the new facilities. Every opposition coach we have welcomed to the Centre has been in awe and our pupils are very proud of it. The quality of playing surface is fantastic and the ground staff have done an amazing job. The four large pitches have stood up very well despite the recent heavy rainfall. Expansive rugby has been played and next term the visiting football teams will want to come back to the UCS pitches.

UCS 1st XV won the Middlesex Cup in successive years and returned from a tour of Australia in the summer undefeated. What are the secrets behind these recent successes?

A dedicated, hard-working and happy group of pupils along with a knowledgeable, passionate and fun group of coaches will always make a good recipe for success on the sports field. Enabling a

A Spotlight On... Sport At UCS



team to gel does require some special coaching talents and Mr Thomas has done a great job with the 1st XV and continues to do so. The rest of the PE department, past and present, and the other rugby coaches have also played their part. The other draw has been the fact that the boys got to play at the home of Saracens – Allianz Park!

In recent years, UCS teams have travelled to South Africa, Holland, Spain, Italy and Australia. What benefit do these tours have on the various teams?

Tours are an excellent way for pupils to develop deeper relationships, which in turn improves the performances on the pitches. It also gives us an opportunity to stretch and challenge a player's technical and tactical skills. We have found the Italy rugby tour in October to be particularly beneficial to the Under-14 team. They usually play far better rugby in the second half of term.

Roger Bannister is perhaps one of the Old Gowers best remembered for sporting success. Is there anything about his success back in 1954 which athletes at UCS should remember?

Just go and have a look in the gym in the Roger Bannister Sports Centre here at Frognaal and you can see the quotes used that UCS pupils should use as mantras!

As the Director of Sport, you teach far less than you did before. Do you miss it?

I do teach slightly less although this has been replaced with coaching (there is a difference!). We have more sports fixtures than ever before and this is the part of the job that most PE teachers really enjoy – taking teams. This term, I coached the Under-13A and Under-15A teams. I took the latter team last year and it's been fantastic to see the progress these boys have made.

What is the best thing about working at UCS?

Working with supportive colleagues. The PE department are fantastic and each of them brings something exciting and special – yes, even Mr Cooke!

— Contributions by E. Sawtell

Impressive Kantor Centre Officially Opens



Almost two and a half years after the Eve pavilion was torn down, the Kantor Centre was formally opened on 28 September 2019. Mr Sawtell recounts his memories from that momentous day.

The strictest instruction that was given to me in advance of this event was that I had to wear a suit. And yet I still didn't quite manage to arrive at the Kantor Centre dressed in my finest, though I knew that it was required later in the day. We still had matches to play.

The planning required for the day went very smoothly, considering it was a cross-departmental effort. The UCS Development and Alumni Relations team and I worked closely to ensure that everything was taken into account. Many hours were spent discussing the format, sportspeople, guest list, catering and more. We also had the backing of our athletics sponsors, Gilbert, a relationship that has clearly brought us more than just quality sports clothing.

Thanks to the efforts of Richard Gray of Gilbert, Grays & Gray-Nicolls, Jodie Gibson and Sir Alastair Cook were booked in from the start, and both were happy and honoured to attend. On the Thursday evening before, I received an email from our Gilbert rep asking if we also wanted GB Hockey gold medallist Maddie Hinch. Why not – the more the merrier... Of course we did!

There was an amazing list of sports stars that joined us on the day: Alex Goode, Saracens & England Rugby (thanks to Mr Nicholls), Harry Martin, GB & England Hockey (thanks to Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club) and finally Faye White, England Women's Football (thanks to Elana Dwek, UCS Head of Alumni Relations). As you can tell, the event was a great team effort. What was more impressive was to see how the elite sports stars were warmly welcomed by the UCS pupils and how they felt comfortable speaking with all and sundry.

Impressive Kantor Centre Officially Opens



The Pre-Prep kicked things off with their usual enthusiasm and joy at being able to run free on a football pitch. Faye was suitably impressed, as were the parents of the Junior Branch during the Highgate v UCS Under-10 football match (thanks to Highgate for allowing the result to go our way!). Hockey and netball also began on the astroturf. Jodie Gibson gave our UCS girls a masterclass in elite netball play. Harry Martin contributed by umpiring the Under-14 team against Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club, and was then joined by Maddie Hinch to give the pupils an international session in goalkeeping and shooting.

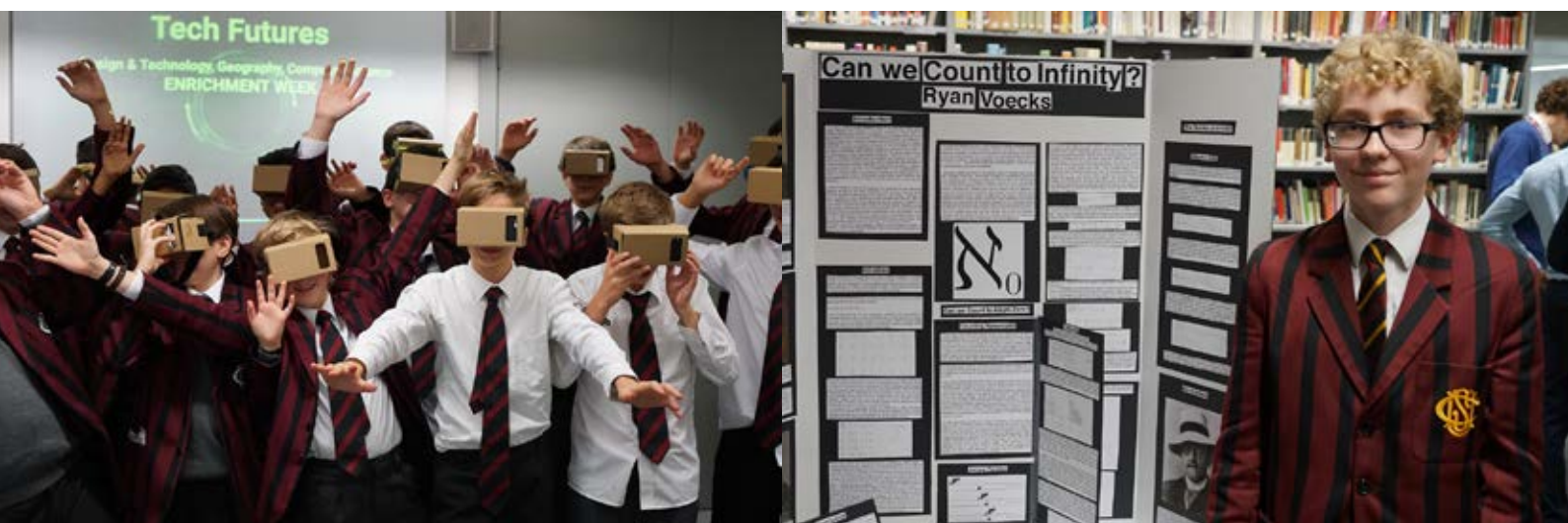
The formal lunch event was a special UCS relaxed affair. My personal highlight was to see how excited Mrs Hawes and Becky Coleman were, as they could talk to all these sporting greats.

The meal was followed by speeches and the unveiling of two plaques, thanking those that have given the UCS community so much. Mark Beard introduced Dr Kantor and Simon Lewis welcomed our guest of honour, Sir Alastair Cook. He was in a very good mood as his team, Essex County Cricket Club, had just won the County Championship for the second time in three years. He then offered up some tips and tricks in the cricket nets to our own academy and 1st-team players.

After that, it was time to put our rugby pitches to use and see the senior teams take on The Oratory School. This was what I was most looking forward to: seeing our facilities being used as they should and pupils competing as best they could in an even contest. I certainly went home a little happier knowing that UCS sport is finally home.

— Contributions by E. Sawtell

Enrichment Weeks



Academic Enrichment got off to a dynamic start this term. As part of the Languages, Classics and Dance Enrichment Week, students took part in an array of dance workshops including Capoeira, Tap, Tai Chi, and Hip Hop. Tech Futures, the focus of this year's DT, Computer Science and Geography Enrichment Week saw Lower Remove students build virtual reality headsets.

There are several branches of Academic Enrichment at UCS, all designed to broaden the students' educational experience beyond the curriculum. The Morris Lecture programme provides students with the opportunity to experience challenging and intellectually stimulating lectures on topics such as 'Fabricated Futures – how technology is shaping the way we innovate' and 'Ecocriticism: where has "the wilderness" gone?'

The Middle School Academic Enrichment is a newly launched six-week extra-curricular course, run for the first time last Summer Term, where the Remove students choose from a range of courses which promote cross-curricular engagement and

tackle A Level course material such as Behavioural Economics, Oriental Studies, and Psychology. The recent presentation evening saw the culmination of outstanding independent research with projects such as Jonathan Shaw's 'Space launch weather balloon' (which was successfully sent to space), Cyrus Singer's 'How to optimise a neural network' and Ryan Voecks's project 'Can we count to infinity?'

The Lower School Academic Enrichment programme has continued to go from strength to strength. The Entry students' Dialectics programme is in full swing, with the aim of developing the boys' understanding of what knowledge is and how it is acquired. Students in the Shell continue to be enthused in their weekly PPE lessons, so far engaging with topics such as action-types, morality and ethics.

Academic Enrichment this term has, as ever, enhanced the diverse, holistic, and academically stimulating education of UCS.

— Contributions by H. Franks and L. Hughes

Oxbridge Symposium



The inaugural Oxbridge Symposium took place after school on 14 November and UCS welcomed three academics – Alex Coupe (Goldsmiths, University of London), Sepideh Khodaparast (Imperial College London), Alejandro Julio de Coss Corzo (Durham University) – each representing a different academic discipline and delivering lectures for our aspiring Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates.

The format of the evening was designed to give each UCS Oxbridge aspirant an inspirational taste of what learning will be like beyond UCS, as well as setting up an opportunity to discuss advanced topics and to seek to link ideas in preparation for upcoming interviews. As one might imagine, gathering together some of our motivated Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and STEM pupils, overseen by members of the UCS staff (who, I know, enjoyed the lectures as much as their charges did), led to some fascinating discussions leaping from the ideas delivered.

The event had been scheduled to close at around 6pm but I was still listening to a group of erudite, impassioned and analytical UCS Sixth Form students casting their ideas around, blending them quite brilliantly, then sending each out, once more, around the room for further discussion until gone 6.40pm. I suspect that if commutes home had not been necessary, these dazzling academic conversations could have rolled on. Together with formal interview practice and the myriad tutorial opportunities provided by UCS departments, the Oxbridge Symposium certainly puts our students on the front foot for their interviews.

Everyone involved was immensely grateful to Mr English for the time and care put in to organising this event and we look forward to seeing it become a regular fixture.

— Contributions by J. Orchard

Economics Society Relaunch



The Economics department started the term by revamping its Friday academic enrichment provision by inviting UCL Economics professors to give lectures to our Sixth Form students on topics such as green economics, econometrics and considering whether economics is a natural or social science. As this is Year 13 and Economics students are aspiring to get into Oxbridge, we have also conducted half-term workshops and several sessions of internal and external mock interviews.

On 5 November, we invited our partnership schools to An Evening of Economics, where we were fortunate to have Daniel Pryor from the Adam Smith Institute deliver a lecture and seminar on the economics of immigration and creating a post-Brexit economy.

On 12 November, a number of students were taken to a public lecture at the Royal Automobile Club hosted by the Institute of International Monetary

Research, where Robert Skidelsky gave the keynote speech on the effectiveness of fiscal policy.

In order to make Economics more accessible to all students, we have reinstated the Economics Society, run by Transitus student James Nolan, where events such as debates, lectures and economic experiments take place. The department also encourages students to further their economic education by keeping online blogs and by analysing relevant newspaper clippings. Our students have also been exposed to external competitions such as the Student Investor Challenge, the Bank of England Young Economist competition and the Adam Smith Institute essay competition. Overall, it has been a busy few weeks for the department, with more events and news to come in the new term.

— Contributions by P. Fernando

Careers And Young Enterprise



Careers

Every fortnight, UCS hosts Careers Lunches in the AKO Centre. At each we welcome a different speaker or organisation who offers an insight into a career or opportunity available to pupils beyond UCS. Recently, we have heard from Investment 2020 who discussed the world of Investment Management and routes into the sector. We also welcomed Benjamin Hay (OG), who talked to pupils about his experiences working in the legal profession and how his career has progressed since leaving the school. Careers Lunches are a great way for pupils to gain an understanding of various industries and we look forward to more of these next term.

Earlier in the term, pupils in the Upper Remove experienced an afternoon of careers talks. Former pupils and parents spoke about the value of studying humanities subjects at university and how their careers have evolved. Speakers included Mark Greaves who read Classics at Oxford University before training as a barrister, and Mischa Frankl-Duval (OG) who read English at

Oxford and now writes for the Wall Street Journal. Thank you to all our speakers for delivering such insightful talks.

— Contributions by D. Armitage

Young Enterprise

In late September, Transitus pupils battled it out to be one of the two teams who would represent UCS in the Young Enterprise 2019 Company Programme. We were tasked with creating a business plan, pitch and presentation which we then would present to a panel of teachers and a business advisor. The panel asked tough questions and we had to be creative and think quickly. Teams pitched on a range of ideas but the two winners were Balance, who will design and sell a task management app, and UniforMe, who will design a platform for the sale of second hand uniform. The two teams, under the guidance of a business advisor, will work on these projects for the next six months and we are excited to hear how about how they get on.

— Contributions by Leo Black (Transitus)

EPQ Presentation Evening



At the end of the school day on Tuesday 19 November in the AKO Centre, 24 Sixth Formers gave individual presentations on a range of subjects from different academic disciplines. Is Lunfardo a language? Is thalidomide a drug worth licensing? What caused the US-China trade war? Was the Thirty Years' War a religious conflict? The atmosphere was intellectually vibrant.

This was the culmination of the pupils' Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). In the previous April they formulated a question on a topic that interested them, and in the months that followed they researched the subject area and produced an answer to their question in the form of a dissertation. Now, at the end of the course, they had to give a presentation on the aims, methods and results of their research and answer questions from an assessor. Each student had designed a presentation board as an aid to their talk.

The diversity of interests was striking and the knowledge that these students had acquired in only eight months was impressive. It was clear from their lively responses to questions just how committed each of them was to their research. I have no doubt that this valuable academic experience will help them adjust quickly to learning in a higher education environment.

— Contributions by K. Viswanathan

Poetry Anthology And Evening



The poet Stephen Spender – an Old Gower – once said that “great poetry is always written by somebody straining to go beyond what they can do”. By any and every measure, this year’s UCS Poetry Anthology celebrates pupils’ ability to do just that; it is a stunning body of work that exhibits pupils’ mastery of language and propensity for voicing complex ideas in original and imaginative ways.

The poems in this year’s anthology were written in response to the following lines of poetry:

Entry and Shell

“The most important place there was”

– *Interruption to a Journey* by Norman MacCaig

Lower Remove, Remove and Upper Remove

“He was one who had an eye for such mysteries”

– *Afterwards* by Thomas Hardy

Transitus and Sixth

“And that every so often the world is bound to shake” – *Sandpiper* by Elizabeth Bishop

In November, this year’s published poets gathered to read their poems to an audience of friends, parents and teachers at the UCS Poetry Evening. It was a magical evening made even more special by the visit of poet Charly Cox, who spoke about what it is to be a young poet in the digital age.

Congratulations to this year’s published poets and many thanks to the teachers in the UCS English department for helping them to find their voice. Particular congratulations go to Duncan Agnew (Entry), Asher Hill (Lower Remove) and Darcey Willing (Sixth) for their winning poems, as chosen by Charly Cox.

— *Contributions* by H. Hardingham

UCS Finishes Third In Kids' Lit Quiz 2019



Each year, two teams of Entry and Shell boys take part in the North London Heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz – an international reading competition. The boys were particularly excited this year as they won it last year and went on to represent north London in the national final.

The 2019 North London Heat took place on Wednesday 28 November at Queenswood School in Hertfordshire. Twenty-eight teams answered 100 questions in rounds ranging from books featuring cutlery to squirrels in literature! Our boys rose to the challenge and gradually inched up the scoreboard as the afternoon progressed.

At the end of the competition, UCS team 2, comprising Carter Moran, Vaughn Conway, Jeremy Jeffes and Ethan Walters, finished in a very respectable mid-table position and UCS team 1, made up of Micah Klein, Ivan Domingo, Ayan Hull-Jurkovic and Theo Frankel, finished in third place, winning themselves a book token each. Well done to all the boys who took part!

— Contributions by P. Davison

Junior Science Club



Junior Science Club was run in the Biology department this Autumn Term by a core group of five dedicated Transitus students. It proved quite a hit with the Entry pupils who turned up each week to have fun activities and quizzes. Marshall Gould and his team arranged experiments and quizzes. Marshall commented, “*We did numerous experiments every week such as measuring the rate of transpiration using a potometer and measuring the rate of diffusion using agar jelly cubes.*” In other sessions, pupils examined bees under a microscope and ate honey from the honeycomb. They also got to play with the Biology department’s collection of stick insects, finding out that they reproduce asexually as well as playing dead when the Entry boys were around!

Marshall and team presented some difficult Biology questions to the students, who were highly motivated in the hope of getting a prize of sweets and chocolate, or even dried edible insects! Students also watched some fun educational videos and enjoyed spending time in the Biology department laboratories. It has been an amazing term for the club and we have all been impressed to see the intelligence and the enthusiasm of the new Entry pupils, and I hope their passion for Biology continues in the future! Thanks so much to all the Transitus students who helped to make it such an enjoyable experience and to the Biology technicians who prepared the equipment.

— Contributions by N. Carling

Maths Enrichment And Competitions



Maths Beyond The Classroom

This term UCS has welcomed visiting Maths lecturers from UCL who have delivered introductory talks on specialist mathematical subjects. These lectures are a fantastic opportunity for anyone with an interest in Mathematics to enrich their education beyond the standard A Level topics. There was a great turnout for the lecture on number theory by Christopher Birkbeck and we are now looking forward to talks on topology and spatial arrangement; partial differentiation in fluid dynamics; and differential geometry.

— Contributions by D. Armitage

Maths Jams

Maths Jams have rapidly become hotly anticipated events at UCS. They are held before school and pupils deliver a series of five-minute talks on any mathematical topic that is of interest to them.

Highlights this term have included:

- A method for determining the number of possible combinations of Krispy Kreme doughnuts one could be presented with, for a box of 12.
- A proof that you can always win a game of tic-tac-

toe, supposing you go first (and are operating in more than two dimensions!)

— Contributions by Alex Burns (Transitus)

Hans Woyda Competition

On 5 November, UCS took a team of four, Alex Burns, Geno Racklin Asher, Ryan Voecks and Michael Humphreys, to Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School to take part in the Hans Woyda Mathematics Competition. The Hans Woyda Competition is a Maths contest where teams answer advanced Mathematics questions over seven rounds. This includes a team round and a race round where participants have to answer questions as quickly as possible. UCS had already beaten Francis Holland School with a score of 57–24 in a previous match, and went into the next round with high hopes. UCS had a slow start, failing to answer any of the first round of starter questions. However, the team pulled together, with a strong showing on the mental arithmetic round and good unity on the team round. In no time at all, UCS was dominating its competition and won 36–18. Bring on the next round!

— Contributions by Alex Burns (Transitus)

Engineering Masterclass



Together with several other UCS pupils, I was selected to take part in a six-week Royal Institution Engineering Masterclass at the University of Westminster.

Each Saturday morning over the course of the programme, a different expert in an Engineering field came in to teach us about their work and so over the course of the programme we got a taste of the world of robotics and artificial intelligence, engineering of foundations for structures, K’Nex racing cars, high-speed trains in the future, rocket engineering and drones. Each class was interesting and different from the others, and all were very informative and fun.

One of my most memorable classes was working on foundations, when, after learning about them, we were given five sheets of paper and told to build the most stable “oil rig” we could. My group (which that week happened to be made up of UCS pupils) decided to roll up the sheets and put them standing upwards on the table in an X formation. When it came to testing, we found that our rig could withstand seven boxes full of A4 paper (around 1,500 pieces of paper) before it crumpled, which won us the competition.

The course was a great opportunity and gave me a taste of the expansive subject of Engineering, which I really enjoyed.

— Contributions by Michael Humphreys (Lower Remove)

Sixth Form Deliver Meals And Volunteer In India



During the October half-term holiday, eight Sixth Form pupils travelled to India to work for a fortnight with the El Shaddai Charitable Trust. El Shaddai supports children in Goa whose families are affected by extreme poverty. It provides food, clothing, healthcare, education, and shelter to the children who need it most and some of the children are even placed in a boarding school run by the charity.

The UCS team worked hard throughout their stay in Goa. The visit took place at the same time as the Diwali holidays and the children in the charity's care hugely appreciated the games which our pupils played with them almost every day. The UCS pupils visited a number of centres and even helped to deliver "meals on wheels" in Margao to families who are homeless. The visit also coincided with Goa experiencing the wettest October in living memory. Cyclone Kyarr caused significant damage

to some of the buildings used by El Shaddai and this year's fundraising events held at UCS will hopefully raise enough funds to repair the various roofs damaged in the storms.

I would like to thank the pupils for their hard work during the trip. The children in El Shaddai's care will never forget the games, fun and laughter that you shared throughout your time in India.

— Contributions by E. Roberts

Transitus Pupils Volunteer In Romania



During the summer, two groups of Transitus pupils travelled to Romania to work with Hands of Hope, a charity which helps children who live in abject poverty. The charity is run by a truly inspirational woman called Ramona, who has altruistically dedicated her life to the betterment of Roma children.

We arrived in the blistering heat, and, soon after, went to visit Plopi – a Roma community a short drive from our accommodation. Here, we spent time playing and having fun with the children. We went to several villages and formed many great relationships with children of a wide variety of ages. Every day we played football, gave piggyback rides (calut in Romanian), and painted faces in the villages. Seeing the children enjoying themselves was extremely rewarding.

One of the most profound moments of the trip was when Emilia and I had the opportunity to see some of the housing that the families lived in. The conditions were shocking. There were often upwards of seven people sleeping in one room and only a mother to provide for many hungry children. This is why it was so amazing that we were able to help them by getting building supplies, food and even buying chicks!

We all got a lot out of the trip and we hope that we made some small difference to the lives of the people whom we met.

— Contributions by Jack Paul (Transitus)

Sixth Form Travel To Argentina



With no little trepidation and much enthusiasm, 22 pupils who study either Spanish or Geography, accompanied by Mr Wilkes, Mrs Rancon and myself, set off for a 12-day visit to Buenos Aires in October. As the red line of the flight path edged imperceptibly southwards and the hours passed, the extent of the distance to tierras australes became ever more evident. A beautiful, almost mythical city awaited us, with vast blue skies, an old-world glamour and the brown, muddy waters of the great Río de la Plata.

From the moment we landed, we explored this immense and captivating metropolis situated at the end of the world – from its Parisian architecture to its adulation of Peronism and the Italianate cadences of porteño Spanish. Visits to the Casa Rosada, Teatro Colón and the opulent Palacio Barolo were, of course, obligatory, but more niche discoveries were also called for – the Hotel Castelar, where García Lorca stayed during the premiere of *Blood Wedding* in 1933; the former Ateneo Grand Splendid theatre, now a bookshop; and the bizarre

Palacio de Aguas Corrientes or Waterworks Palace. Every day brought a different experience, from trying maté with the teachers and pupils of El Colegio San Esteban to visiting the grand synagogue and museum and appreciating the vastness of the pampa – described by Borges as “un vértigo horizontal” – during a day spent at a traditional gaucho ranch.

Whilst the trip brought our classroom studies of Argentine history, politics and literature to life, the greatest pleasure and privilege was to be able to share this wonderful experience with such a singularly congenial group of pupils – funny, irreverent and captivated in equal measure.

Buenos Aires was the perfect introduction to Latin America and will hopefully inspire more visits in the future.

— Contributions by H. Laurenson

25 Years Of The Hamburg Exchange



Our exchange programme and link with the Heinrich-Heine-Gymnasium, Hamburg, now dates back a quarter of a century. The latest exchange underlined the close ties between our schools and teachers and the feeling of mutual warmth and respect. This is set to continue regardless of any possible Brexit in the near future!

Sixteen boys in the current Remove German set took part this year and in September we warmly welcomed our German guests, who participated in a busy week of activities, both as a group and in our families at the weekend. The week culminated with a morning of lessons in UCS and a German-language treasure hunt around the school.

A few weeks later, we visited the Hanseatic City of Hamburg and spent time with exchange families as well as enjoying action-packed day trips to Lübeck and Berlin. Particular highlights were the Olympic Stadium, the walking tour around the main sights,

the Fassbender & Rausch chocolate shop and the group shopping challenge in the centre of Lübeck. Our last full day included a morning in school and the afternoon exploring Hamburg, a photo competition and the new Museum of Illusions, before we indulged in the traditional leaving meal at Block House.

We look forward to another set of Germanists taking part next year! With thanks to Mr Bienias for accompanying us again and to our colleagues in Hamburg, Mrs Wettendorf and Mr Zimmerman.

— Contributions by T. Underwood

UCS Drama Pupils Hit Broadway



During October half-term, a group of 19 pupils from Upper Remove, Transitus and Sixth crossed the pond to visit New York. Our schedule included visits to some of the big tourist attractions such as the top of the Rockefeller Center, Central Park, a Hudson River cruise, the United Nations and Times Square. We also enjoyed two productions. After an early start at Heathrow on Monday morning, we arrived in NYC with time to explore Central Park before an evening meal at the Hard Rock Cafe.

We were lucky to have good weather for the majority of our trip, but we managed to coincide our open-top ferry trip with pouring rain – providing a rather cloudy, but no less interesting close-up view of the Statue of Liberty, looking back at the skyline of New York. That evening, we went to see an incredible off-Broadway production of *Sleep No More*, an immersive play based on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Set in an abandoned hotel, the audience walked around three floors exploring

different rooms and stories by following around the actors who produced some impressive sequences of physical theatre. It was a brilliant example of the huge range of shows that are on across the city, completely different to the hit Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen* that we were lucky enough to see. Our trip also featured two educational workshops: Stage Combat and The Art of the Quick Costume Change. They provided an intriguing insight into the behind the scenes of Broadway, a unique experience that would not be available to the public.

A huge thank you to Mr Bhantoa and Ms Baxter for organising and running the trip!

— Contributions by Monty Charles (Sixth)

Bauhaus And Light Festival In Berlin



Over October half-term, the Art and DT departments took a group of Transitus students to Berlin. This four-day experience was jam-packed with exciting visits to galleries, museums and historical sights. Art and DT had split itineraries but came together for sightseeing and evening activities.

The design students observed, for example, the work of Bauhaus architects whilst gaining inspiration for their academic portfolios. When visiting a panorama platform in a recently developed public square, both Art and DT students observed the scenic landscapes and developed their sketchbooks in order to support the direction of their A Level and Pre-U courses.

To blow off some steam, and to fit in some exercise, the DT students hired a go-cart and whizzed around a former airfield, exploring its old infrastructure and testing their physical stamina by 'racing' local pigeons.

The Art exhibition 'No Photos on the Dance Floor' at C/O Berlin offered a flavour and insight into German life since 1989, when the wall fell, and documented the youth and club culture of Berlin through the subsequent years until now. Our students responded to the content by curating a photography exhibition in the Lund Gallery: 'Warum Spielst du die beleidigte Leberwurst?'

Spoilt for choice in galleries and sightseeing, our tour coincided with the German Festival of Lights, which was one of the highlights of the trip. The Festival of Lights is an annual event where landmarks and buildings across the city are transformed by luministic projections and 3D mapping. Structures, streets and squares, including the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin TV Tower and the Berlin Cathedral, metamorphosed through impressive light shows, which took us on a journey through some of Berlin's rich history.

— Contributions by B. Vliegen and K. Anthony

Classicists And Art Historians Visit Rome



In October I was not expecting stunning vistas and sunshine, but Rome provided exactly that. Due to the trip's combination of Art History and Classics, we visited a mix of buildings that varied in millennia. Ostia Antica was an amazing sight and our great tour guide explained the lost city's history – which proved interesting to both Classics and History of Art pupils for its place in time, contribution to Rome and as a point of comparison between the Renaissance and Baroque pieces we saw.

Taking a detour to Tivoli, I understood why the first Art Historian, Giorgio Vasari, believed that artists were able to recreate the complexities of nature. Seeing a rainbow perfectly formed in an artificial waterfall was something that could only be witnessed in real life with the advantage of a trip. Of course we saw the famous sites of the Colosseum, Vatican Museum and Forum but we

also explored impressive architectural marvels such as Borromini and Bernini's Baroque churches which most tourists would walk right past. The hotel was not as spectacular as the Pope's grandson's personal villa, but it made for a good base to rest between the many sites seen. One highlight of the trip was the newly available Domus Aurea (or Emperor Nero's 'Golden House'). This archaeological restoration site contained state-of-the-art virtual reality technology that shed new light on the dark subterranean ruins of Nero's once high and mighty palace; this was something that could only be achieved in Rome, standing under the layers of strata that have built up the city's history.

— Contributions by Benji Rose (Sixth)

UCS Pupils Donate Three And A Half Tonnes Of Food To Local Food Bank



The annual food collection for the North Paddington Food Bank is now in its fourth year. It has grown into an annual “harvest” event and this year involved all three schools in the UCS Foundation who donated three and a half tonnes of food and toiletries on one Friday morning before school started.

The demand for food at the North Paddington Food Bank has increased and this donation made a real difference to the work carried out there. The manager, James Quayle, commented, *“The UCS donation is our biggest one yet. It is of huge importance to us and we cannot communicate how much we appreciate the effort that has been put in by the students to make this happen. This donation will mean that the food bank is well stocked for at least the next fortnight. We always notice an increase in demand after the summer and this will certainly help us to cope with this.”*

Cobi Jacobs, who has been fundamental in the organisation of the food donation since 2016, commented, *“We are delighted. It is overwhelming to discuss with James just how important this donation is and the impact it has on the lives of people in the North Paddington area.”*

After launching this event three years ago, Cobi and his friends now volunteer at the food bank on a regular basis throughout the year. Mark Beard, Headmaster, was delighted with the continued success of the annual collection: *“This is entirely organized by the pupils themselves and is a testimony to their community-minded attitude. It was great to see the Sixth Formers working together with the younger pupils this morning. They packed the donation into 141 boxes and I would like to thank everyone who donated these items.”*

— Contributions by E. Roberts

Community Action



Community Action is the term used to describe the charity fundraising which is carried out by UCS pupils during the second half of the autumn term. Pupils from each Deme nominate a charity and then organise fundraising events in aid of these charities. Whether the event raises £10 or £1,000, each is celebrated equally! The cookie shop has continued to be popular amongst the pupils but a sushi shop has been a welcome, healthier alternative. The Great Hall was filled by pupils for the annual Take Me Out event and a Teachers Sumo Wrestling competition (organised by Transitus pupils) was keenly contested!

This year, pupils nominated the following charities to be supported:

- Entry** – Cancer Research UK
- Shell** – World Wide Fund for Nature
- Baxters** – Grief Encounter
- Black Hawkins** – North Paddington Food Bank
- Evans** – Brain Research UK
- Flooks** – Leukaemia UK
- Olders** – Microloan Foundation
- Underwoods** – Young Minds

We heard from three of these charities during assemblies and we congratulate our pupils on the imagination and energy they have displayed with their approach to fundraising. The final amount raised will be announced next term.

— Contributions by J. Enemuwe and B. Albu

Mock Interview Evenings



This term the UCS Science department hosted two events aimed at supporting pupils from across London in their university applications. The first event was a Multiple Mini Interview evening, which helped aspiring medics to prepare for their forthcoming medical school interviews.

Over 40 pupils from UCS, UCL Academy, Westminster Academy and LAE, Stratford attended the evening and each received eight short interviews on topics ranging from Empathy to NHS Hot Topics. Pupils who attended acquired a better understanding of the interview process and they appreciated the opportunity to be interviewed by a number of different people they had never met before. Two weeks later, pupils from the same four schools were offered practice interviews to help support their applications to Oxford or Cambridge. We were able to offer this to all students applying for STEM subjects, and on the evening, 48 experts gave over 140 half-hour mock interviews to more than 60 students who attended.

Both events were well received by the pupils and by our partnership schools and we would like to pass on our sincere thanks to the vast number of parents, Old Gowers, colleagues and friends whose support made these events possible.

“I attended the mock interview evenings at UCS and found them extremely helpful in determining what my own strengths and weaknesses are and how to present them. I am really grateful that I had this opportunity. Thank you for your help!”

Inshrah Yasir-Gakhar, Westminster Academy

“The students found the experience incredibly useful, as they were provided with detailed feedback on how to improve. The opportunity to be interviewed by different people was invaluable as it allows them to adapt to different interview styles and practise answering a wide variety of questions.”

Ms Abdullahi, Biology teacher, London Academy of Excellence, Stratford

— Contributions by A. Westwood and J. Powell

Pupils From LAE, Stratford Visit UCS



Like a nervous party host, I rearranged a few accoutrements on the tables and aligned a couple of chairs. Did the room look good enough? Would they buy into what I was peddling? By they, I should make clear that I mean UCS and LAE students, and by peddling I mean sharing expert insights into some of the major concerns Sixth Formers nationwide have about the transition to undergraduate life. My nerves stemmed from this being my first partnership event and, to be honest, the fact that teenagers are the most exacting audience. I could only hope my talk would catch and provoke their brilliant minds.

Six hours later, as I stacked laptops and folded chairs, I chuckled to myself: why had I been so anxious? I had gathered five inspiring members of the UCS staff – Jess Lewis, Chris Nicholls, Chris Bhantoa, Patrick Milton and Alex Hurst – who all delivered nimble, canny TED-style talks on self-motivation, organisation and study habits; diet and health; financial self-management; networking

and maintaining contact; diversification in a digital age and resolving conflict in relationships. I then mixed 60 LAE and UCS students, gave them a task and some resources, and set them loose. The materials subsequently generated by the groups were heartfelt, funny and, of course, clever. There are many elements to the digital age we live in, but it showed its best side for all of us as we sat through expertly crafted videos and instructional documents, framed by students for students, on how to navigate the choppy waters of burgeoning autonomy.

Huge thanks to Jack Kennedy at LAE, the UCS housemaster, and chapeau to all of the students involved. We all learned and we all laughed and that's a great day at the office.

— Contributions by J. Orchard

Big Band Christmas Concert Raises £8,000 For El Shaddai



The Big Band Christmas Concert returned to the Great Hall this term with an ensemble comprising more current pupils than ever before. Stalwarts of the UCS Rat Pack, Jack Paul and Sebastian Heemels-Odutola, were joined by fellow Transitus and Sixth Form singers, Monty Charles, Evie Melman, Natanya Popoola, Rebecca Fenner and Lucas Wolman. The band featured Luca Zucchi and Monty Charles on tenor sax, Jess Rollason and Yash Zodgekar on drums, Raphael Milne on piano and Oscar Ruddick-Trentman on lead trumpet. Old Gowers, Bennett Silverman and Conal Hughes shared the double bass pad and Oli Mayo returned to provide tuned percussion. Mr Bullock joined the ensemble on baritone sax and Mr Albu directed from the guitar seat. There was an encouraging display of younger talent this year too, including Upper Remove singer Liam Lichy-Lightman and

trumpeter Leo Sassoon. Youngest of all were the Remove pupils: Elijah Lifton on alto sax and Hector Hills on trombone.

Martin Hutchings and his team transformed the Great Hall into a cosy, festive nightclub, where a packed house of diners were treated to a performance of swinging arrangements from the Christmas songbooks of Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. Over £8,000 was raised from tickets sales and donations for the El Shaddai Charitable Trust and between sets, pupils and staff talked to the audience about how El Shaddai plans to use the donations.

— Contributions by B. Albu

UCS Runners Raise Over £64,000 For Two London Charities



On a grey Sunday in October, 65 pupils from UCS took part in the RBC's Race for the Kids 5km run which took place in Hyde Park. The pupils decided to run to raise funds and awareness for two charities which have supported the families of two Entry boys, Rafi Bartfeld and Milo Burns.

Rafi commented, *“My sister was treated for a brain tumour by Great Ormond Street Hospital. She made a full recovery and I wanted to raise money to help other children have this life-saving treatment.”* The two boys decided to participate in the run back in April and the group quickly grew in size once their classmates heard what they were planning. Milo was delighted that so many people, including their former Headmaster at the UCS Junior Branch, Lewis Hayward, wanted to get involved. He said: *“Everyone was so supportive and wanted to do their bit. I wanted to raise money for Grief Encounter who have helped members of my family when they*

have needed it. They do amazing work. They provide services and support to bereaved children and their families and this money will make a huge difference to them.”

Parents and friends supported the boys over the summer with their preparations for the run. Annabel Bartfeld, ambassador for GOSH, took the boys on training sessions on Hampstead Heath every other day so they would be well prepared for race day. The enthusiasm and support from the children and their families was absolutely overwhelming and the boys raised in excess of £64,000. Later in the term, Annabel took all the runners to Great Ormond Street Hospital so they could learn more about both charities and have a tour of the hospital.

— Contributions by E. Roberts

Sweeney Todd Enthrals The Lund



This term saw the biennial school Musical - which, this year, was Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. As a story, it has all the elements of a straightforward Tragedy. It follows an anti-hero, brought to ruin, through his single-minded quest for revenge. It allows a chorus to foretell the demise, to warn the audience of the inevitability of the tragedy. The characters, complex and multi-faceted, have internal conflicts and external battles. And it maintains a relentless sense of threat, of impending doom, as Sweeney careens towards his tragic and inescapable demise. It is - in short - a wonderfully unusual and genre-bending theatrical experience, which takes no prisoners, and makes no apologies.

With one of the most complex and formidable scores in Musical Theatre, the unnerving, twisted, and endlessly surprising Sweeney was a daunting task. The company - who were cast in June -

rehearsed tirelessly from September, through darkening nights and long, cold Sundays. However, despite the fiendishly difficult score, they seem to sail through the challenges of the music, turning up to rehearsals and knocking it out of the park. Indeed, they have made it all seem rather effortless - in the rehearsal room, and out on the stage. Their morale, their cheer, and the warmth and support they offered each other at every step of the process has been inspiring. To say they're impressive is a huge understatement. For many of the cast this was their final UCS show, their last time out on the Lund stage, after many years of UCS Drama. In the words of one of the cast - 'what a curtain call..'

— Contributions by R. Baxter

UCS Shortlisted At Independent School Of The Year Awards



In September, the outstanding calibre of drama, dance and music at UCS was recognised as the school was shortlisted at the Independent School of the Year Awards in the Performing Arts category. The judges were impressed by the provision throughout the Senior School during the last academic year.

In music, over 150 pupils were involved in group music making with over 40 concerts taking place throughout the school year. The variety of groups available is remarkable and include Brass Sinfonia, Chamber Orchestra, Junior Jazz, Rock School and Boys' Choir. The endangered instrument programme gives pupils the opportunity to learn the french horn, trombone, oboe and bassoon through free instrument hire and lessons and in March UCS hosted the South East Chamber Music Festival and were delighted that, once again, two of our groups were selected to play in the final festival concert.

2018–19 saw the largest cohort ever of pupils studying Drama. Dance continued to grow and the inaugural Deme Dance competition held in February was hugely popular. At the core of the

year's theatrical endeavour was social conscience. The year started with a home run of the Edinburgh Fringe Fringe show – *Hysterical* – which was devised by *Transitus* pupils and explored gender inequality. June saw previews of 2019's Edinburgh Fringe offerings, *Pearls and Nothing to Hide*, which explored the complexities of ageing and the threat of technology. The challenge offered by these productions wasn't limited to Sixth Form – Middle School pupils staged a searing production of *Decade*, which explored the impact of 9/11 and left audiences shocked afresh at the horrors of that fateful day. Another unique project was *Fine, thanks*. In collaboration with the Lord Mayor of Westminster; a cast of students and professionals performed this original verbatim musical, written by Mr Abbott and a UCS student, at The Savoy Theatre. The stalls and circle were packed and £9,000 was raised for Place2Be and Young Minds. The production was as illuminating as it was heartbreaking.

With such impressive provision, it was no surprise that UCS was shortlisted for this award.

— *Contributions by E. Roberts*

Autumn Term Lunchtime Concert Series



The second half of the Autumn Term saw four lunchtime concerts in the Great Hall. Tuesday 5 November was a first for UCS Music; a lunchtime concert entirely presented by one ensemble. The Verran Trio (twice award winners in the South East Schools' Chamber Music Festival) performed two of Max Bruch's Eight Pieces, Opus 83 as an ensemble in addition to each appearing as a soloist in their own right. Jaren Ziegler (viola) revelled in the quirkiness of Shostakovich's Preludes, David Verran (clarinet) put in a bravura rendition of Weber's Concertino in E flat, and Charlie Tyler (piano) was alternately powerful and tender in Brahms' Rhapsody in B minor.

Two of the lunchtime concerts spotlighted specific year groups. On Thursday 21 November six Upper Remove musicians applied the final polish to their GCSE solo performances: Lukas Jorgensen (violin) brought crisp articulation and sharp attack to 'Winter' from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Leo Sassoon (trumpet) dazzled tonally and rhythmically in

Leonard Bernstein's Red, White and Blues, and Ben Miller (voice) committed wholeheartedly as ever in Gershwin's Summertime. On Tuesday 26 November it was the turn of Sixth musicians. Oscar Brogden (violin) rose superbly to the challenges of two contrasting pieces, the pure solo line of JS Bach's Partita in D minor, and the keening intensity of Ernst Bloch's Baal Shem (Three Pictures of Chassidic Life). There was distinguished piano playing from Yash Zodgekar, refined and nuanced in Beethoven's early E major sonata, Nick Mazlov, suitably skittish in Rachmaninov's Prelude in G minor, and Nicolas Sanschagrín, magisterial and controlled in Beethoven's Pathétique.

The concert with the most eye-catching title was 'Voluptuous Variations', curated by Mr Walton as one of his themed events on Thursday 14 November. The programme unfolded as a musical journey traversing four different instrumental families across a variety of style periods. First up was Mozart's set of variations

Autumn Term Lunchtime Concert Series



for piano on the French song *Ah, vous dirai-je, Maman* – otherwise known as *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. Leo Sassoon and Charlie Tyler shared the honours, our enjoyment of their sparkling performance considerably enhanced by Mr Walton’s comprehensive and erudite programme notes. Next came Mr Walton’s arrangement of Stravinsky’s ‘*Gavotta con due variazioni*’ from the ballet *Pulcinella* for a Wind Quartet consisting of Daniel Kohn (oboe), David Verran (clarinet), Xavi Mesquita (French horn) and Mr Walton himself on flute. The sharp elegance of Stravinsky’s first essay in his Neoclassical style was superbly captured by the group.

The final pairing brought further intriguing contrast and juxtaposition. The second movement of Brahms’ first String Sextet comprises a set of stern minor variations on a ground bass but an

ensemble comprising Tim Lee, Oscar Ruddick-Trentmann, Ben Hurst, Jaren Ziegler and Nicolas Sanschagrín brought warmth and grandeur to this taxing music. Finally the mood relaxed with John W Bratton’s *Variations on the Teddy Bear’s Picnic* for Brass Quintet. Oscar Ruddick Trentmann, Leo Sassoon, Xavi Mesquita and Hector Hills projected a most enjoyable performance with tight rhythm and ensemble. Congratulations are due to all performers on preparing this difficult programme with limited rehearsal and to Mr Walton (who played flute, cello and tuba during the course of the concert!) for bringing everything together.

— Contributions by C. Dawe

Rugby Review



As the 2019 rugby term draws to a close, we can reflect on some excellent rugby played and the long awaited return of rugby fixtures to Farm Avenue. Between the Seniors, the Middle School and the Lower School, there have been over 150 fixtures played across the A–D teams, with all year groups having represented the school in Middlesex Cup competitions.

For the first time in many years, we saw the Lower School revert to playing rugby fixtures in the Autumn Term, which allowed them to play a longer and more improved fixture list. The Under-12B team coached by Mr Powell have won almost all of their games and shown improvement game on game. The 1st XV are another high-performing team and have notched up victories against the likes of St Benedict's, Shiplake College and Watford Grammar – a notable 38-0 success that really was one of the best displays I have seen in quite a few years.

The senior rugby players undoubtedly benefitted from touring Australia over the summer and returned unbeaten in five matches. This was matched by the Under-14 year group who toured Italy during half-term and went unbeaten in all their tour matches as well as consuming as much pizza as they could.

UCS continues to encourage boys to push for representative honours and a good number of boys represent Middlesex County, London Irish and are trialists for the Independent Schools RFC Lambs team. Roll on next September.

— Contributions by I. Thomas

100% Record On Tour In Italy



In October half-term, the Lower Remove and Shell rugby players enjoyed an unbeaten tour to Italy.

We set off for London Gatwick and, despite the 4:30am start, spirits were high. We arrived in Verona, eager to get onto the field and score some tries, with three matches to play over five days. After eating lunch, we went to the Hotel Krystal to freshen up and change into our rugby kit for our first game, which was against the RAV Italian rugby club. The pitch was incredible! We defeated RAV and were gracious victors. To congratulate us, the team hosted a delicious dinner. Our captain, Giacomazzi, stood up to thank the club for such an enjoyable opportunity to play against a great team.

The following day we had the chance to explore the city of Vicenza and an aqua park, eat more delicious meals and take in the Italian culture. We also had a two-hour training session. There was blood, sweat and tears from all – it was a tough one. That evening we had our second game and

our team was getting stronger as we all bonded. Titus Graham's pace was the highlight, running rings around the opposition. We played well in the first half and mixed teams with the opposition for the second. This was a great opportunity to brush up on my Italian vocabulary! Another lovely meal followed, which definitely replaced more calories than we had burned. Our final challenge was the hardest of them all. Castellana were strong and we needed to be at our best. Oli Shaw, the man mountain, hit every tackle with the support of Oscar Brown and Harry Owen at their finest at the break down. It was a close first half, but we found the extra energy from all the pasta and managed to pull off a great victory. Three wins from three!

Thank you to all the teachers who made it possible for us to have such an amazing tour!

— Contributions by Harry Abrahams (Lower Remove)

World Cup Star Coaches UCS 1st XV



It's not every day a World Cup hero coaches a school rugby team but on a wet Wednesday in November, this is exactly what happened at UCS. Ben Youngs, England's most capped scrum-half, came to UCS to deliver two coaching sessions. Ben has played for England since 2010 and was a crucial part of the England team that reached the 2019 World Cup final following a thrilling win over the All Blacks in the semi-finals.

The boys were in disbelief when they were told that one of their heroes from the campaign in Japan would be taking their Wednesday practise but Ben duly arrived at the Kantor Centre with his kit and boots ready for action. It was cold and wet but the new pitches at the UCS fields were in superb condition and Ben enjoyed delivering two coaching sessions: one for the senior players and one for the junior players. Both included drills and small-sided games. The players enjoyed learning about various tactics from the England stalwart who emphasised the need to "flood the channels" in order to get

behind a defence. Ben was impressed by a number of aspects of the sporting setup at UCS. "*The players have so much energy,*" commented Ben, "*and the facilities are significantly better than those we had when I was at school.*" The facilities at the Kantor Centre which Ben was using, are brand new and were only opened back in September. Ben's masterclass was the third in the last 12 months to have been delivered by a rugby star. Earlier in the term, Alex Goode from Saracens gave a kicking masterclass to members of the 1st XV and 2nd XV and last year, Mike Ford, whose illustrious CV includes being the defence coach of England, worked with the senior rugby players at UCS for an afternoon.

— Contributions by E. Roberts

Netball



Netball has had an unprecedented number of girls sign up this season. With more than 40 from Transitus and Sixth, selection has been tough, as there are many very talented players fighting for a place in the squad. The 1sts and 2nds have played several fixtures with very strong competition from local large girls' schools, where the girls have had to show real tenacity and team-work. Captain Emilia Taddonio continues to lead with passion and determination, setting the example in team play and positivity. The new Transitus have brought in a wave of fresh talent, particularly impressive being the new and formidable defensive partnership of Ella Von Hammerstein and Talia Peleg, feeding into the centre court where Mel Eleftheriadis and Daisy Spooner show remarkable pace and ball control skills. Coaching the teams continues to be a privilege and a pleasure; the girls are relentlessly positive and hard working, and improve week on week.

“From the Captain’s perspective, netball this term has been an absolute joy to be a part of. We were delighted to welcome such a talented group of Transitus girls into the team, and since the start of the season we have seen a really positive shift in attitudes towards netball and, crucially, towards women’s sport at UCS. Culminating in a 17–9 victory against local rivals SHHS, this term has shown a great amount of dedication and commitment and I can’t wait to get back on the court in January.”

Emilia Taddonio (Sixth)

— Contributions by C. Hawes

UCS Qualify For Nationals



Table tennis is becoming extremely popular with a large number of pupils playing the sport during break, before school, after school and at lunchtime. This is all thanks to the Director of Sport, Mr Sawtell, who has supported the sport by providing more equipment and tables, and more coaching sessions to the pupils at UCS.

UCS was represented by two teams at the London Central National Schools Team Championship on Wednesday 6 November. The Under-13 team finished in second place but the Under-16 team featuring Toby Crawcour, Benjamin Barbarash, Aidan Pick, Tommy Lyons and Oskar Gershfield won their county event and will proceed to a finals tournament in the new year.

This year, the House competition was organised for the Entry and Shell year groups, and the Deme Table Tennis competition was organised for the Lower Remove (group B) and Remove-Sixth (group A). The results were as follows:

Entry House competition:

EBVL	1st
EBCJ	2nd
EPJO	3rd

Shell House competition:

SJCR	1st
SSMH	2nd
SRCT	3rd

Lower Remove Deme competition:

Olders	1st
Evans	2nd
Black Hawkings	3rd

Remove Deme competition:

Olders	1st
Black Hawkings	2nd
Evans	3rd

We are all looking forward to seeing this sport become even more popular in the future.

— Contributions by J. Enemuwe

UCS Sixth Former Wins Award From Cambridge University



Noah won the competition having submitted an essay and a presentation on “Building Evolution from Mathematics”

Back in September, Noah Grodzinski, a UCS Sixth Form pupil, travelled to the University of Cambridge to receive his prize for winning the Gonville and Caius Natural Sciences Challenge. Noah won the competition having submitted an essay and a presentation on “Building Evolution from Mathematics” and is looking forward to spending the £300 prize which was presented to him by the Master of Gonville and Caius. Attending the ceremony followed months of hard work, Noah explained, *“I started writing the presentation in May but a great deal of my research on the topic had been done throughout the spring. I had read *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins and was then inspired to do some further research on game theory and its effect on evolution. The work of John Maynard Smith was particularly interesting. Our Physics teacher, Mr Westwood, told us about the Cambridge prize and I thought using Mathematics to explain evolution would be a suitable, and interesting, topic.”*

After completing his essay and presentation, Noah devised a simulator using Python which enables users to input data which can then be utilised to show how changing conditions affect how a species evolves.

Noah is applying to study Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge and is looking forward to presenting his talk to the pupils at UCS later in the academic year.

— Contributions by E. Roberts

Shell Actor Nominated For Offie



A budding Shell actor, Matt Goldberg has been celebrating after being nominated for an Offie (an Off West End Theatre Award). He received rave reviews for his performance in *Mother of Him* after a six-week run at the Park Theatre in Finsbury Park. Matt's performance at the Park Theatre was described as "remarkably good" in the review by Sardines magazine while What's On Stage said that he showed "great poise". Jacob Thomas, the play's producer was equally pleased: "*This is a massive achievement. We are so very proud [of him] and utterly delighted.*" Matt was delighted to be nominated for the award and commented, "*It was a terrific role to play and I learned so much from the cast and director. Seeing the audience reaction to some of the scenes I was in was the highlight for me.*"

Matt has been on stage for a number of years. In 2015 he performed in *Oresteia* at the Trafalgar Studios and more recently he has voiced characters in the video game *Assassins Creed: The Origins*. Matt joined UCS in 2018 and whilst he enjoys Drama lessons, his favourite subjects are actually Maths and Chemistry. He recently performed an extract from *Of Mice and Men* in assembly, which he claims was almost as nerve wracking as acting on stage.

— Contributions by E. Roberts

Development And Alumni Relations Update



It seems like just yesterday that I was preparing my summer report for The Frognaal, and here we are now in December. As always, it has been a busy few months for our office! In late September, we hosted the Formal Opening of the Kantor Centre. This event was a brilliant example of collaboration between various departments at the Senior School and included sports teams from across the UCS Foundation. We were also honoured to host several top athletes from various sports – Sir Alastair Cook, Maddie Hinch, Alex Goode, Jodie Gibson, Harry Martin and Faye White. It was an exciting and inspiring day and just a small preview of the great things that UCS will do with its beautiful new sports pavilion.

October was a quieter month in terms of our events, but still busy with other things – namely preparing the OG section of The Gower! In November, we hosted a group of Old Gowers at

the school's Act of Remembrance, followed by the Headmaster's Brunch in the Gower Room. It is always a very meaningful morning to see the whole school stand still and pay their respects to the fallen.

This month, we will welcome a small group of donors to a private reception in the Headmaster's office to thank them for their support of UCS. You should have also received the Impact Report on fundraising – a review and breakdown of our donations from 2018-19 and how they were spent – primarily on the bursary programme and facilities.

On behalf of the Old Gowers' Club and the Development and Alumni Relations Office, I'd like to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful holiday season and all the best for the new year.

— Contributions by E. Dwek

