

# SPOTLIGHTS

*This section of the Sennockian looks at selected aspects of Sevenoaks life. Not every event will be covered every year, but rather a spotlight placed on different people, events or activities, giving a flavour of the rich variety of experience and opportunity on offer at the school.*



# CONTENTS

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Introduction from the Head	1
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**FEATURES**

An interview with Geoffrey Streatfeild (OS)	5
A visit to Paul Greengrass (OS) at Pinewood	8
The Findlay Sport Scholarship, including an interview with Sam Stevens	10

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**SPOTLIGHTS**

• Performing pupil profiles (Olivia Jageurs, Tom Morris, Chris Roe)	14
• Glen Inanga (OS)	17
• Hockey: How to remain unbeaten	18
• Junior School Greek Holiday	19
• Year 9 Lyon Exchange	20
• The Italian Connection	22
• Honduras Biology Trip	23
• Matthew Burrard-Lucas, photographer	24
• Model United Nations	27
• Duke of Edinburgh's Award	28
• Junior William Sevenoke Society	29
• International Night 2007	30
• Founder's Day 2007	31
• VSU Gamelan	32
• Kent Youth Disability Games	33
• Gifted & Talented Workshop, Chartwells' Hat-Trick	34

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**REVIEWS**

Academic Review, including prizewinners and valete	36
Music Review	52
Drama Review	58
Sport Review	68
Trips and Activities Review	104
PA Review	108
Alumni Review	110

---

**LOOKING FORWARD**

Development	126
Performing Arts Centre	127
The Campus	128
Leavers' Destinations	130
2008 Dates for your diary	136

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## PERFORMING PUPIL PROFILES

### *Tracking a performing arts theme, current pupils profile three Sixth Form students who have just left us and look at their experiences at Sevenoaks.*

#### PROFILE 1 – OLIVIA JAGEURS (U6)

It's not often that Pygmy music from the Ituri rainforest is cited as inspiration in the world of harp music, but then Olivia Jageurs, 18, is not your average harpist. Arriving in Sevenoaks for the Sixth Form, Olivia swiftly became one of the leading musicians in the school, and an integral part of the music department.



Starting out on the piano aged eight, Olivia quickly moved to the harp two years later, establishing herself as both a composer and performer. She won the Chappell prize for Composition at Trinity College of Music two years running and, having given recitals to over 300 people, performing is clearly no problem for her. 'I love it,' she says. 'I'm a performing junkie, completely addicted.' She has played with both the Wimbledon and Junior Trinity Symphony Orchestras, and at venues all round the country including Cadogan Hall and the New Walk Museum in Leicester.

She cites inspiration from Schoenberg for being one 'completely fearless fruit loop', as well as being influenced by throat music and films of insects for improvisation, in addition to the Ituri Pygmy music. 'I love listening to world music,' she says, 'Late Junction on Radio 3 is great, an inspiration to any composer.' However, music is not her only muse; performance art and dance have a role for Olivia too – 'one project with my music college was composing a piece that was danced to by Laban [a dance school] students' – and she hopes to do more in the future.

In a dream world, Olivia replies that she would like to trek the globe, sampling sounds, and then combine them 'in a huge glorious drum'n bass track'. This dream was furthered last summer with a trip to the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, a

week that has instilled in Olivia a love of Chinese instruments. The top for her, she says, would be playing 'anywhere' under Valery Gergiev, or playing Puccini's *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House. 'That, or the Vienna Phil,' she smiles. Well, nothing less for Sevenoaks.

But that's a little way off yet, with a place to read music at Manchester beckoning, along with plans to force her parents finally to buy a van, ('a must-have for a budding harpist'), and an IB score to collect. For any nascent harpists out there, Olivia has just one other piece of advice: 'Keep your thumb high and articulate!'

*Felix Danczak (L6)*

#### PROFILE 2 – TOM MORRIS (U6)

Tom Morris managed to fit Sevenoaks like a glove. An involvement and participation in nearly every aspect of school life, as well as academic ambition and prowess, have made his time at the school enjoyable, to say the least. Beside this, Tom also excelled in the Sackville Theatre, where he played numerous, often demanding and time-consuming roles, since he joined the school in Year 9.

When I asked him what he thought he had gained from the Sevenoaks Drama department, his answer seemed to sum up the whole interview and I contemplated going home: 'The confidence to realise my own potential.' The year before, he had applied to the National Youth Theatre and been accepted, something which he says would never have happened without the aid of the Drama department. When I asked him what he thought the greatest strength of the Sevenoaks Drama department was, I had my own answer lined up in my head. It is a testament to the department that it was the same as his: 'ambition'.

Tom's biggest role was his performance in *Love of the Nightingale* during the summer of his Lower Sixth. He played King Tereas, the play's violent military dictator. The role demanded a difficult and adult psychological obstacle. 'I really had to think about the role,' he told me. 'It was draining because I actually had to delve through the



psychological aspects of rape.’ It sounds tough, but it was just another example of the dramatic ambition of the school. He comments further, ‘The air of professionalism makes you think that, first and foremost, you are there to enjoy yourself, yet also you have to know how you will perform the role. The responsibility makes a huge difference. The performance is for the audience, and the reputation of Sevenoaks theatre really sets you up.’

His 44 points at IB reasserts his assurances that drama did not detract or hinder his school work or participation in other parts of school life. A certain amount of pride was evident too; anecdotes about junior school children shouting ‘there’s Tereas!’ and seeing posters up around school made the work feel worthwhile after so many rehearsals. ‘It can sound big-headed, but it’s great to get some recognition for all the work you put in, not to mention the sense of achievement on the night of the last performance.’

His First Team rugby, his exceptional determination as a distance and cross-country runner, his duties as a senior prefect and the demands of his academic work have all ensured that his time at Sevenoaks has been put to good use. However, for Tom it is his dramatic experience that he assures me he will especially take with him to university.

*Josh Roche (L6)*

### PROFILE 3 – CHRIS ROE (U6)

Having been described by Sharon Osbourne as part of a ‘crazy machine out of control’ and faced up to the criticism of none other than Simon Cowell as being ‘just weird’, Chris Roe might suggest that the International Baccalaureate is one of the easier things he has done in his time in Sevenoaks. One of the school’s star musicians, not to mention an outstanding academic scholar, sailor and much more too, he is naturally modest. His musical talents range from the piano and the viola to singing, whether choral or barbershop. He has a particular interest in composing and jazz and wrote his extended essay on the film music of Bernard Herrmann. In his Upper Sixth year, he



organised a sell-out and hugely successful ‘Evening with the Blues Brothers and Friends’. This prompted the Undermaster to capture in print the general plaudits in circulation at the time and the next day’s bulletin began, quite simply, ‘Chris Roe is a Legend.’ Chris also composed the music for the moving, dramatic and ambitious production of *The Merchant of Venice* in the Sackville Theatre and was a hugely enthusiastic and dedicated music student and contributor to the department generally. His final flourish, with friends from the school, was some brief moments of success in the preliminary rounds of ITV’s *The X Factor* last summer...

This interview was given just before Chris took off for the summer; his IB exams were completed, and he was fresh from a final performance in the Founder’s Day celebrations. We present it, pretty well unabridged, in true pop style:

*Felix:* I’m meant to ask you loads of normal questions but I thought I’d talk first about your *X Factor* thing. I know nothing about it, so can we start with when, where and with whom?

*Chris:* The preliminary round was at the end of April, the second round was on 7 June, at the Emirates Stadium in London. Getting permission to miss school was touch and go at one point! The others in the group were Pete Baxendell, Stu Bird, and Tom Griffiths, all from the school. We were originally called Dave’s New Dimensions, but the producers changed our name to Harry Potter and the Barbershop Wizards because they thought Pete looked like Harry.

*Felix:* What did you sing?

*Chris:* In our audition we sang ‘Maniac’, but we sang loads of others for the camera in the queue and holding area – Barbaran, Superman, you name it. Our style was barbershop so that made us a bit different from the start.

*Felix:* What was it like performing in front of the *X Factor* judges?

*Chris:* The four judges were Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne, Dannii Minogue and Brian Friedman. From the moment we walked in, they all sat there stone-faced. This was really off-putting as we kept trying to be as entertaining as possible with crazy dance moves etc... We got a few occasional laughs, but they were one of the hardest audiences I have ever performed in front of, as they clearly didn't want to be there. There are also loads of cameras, lights and TV producers there to add to the pressure.

*Felix:* Sorry about my ignorance, but – how exactly did you do?

*Chris:* In all the preliminary rounds the producers really seemed to like us, and we got loads of camera time, interviews with Dermot O'Leary, Fearne Cotton and ITV2. But when we actually got in front of the celebrities we got absolutely rinsed. They said that half the group couldn't sing, we were 'like a crazy machine gone out of control', 'just weird', 'good for a bachelor party' and 'going to be YouTube heroes'. So it was good fun and we should be on TV around September time!

*Felix:* OK, now for the normal questions. What plans do you have to continue with music?

*Chris:* I'm aiming to study music at Manchester next year, and hoping to go into some kind of career in music... maybe in arranging, media music, jazz, or perhaps film music.

*Felix:* What does it feel like to perform in front of a large audience?

*Chris:* It's very nerve-racking clearly, but after many performing opportunities at Sevenoaks I guess I learnt how to deal with the pressure to some extent. I think my largest audience was either at St John's, Smith Square or Cadogan Hall in London, for the Chamber Music finals. These are both really prestigious venues, which made it feel even more pressured, but rewarding because of it.

*Felix:* What inspired you to take up music?

*Chris:* My parents have always played music to me, and used to take me to concerts and other musical things. And I think when we lived in Bermuda someone came into the school to play piano and I wanted to be like him, I guess. My last school, New Beacon, also really encouraged me to make music a major thing in my life.

*Felix:* The Blues Brothers concert which you organised – what was that about and was it worth it?

*Chris:* I'd always enjoyed watching and playing in the termly jazz concerts, particularly the long established tradition of the Blues Brothers, and so I thought it would be great to organise an evening of just that. Also I was lucky to have a really musical, talented, and hugely enthusiastic group of friends in my year, as well as the support from the Music department. The aim as well was to raise money to buy a PA speaker system for the Aisher Hall. The evening was hosted by the Blues Brothers (Pete Baxendell and Gavin Jackson) and the Blues Brothers Band, and we welcomed various guests from the Sixth Form and a couple from lower down the school to sing music from that era. It was a great night, made even better as it was on my eighteenth birthday! It was a lot of hard work as I had to write out all the arrangements in the holidays, and we rehearsed every Sunday from 11am-5pm for the first half of term, but it was definitely worth it, and some of my best memories of Sevenoaks will certainly come from that experience.

*Felix Danczak (L6)*

## GLEN INANGA (OS)

*Glen Inanga came to Sevenoaks from Nigeria in 1989 on a Sixth Form scholarship and has pursued a glittering career since then. He has for a number of years continued to teach the piano at the school but moved on in the summer to take up some new challenges. Here we profile Glen's career briefly and wish him every success for his future career.*



*Glen Inanga  
By arrangement of Glen's  
management, Jonathan Cooke  
Limited.*

Glen was born on 25 October 1973 of a Nigerian Father and a West Indian mother, and started his first piano lessons with his mother in Nigeria. He continued his piano studies in Nigeria with (the late) Jeanne Modder and, later, with (the late) Frances Hutson. At the age of 11, Glen's musical talent was spotted in a National Music Competition organised by the Musical Society of Nigeria (MUSON). Thereafter, he became a regular feature in the annual and prize-winning concerts organised by MUSON in their efforts to encourage and nurture young musical talent in the country.

As a recipient of the Ken Whitty Memorial Sixth Form Scholarship in 1989 at Sevenoaks, he began piano studies that year with Penelope Roskell in London. With an award from the British Council, he read Engineering at Clare College, Cambridge, graduating in 1994.

In 1994, he began postgraduate studies with Martin Roscoe at the Royal Academy of Music where he won several awards, scholarships and prizes, including an award from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and the prestigious Overseas Research Students Scheme (ORS) Award. He now holds the MMus degree of the University of London with distinction in Piano Performance, the Diploma of Advanced Studies and was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in 2003.

As a soloist, he has performed extensively in Lagos and St Kitts and has broadcast for BBC Radio. He gave his New York debut in September 2000, performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* to a capacity audience in Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Centre, and received rave reviews. Following his successful London debut in November 2000, *The Independent* wrote: 'Sensitive playing...he placed the melodies like valuable objects against whispered accompaniments.'

As a Chamber Musician, he has performed twice in the Luzerne Chamber Music Festival, New York, working with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Between 1993 and 1995, he was Faculty Member of Luzerne Music Centre, New York, where he coached young chamber music groups.

His piano duo partnership with Jennifer Micallef is reputed to be amongst the most outstanding in the UK today and is making an increasing impact on an ever-widening international audience. Their prizes include first prize in the Ninth International Schubert Piano Duo Competition (1995), RTZ-CRA Ensemble Prize in the Royal Overseas League Competition (1996), the 45th ARD International Competition for Piano Duos (Munich, 1996), and the Seventh Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition (Miami, 1999).

In February 2004, the Micallef-Inanga Piano Duo as Artistic Directors successfully launched the first ever Cayman Arts Festival in the Cayman Islands to be held biennially. The Duo's recording of the complete music for two pianos of Ravel on the SOMM label was met with great critical acclaim in April 2002 and their latest disc, Robin Holloway's *Gilded Goldberg's*, on the Hyperion label, was selected as the Record of the Month, Editor's Choice, *Gramophone* Magazine, in February 2003, and was *The Sunday Times* 'Disc of the Week'. Following a successful BBC Proms debut and Hong Kong recital debut, the current season includes concerts in the UK, Europe and Asia.

*Further information can be found at  
[www.micallefinanga.com](http://www.micallefinanga.com)*

## HOCKEY – HOW TO REMAIN UNBEATEN



*Girls' Third XI Hockey team  
2006-7*

What is the secret to an unbeaten season? That was the question I was posed after the girls' Third XI Hockey team negotiated their way through the Michaelmas term without losing a game. Indeed, winning six and drawing two of our eight matches would put us right up there in any competitive league of any sport. So how did we do it?

Firstly, you need an enthusiastic, committed and technically knowledgeable coach; Mr Haffenden has all these qualities and he must be a key reason for our success. At the beginning of the winter term, he was handed a squad of 18 players with the aim of cutting it down to about 14. Our squad, however, remained a group of 18 since, as we had so many good players, it was impossible for Mr Haffenden to leave anyone out. Under Mr Haffenden's guidance, we used the rotational system favoured by many of football's Premiership managers. Put another way, resting players worked wonderfully given everyone's busy social schedules! Mr Haffenden's training sessions were purposeful and fun; also we weren't forced to go down to Hollybush with the Firsts and Seconds in the dark of November, much to our great relief.

The next key to any successful team: good players. The team's mantra was 'versatility, versatility, versatility'; players need to be capable of playing most positions on the pitch. This is so important when you are working a rotational system where team members have to come in and out, fitting into the position they are given. Our rotational system also kept everyone continually fighting for their places in the team.

You also need a good leader on the pitch: Sophie Wotton was a great captain who has a combination of good direction on the pitch with kindly words of encouragement off it. It's a cliché, I know, but she never got 'too big for her boots' and always kept our feet 'on the ground'.

All the top hockey coaches will tell you that: 'if you don't concede goals you're not going to lose matches'. To do this, you need a well-organised defence and an outstanding goalkeeper and we had both. Over the whole season, she let in a grand total of two goals! If you don't concede you don't lose, but to win you need to score: 34 goals in eight games is a great return and it brought us six convincing wins.

The final part of our success and possibly the most important element in answering the question of how to remain unbeaten was our sense of ourselves as a team. Despite a string of winning games, we were confident but never arrogant or complacent. We turned the constant jibes of 'you're only the Thirds' into a phrase that spurred us on, making us more determined to win. The longer we remained unbeaten, the harder we fought in each game; no cause was lost and we would never accept we were defeated.

In the end, we all loved being part of the Thirds and the achievement of sharing an entire season without losing a single game.

*Emma Newton (L6)*

## THE JUNIOR SCHOOL'S HOLIDAY TO GREECE – SUMMER 2007



*This year's Junior Spotlight turns to the 'YoungSox' summer holiday. For a number of years now, a good number of our junior pupils have participated in a school holiday as they finish their Year 7 or 8 experience. For many years, John Hills, who retired this year, was the key organiser of these trips, although Roger Woodward organised this year's trip and gives a brief account of the visit to Greece.*

The YoungSox holiday to Greece this year was most enjoyable. Despite the increased security at Gatwick Airport following the terrorist problems the day before, check-in was the smoothest ever, with no delays. This proved to be the theme of the whole trip.

The pupils were delightful company and well-behaved; they were a real credit to the school when eating out in numerable restaurants and at the accommodation. At their own suggestion they held a Talent in Tolon competition on the last night, with no fewer than ten entries displaying some excellent singing, improvisation and acting.

The party was blessed with wonderful weather, continuous sunshine and temperatures well into the thirties, even forties.

In addition to a lot of water sports on the beach, the group visited the ancient palace at Mycenae, theatre at Epidavros and the sixteenth century Venetian fort in Napflion in the next town. Another whole day was spent on a boat trip to a barbecue on an isolated beach and with memorable swimming from the boat.

*The staff involved: Peter and Linda Young, Maureen Connolly, Marie-Laure Delvallée, Jeremy Wyld, Roger Woodward*

## YEAR 9 LYON TERM-TIME EXCHANGE 2007

*For a long time, the school has conducted French exchanges to Lyon, for younger pupils with L’Institution des Chartreux and for Sixth Form pupils with the Lycée du Parc. The exchange spotlight falls this year on the Year 9 term-time trip to Lyon, organised by Marie-Laure Delvallée and led in part by Anita McEwen, who was herself instrumental in setting up the exchange in the first place and who retired this year.*

For some, the summer term heralds participation in our term-time exchange with Lyon when two classes, 9K and half of 9T, combine and are in turn divided into two groups; one to begin their exchange by receiving their French partners, and the other to set off straight away for Lyon, staying with their French partners and attending school at L’Institution des Chartreux.

On day one at Les Chartreux, our pupils experience a totally different regime to the more familiar Sevenoaks model. Whilst Sevenoaks enjoys its sylvan setting surrounded by copious sporting facilities, L’Institution des Chartreux is in a wholly urban setting, clinging as it does to the hillside of la Colline de la Croix-Rousse which overlooks the centre of Lyon on the confluence of the Rhône and the Saône. From this vantage point, our pupils are able to identify many of the buildings and areas they will typically visit during their stay in Lyon: the cathedrals of St Jean and La Fourvière, the Roman amphitheatre and the old town, which boasts some of the best-preserved Renaissance architecture in Europe.

Whilst our exchanges emphasise language learning, they also focus on cultural enrichment, and a programme of outings is designed to enhance our pupils’ understanding of French and

the French. Our visit this year to the daily street market on the Boulevard de la Croix-Rousse gave the pupils an opportunity to put into practice the French they had learnt in the classroom as they tried to glean for their questionnaires specific information from some of the stallholders and local shopkeepers.

Back in the classroom, our pupils share most lessons with their partners, including History and Geography. Our major outing this year focused on an important and very sensitive part of France’s history during World War Two – anti-Semitism under the Vichy regime. We visited a house in the village of Izieu in the foothills of the Alps, where, for a whole year, 44 Jewish children were given sanctuary, education and care. In April 1944, their whereabouts was discovered and they and their seven teachers were arrested and deported to concentration camps. All perished. Pupils took turns to translate the letters the children had written from the school to their parents, from whom they had already been forced to separate. It was a moving experience and visit for teachers and pupils alike.

Back in Lyon, savouring local delicacies forms a major part of cultural enrichment. Many of our pupils were offered Lyonnais specialities such as *quenelles* – a white, fish or chicken sausage, whilst others had a chance to try *tablier de sapeur* (fireman’s apron) – tripe fried in breadcrumbs, or were offered *cervelle des canuts* (silk-weavers’ brains) – a concoction of cottage cheese with garlic, cream and herbs. Most were relieved to discover, however, that the food experience they would be subjected to on an outing primarily involved chocolate! The local Toque Blanche chocolate shop gives demonstrations on the making of liqueur chocolates; the *dégustation* that followed was, of course, most appreciated!

Culinary and cultural differences can be challenging for some of our pupils but it remains wholly appropriate to say *Vive la Différence!* and *Vive les Echanges!*

*Anita McEwen*



Useful web links

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Lyon tourism office: <http://www.en.lyon-france.com/>

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L'Institution des Chartreux: <http://www.leschartreux.com/>

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Le Lycée du Parc: <http://lyceeduparc.free.fr>

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Le Musée-mémorial des enfants d'Izieu: <http://www.izieu.alma.fr>

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## THE ITALIAN CONNECTION

### *The Sennockian this year highlights Italy and the school's contacts in the last twelve months with L'Italia and la dolce vita.*



In addition to the Sixth Form Italian lessons, from *ab initio* to IB Higher Level, the year's first major brush with Italy was the visit of the CUS Parma [Centro Universitario Sportivo] cross-country team for the Knole Run in January. Situated near Milan, Parma is a northern Italian town, home of its famous prosciutto, Parmesan *formaggio* and the Teatro Regio, a well-known opera house. The Italian squad of 14 runners spent four days with Sevenoaks pupils in early January. Their visit included trips to London, Leeds Castle and then the wintry challenge of three- and six-mile courses in Knole Park for this year's races. Having visited previously in 2003 and 2005, the Italians won the girls' race this year at the third attempt, pipping Sevenoaks to the post, and their boys finished in ninth place. A joint English-Italian celebratory meal was held after the race, quite inappropriately, at local pizza restaurant Zizzi.

The next major contacts were in the Easter holidays. The Lower Sixth Italian study trip, accompanied by Mrs Symons and Mr Hebbert, spent a week in the town of Orvieto, getting a taste of life there and visiting local places of interest. At the same time, the Classics department's Year 10 trip to Pompeii saw nearly 60 pupils spend a week in the Bay of Naples, staying at the cliff-clinging Hotel Oriente in Vico Equense. They took in sites and sights aplenty: Pompeii, Herculaneum, a fog-bound Vesuvius, Sorrento, Positano, the Naples Museum, Capri, Paestum and, on the last day, Misenum, with its spectacular underground cistern which Robert Harris made famous in his recent novel, *Pompeii*.

Closer to home, a dedicated group of staff weekly pursue their collective passion for things Italian, taking conversation classes with Paola Carr, the

wife of the Head of Classics, Simon Carr. Led by the naturally talented linguist, Sue Mann, the intrepid band book holidays, order tickets, ask directions and talk fashion and politics each Wednesday, spurred on by espresso, a selection of Italian delicacies, and excited by Italy's gradual improvement in the Six Nations Championship.

Of course, the Italian connection doesn't stop here. Boasting a good dozen Italian native speakers in the school, it is only natural that L'Italia was represented at the 2007 International Night by the Classics and Italian departments' spread of ancient and modern Italian foods and the Italian *ab initio* students' two songs, 'Non è Francesca' and 'Vespa 50 Special'. Even the Parents' Association added their voice too in the summer term, staging their own night of opera albeit not exclusively Italian on the lawns *della Casa Claridgea*.

In June, Mr MacAlpine, whose wife is Italian, and Miss Durnford, who used to teach at St George's School in Rome, led an English reading party to tour Florence, Venice and Rome. Taking in literary venues such as the Keats-Shelley Museum, they also had the opportunity to read texts from writers as varied as Dante, Keats, Byron, Shelley, du Maurier, McEwan and Forster, all of whom had an Italian connection. Amusingly, EM Forster's *A Room with a View* famously follows the footsteps of a naive group of tourists from Tunbridge Wells in the last century. But that, Mr MacAlpine was quick to point out, merely added a touch of delicious but deliberate irony in its contrast to the visiting Sennockian scholars of 2007.

Most comforting and ever-present of all, however, as a reminder of the land of Romulus and Remus, da Vinci, Michelangelo, Juventus and Roma, have been the pizza and pasta served by the kitchens and ordered regularly by boarders for weekend feasting. For the Italian students amongst us, a little taste of home, for the rest of us a reminder of the Renaissance and the promise of good cheer and Tuscan summer sunshine. *Bravissimi!*

## HONDURAS BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP – SUMMER 2007



### *The Senior Spotlight features a hugely successful expedition to Honduras in July.*

During this trip, 25 Sixth Form students were working alongside established research scientists from UK, Canadian and American universities, conducting surveys in the rainforest of the Cusuco National Park for Operation Wallacea, an organisation whose aim is conservation of precious habitats. Recording and monitoring the species will ensure that conservation measures are used effectively to prevent loss of biodiversity in the region. Students carried out surveys of trees, plants, hummingbirds, jewel scarab beetles, moths and many other species, and had the chance to watch leafcutter ants and wolf spiders. A lucky few caught sight of a toucan.

To get to the research sites involved trekking long distances and in some cases getting out of bed at first light or spending rather a long time in the pouring rain, but everyone took part with enthusiasm.

Staying with local families, without running water or electricity, gave us a taste of life in the region and we learnt about the work of the resident anthropologist who is studying the effect the scientists have had on the lives of local people. Students spent two mornings in the local primary school teaching singing games and some English to the wide-eyed pupils. They also played an enthusiastic game of football against a local team on the football field, which was hastily cleared of grazing horses for the event.

On our penultimate day in the rainforest, and after climbing to the Operation Wallacea base camp at 1500m, the bravest students ascended to the forest canopy on nothing but ropes to view a stunning sunrise over the trees. At ground level, we were also able to observe DNA profiling work which is providing a record of species' genetic diversity.

The second week of the trip was spent on the coral island of Utila, a one-hour boat ride from the mainland. Here 20 of the group gained their PADI diving qualification, which involved a written exam as well as plenty of practical diving. Some of the more advanced divers took part in night dives and exploration of a wreck; others were happy to investigate the enormous variety of beautiful and colourful species in and amongst the coral which fringes the island. Most had never been so close to turtles, conga eels and angel fish before!

The proximity of the reef and mangroves, literally yards from our hotel, meant that even snorkelling revealed a treasure trove just below the surface, and this image itself is not far off capturing neatly the essence and excitement of this wonderful trip.



**MATTHEW BURRARD-LUCAS (L6)**  
**PRIZE-WINNING WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER**



*Above: Matthew's portrait of a chimpanzee*

*Right: This photograph of two Japanese macaques bathing in a hot spring is one of Matthew's winning images.*



Matthew first started photography three years ago and immediately found success at the age of 15, when he entered his first photography contest, the prestigious BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, winning his age group with a portrait of a chimpanzee.

This achievement provided him with continued determination to pursue his photography and to enter subsequent competitions.

He has since won several awards with his wildlife images, both in the UK and abroad; notably, the American National Wildlife Federation's youth section of their annual competition and the portfolio prize in the RSPCA Young Photographer

Awards. Matthew has also written articles for the Natural History Museum's magazine, and recently his photos were used to accompany an article highlighting the plight of the Tasmanian devil by the Senior Curator of the Tasmanian Museum.

In February 2008, The Swedish Museum of Natural History chose one of Matthew's photographs to be included in a permanent exhibition about human evolution. In the early summer Matthew will have a feature published in the prestigious American magazine, *Nature's Best Photography*, about gorillas and another feature in *Nature's Best for Kids*, with one of his images making the front cover.



*Delegates represent a wide variety of countries in a typical MUN debate.*

## THE MODEL UNITED NATIONS

*MUN is an integral part of Sevenoaks' commitment to internationalism.*

*A voluntary Sixth Form activity, it seeks to simulate the workings of the real UN.*

The object of MUN (Model United Nations) is to seek, through discussion, negotiation and debate, solutions to various problems of the world: questions of human rights, protection of the environment, economic development, disarmament, the problems of youth and refugees, as well as the more critical issues of war and peace. Delegates represent a country within the United Nations, learning to break away from narrow, national self-interest and develop true international cooperation.

After learning the procedures and skills of MUN style debate in school, Sevenoaks students are then ready to attend MUN conferences. These conferences involve a long process of writing, merging, lobbying and debating resolutions. Much research and preparation is needed to ensure the delegation is fully briefed on the key issues affecting their allocated country. Each delegate is assigned a particular committee, allowing the delegate to specialise in one area. This is particularly important when responding to difficult questions on a country's policies.

The highlight of the MUN calendar is without doubt our attendance at THIMUN: The Hague International Model United Nations. This attracts around 3500 students from around the world and the conference is a five-day simulation of the United Nations. Sevenoaks represented France in the 2007 event. The fact that our delegation assignment was a P5 Security Council country was a real credit to past Sevenoaks teams who have worked hard to build up the reputation of the school as a top MUN school.

The delegation as a whole rose to the challenge and the students acquitted themselves admirably.

Stephane De Vuyst and Victor Lantos were particularly impressive in the Security Council; a responsibility they fulfilled with great maturity and diplomacy. Felix Danczak proved to be an excellent Ambassador to the Delegation and established himself as a strong and diplomatic leader. Out of the 18 delegates in the French delegation, 12 managed to get their merged resolutions passed in the initial committee stage. Three Sevenoaks resolutions were then debated and passed on the final day in the plenary sessions.

As the MUN group at Sevenoaks has grown in number, so too has the number of conferences attended. PAMUN (Paris Model United Nations) in December 2006 was a new venture for the school and we were represented by three delegations: South Korea, Burundi and Oman. The style of debate is different to that at The Hague in that delegates draft and debate resolutions clause by clause rather than starting with a whole resolution which is then merged. This was a competitive MUN and we came away with six Best Delegate Awards and three commendations.

Closer to home, the Bath MUN in March is our third major conference and this year we represented Romania and Iran. The conference has grown in size with 800 students now participating. The Romanian delegation in particular performed to a high standard and won a Commended Delegation award. Our conference season came to a close with the City of London School MUN. Representing Iraq, Morocco and Poland, our delegates demonstrated real commitment and dedication. Sophie Barrett, representing Iraq, won the coveted prize of Overall Best Delegate in the entire conference.

The Model United Nations is one which impassions and challenges our students, giving them the opportunity to work collaboratively, competitively and under pressure whilst also developing their skills of argument, debate, public speaking and their quickness of mind. They are encouraged to view and consider situations from a variety of perspectives and in a genuinely international and global context. Moreover, they make friends and have fun while doing so.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



### *The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award expedition took place in Dorset in June.*

At a time when the rest of the country seemed awash with rainwater, the country around Dorchester (though not without a little showery stuff) presented us with its usual warm, breezy, sunny uplands. Under marvellous cloudscapes, 51 participants successfully undertook the challenge of self-sufficiency while walking about 60km and camping out for three nights on the comfy slopes at Bradford Peverell, the wide, open, luxurious spaces of West Fleet, the strangely alluring, windswept Clay Pigeon and the rabbit-strewn sward of Puncknowle.

The supervisors were extremely impressed by all ten groups and it proved really difficult to single out the Top Silvers. However, some small infractions, carelessness and misdemeanours counted against nearly all of them. Group A were spotted on a road rather than a path and claimed that the savagery of the local plant life had driven them to it. This was perhaps rather lame given the extreme skimpiness of legwear they were exhibiting at the time. They also, bizarrely, opted to carry a kilo of cucumbers. Group Y performed well apart from forgetting to bring maps, leaving some litter and one of the group wearing a

waterproof jacket with 'not recyclable rubbish' printed across the back. Group D followed an 'improvised' route having misread a grid reference, but provoked some respect for their ability to engulf huge sausage sandwiches. Group Q proved immune to the magic Dorsetshire air which had most participants voluntarily springing from their beds at 6am – yes, 6am – with a cheerful optimism for the day ahead. As well as all of them having volume controls stuck on 'very loud', two members failed to appreciate the time limit on the coin-operated showers and were left lathered and sudsy a fairly exposed trot away from more tokens. They were redeemed slightly by some animal-pacification skills. In this last department, Group H were signally deficient. Assorted and frisky livestock homed in on them unfailingly and, on brandishing sheets of paper in some woolly faces, discovered Dorset's only map-eating sheep. Group J were extremely good except for losing one group member and for another one insisting on playing hopscotch on cowpats. Group C also lost someone, lost themselves briefly on the last day, and included a member whose attempts to imitate birds with uncannily untuneful whistling annoyed everyone but himself. Group F, though innocently avoiding the Chicken Nugget Alarm, were guilty of some mild food shopping on their second day and leaving hairdressing equipment at a campsite. Group Z were the finest walkers and, apart from being silly with other groups' tentpegs, and not repaying their supervisor for shower tokens, might have won the accolade. This, however, goes to Group X (Annabel Battersby, Kathryn Beeson, Emma Newey, Natasha Newey, Marisa Plater and Holly Samuel) who proved to be near-faultless over the three days and nights.

I'm sure we are all grateful to the supervisors: Mr Burger with his relaxed bonhomie; Mr Willis cycling about in his good-humoured and encouraging way; 'H-T' with his cheery competence and shortbread; Mr Merson-Davies with his sage camping and backpacking advice; and Miss Peart with her fanciful botany and sunny smile for everyone.

*Tony Stuart*

*Above: Middle School pupils enjoy breakfast.*

## JUNIOR WILLIAM SEVENOKE SOCIETY PROGRAMME

*This programme is provided for junior scholars and any others who wish to attend, throughout the year. It aims to challenge and extend pupils' interests and knowledge.*



### MICHAELMAS TERM 2006

4 September	Welcome & Portfolio Selection	Mr Martin Goff
18 September	'There's more to seeing than meets the eye'	Mr Nick Alchin
2 October	'Tibet'	Mr Gareth Willis
30 October	'The Trial of Craig and Bentley – Part 1'	Mr Simon Taylor
13 November	'The Trial of Craig and Bentley – Part 2'	Mr Simon Taylor
27 November	Portfolio Review and Assembly Preparation	Mr Martin Goff
29 November	Junior Scholars' Assembly	

### LENT TERM 2007

15 January	'Japanese Gardens' Part 1	Dr Mike Brown
5 February	'How to get ahead'	Mr Alex Smith
19 February	'What is good art?'	Mr Chris Thomas
5 March	Portfolio Review and Assembly Preparation	Mr Martin Goff
7 March	Junior Scholars' Assembly	

### SUMMER TERM 2007

23 April	'Japanese Gardens' Part 2	Dr Mike Brown
21 May	'China'	Mr Gareth Willis
4 June	'The Dance'	Mr Paul Fannon and Miss Vesna Kadelberg
18 June	Portfolio Review and Assembly Preparation	Mr Martin Goff
20 June	Junior Scholars' Assembly	

## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT 2007



*A Chinese Fan Dance*

Sevenoaks School held its third International Night on Thursday 10 May. Attended by students, staff and families, it raised £1893 for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and was a huge success. With highly professional acts ranging from singing to harp playing and aikido, from belly dancing to bagpipes, there were performances from all corners of the world. In addition, 12 food stalls organised by the Modern Languages and Classics departments allowed the audience to sample a vast variety of delectable dishes.

The Cultural Awareness Society organised the event. The way in which students worked together, alongside staff, to produce the entertainment as well as the evening itself, is a testament to the spirit of the school. Indeed, students were encouraged at the close of the evening to remember to use their Sevenoaks education wisely as they go out into the world

and take its future directly into their hands. Incidentally, this was a theme also mentioned by Sir John Sawers in his address at Founder's Day.

In attendance was Mr James Kliffen, head of fundraising at MSF, who so enjoyed himself last year that he brought his wife along with him this time! He spoke and showed footage of the sorts of ways in which the money raised would be used, particularly in relation to victims of HIV/Aids. It is entirely fitting that the evening, which called on those in attendance to 'celebrate life', should continue the school's friendship with MSF.

From the variety of acts and the attentiveness of the audience, it was clear that, despite different backgrounds and cultures, the school could come together to form one large community, supportive and respectful of one another. The Cultural Awareness Society should be congratulated in highlighting this.

*Che Ramsden (U6)*

## FOUNDER'S DAY 2007

*Right: Sir John Sawers addresses the school.*



Founder's Day took place on Saturday 30 June. The Observance ceremony was held in the Bailey Tennis Hall, in The Sennocke Centre, and was followed by the school's prizegiving.

The Observance celebrates the founding of the school over 500 years ago, with contributions from pupils representing the Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities within the school. The Chairman of Governors, Robert Sackville West, welcomed Sir John Sawers KCMG, who was shortly to take up his role as the British Ambassador to the United Nations, to present the prizes and address the assembled 2000 pupils, parents and guests. Sir John knows Sevenoaks well having had three children – Ollie, Sam and Corinne – pass through the school. Recalling his own formative post-school experiences in South Africa and elsewhere, Sir John spoke amongst

other things about young people leaving education with the confidence to try to change things, even things which at the time might seem impossible and immutable. With time, imagination and pressure, even such things can and will change.

The day had begun and continued during and after lunch with a wide and varied range of displays and activities laid on by pupils and staff, from art, design, music, drama and swimming to trampolining, aikido, judo, fencing and science activities. Rather disappointingly, as the day drew to a close, those who had come prepared for the sub aqua taster session in The Sennocke Centre proved to be the most suitably dressed for the weather which followed, which washed out the cricket, tennis and Gun Run, but not of course the spirits of those present.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS



### VSU GAMELAN GROUP

On a weekly basis throughout the year, the VSU gamelan group taught classes coming in from local primary schools. The collaboration was enhanced by money from a government grant which provided additional transport, thus enabling more children to take part in the gamelan experience. This took place under the Wider Opportunities scheme which also provided funding for a short course of gamelan workshops running in the Lent term for children with additional educational needs. The culmination of the primary schools' collaboration came during the summer term: the

VSU gamelan group first played for a group of primary school dancers at the International Evening in May, and then performed together with primary school players for a larger group of dancers drawn from two local primary schools at the reopening of the Royal Festival Hall in June. In total, ten Sevenoaks primary schools joined us for this amazing event and an enormous audience watched our two performances as we played both traditional Indonesian music and a new work composed especially for the occasion. A very busy year with more exciting plans for the future.

*Jackie Hendry*



#### KENT YOUTH DISABILITY GAMES

Over 400 young sportspeople from outside the school competed at the school in June in the 2007 Kent Youth Disability Games, where TV presenter and Paralympic athlete Ade Adepitan and record-breaking sailor Hilary Lister presented the winners with their medals and trophies.

The competitors, from 21 special or disability-designated schools around Kent, took part in seven competitive sports which included cycling, football, archery, boccia (similar to bowls), New Age Kurling (played on a court surface), swimming and athletics. They were also able to try out sitting volleyball and judo as demonstration activities in the Sennocke Centre.

Mike Hill, KCC's Cabinet Member for Community Services, said: 'Through our sports development unit, we have been working hard to raise the profile of disability sport, and these Games really highlight how seriously schools are taking sport and physical activity. With improved facilities in local communities, everyone should have an opportunity to take part in the sports they enjoy.'

We were delighted to host these games and to provide the facilities to enable them to take place.

#### VALENCE SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

Sevenoaks once again hosted the annual Valence School Sports Day in the summer term.

Valence is a special school, situated near Westerham, with about one hundred pupils, boys and girls. The athletics track quickly became a buzzing scene of activity with tents, spectators, competitors and medal tables filling the view. Appropriately adapted athletic events and activities allowed the competitors, many of whom were in wheelchairs, to test their abilities. Sevenoaks students who assist at Valence School each week as part of their VSU contribution provided support to the Valence staff through the day, with Mr Ralph Ruge performing his usual role as the school's coordinator with Valence.

## GIFTED & TALENTED WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL PRIMARY PUPILS



For the fourth year in succession, Sevenoaks School was the venue for a week-long workshop for local gifted and talented pupils during the summer holidays. Drawn from 27 primary schools, nearly 50 pupils from Year 4 were chosen by their teachers as being particularly able in Mathematics and Sciences or IT.

Three teachers from Sevenoaks and two local primary teachers, helped by six Sixth Form pupils from the school, ran activities and experiments throughout the week using the resources of the Biology department.

### AWARDS HAT-TRICK FOR CHARTWELLS CATERING

The Chartwells catering team at Sevenoaks secured three top awards for its performance in looking after the environment, maintaining a high-quality service and managing health and safety.

The hat-trick of top business standard awards was achieved by catering manager Donna Graves and her 33-strong team, recognising their excellent performance in providing catering services for pupils.

As part of the process to gain the environmental management standard, Sevenoaks and Chartwells joined forces to increase recycling activities, with pupil representatives involved in bringing materials to a central recycling point. Chartwells also reviewed its use of items such as packaging and disposable cutlery to ensure that, where possible, such items are sustainably sourced and biodegradable.

Chartwells held a competition asking students to design a poster to put the environmental message across. The winning poster by Bernard Lee will be used in Chartwells' other independent school contracts throughout the country to encourage young people to take an interest in protecting their environment.



*Bernard Lee's prizewinning environmental poster*