

## Sicily brings Classics to life

By Jamie Cox

The Classics trip to Sicily was a great success and shows just how much Classics has grown in popularity in Colfes. Sicily is full of ancient sites and was fascinating to visit.

Once again Mr Corstorphine had organised the trip so it was jam-packed with places to visit. The Greek town of Syracuse was very interesting; containing a well-maintained theatre that is still used for plays today. A visit to the quarries under Syracuse showed ancient life at the other end of the scale, where prisoners were forced to work; under fed and with no sunlight. The Valley of

Temples was stunning as it contains some of the best-preserved temples in the world and was of particular use for the year 12s who are studying Greek Art and Architecture.

We also visited Piazza Armerina, where there was a 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman villa believed to have been owned by the emperor Maximian. It has some excellent mosaics depicting the twelve tasks of Hercules and a whole corridor dedicated to a hunt.

One of the highlights for many people was the visit to Mt Etna, which was stunning even though it had erupted 2 days previously! I would like to thank all the teachers who

came along on behalf of everyone who went but especial thanks goes to Mr C who, despite it being stressful, managed to pull off another



Colfe's students and teachers in Sicily



## Visit to Kotu Senior School 2011

By Joseph Ives

On this year's trip many new faces as well as seasoned visitors travelled to the Gambia. As always the work proved challenging and very tiring in the almost 40 degree heat.

Nonetheless all remained in good spirits as they saw the great progress they were making in building the new school hall. I inadvertently boosted moral by accidentally

blundering through freshly laid concrete with my wheelbarrow! Luckily, despite my embarrassment the Gambian builders laughed it off and proceeded to lay the foundations for the new building.

On a couple of evenings we were kindly treated to wonderful dinners at the school. However many were left wishing that the school had maintained their good courtesy for the yearly football match of Colfe's vs.

Kotu Senior. Despite a courageous attempt our boy's team did not fare too well, losing 5-1 and Colfe's girls did not do too much better either!

Once again we all went back to England at the end of the week with fond memories of the Gambia and its friendly people, in addition to (unrealistically) hopeful dreams of perhaps, just perhaps, winning next year's football match!

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### Special points of interest:

Pupils should now all have their own individual exam timetables, but are reminded that the full timetable for the January exam season is now available via the link on the home page of the school web site. Pupils will also find the Pupil Information Sheet for public exams which should answer any questions pupils may have regarding the arrangements for the exams. If pupils have any problems, issues or questions regarding the January exams please consult with Mr Newell before the end of term, or by emailing him on [anewell@colfes.com](mailto:anewell@colfes.com) Pupils must ensure that they get into the habit of checking their school email accounts frequently as teachers often send important information or messages this way.

## Colfe's host Cambridge Debating Competition

By Paul-R Shehadeh

*“On being invited by Mr Dunsmore to take part in this year’s Cambridge Schools Debating Competition, I shuddered; the memories of my previous attempts at British Parliamentary format debating ... were mildly traumatic to say the least.”*



Debates take place in the Beardwood Hall

On being invited by Mr Dunsmore to take part in this year’s Cambridge Schools Debating Competition, I shuddered; the memories of my previous attempts at British Parliamentary format debating. (If you don’t know much about debating ‘styles,’ think of martial arts ‘styles’ – though I don’t know how apt my comparison is considering I know nothing about martial arts – we’ll just have to make do.) were mildly traumatic to say the least. (If you don’t know what it feels like to be beaten at a debating competition, think of martial arts competitions – though, again, I can’t guarantee they’re the same.) The gravity of the competition, though, is universally recognisable – the word ‘Cambridge’ providing the stage queue for awe, reverence, or in my case, the aforementioned ‘shudder’ of trepidation.

What, then, was the setting for this most auspicious of tournaments? Perhaps a small West End theatre where, during breaks, we might sample posh sandwiches, delicately cut into identical isosceles triangles, complemented by generous measures of cranberry juice? (Cranberry juice is the most sophisticated I can think of – although I personally can’t stand it, too sour.) Maybe a conference centre bursting with the intermingling scents of fresh cut-flowers and privilege?

Sadly not, though the New Block has scents of its own and the catering staff’s offering of cookies was as welcome as ever, the humble classrooms, N6, N7 and N8 (I

was in N8) were the venues.

A few days before, Mr Dunsmore had organised the pairs in which we were to debate. But, as Colfeians remembered their prior engagements and were replaced with other candidates, the makeup of the Colfe’s team changed, though Rebecca Dowse and I remained unchanged as a team. Thomas Tallis and Crown Woods made their appearances, amassing at the school entrance before marching off towards the source of the enticing scent of cookies. Finally, the judges arrived and after some administration, the first of the two debates of the night got underway.

As mentioned earlier, Rebecca I were in N8, facing one Colfe’s team, one Tallis and Crown Wood, though our judge (unawares) supplied a range of tree species’ names in place of ‘Wood’ in the latter’s case.

Too much detail in the description of the course of the debates would not be entertaining for you, dear reader, and once again, I cannot remember the minutiae of details, points of information etc. But I do know that by the end of the first debate (words to the effect of, ‘this house believes all nations should have the right to stock nuclear weapons.’), all eight candidates were considerably flustered, having argued the world to A-bomb-free Utopia and from there to the brink of nuclear Armageddon, only to have it hauled, with considerable effort, back to safety and sanity. I, by this point, was ready to go home, in fact, I longed for the comparative respite of a long-

winded essay (not strictly true). But, mustering a level of debating stamina equal to that of a seasoned martial artist, Rebecca, (who had had no prior experience of the detail and duration of the final comments by the judges and therefore had no concept of how long it would be before she could be home) urged me on like a younger, female version of Henry V.

Round two was just as challenging as the first round had been. As we debated the equity of punishing sports clubs for the criminal activities of their fans, tension mounted, initially. Strangely, as the debate progressed, I became aware of a general détente; although we were in opposition with each other, this second debate was conducted in quite a congenial manner, with humorous points of information from all parties and a general consensus, though unspoken, that this was, after all, just a debate.

As it happens, Becca and I managed to break through to the next round, for which Mr Dunsmore is organising preparations. Once again, I would like to thank Mr Dunsmore for his passionate promotion of debating at Colfe’s and – again, encourage you, dear reader, whether or not you are a martial artist, to forget any stigma attached to debating, any fear of public speaking, and give it a go. Finally, if you’ve survived until this last sentence, I’d like to thank you for reading.

*“Cranberry juice is the most sophisticated I can think of – although I personally can’t stand it, too sour.”*

## Reflections on Antigone

By Rory Powrie

Three successful performances of 'Antigone' on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> of November completed a memorable journey that has lasted almost two months. I speak for the rest of the cast, technical team and teachers involved when I say that the experience has been unforgettable.

The play itself has developed each and every one of us as actors and actresses. We have all been given a chance to perform one of the most famous classical Greek tragedies that epitomises Greek theatre. This experience has given us a contextual insight into the history of such Greek theatre, meanwhile testing us to our highest abilities. There was no hiding behind abstract movement sequences or props on stage. This was acting to its highest degree and purest form. Not one single line was to be wasted or misunderstood. Our task was made twice as hard because of our shortage of time that we had to put

together the piece. Mr Stewart, Amanda and Mr Corstorphine assisted and directed us forward through every stressful moment. I want to express however how enjoyable the experience has been. The cast has been closely united and we have got on together naturally, making it easier to work towards our aim. It has been a pleasure to work with the cast. We have strengthened relationships and made new friendships along the way. Rehearsals have included plenty of laughter and singing, but also extreme focus when we need it.

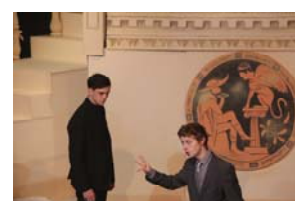
The performance week had finally arrived and the set was looking spectacular thanks to Amanda and all of the other scenic artists and constructors. We wanted to transcend this hard work into the performance nights. Having spoken to teachers, parents and pupils it would seem that we did just that. The appraisal has been greatly received by us all and we thank everyone for coming to see the play. It was fantastic to see a packed theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday,

including many people sitting on the stairs on the last night! It is this support that has reminded us why it has been worth it. As the narrator of the play I stayed on stage for almost the entire play. This gave me a chance to see every other actor in the play. I can safely say that everyone rose to the occasion and maintained the same level of intensity that we had prepared in rehearsal. I felt as though we conveyed the emotion that is in the script and made our audience react.

Lastly, it is important to remember that no individual is more important to the play than anyone other individual. We rehearsed as a group and performed as a group. It was certainly a collective achievement. Everyone named on the programme has made 'Antigone' happen and I am happy to have been a part of that.



Scenes from Antigone.



## Another glorious defeat for the second XV

By Charlie Davis

Arguably the 2's best performance of the season, they were again unlucky to come away with another defeat. Colfe's dominated the early proceedings and looked the most likely to score until a botched lineout on their own five metre allowed Langley to score the first try of the game. The 2's continued to keep their opponents under pressure, however some poor handling

by winger Joshua White resulted in many of these chances being thrown away. Trailing by only a narrow margin at half time Colfe's knew that this game was theirs for the taking if they could get the next points.

Unfortunately Langley built upon their seven point lead in the second half and at one point led 19-0. The 2's never gave up however and got a deserved consolation try when Henry

Harvey made a piercing run through the Langley backline setting up Alex Verissimo for the try, which was converted by Sam Pinnock. Max Dunmore was arguably the stand out performer for the 2's making a number of big tackles and mazy runs. Although there is definitely a lot of work for the team to do before that elusive first win they are definitely moving in the right direction.





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## CCF trip to Okehampton

By George Charalambous

Okehampton is a town situated within Dartmoor National Park and was the base of the CCF Squadron's annual October camp. Okehampton plays a large part in the training of military personal especially the Royal marines.

The first day of the camp saw us completing navigation training on the Tors of Dartmoor. As well as the excellent wild country training on the challenging terrain of Dartmoor; the training also helped to prepare us for a Duke of Edinburgh's Award. In addition to the walking we were also able to enjoy the great views in the National Park.

As the week progressed we undertook fire and manoeuvre training in order that we could successfully complete different levels of Army or RAF proficiency. This exercise ended with the extraction of a "casualty" that had taken fire from the "enemy". Although it was known that the casualties has not really sustained any injuries, the use of prosthetic body parts showing the injuries present and spewing with blood, helped to make the exercise as realistic as possible.

## Cambridge Blues lose to Saracens, however the hard feelings were more academic!

By Tom Chapman

On Monday, I took time from my working school day and hard graft towards my three Cs required for entry at Bath Uni next year in order to go to another educational institute – Cambridge University and fulfil a pre-varsity game fixture for Saracens Storm (the Premiership Champions' reserve side).

It was in fact the second time I'd played against the side in as many months, the previous game for Blackheath. But moving on, the ground was homely and welcoming, and we squeezed into the cupboard-sized changing rooms. As a big crowd started to assemble (I'd estimate around 500, but then again, I'm no graduate) we ran out against 'The Blues' whose average age was around 25. As I

was the youngest player in the side I was on the bench.

We racked up a decent lead at in the first half after a hatrick from first-team hooker Jamie George. At half-time, a fair few changes were made and I and Old Colfeian Alex Smith were brought on. Although not as dominant as we were in the first half, we secured a resounding 46-17 victory.

Tom playing for Blackheath against Cambridge last month

