

NEWSLETTER

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are now collecting Sainsbury's vouchers for schools. If you shop at Sainsbury's please ask for vouchers which can be sent in to school with your son. We have a collection box at the PE reception. We are hoping to buy another table tennis table with this years vouchers but need over 14,000 vouchers to achieve this. In recent years this has been achieved so please send the vouchers in as soon as possible

Martial Arts/ Circuit Training/ Fitness Training

These clubs are now well established and Tyler McKenna our deputy Head Boy has been putting aspiring Junior players through their paces with weekly workouts in a variety of Martial Arts. Similarly in the fitness Suite and Sports Hall Mr Aspinwall has daily challenges and has set up Personal training programmes which are benefitting the variety of sports on offer but to individuals looking to improve their fitness.



Living Edge Art Competition

Congratulations to Constantinos Towli and Elliot Franklin who will both have work exhibited at The Lowry Centre in Salford. Constantinos' intriguing portrait of his brother is made completely of colourful artefacts associated with childhood, whilst Elliot's abstract triptych depicts an open lily being battered by the wind and rain.



Hosting

We are hosting a couple of South African CB Schools Hockey and Football teams who are arriving in Manchester on Monday 5th May.

If you are able to offer hosting for 1,2 ,3 or 4 children we would like to hear from you.

It will be for Tuesday to Friday 6th-9th May. The children will be coming into school with your son daily and returning in the evening.

We have enjoyed being hosted ourselves on tour and I am sure you would enjoy playing host, showing the children around our splendid local sights and offering typically warm Northern hospitality.

If you can host please ring Mr Handy at school before the Easter holiday and he will be able to make the necessary arrangements or send an email to office@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk

Football

Senior football sides have had an excellent season losing only 3 matches out of 13 at 1st XI and once only at 2nd and 3rd XI. Victories included strong Manchester G.S and King's Chester sides. The all weather pitch has had a massive help with training and guaranteeing matches throughout the season. The sides have even enjoyed playing their last two matches under floodlights. The season will end in May with a Christian Brothers Tournament hosted at the College. Two South African Schools will be involved in this and it is hope students will be able to host with their families on May 6th,7th,8th and 9th.

Daresbury Innovation Centre

Lower Sixth students who are currently studying physics AS had the opportunity of visiting the Daresbury Innovation Centre to view the mini-particle accelerator.

This was an excellent opportunity for the students to extend and enhance their knowledge.

For information please view <http://www.scitechdaresbury.com/news/news/31>

Joseph Tadman (left Lower Sixth) and Michael Humphreys



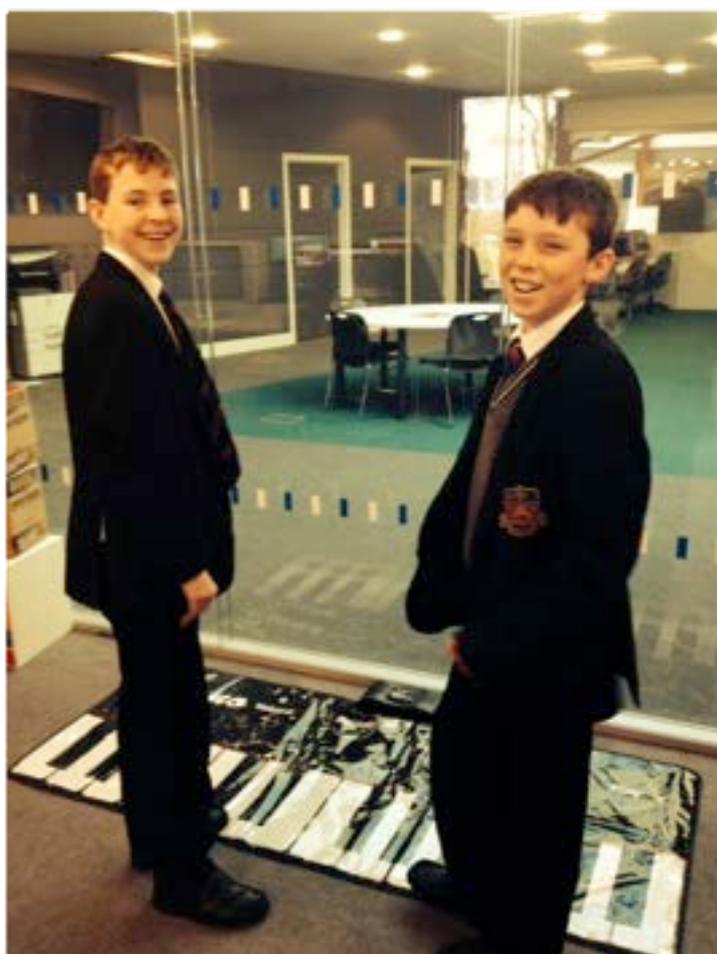
Badminton

School sides finished runners up in both Intermediate and Second Year events with a Minors championship yet to be rearranged. This was an excellent first tournament and boys enjoyed considerable success against schools who have been playing much longer than ourselves.

Biology Society

It has been a very active half term for the Society. Attendance continues to be very good and there are often queues of students waiting outside door of Lab 2204 on Friday lunchtimes. In January Joseph Wynn (U6th) led a whole fish dissection showing younger students how to extract the gills and taught them about gas exchange in this delicate structure. Joshua Jorritsma (1st Year) presented a session on the Blood and Cameron Herron (2nd year) gave a talk on the human brain. Not only did both students research and present their chosen topics thoroughly, they also fielded challenging questions from the audience. Well done!

A 'BIG' keyboard



If you've ever seen the film with 'Big' with Tom Hanks you'll probably remember the scene in the department store where Hanks and the store owner both dance on an enormous keyboard and create music. The dancing piano helps pupils to learn timing, rhythm and enables them to express musical ability whilst at the same timing having fun. Who said playing music can't be used also to keep fit?

Literature Society

The Literature Society has also flourished this year, with a number of AS students signing up and taking advantage of the College Kindles. Since January, the boys have met to discuss Joseph Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness' and George Orwell's 'The Road to Wigan Pier'. We have enjoyed forging links with both the History and English Departments, with Mr. Lindsay a regular attendee.

'Vivaldi's Gloria'

We are delighted that the Saint Ambrose College Chamber Choir will be performing 'Vivaldi's Gloria' with the St. Philip Neri Singers on

Monday 10th March 2014 at 6.30pm in the main atrium.

The St. Philip Neri Singers is a semi-professional choir and one of the leading exponents of Catholic liturgical music in the North West. Repertoire includes 16th century polyphony, Viennese orchestral Masses as well as modern choral pieces and plainchant.

The concert promises to be well attended and extremely popular. We are also privileged to be accompanied by a small orchestra from the University of Manchester. This will give the boys a fantastic opportunity to perform alongside some of the most upcoming performers in the country.

When accompanied by parents, the pupils are invited free of charge and parents are asked to pay for tickets via ParentMail at a price of £3 each (you may present your receipt as proof of purchase on the evening) available from Thursday 27 February.

We do hope you will support the College and Chamber Choir in attending this wonderful concert.



A Pottery Warning!



With pottery now being 'rolled out' before half term (that's a potter's joke for those who missed it) to the first half of the 2nd year, 3rd year boys sound a portentous warning.

When clay work is fired to the giddy heights of a 1000 Celsius, any errors in workmanship are unmercifully exposed with air bubbles expanding to crack the clay or, worst of all, even blowing it up (you can also of course be simply unlucky as shown here). Year 2 you have been warned!

BBC Philharmonic

St Ambrose College Music Department was invited to MediaCityUK to listen to the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra in rehearsal.

It was an exciting opportunity to hear some of the greatest orchestral music ever written and to meet and talk to some of the players, conductors, composers, producers and production staff that work for the BBC Philharmonic.

The concert attended focused around Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra which is a seminal work of the 20th Century.

The rehearsal was fast paced and exciting.

It gave the pupils an insight into the workings of a professional orchestra and was an enriching experience for all that attended.



Ignatius House

Fairtrade society

The 'Fairtrade Society' was founded to sell Fairtrade products to students at lunchtimes every Tuesday and was created by Mrs Keene after boys brought up the issue of a lack of Fairtrade products available to students.

A questionnaire has been handed out to look at the students view on Fairtrade products.

The society is open for students to join to help sell products and all credit goes to the existing members of the society.

Cricket

Ryan O'Brien and Tom Jones from Ignatius S are in the middle of County Trials for Cheshire

Newman House

Ice Skating

Troy Wood - 2nd Year

Recently Troy Wood represented Great Britain in figure skating at the Bradford Open 2014 National Championships. Troy performed extremely well and came 2nd overall; judges referred to his individual performance as flawless.

Troy continues to do Newman House proud with his ice skating commitment and achievements.

Troy has another competition in Telford later on this month.

Sporting Success

Form mates Jack Wilkinson and Joe Weems have recently enjoyed sporting success: Jack achieved 19th place in the Northern Cross Country Championships and Joe has been selected to represent Lancashire in the Cricket. Both boys are a credit to their form; well done, boys.

'Tae Kwon Do'

The Teague brothers have recently attained their '1st Dan 2 Star' ranking in Tae Kwon Do; well done, boys.

World Union of Karate

On Sunday 16th of February our deputy head boy Tyler McKenna refereed at the first World Union of Karate Federations international competition of the year at Ponds Forge Arena in Sheffield. This was Tyler's First time refereeing at international level after experiencing the European stage last year at the 2013 WUKF European Championships as a competitor. As a result of the account he gave of himself as an official, Tyler has been invited, and has accepted, to referee at the European Championships in 2014 which will be held in Verona Italy from the 11th to 15th of June. This makes him currently the youngest referee within the WUKF.

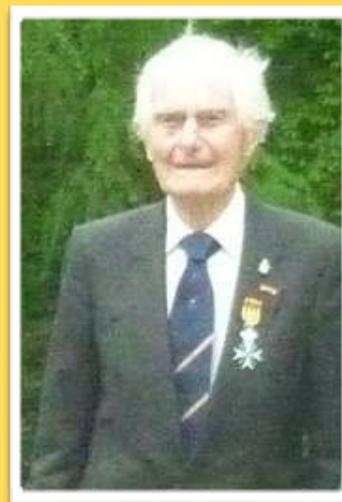


Normandy

In early June, Ben Rylance and Tyler Rylance are planning on travelling with their mother and grandparents to the 70th Anniversary of the D Day Landings in Normandy. The Rylance brothers' grandfather is no other than Major Kenneth Mayhew, a well decorated veteran of the Second World War who is extremely well known for his outstanding acts of courage in the Netherlands during WW2.

In 1946, Major Kenneth Mayhew was awarded the Military William Order (a Dutch decoration; the equivalent of our country's Knighthood) for achievements in Venray and Overloon and the liberation of Weert in the Netherlands. He is known for outstanding acts of courage, and loyalty during the Allied military campaign. Major Mayhew repeatedly demonstrated exceptional devotion to duty and perseverance.

Major Kenneth Mayhew is now 97 and we acknowledge his great sacrifice during WW2 and the inspiration that boys can gain from selfless figures such as him. We wish both Ben, Tyler, their family and of course Major Mayhew well, in their visit to Normandy.



Rory Wynne

Rory had a Christmas Song (with a music video produced and directed by a fellow Newman House Member Morgan Roberts)

He also had another play on XFM in "John Kennedy's Tips for 2014" . . . and now have a session and interview planned for February 20th on Pure Radio.

His videos can be found here:

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9E9VP8vwIbhAyYJQsbCtQg>



Rory Wynne - Interview and Session @ Pure Fm 18/02/14

Debating Society

The Debating Society has enjoyed a healthy turnout so far this year, with a regular group of lower school and upper school pupils joining in proceedings. Debates have ranged from issues concerning the UK drone programme, copyright law and the HS2 rail link to the European Space Programme, GM foods and the virtues of Microsoft versus Apple Mac technology.

This year's lower school winners were Seth Fidler and Nick Dawson of the 3rd year, who emerged victorious during a debate on Ukraine's potential membership of the EU, whilst George Ellison and Dave Jones, two 5th year boys, won the upper school debate on Russia's right to host the 2014 Winter Olympics. Elsewhere, the society has encouraged young film makers, including Ben Watchorn and Oscar Gill-Lewis, aided by Mr. Vaughton, to record and film debates, which is proving very popular with all concerned.



Aquinas House

Morgan Davies has appeared in a Kinder Maxi advert (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smizssyChA>)

Abishek Alex (Aquinas A) came second in the junior debating competition

Barnton Wanderers Under 13s have reached the final of both the Cheshire MCDFA Cup and the Cheshire League cup. (Aquinas boys play in the team!)

The year 7 basketball team (with a couple of people from Aquinas A) has reached the local semi-finals of the cup

Swimming.

The Swimming season officially started with our House championships before Christmas but we are now competing every Tuesday in galas against local schools. So far the teams have had victories at Manchester G.S and at home against St Edwards and St Nicholas School, Hartford. Our only defeat came against Audenshawe when 12 of our swimmers were missing whilst competing in the National water polo finals. The squad competing in the galas has reached over sixty and we are delighted so many non club swimmers are tasting representative experience for the first time. Mrs Chandler has also set up lessons for non swimmers on Wednesday lunchtimes where children are encouraged to attend.

200 Club Winners

Winners of our recent draws were Messrs Ryan, Murray and Tierney. With 135 members each prize winner enjoyed receiving cheques for £675. If you would like a Direct Debit mandate for the draw please ask at PE reception. The target for the funds raised is to provide a Pavillion and changing facility for students and PTA for functions, concerts and drama workshops. For £10 a month you get a chance to win over £600 a month currently. This will be increased the more numbers we can get to join so please tell family and friends and join us in our fundraising efforts.

Augustine House

House Quiz

Augustine were the winners of the first House quiz competition. After progressing through the group stages to the final, Augustine defeated Aquinas in fine style.

The composition of the team changed as the competition developed allowing more boys the opportunity to participate. All are to be congratulated on their endeavours. Team members; Mr Gwyer, Mr Stenhouse, Ed Hathaway, Freddie Gent, Matthew Doyle, Tom Diffley and James Glonek.

Rugby Scholarship

Matthew Gill is to be congratulated for gaining a rugby scholarship to Rugby School. We wish him well as he tries to enhance the reputation of the school where the game was initially begun.

Water Polo

Under Sixteen and Under 13 sides have recently played their first matches in National Finals at the Manchester Aquatic Centre. The older age group faced tough opponents in Manchester GS and Bolton School but progressed through to the next round having finished 3rd in their group.

The second round competition started really well with victory over Stowe school but that was to be the side's only success and they failed to reach the latter stages of the competition. The side should not be too despondent however, as they are still eligible next year with no 5th year players in our current squad.

Max Ashton has been asked to train with the national squad and, with Freddie Gent, has recently been invited to play for the Manchester Senior Squad.

Having help from the National ladies coach has been a massive help to the boys development.

We are hoping that the cutting in funding of that sport will not affect his involvement at St Ambrose next year.

RNCM

Christopher Gunstone-Schofield has gained a place at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music where he will continue to develop his considerable talents, especially on the piano.

Lacrosse

Stephen Johnson is currently exploring the possibilities of establishing a Lacrosse team for the 5th form at the college.

START

Oscar Gill-Lewis has begun, with the support of Mr Vaughton, a venture known as START (St Ambrose radio Transmission).

He will be filming and recording various sports, clubs and societies.

Geography

Augustine 1st and 2nd years continue to perform well in the regular Geography quizzes organised by Mr Mulrennan. Keep up the good work.

Cross Country

Following the success of our Teams in the Trafford Championships, St Ambrose dominated the Trafford team in the recent Greater Manchester Championships. In the Juniors Joe Blakemore, Jack Wilkinson, Marco Lavorini and Raphael Quirke were unlucky not to make the area team but in the Intermediates both Jake and Adam Spilsbury achieved the placings for selection and they will now compete in the English Schools Championships on Saturday 15th March at Donnington Park, Leicestershire. Recent winners have included Mo Farrah and International Triathletes the Brownlee brothers and it is a great honour for both boys to have reached this standard.

Hockey

The House championships in this latest new sport has identified several talented hockey players and boys have enjoyed playing in games lessons. Our 1st year team got their first taste of competition in a tournament at Timperley Cricket and Hockey Club. Our older players will get their first taste of competition in May when two touring schools from Pretoria will be playing fixtures against us. It is hoped to extend the opportunities with links with Bowdon and Timperley Hockey Clubs being established.

Basketball

The basketball season got under way in Late October and is reaching its conclusion after all league matches were completed in January.

At 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th year the sides have all reached the semi final stages having either won or finished runner up in the South Trafford School League.

The teams have now to play winners and runners up in the Northern League. It is pleasing to report in the 20 matches played only 3 defeats have been suffered.

Callum Schorra, Sam Dempsey and Ciaran McNally have been helping coach the teams and their input has been valuable.

As 6th form students we hope they will continue to develop their involvement in coaching and officiating.

Rugby.

School rugby sides are currently enjoying great success with all teams reaching the semi final stages of the County Cup. The 1st XV have begun to realise their full potential and their last round win against Wilmslow High School was memorable. This had followed an unbeaten run from December where the victory against a strong Old Boys XV inspired further excellent results against Birkenhead School and Altrincham G.S. The side look set to play Wirral in the next round which should be another tough challenge having lost narrowly twice to our semi final opponents already. At 2nd XV the side continue to flourish with a strong LV1 and Vth year involvement. This bodes well for next years 1st XV with many younger players developing into Senior rugby. The Under 16 side reached their semi- final of the County Cup with excellent wins against Wirral and Sandbach. They too are benefitting from Senior experience and work in our multi gym.

At Under 15 the side continues to work hard to reverse last years results against strong rugby schools. A 40 point margin was reversed against Wilmslow recently which shows how much better their season has been, despite a smaller win ratio than other College sides.

Old Boys

Whilst Fergus Mulchrone continues to play 1st Team at London Irish in the Premiership, brother Charlie this week announced he is joining Worcester where he will hopefully end up playing against his brother in the League next season. They will be joined by another Ambrosian Mark Atkinson who has agreed terms with Gloucester Rugby Club. Mark has been brought in to replace England Fly Half Freddie Burns so he will be hoping for similar success in his new club. All three boys played in the same School side and we would hope some of our current junior players are aspiring to follow in their footsteps. Certainly some of the current sides are achieving the same success as these successful Old Boys.

Hosting

OAs mentioned in Hockey and Football news we are hosting a couple of South African CB Schools who are arriving in Manchester on Monday 5th May. If you are able to offer hosting for 1,2,3 or 4 children we would like to hear from you. It will be for Tuesday to Friday 6th-9th May. The children will be coming into school with your son daily and returning in the evening. We have enjoyed being hosted ourself on tour and I am sure you would enjoy playing host, showing the children around our splendid local sights and offering typically warm Manchester hospitality. If you can host please ring Mr Handy at school before the Easter holiday and I will be able to make the necessary arrangements.

Monet has come to Manchester

Daniel Walsh's artwork has finally come good in the form of a striking cityscape inspired by the paintings of Claude Monet.

In an attempt to emulate the light and warmth inherent in many Impressionist works, Daniel added washes of oranges and yellows, making the sky over Manchester glow like never before.



Rugby.

The Under 14 side continues to blossom and despite suffering their first defeat of the season at AGS bounced back to take Cheadle Hulme's unbeaten record off them in the Quarter finals of the County Cup. They will be looking towards a final against our Altrincham neighbours to return the County bragging rights to Hale Barns. At Under 13 the side have suffered only 2 defeats and continue to improve with success like the Under 14s at A and B team level. The 46-0 victory over Bramhall in the quarter finals has set up a tough semi final against a strong Bridgewater school but with home advantage the side would be hoping to reach their first County Final.

At Under 12 A and B teams have only lost twice in nearly 40 matches which is again, an outstanding achievement. The numbers training continues to exceed 60 boys per session which highlights the reasons why the team have achieved such success.

Thanks to all parents, coaches and players for their efforts towards the end of the season.

To Mrs Cartledge and Keegan a very special mention for their manning of the refreshments on a Saturday morning.- we are very grateful for their support.

Spanish Trip

During the half-term break, ten students from Years 5 and 6th Form, accompanied by Mr Mankarious and Mrs Whittle, spent an enjoyable break in Malaga, Spain. Pupils attended language classes to improve their communication skills and the 6th Form pupils successfully completed work placements where their involvement was praised by the organisers.

Afternoon activities included a visit to the Alcazaba, the Cathedral, bowling, tapas and sports competitions on the beach. A full day excursion to Granada provided a contrast of snowy mountains and hot sunshine in the Alhambra.

UKMT Intermediate Challenge Results 2014

Gold

Thomas Butler	5 th Year	100
Dominic Butler	5 th Year	94
Thomas Nuttall	5 th Year	85
Dominic Howarth	5 th Year	84
James Saunders	5 th Year	83
Fergus Grieves	4 th Year	80
Thomas Green	4 th Year	78
Josh Travers	5 th Year	77
Kristian Halarnyk-Peet	5 th Year	77
Matthew Sullivan	5 th Year	77
Andrew McAlister	5 th Year	76

Silver

Felix McDermott	5 th Year	70
Julien Yvon	5 th Year	69
Ciaran Grieves	5 th Year	67
Oliver Gilmartin	5 th Year	67
Jordan Webster	5 th Year	66
Duncan Carter	5 th Year	65
Jake Stewart	4 th Year	65
Thomas Bennett	5 th Year	63
Joshua Kristen	5 th Year	61
Alex Gordon	5 th Year	60
Benjamin Hughes	5 th Year	59
Rory Devereux	5 th Year	59

Luca Sanchez	5 th Year	58
Callum Moroney	5 th Year	55
Aengus Lavery	4 th Year	55

Bronze

Stephen Ellis	5 th Year	54
Nicholas Leach	4 th Year	54
Michael Tresnan	4 th Year	52
Adam Clarke	5 th Year	50
Connor Keogh	5 th Year	46
Thomas Reid	4 th Year	46
James Tavernor	5 th Year	42
Daniel Janinejad	4 th Year	42

Through to Pink Kangaroo:

Thomas Butler
Dominic Butler
Thomas Nuttall
Dominic Howarth
James Saunders
Fergus Grieves
Thomas Green

Uniform

SAPA has a good selection of second hand uniform (including a number of Blazers). They plan to hold a Uniform Sale at the College on Saturday the 5th April between 9 and 11 am

Alternatively you can contact the SAPA Chair Mrs Alford (MrsSAlford@st-ambrosecollege.org.uk) to make an appointment during the school day on Monday 7th April at the College.

All donations of second hand uniforms are always welcome at any time.

Politics trip report

“On Tuesday 4th February a group of upper sixth Politics students travelled down to Westminster to observe how government really works. This was organised by Mr Lindsay and Mr Wilcock who have been organising trips to ‘foreign fields’ in recent years and were last in the Commons when Tony Blair faced William Hague in 1998!

The tour was arranged through local MP Graham Brady, which included of a general tour around the Houses of Parliament. The tour consisted of a walk through British political history, embracing Britain as first; a Monarchical system, secondly a government ran by unelected aristocrats and finally a democratically elected institution. Today all three bodies exist to form the modern day British government . The highpoint of this tour was when we met ‘James Bond ‘ in the House of Lords! This was a surreal experience as Piers Brosnan was showing his mother around the chamber and we said hello. Unfortunately we couldn't take a picture as we were in the Lords.



WKC

Jake Clegg entered the 6th WKC English Championship yesterday.

It was based at George Carnell near The Trafford Centre.

Jake competed in Open Team, Traditional team, Hard Style, non-musical weapons and for the first time entered the Traditional weapon category.

Jake was up against 13 - 17 year olds and there was a lot more people taking part than we had ever seen before.

Jake got Bronze in the Hard style, Silver in the Non-musical weapons, Gold in both the Team categories, making Jake and his partner English Champions. Jake also took part in the Traditional Weapons category, he was up against 17 year olds but Jake managed to win Gold making him the English Champion. Jake has now been offered a place in the England karate Team for the Fifth year running.



Politics trip continued:

We were then invited to sit in on a live House of Commons debate, which focussed on the atrocities of Britain's involvement in the raids on the Golden Sikh Temple in 1984. William Hague was at the Despatch Box and had to defend the actions of the British Security forces. It was a great experience to see the Commons at first hand and witness the control of the Speaker John Bercow ;our guest on Speech Night 14th April 2014.

There were many Sikhs in the gallery of the Commons witnessing the debate.

After lunch we were then met by Mrs Wolsetenholme, Mr Brady's PA, who managed to get us into Portcullis House (the centre of offices for MP's) literally by the 'back door'. Mrs W then had to 'eject' a police Commissioner and an MP from a room that she had pre-booked!

(Mrs W told us that she had been Grahams Private Secretary since 1987). We then met Graham who answered questions on political topics and his role as an MP. He was then joined by Greg Mulholland MP and Damian Hinds MP (who are both old boys of the College). This then to an excellent debate fuelled by Mr Lindsay on the relationship between coalition partners and issues such as the economy and the so called 'Bedroom Tax'

We had a very enjoyable and informative day and are very grateful to our local MP Graham Brady and his indefatigable Private Secretary Mrs W who looked after us well and provided tickets for the Commons. We were also grateful to our alumni Greg Mulholland MP and Damien Hynes MP for taking the time to meet us .Maybe there will be a future MP amongst our group !"

Tom Laverty U6