

Gonville House Newsletter

Michaelmas Term 2019



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

We would like to wish you all a restful break and some wonderful family time. Thank you all for helping us to settle in and we are really looking forward to 2020 and all the excitement it will bring. Here are a few highlights from a brilliant term.



Review of the term

It feels like a ridiculously long time ago to think back to August and the arrival of 22 new faces at the welcome reception. It was lovely to see how quickly these new pupils (eight Year 9, five Year 10, four Year 11 and five in Year 12) settled into the house and its routines. Of course we were all, both new and old, presented with the challenge of a new timetable and new shape of week. It is fair to say that distances proved tricky to begin with and the pupils should be commended for their efforts during the first few weeks. Increased time at break and lunchtimes were greeted with sighs of relief. Saturday has been a great success with pupils taking part in a huge range of activities and academic extra classes, it has also been incredibly useful time for art and DT coursework. As you can imagine, a bit more time in bed has not gone amiss either.

From August to December you get a taste of three seasons, but I have to admit with the recent incessant rainfall and the early darkness, it has felt like more of a slog than usual. The boys have done incredibly well to stay energised and motivated. We have now, academically, reached the half way point in the year. Most can look back with great pride upon their achievements. Some have a bit to reflect upon to ensure that they up their game in 2020.

As a house, the boys have been magnificent. Their conduct in school gatherings has been exemplary and they have had school-wide success in winning runner-up in the House Singing Competition and winning the Year 9 Drama competition. Teams competed strongly in the inter-house fives and rugby, the Steeplechase and Aquathlon. Within the house we have had competition as well with table tennis, FIFA and gingerbread house decoration all completed. Aside from competition, we have greatly enjoyed hosting each year group for dinner in our house and our yearly migration to the Beachy Head Inn for a Christmas dinner was delicious and capped off by William Reeves' excellent speech.

Some hearty singing in the Carol Service and the Headmaster's Assembly capped off a long and successful term for Gonville. It was just a shame that so few of the house were present for the finale. I would ask that in future parents do their very best to book flights that do not require people to miss school. Please use guardians if necessary. To have just 26 of 55 pupils present left a bitter taste in the mouth after such a fabulous term.



KEY DATES

LENT TERM 2020

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY

House open all day for international pupils

6.00pm - all boarders back

MONDAY 6 JANUARY

HM Assembly

Y11 Mocks start

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY

First hockey fixtures

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY

Y10 parents' meetings 3.15pm

Exeat begins (please note date)

Return: Sunday 26, 6.00pm

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Half term starts 2.35pm

Y11 parents' meetings & A-level options evening

Return: Sunday 23, open all day. UK-based from 4.00pm

FRIDAY 6 MARCH

Futures convention: Y11,12 & 13 all attend. Parents encouraged to come

SATURDAY 7 MARCH

Gonville House Concert, Big School

Drinks from 6.45pm, Warren Atrium

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Lent Term ends, 3.00pm

New for 2019! Welcome to new staff in Gonville



TUTORING YEAR 9



SLAPPIN' DA BASS, MAN



Harry Ford: A jack of all trades who has, in fact, mastered them all. From languages to music and sport, Mr Ford has a dizzying array of talents to bring to Gonville and the boys. A pupil at Tonbridge, he comes to Gonville and the MFL department as his first taste of teaching. He is residing in Bushey Ruff as our new Resident Tutor and the boys have already benefitted hugely from his wisdom, energy and care.

Lara Garrett:

Joins the English department and tutors sixth form in Gonville. Miss Garrett was instrumental in developing the Year 9 drama performance that was so successful and has been tireless in her efforts with UCAS and personal statements. She comes to us from a PGCE at Cambridge.



Ian Sands:

A veteran of ten years in charge of Reeves House, Mr Sands brings his considerable experience to the tutoring of Year 10. A member of the classics department, Mr Sands has overseen girls and boys 1st XI hockey for many years and is the guru behind U14A cricket. We are very lucky to have turned him pink.



Academic Review

eRC (effort) Wall of Fame

Year 13

Mark Burnham	6.36
Nicholas Siu	5.49
Mingzhe Hu	5.29
Tawanda Muyeye	5.21
Most Improved:	Josh Mantle (+0.63)

Year 12

Shintaro Hashimoto	5.7
James Nicholas	5.15
Most Improved:	Shintaro Hashimoto (+0.4)

Year 11

Wilson Zhang	5.61
En Goh	5.56
Arthur McKay	5.52
Jago Goodsell	5.28
Most Improved:	Herbert Keung (+0.5)

Year 10

Brian Tong	5.67
Lucas Perez Ruiz-Esteller	5.47
William Lominchar Ormeño	5.32
Edward Rowell	5.28
Most Improved:	Brian Tong (+0.45)

Year 9

William Daniels	5.04
Oliver Du Feu	5.03
Most Improved:	Oliver Du Feu (+0.44) Oliver Rose (+0.43)

Some pupils have displayed outstanding excellence and consistency. **Mark Burnham** continues to set the bar for effort while **Wilson Zhang** and **Arthur McKay** have been rewarded with large numbers of Show Hsms. With the second highest eRC average and the most Show Hsms, **Brian Tong** was rewarded with the house cup for academic performance of the term.

Show Hsm Roll of Honour

Year 13

Mark Burnham	(5)
Mingzhe Hu	(4)
Will Reeves	(3)

Year 12

Humphrey Hare	(5)
Kosi Oguine	(4)
Henry Drew	(3)
David Cui	(3)

Year 11

Wilson Zhang	(16)
Arthur McKay	(14)
En Goh	(10)
Tessen Von Heydebreck	(7)
Herbert Keung	(6)
Sebastian Schmid	(6)
Nicolay Kharbarov	(6)

Year 10

Brian Tong	(17)
William Lominchar Ormeño	(6)

Year 9

Oliver Du Feu	(8)
Rohan Van de Ven	(6)



House Awards

Discovering some old trophies in a corner of the office I thought it would be nice to present some silverware to deserving individuals on a termly basis. As you have seen, **Brian Tong's** excellent start at the College earned him the academic prize, but the following prizes were also awarded in recognition of contribution to the house this term:

Sportsman of the term was awarded to **George Pepper**. Despite breaking his ankle just before half term, George was captain of golf and squash, while also swimming for the school. He has qualified for the European Junior Championship in Cadiz and had led the College deeper into the National Schools cup than ever before. He was unbeaten on the squash court and had qualified for the National Swimming Championships.

Greatest Impact is an award for the new face in the house that has the greatest positive influence. **Henry Drew** has arrived in Year 12 with ambitions for the house and its pupils. He has been inspirational in motivating people to don neon lycra for charity, has coached and organised house rugby teams and has had a loud voice on the school food committee.

House Activity Champion is **Joshua Mantle**. There is more detail about why this opportunity came about below, but in winning the house FIFA and making the final of the house table tennis, Josh was the clear winner, despite taking no part in the gingerbread house designing.

The Matron's Award is given to the person or people who show the greatest consideration to the staff who look after us all in house. One of the school values is taking care of those who take care of us and this award embodies this. It is about more than just having a tidy room and a made bed, but **Humphrey Hare** and **George Pepper** in winning this award both were immaculate.

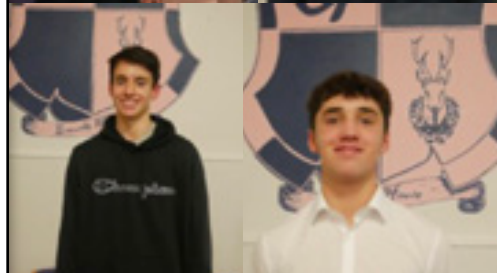
This term there was also a prize for the best Gonvillian in each year group, as well as the overall Gonvillian of the Term. These awards are about more than just achievement. The Gonvillian has many characteristics, but crucially they must be open-minded about new opportunities, they must be tenacious in their efforts to give their best (even if it happens to be a losing cause) and they must be a positive role model for our community, championing kindness and participation.

This term's winners were:

Year 9:	Oliver Du Feu
Year 10:	Luke Clifford
Year 11:	Max Herrmanns
Year 12:	James Nicholas
Year 13:	William Reeves

GONVILLIAN OF THE TERM: WILSON ZHANG

Wilson won a Headmaster's Commendation for his outstanding touring of prospective pupils. His warmth and care make him one of the admissions departments 'Top Guns'. He has also continued to attend mountain biking three times a week with good humour despite multiple near-death experiences. Good humoured, sociable, hard-working and considerate, he is an excellent winner from a very strong field.



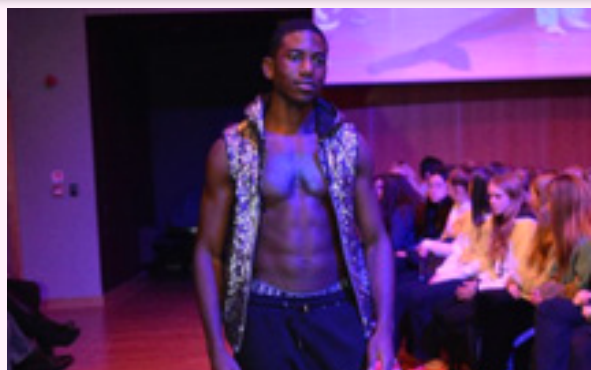
The Wider Impact



James Nicholas trod the boards in *The Crucible*. He played Francis Nurse and was also involved in the direction of the production. Next term he is once again involved on stage and off in *Bouncers*.

James should also be commended, along with Rupert Plumtre for their direction of the Year 9 Drama production of *Jason and the Golden Fleece*. This hilarious and brilliantly acted version of the famous story was adjudged to have won the boarding house category. As far as I know, this was the first time Gonville had won Year 9 Drama. A special mention was given to Oliver Du Feu for his portrayal of Jason, but the entire cast were hilarious, many in multiple roles.

Tawanda Muyeye was involved in the Fashion Show organised by Gold Arts Award pupils. Called *Recycled Runway* the show took its inspiration from the impact of plastic on our oceans.





In October Gonville was placed runner-up in the House Singing Competition. The boys chose to sing *Escape* by Rupert Holmes. It is better known as the *Piña Colada* song and if you wish to hear it I suggest getting your son to give you a rendition. The pupils were driven over the first half of term by the Upper Sixth, in particular William Reeves who put huge energy into motivation, ably supported by his year group. In his absence, Mark Burnham stepped up to conduct and mastered the signature unison sway (below) that drew gasps from the audience. I was hugely proud of the unity and decorum that the boys showed throughout the evening. The boys all came back to house full of excitement and pride. Once again this competition proved to be a brilliant experience.





SPORTS ROUNDUP (FORGIVE RUGBY DOMINANCE)



Congratulations to **Henry Drew** for being awarded half colours in rugby after breaking into the 1st XV and getting to the quarter final of the National Vase.



William Reeves was awarded his equestrian colours after another successful qualification for the National Finals at Addington. Sadly William was unable to compete as his horse went lame upon arrival, but he will be back and competing in 2020.





Remembrance Sunday brought the CCF onto parade in front of the Memorial building. All Year 10 and 11 cadets were present. Of note was the fact that Sebastian Schmid got selected to march to the town memorial earlier in the day. Also **Corporal William Reeves**, **Lance Corporal Nicholas Siu** and **Cadet Oscar Baker** were selected to be flag bearers.



As always there is a full service program available to the pupils. In the CCF Year 11 members of A Company completed a challenging overnight field day in late September but they were not cowed by the elements. The RAF section were able to get some 'air experience flying' under their belts while the Navy section completed a day of water-based activities in the Eastbourne area. A small cohort of volunteers also learnt some new field-craft skills associated with working in a built-up area, including tunnelling and house clearances. Alongside the CCF, 125 members of the Lower Sixth have been involved in service activities this term. Sixth formers have been involved in a wide range of activities at the College and in the local community ranging from helping out at nurseries, care homes, hospices and charity shops. Away from these areas some have been recycling materials or picking up litter on the beach.

The Duke of Edinburgh award will be signing up new Year 10 pupils in January. I believe the College still produces more Gold Award winners than anyone else in the county. It is certainly significant and an impressively run program. Currently Mingzhe Hu is pushing for his Gold Award, with Wilson Zhang currently working on his Silver.

Inter house sport

There has been lots of sporting competition this term starting with the Aquathlon on the first Thursday. September had barely begun and the same could be said for **Seb Schmid** and **Max Herrmanns** who threw themselves into the challenge and The Channel. Alongside them **George Pepper, Elliot Jones, Luke Clifford, Felix Griffin** and **Mingzhe Hu** ensured that Gonville had a senior and junior team. A very fine effort.

This was soon followed by the Steeplechase, the annual reminder that the South Downs are not insignificant. This year wristbands with GPS tracking brought the event into the 21st Century, much to the dismay of the serial corner-cutters! The sun shone once again and almost everyone in the house got out and took on the hills and cliffs. **Rupert Plumptre** was the top performer the senior category, **Tessen Von Heydebreck** the intermediate and **Magnus Chiu**, the junior.

House rugby, in the last week of term, had very different weather. Teams were playing Rugby X the new 5 or 6-a-side version of the game and it made for frenetic and even 7 minute games. In the Year 9 competition, shorn of talisman **William Daniels** by a concussion, the remaining seven lads stepped up and threw themselves into it. Strong carrying, big tackling and relentless energy saw them come back from a narrow loss to Reeves with a hearty thumping of Powell House. This set-up a semi final with Wargrave which proved a bridge too far, although a couple of late tries and a monster tackle from **Max Crowther** made sure they went back to Blackwater Road having been in a tussle. Special mention must go to **Oliver Du Feu** who proved to be a scoring machine and **Oliver Rose** who tackled everything that moved.

Year 10 were very dominant in the carry with **Elombe Case, Ed Rowell** and **Denziel Armah** very direct and **Luke Clifford** and **Zac Crowe** more elusive. In defence there was not the level of communication required and they allowed a few too many tries. A convincing win against Reeves was followed with a heart-breaking last second loss 4-3 to Powell. Then in the semi final the same thing happened against Pennell. The boys certainly deserved a spot in the final, but I was also proud of the fact that three of the squad had only started playing rugby 15 weeks before. The finalists picked their best six for the whole competition. Gonville were more inclusive and allowed anyone who wished to have the experience of representing their house. In the long-run this will mean far more than that spot in the final.

The senior team was made up of an eclectic mix of teams: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and U16A all were represented and we had call ups for ex-players and recent beginners. There were few expecting Gonville to upset the apple cart and yet they stormed out of the blocks only just losing to pre-tournament favourites Craig, 2-1. Some huge tackles from **Chirag Gupta** and **Victor Chan** were allied to carrying from **Henry Drew** and subtlety from **James Nicholas**. A small squad and four games back to back meant that energy levels were very low for the finale against a Wargrave team. In the final act of his rugby career, Chirag managed to carry three men over the line to score the try to tie the scores and finish on a high.

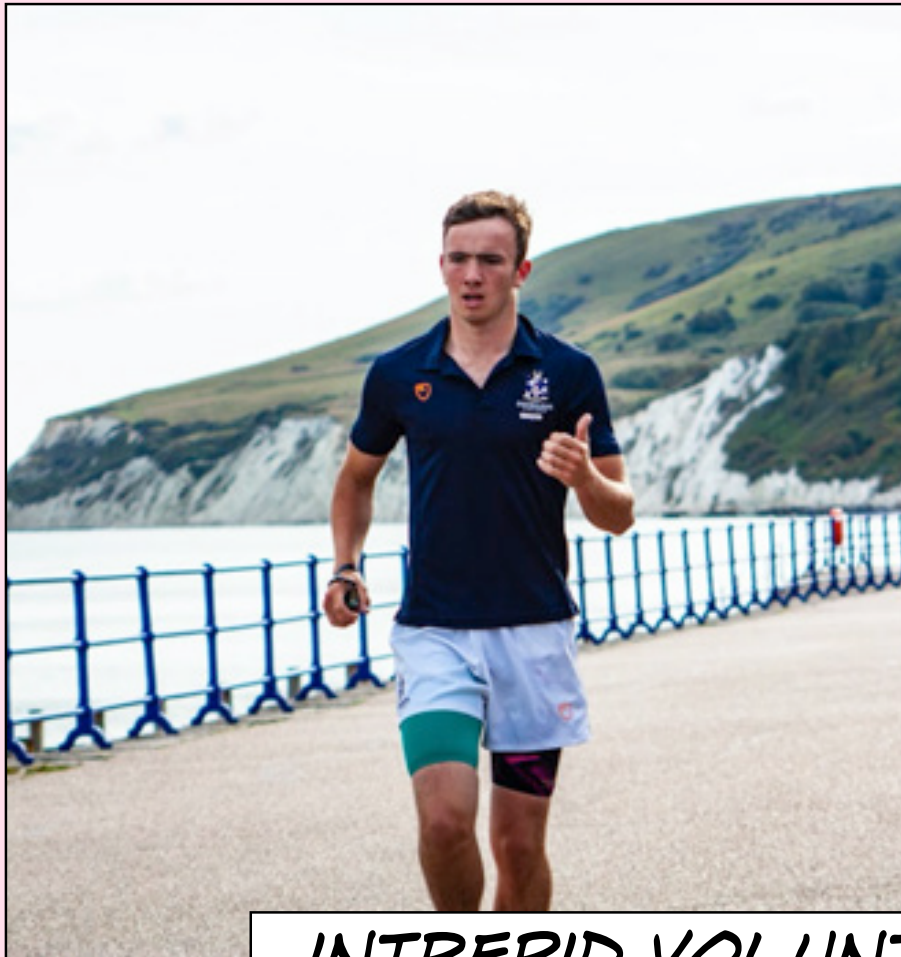
The following pages have a series of pictures taken at these events. Apologies that some are a little blurry.



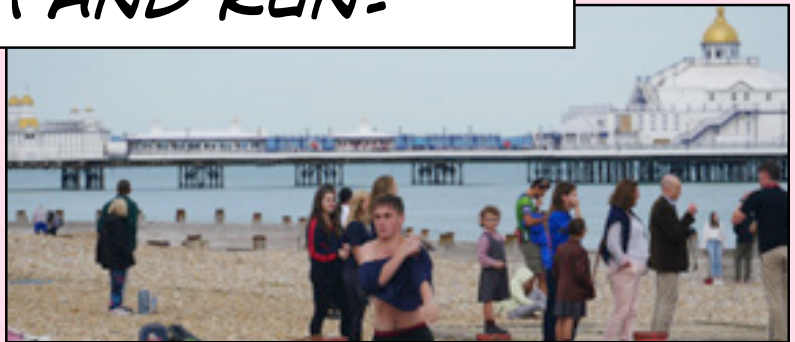


AQUATHLON





**INTREPID VOLUNTEERS
SWIM AND RUN.**



STEEPO 2019



EVERYONE ELSE IS SO SLOW!

MAGNUS IS FIRST GONVILLIAN ACROSS THE LINE







**RUPERT PLUMPTRE:
TOP SENIOR PERFORMER**



**PRE-GAME PEP TALK AND
ADVICE FROM TOBY**



**NERVOUS SMILES.....
TOUGH CHALLENGE AHEAD**







YEAR 9 RUGBY



YEAR 10 RUGBY



BOOM!



TRY TIME?



**SENIOR HOUSE
RUGBY**





VICTOR BACK IN THE MUD AND LOVING IT



WHAT A FINISH!

MUD, GUTS, STRENGTH & SKILL... UNFANCIED, BUT SO COMPETITIVE



MR. BUNCE PRETENDING TO BE IMPARTIAL.....

The Teams Competition

This term the school switched to horizontal tutor groups. This was very useful as it allows tutors to be a bit more specialised in their ability to help, it encourages year group integration and it allows for regular year group assemblies. The death of the old vertical tutoring system was a loss to the boarding community, however, as these groups were ways to break down year group boundaries and for the younger pupils to spend time with the role models in the house. It was decided that the vertical groups should remain in some guise, and in Gonville we have eight 'Teams'. These were randomly selected and will have additions each year to replace the outgoing members. They are as follows:

G	O	N	V	I	L	L	E
Reeves	Muyeye	Phillips C	Burnham	Siu	Mantle	Billbin	Jones
Hare	Drew	Yeung	Chan	Plumptre	Gupta	Hu	Pepper
Hashimoto	Ho	Cui	Hansen	Oguine	Emin	Goodsell	Nicholas
Schmid	Hermanns	Von Heydebreck	Houben	Tarpan	Baker	Zhang	Wong
Oyemade	Keung	McKay	Karbarov	Goh	Tong	Phillips D	Rowell
Clifford	Lominchar	Flint	Perez	Crowe	Case	Armah	Crowther
Chiu	Daniels	Ng	Du Feu	Van de Ven	Rose	Makarov	
MTH	ACE	HDAF	PRC	IPS	EMWD	LRG	PJF

Competition between the teams took in three areas: Academic Excellence, Care of Gonville, and House Activities. The winning team were to get a free meal on the house, as it were. Academic excellence took into account tardiness, behaviour and effort. Care of Gonville was about consideration, punctuality to roll call and behaviour at bedtime. House activities this term were limited to three competitions; FIFA, table tennis and gingerbread house decorating. Some photos of the latter can be seen on the following pages.

The winners were announced at the house dinner to be team L (as opposed to LL), currently known as 'Lady and the Lads'. They look forward to their dinner early in January. I hope that this spirit of competition will foster a culture where we all get the little things right and encourage each other towards excellence.





SUCCESS NEVER TASTED THIS GOOD



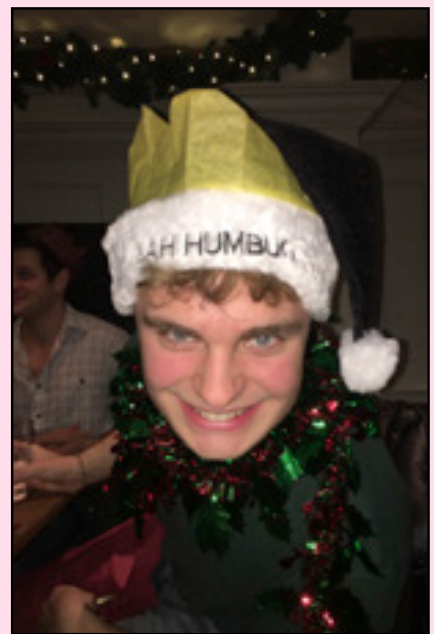
GINGERBREAD HOUSES





HOUSE CHRISTMAS DINNER





HEAVYWEIGHT CHEESE
TO KNOCK US OUT.



MULLED WINE / HOT CHOCOLATE AND CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT - THE GANNETS HAVE ALREADY RAIDED.



YEAR 10 SUPPER



MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL MOONCAKE.



AROUND THE HOUSE

YEAR 11 SUPPER





DECORATING

SUNDAY 23RD
NOVEMBER WAS
GONVILLE DECORATION
DAY. MUSIC, CHOCOLATE
AND LOADS OF GARISH
TINSEL. WE GOT
EXCITED AND BOUGHT
LIGHTS.....THEY WILL
GO UP NEXT YEAR!



FESTIVE CHEER



Plus a couple of Shabba cuddles!!



See you all in January with fresh energy and legal haircuts!!