

THE



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ABRSM Italian Teachers' Conference

The conference, the first ever of its kind in Italy, was held in the Gym at school last **Saturday 22nd May**. It was a chance for all Italian speaking music schools and teachers who follow the **ABRSM** exam system to get together. The conference itself was a lively mix of teacher training and networking. Teachers were helped in all aspects of exam preparation by **Martin Biggs**, the ABRSM examiner and Representative for the North of Italy. **Guy Perricone**, the new C.E.O. of the ABRSM was with us. **Mr. Dillow** welcomed everyone and the school caterers P.A.P. provided excellent refreshments over the day. About 50 teachers from Milan, Milan hinterland, Casale Monferrato, Cremona, Varese, Busto Arsizio, Bergamo, Gorgonzola, Vicenza, Bologna, Firenze, Roma, Bari and Valdagno all came, bringing with them a huge range of accents and cultures but with a lively communal spirit! The day concluded with a "High Scorers Concert". Nearly fifty participants ranging from Prep Test to Dip ABRSM level performed to an enthusiastic audience. The "Friends" were of immense help organising the afternoon refreshments, the photos and a welcoming committee in the morning. All in all the day was a great success. For some of the music teachers present it was their first experience of the British approach to music exams and they provided some extremely positive feedback after the conference!



Y5 Science

As part of the year 5 Science unit of work on Changing State, the year 5 classes had the exciting

opportunity of carrying out some experiments in the Upper school science labs, thanks to the collaboration of Ms. Woodcock and lab technicians, Enrico Ceppi and Carol Stayton. The experiments were all set up in advance and the children had a great hands-on learning experience, making cornflower change from liquid to solid state as if by magic in one activity. While two groups were working on this, another two groups were engaged in combining chicken livers and hydrogen peroxide to obtain the gas oxygen. They looked on in amazement as glowing splints burst into flame when put into the oxygen, proving that they had produced this very gas. The children were impressed by the emphasis on safety and the focus on the organisational skills involved when working in a Science laboratory. They left full of enthusiasm and determined to try the cornflower experiment at home I have a feeling some homes got rather messy! *Laura Brook*



Wow!

Do these Year Thirteen Medieval history students ever understand the world of today!

by John Plommer



How can studying Medieval history have anything to do with today? Well firstly, we study the rise of Islam and its remarkable success from the Seventh to the Tenth Centuries. Our students now have no trouble understanding why Shia shrines are bombed by Sunnis in Iraq or in having a sophisticated knowledge of the headscarf, hijab and burka debates. Well, doesn't everyone know the difference between a Quranic commandment and a custom blessed by the Hadith? Also, the seemingly interminable theological debates of the Medieval scholastics and the long struggles between Empire and Papacy, Ghibellines and Guelphs, Kings and bishops, church and state— what possible relevance do they have to today? Well, aside from the fact that religion is far from a spent force in the world, the whole understanding of the natures of power, confrontation, compromise and stalemate can be grasped in a kind of virtual laboratory, which is far from the storm and stress of the present world. In this way students develop a real understanding of the limitations as well as the enormous potential of the exercise of power, in all its manifestations.

I have taught (and continue to teach with enthusiasm) Twentieth Century history. It should not be sidelined, by any means, but I do feel that the students who have opted for (or simply been placed in) the Islamic and Medieval "Route One" IB History course have had a really appropriate complement to their GCSE studies, and have obtained an excellent basis for university studies in history or related disciplines, including law, political science, social anthropology and art history. Here follow some comments by some of the graduating Year 13 students of Route One:

"By studying the Medieval world, I have been encouraged to analyse new areas of history that are the foundation of modern-day society, and the key to the understanding of how history works. I would recommend this course to everyone, as it gives students an in-depth knowledge of such an enthusiastic, creative and interesting period of world history. Furthermore, I found that higher educational institutions were positively surprised when I told them that I studied Medieval history, as most students only have good knowledge of modern history, but a big gap as regards the Middle Ages..." **Jacopo Tabarelli**

"What I found most interesting was the religious-study section on Islam which is an extremely contemporary and modern topic today".

Alessia Mortara

"The beauty of Route One is that students will become acquainted with the origins of modern-world society. I strongly recommend this course"

Niccolo' Gandini

"When I first started the Route One IB history course I must admit I felt a bit lost. I was confronted with a huge and marvelous world, but I felt I lacked the tools necessary to explore it. Now, however, as the course is coming to an end, I realize that the only tools needed were curiosity and a bit of courage. Without this course I would be completely ignorant of a historical period which though very distant to our world is yet paradoxically incredibly imminent. I was surprised by how much one learns of the present when looking at the past". **Denise Wilkinson**

"Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest"
(Mark Twain)



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Final Expedition From Trentino to Lake Garda April 22nd to 25th 2010

Despite student route cards coming together a bit late and the rain clouds threatening, we were all in good spirits when we arrived at

Trento Youth Hostel for dinner. Breakfast in the morning was a piece of ham and cheese so thin you could see sunlight through it but luckily nearly everyone had brought 20 kilos of food each to keep them going, so much food in fact that rest and refreshment stops were needed every half hour or so, and then extra stops to admire the hundreds of caterpillars committing suicide on the mountain roads as we climbed to over 1000 metres! Then the big downhill after getting just a little lost, to the campsite, and a relatively early night. Our 2000 calorie-a-day diet continued the next day along the Sarca valley to Arco campsite, an easier, shorter less rainy affair which kept us in good spirits for the final trek on day three to the edge of Lake Garda where there was time for pizza before collapsing on the bus to Rovereto. Luckily, yours truly, Mr Gorst, had booked the train the following day so we sat in a most convenient location right next to some very smelly toilets on a whole procession of trains and miraculously only arrived half an hour late back to Milan. Congratulations to all on their superhuman eating, walking and passing the Silver Award!

Gareth Gorst

ACTS OF GREEN

by Katy Lee - Head of Sixth Form & IB Coordinator

A group of committed **Year 12** students led the school in celebrating **Earth Day 2010** on April 22nd, as part of this year's IB Community Theme: *Sharing our Humanity*.

The students addressed assemblies from



Nursery to Key Stage 3, raising

awareness of Earth Day and the importance of looking after our planet. They then encouraged everyone to commit to an 'Act of Green' to help protect the environment. From leaving the car at

home to turning off the tap, reusing carrier bags and planting seeds, we all signed up to do our bit to protect the planet. These pledges were then displayed on three giant trees made from newspaper and recycled paper around the school building. Gemma, Tammy and Marina ensured the trees were not just a clear message but also looked great and worked hard together to create the final displays, while Matteo, Rosh, Nino and Naveed took the message to assemblies across the school. If you'd like to pledge an Act of Green, you can add yours to the 31,510,351 already registered at <http://www.earthday.org/>.



USBORNE BOOK SHOP
WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 2010 3-8 PM

IN STHS COURTYARD TO COINCIDE WITH LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS' EVENING ALL PARENTS WELCOME TO BROWSE AND BUY

Hello Readers!

The Learning Resource Centre is very peaceful at the moment as the focus of our important examinations, although our loyal readers have still been slipping in at lunchtimes to keep in touch. Exam time has revolved around the 3 R's recently.... Reviewing, Revising and Responding. Let's now enjoy the resources in the library for Reading, Reflecting and Relaxing, with a good, light-hearted book. We are here to help with any recommendations. We have some wonderful new books; do take a look at these and refresh those tired minds! Looking forward to welcoming you back to continue reading for pleasure as well as education!

Upper School Librarians

JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE



The results have now arrived from the **Junior Maths Challenge** which was taken at the end of April by 57 students in Years 7 and 8. We should congratulate our budding mathematicians who, between them, achieved **7 Gold, 16 Silver** and **14 Bronze** awards. Our work on percentages should tell us that 65% of our students obtained a certificate, a remarkable result. We should thank their teachers Mr Corrigan and Mr Timmins who guided and inspired their students in the weeks leading up to the challenge. Three students **Daniele Colombraro (Year 8)**, **Yoon Mo Koo (Year 7 Best in School)** and **Thomas Wrabetz (Year 7)** did so well that they have been asked to sit for the Junior Olympiad in June. Well done indeed to them!

Jeremy Hudson



Drug Awareness Day

The students in Upper School were involved in a Drug Awareness Day on Thursday 13th May. During the course of the day each year group was presented with four different aspects of drug taking:

"Why young people take drugs"
"The physical and psychological Effects"
"Drugs and the law" and
"The story of an addict".

After school there was also a session for the parents. The students' evaluation of the day was very positive, especially the presentations on "Drugs and the Law" and the "Story of an addict". It was a most valuable experience for the students and it certainly will be repeated in the future.



IB Exams Over!!!



At 8.30am on Tuesday, 4th May, our first cohort of **IB Diploma** students gathered nervously to start their exams. This was the culmination of two years' hard work and commitment and the students are to be congratulated on their mature, focused approach which meant the exam period went very smoothly. By the final exam on Monday, 24th May, they were definitely ready for a long break and are now looking forward to the Leavers' Dinner on 18th June, organized by Giulia Zecchini and the Sixth Form Council and are awaiting their results, which arrive in July.

Miss Lee, Head of Sixth Form & IB Coordinator

Library Corner



Giorgia

Congrats
on your new
arrival!!



Laura

Welcome to **Laura Jayne Steadman**, born 19th May, weighing 2.5Kg. Mother Lynsey and baby both doing very well!! ...and to **Giorgia Boni (Dow)** who arrived safely on 24th April, weighing 3.63 kg. Congratulations to the proud Parents!

In the next issue:

Istanbul History Trip/A Summer Soirée/ LS SportsDay / Summer Fete / Y10 geography Field Trip /Staff vs Leavers Football