



HeadLines

With all the dreadful weather over the past three weeks, it is remarkable that we have been able to play all of our home football matches – even if the away teams have not been quite so lucky. With most of the match days being blessed with a mixture of sunshine and mud, these were ideal conditions for prep school boys! We have a busy couple of weeks ahead before half term – and not just for sport. In particular, we wish all the very best to those boys who will be competing for Music or Art scholarships: if the standard of the Invitation Concert and the work on display in the Art Room is anything to go by, they must be in with a chance!

Jim Ak

Goal Keeping For the Region!



James in action!

Congratulations to James Warrington who has been selected for the regional Prep Schools' Football squad which is quite an impressive achievement. He is the only boy chosen from all the schools who compete against Aldro. Well done!

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Crispin Hill 1924–2008



Crispin Hill, Headmaster of Aldro from 1952-84 very sadly died last week. His funeral will be at St Mary's Shackleford on Friday February 1st at 2:00pm and the Aldro Chapel Choir will be singing. Crispin's father had been headmaster before him and he had been a boy at Aldro when the school was in Eastbourne. His Christian faith was central to his life and to the school that he was so successful in developing during his 32 years as head. The fact that so many old boys speak of how happy they were at Aldro – at a time when this was not necessarily the norm in prep schools – speaks volumes for the way he ran Aldro. He continued to take a lively interest in the school throughout his retirement. A fuller tribute to him will in due course appear in "The Aldronian".

Form 8 Visit to West London Synagogue



The boys in 8D and 8R visited the West London Synagogue

next to Marble Arch as part of their studies for their Common Entrance RS Coursework.

As well as looking around one of the most beautiful synagogues in the UK, the boys had the chance to learn about a number of aspects of Jewish life. They had the opportunity to write Hebrew script, using a quill and also made the sort of candles that would be used by Jews on the Sabbath. There was also an opportunity to ask a lot of challenging questions about Jewish beliefs and life-styles. It was a fascinating day, and one that will be extremely useful as the boys research their projects during this term.

Mr MacIntosh



Fossil trip to the Isle of Sheppey



During the Christmas holiday we organised a trip to the north shore of the Isle of Sheppey. This area is famous for its wide variety of Eocene fossils which were deposited on the sea floor about 45 million years ago. The climate was warmer in those days with palm trees and mangrove swamps on the nearby shores. There were turtles, fish and sharks swimming in the shallow sea and crabs, lobsters and a multitude of different snails living on the land. These animals and plants all left their remains to be fossilised and they can be found on the beach today.

We chose a dry day but the temperature was freezing and it was soon evident that we were not going to last too long. We managed to find a small selection of fossils

before the cold took over and we returned to the mini bus to warm up. James Vance had the find of the day which was a large shark's tooth. Gabriel Byrne did well to spot a fossilised seed in the shingle and there were plenty of small pyritised gastropods and lots of fossilised wood all with worm tubes. We also found several examples of lobster burrows which are trace fossils.

On the way back we stopped for a meal and Mr. Gardiner gave out prizes to the finders of the best fossils. Despite the cold we had all enjoyed our day out and the boys went home with a few items for their collections.

D.J.Archer

National Prep Schools Rapidplay December 2007

The Aldro players came to within a whisker of taking the title from the holders Magdalen College School. It was our U10 players who were outstanding and all we needed was some support from some of our senior players and we would have taken the title for the first time since 2000. James Whitton won the U10 section and Robert Hatrick, Elliott Ghent and Robert Hewett came 2nd =. They scored 16.5 out of a possible 20 points, which gave them 2nd place in the team competition out of 12 schools. George Rix and Mark Barley also played well in this section.

There was a fantastic entry this year with 120 players from all over the south. The 14 Aldro players all gained valuable experience and most of them came away with a medal or trophy. I was pleased with the U9 who have made a lot of progress this term. Jamie Cotta, Nicholas Palmer and Gwilym Price all scored 3 points out of 5, coming 10th = out of 47 players.

At the end of the day it was great to have Dr John Nunn (Grandmaster) to give out the prizes. He has, for a long time, been one of the country's best players. My thanks also go to Mrs Whitton and Mrs Price for their invaluable help with the refreshments and to Mr Tuddenham and Mr Hewett for all their help running the tournament.

D.J.Archer





The Great Battle against the Fearsome Celt



The fierce Luxon Tribe

After we were told our strategies by the commander we marched over the hills of England and crossed rivers and logs, and then, on to the fields of the Luxon tribe. We saw the Celts, fierce and brutal. A few of them had forgotten their woad so they rushed back under the walls. Soon

they were ready, we were looking at them absolutely terrified. They started charging madly at us when suddenly, "The Tortoise," boomed from the commander, and we got straight into position. None of the Celts could break the barrier. While most of the Celts tried banging against our shields and got killed by our protruding spears, a brave Celt came to the side where no shields were. He started to have a sword fight with me while my shield remained in the air. The good thing is that I slaughtered him.

Thousands of Celts died and no Romans were lost. The Celtic chief was bossing around too much so one of his own tribesmen revolted against him and the chief died. Also my worst enemy Louis the Celt got killed by warrior Charles' spear because Louis was looking the wrong way. After they retreated we had several more rounds. 50,000 Celts died out of 80,000 and only 20,000 Romans perished out of a legion of 100,000. 30 Celts lived and became prisoners. Victory!!

Legionnaire Matthew Edmond



Romans prepared for battle



Behind the lines of fire!



The bell rings and all must retreat

Reserve the date !



Treasure Island

March 13th , 14th, & 15th at 7:00pm

Adventure awaits

Badger Skull on Display



The library has been home for a badger's skull for the last few weeks. It was found by James Rhys Evans, who also provided a description of how it was cleaned. Further facts about the life of a badger contributed to the display. It is surprising how much smaller than the fox skull a badger skull is. Thank you James for sharing your discovery with us.



LENT TERM DIARY DATES

January	Day	Time	Event
26	Saturday	9:00am	Chess: EPSCA heats, U11/U9
27	Sunday	7:15pm	Ski Trip meeting, CHC
28	Monday	8:30am	Return from Weekend Leave (or Sunday between 8:00pm and 8:30pm)
29	Tuesday	9:00pm	7T Art/History trip to Winchester
30	Wednesday		Squad Cross Country: Grimston Cup—Forms 5 to 8
31	Thursday		Charterhouse Art Scholarship
February	Day	Time	Event
1	Friday	6:00pm	Cricket 1st X1 coaching at Charterhouse
2	Saturday		Old Aldronian Day
6	Wednesday		Squad Cross Country: Grimston Cup—Forms 3 and 4
7	Thursday	11:15m 2:15pm 5:15pm 6:45pm	Team Photos Forms 3 and 4 Team Photos Forms 5, 6, 7 and 8 Informal Concert in Chapel Form 7 Parents' Meeting
8	Friday	4:30pm 5:05pm	Forms 3, 4 and 5 Half Term Forms 6, 7 and 8 Half Term

Stay up-to-date with events at www.aldro.net's weekly schedule postings

New Addition to the MacIntosh Clan



Samuel MacIntosh captures Dad's heart minutes after arriving.

Congratulations to the MacIntosh family on the birth of Samuel George. Samuel was born on the 5th December creating a thrilling end to the Christmas Term. The boarding house was full of excitement since Samuel was not expected till the Christmas holidays. The boys were particularly happy to be able to see Samuel before leaving at the end of term. The family are overjoyed at their new addition and Flora has slotted into the role of big sister beautifully.

Guildford and District Swimming Championships January 2008



The U13, U11 and U10 teams swam well last Saturday night at the Spectrum in Guildford.

The U13 team consisted of Alex Foster (Captain), William Soulsby, Patrick Edmondson, Joshua Andrade-Brown and Freddie Knottenbelt.

Their best result in the individual events was a very good third place by Joshua in the individual medley, but a special mention must also go to Freddie who did well in the 50 metre butterfly.

The U11 team were hoping for great things this year and they were unlucky not to win their age group. Oliver Maslen was outstanding in the freestyle, winning in a time of 16.96. Luke Coghlan came 2nd in the butterfly and Adam Bagley would have been first in the breast-stroke if he had not been disqualified. They won the medley relay and came 2nd in the freestyle relay by a whisker.

The U10 team swam well but lack experience at this level. Oliver Sherwood was the pick of the bunch with a very good 3rd place in the butterfly.

Well done to all 3 teams and thanks to Ben Smith for his help on the pool side.

D.J.A.