



## Headlines

*There's no doubt that the last couple of weeks of term have involved plenty of events and activities to get us all in the mood for Christmas! The Junior Play, "The Night Before Christmas" is one example – and terrific it was, too; the Boarders' Christmas Feast was another, with a truly delicious meal to whet our Christmas appetites. But I am sure that most of us would agree that it is our Carol Services that really hit the mark as we look forward to Christmas. The Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday was – as always – a lovely event (in spite of the refusal of the main organ to work meaning that we had to use the chamber organ: clearly an instrument built in 1786 is far more reliable than one dating from the 1990s!). The Chapel looked lovely and the choir sang beautifully. Then the main service at Guildford Cathedral to round off the term was another magnificent service – and can anyone remember the 41 references to sweets in Mr Parker's talk?! I am very grateful to Mr Carr and all the choristers for their hard work to prepare for this great occasion – and the Candlelit service. I hope that all the members of the Aldro community enjoy a wonderful and restful Christmas break – and see you in the New Year!*

*Paul Ark*

## Will an Aldro Boy Really Name the New Alex Rider Book?

Aldro was really proud to have welcomed the highly-regarded children's author Anthony Horowitz to discuss his works and writing with the boys in Forms 5 to 8 on Thursday, 4th of December 2008.



Right from the off Mr Horowitz made it clear to the boys that he wasn't going to lecture them, but was going to inspire the audience in a reflective, yet light-hearted, entertaining and interactive way. He commented humorously that he couldn't be trusted as a writer to always speak the truth and that the boys would have to be on their toes.

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## FORM 8M PRESENTS...

## A NATIVITY PLAY



In a change to the usual morning Chapel services, 8M performed a Nativity Play (of sorts) in three parts, on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the final full week of term. As well as the usual nativity elements, there was a talking star as narrator, a donkey who had changed to a sheep-dog by episode two, an angel appearing from the organ-loft, and a mysterious fourth wise man. Although it was a humorous production, the narrator reminded us that this was a portrayal of real historical events: the most significant birth in the history of mankind. It was a great way to start the festive season at Aldro this year!



### Inside this issue:

- ◆ The Boarding House
- ◆ The Night Before Christmas
- ◆ Aldro 2nd XV update
- ◆ Lent Term Diary Dates
- ◆ And More ...





## Christmas Time for Boarders

### Boarders' Quiz 2008



On Monday evening the annual Boarders' Quiz was held in the Argyll Building. The whole of the Boarding House took part, the boys splitting into teams of four. The likes of the Quack Quacks, the Really Stupid Boffins and the Chieftains were competing against opposition including Dunno Mates, Ringding Bing and the (appropriately-named?) Can't Be Bothered teams. Twelve rounds ensued, with themes such as At The Movies, Transport and Travel, and Who is it? Boys were tested on their memories of the Beijing Olympics, their knowledge of the People who run our Country – ie Cabinet members: do you know who the Health Minister is? – and their recognition of intros to this year's hottest hits in Name That Tune.



A fun-packed 90 minutes saw the leadership change hands several times, but in the end the worthy winners were Stacey Dilson, consisting of Huw Thomas, Farai Matanga, Harrison Charles and Findlay Graham. A special prize for the best score by a Junior boy in the Disney Time round went to Freddie Bryn-Jones.

Thanks to all the Staff and Mums who helped; I wonder if we had any future Eggheads around the tables..?

*Chris Rose*

### Ice Skating at the Cathedral

"The boarders started the festive season with a trip to the outdoor ice-skating rink by Winchester Cathedral. After a chance to look at some of the stalls at the Christmas Market, the boys took to the ice for an hour of thrills and spills, although some of the staff were to be seen sipping mulled wine on the side! It was a cold, but thoroughly enjoyable, evening."



### Having a 'BALL'!



On Sunday the 29th of November, 14 brave boys and 2 crazy staff members Mr Kalin and Mr Nicolle went paint balling at Delta Force. The boys had a great few hours of getting muddy, wet and covered in paint! The day concluded with a well deserved pizza and picnic.

*Mr Kalin*



### Happy Birthday Samuel MacIntosh! You are 1!

The boarders celebrated Samuel's first birthday with a party in the boarding house. A great time was had by everyone, especially Flora!

### Boarder's Feast

A tradition to end the term sharing a Christmas meal with friends and staff. A great night was had by all.







## *The Night Before Christmas* - The Junior Play



On Saturday the CHC was transformed into a Christmas wonderland complete with stockings hung by a roaring log fire and a beautifully decorated fir tree. There was an air of expectancy as the junior boys entered to perform their version of the traditional poem 'The Night Before Christmas'. To everyone's delight it contained both original and modern elements, as boys rapped, strummed on lollipops and funky snowmen danced energetically. Mrs Gunner, who put this heartwarming creation together, gave a big thank you to the boys for the exceptional effort, energy and enthusiasm that they all put into this piece of festive fun.

NCW

"It made me laugh when Santa Claus came down the chimney with a bound. At the end I felt like I wanted to do it again because it was so much fun!"

*James Vance 4A*

However 'low key' you try to make a production, an enormous amount of effort goes on behind the scenes. Very, very many thanks to all the parents and staff, in all areas of the school, for their invaluable support and contributions.

IG

## *Anthony Horowitz visit continued...*

After a hugely helpful insight into his varied characters and books plus approach to writing, Mr Horowitz then let the boys into an exclusive revelation: he is still seeking the title of his latest book in the Alex Rider series. After then divulging appetising plot secrets, he asked the boys for their questions and potential titles. This was to open the floodgates as the ever bright and alert Aldro boys then bombarded him with questions that ranged from the serious like how one deals with writer's block or advice on writing, to the less serious, but equally interesting, like what was his favourite football team and what were his hobbies outside writing. (If you wish to know, the answers were Arsenal, which got a mixed reception, and going to the theatre and reading.) At the same time, the boys eagerly offered their own titles that ranged from some that didn't quite hit the mark to others that caused Mr Horowitz to write into his notebook.

After signing books for many fans, Mr Horowitz left our boys delighted at having met such an inspirational man, with a desire to read more and write in a more interesting way. They were excited by the fact that one of them might well find their suggested title, out of the many on offer, as the next Alex Rider book title!

*Mr Thompson*

## **Aldro 2nd XV- It's a team effort!**

The well travelled.... and improving Aldro 2nd XV has displayed a great team effort in each match. Our best result so far being a win against Eagle House 22-7 with 3 players being promoted to the 1st XV for the Wellington Tournament, the brand and style in which we have played and trained in the early part of the season is pleasing. Over Christmas all players are encouraged to keep their fitness up and make sure they don't have too many Christmas pies!! We are running a mid-season rugby camp at school on the 6th, 7th and 8th of January which I encourage the boys to attend: details on the web-site. Have a well deserved break and a great Christmas.

*Mr Kalin*





## IRONMAN

2009

Dr Keddie



If enjoying solving quadratics and loving differentiation and integration (that's mathematics not politically correct practices with people) isn't enough to make you realise I am slightly mad perhaps this will.

In July next year I am trying to complete the challenge of challenges – an Ironman. A what, I hear you cry? Just for the record that is: a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112 mile bike ride followed by a marathon (26.2 mile run).

In the words of Commander Colins (Yes, he was army), founder of the event:

“Swim 2.4, ride 112, run 26.2. Then brag for the rest of your life”

They tell me it's a mental challenge –

I am hoping to complete this challenge in Germany in July in aid of the Surrey Care Trust, a charity supported by Aldro School, who assist less fortunate families and children in Surrey. I will be putting up sponsorship forms in the school and setting up an online donation source with 'Justgiving'. Follow my blog it starts in the New Year – after all the mince pies I can eat!!

If anybody fancies a bike ride or run to help with my training please get in touch-especially long bike rides. Leave a message with Di in the office.

Merry Christmas.

## ALDRO CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SQUAD COMPETITION 2008



The Squad competition is always a great way to finish the term and this year's competition lived up to expectations with some great games and more than the occasional shock result.

Age group winners;

U13 R.Cavet

U12 A.Bagley (Ramscar Shield)

U11 R.Hewett (Ramscar Shield)

U10 N.Palmer

U9 G.Price (Ramscar Shield)

U8 B.Wood

### SQUAD COMPETITION

This is one of the closest ever squad competitions with the top 8 scoring players from each squad counting towards the final result.

1st West Indies 26.5 points

2nd India 25

3rd Canada 24.5

4th Africa 24

5th Australia 23.5

6th New Zealand 22.5

Congratulations to West Indies who last won the title in 1991

Well done to all 71 players.

*D.J.Archer*

## Lent Term Calendar 2009

JANUARY		
8th Thursday	10am - 12pm	Second Hand Uniform Shop. Must ring for an appointment. Mrs Sally Wooding tel: 01252 726071
10th Saturday	6:00 pm	Swimming: Guildford District Gala, Guildford Spectrum
11th Sunday	5:30pm	Boarders Return
12th Monday		Lent Term Begins Senior Activities Start
16th Friday	6:30pm	Cricket: 1st XI coaching at Charterhouse
17th Saturday	2:00pm - 4:00pm	Rugby Squad Matches Forms 5-8 - No Leave Out
18th Sunday	10:00am	Chess: Wey Valley tournament, U11/U9 - No Leave Out Chapel
20th Tuesday	6:45pm	Form 5 Parents' Meeting
23rd Friday	7:00pm	Rugby Shirt Day in aid of Wooden Spoon What Happens Next? - Senior School Talk, Form 7 Parents,
24th Saturday		Entry Tests for September 2009 - No School for Forms 3 - 5
25th Sunday	7:00 pm	Charterhouse Prep Schools' String Day Chapel: Richard Field Esq
29th Thursday	6:45pm	Form 7 Parents' Meeting
30th Friday	4:30pm 5:05pm	1st Industry Grades Forms 3,4 and 5 Weekend Leave Forms 6,7 and 8 Weekend Leave