

ALLEYN'S SPEECH DAY 2016

Chairman, Baroness Bowles, Governors, Ladies, Gentlemen and of course prize-winners: it is my pleasure and privilege to report for the sixth time as Headmaster on another outstanding year of achievement and enjoyment here at Alleyn's.

If it takes a village to raise a child, then our School is a village with Jacobean roots comprising dedicated teachers and support staff working together, with pupils and parents, to put well-being and safeguarding at the heart of everything we do. The new timetable introduced this year was designed to de-congest the School day, allow more quality time for teaching and learning in the classroom, and enable every pupil to benefit from a weekly, age-appropriate session of Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education. Alongside the complementary 'Learning about Learning' programme which we have developed over the past few years, PSCH seeks to equip our pupils with the cognitive tools and accurate information they need to help them make sensible choices, as well as a safe space in which to discuss that information and those choices with their peers and trusted teachers.

Any effective well-being strategy must include parents as well; and we have been pleased to hold evening discussion forums looking at 'the adolescent brain' (a fairly terrifying subject at the best of times) and 'teenagers and the law' to help us all work together in the children's best interests. I know that both parents and pupils value our expanding Counselling Service, as well as our long-standing Chaplaincy led by the inestimable Anthony Buckley. His work has been further enhanced by the appointment of Mrs Gemma Birt as Assistant Chaplain, and between them - so Revd Buckley tells me - the number of conversations, film clips, quotations and biscuits pullulates on a Biblical scale. Little wonder, then, that we were able to attract Professor John Lennox to give a memorable Chaplaincy

Lecture in January; and that Michael Ipgrave was willing to offer his final Confirmation Service as Bishop of Woolwich to, *inter alia*, Alleyn's boys and girls.

I have no doubt whatsoever that it is because of our culture of pastoral care and focus on well-being – endorsed by the Governors, led by me as Headmaster, and managed superbly by the Senior Deputy Head, SMT, the Housemasters, Tutors and teachers – that we are the successful School we are. One measure of that success, of course, is public examination results, which last year were an outstanding 98% A*AB at GCSE (of which a record-breaking 65% were A*) and 89% A*AB at A Level (with an outstanding 32% awarded A*). These results enabled 93% of our leavers to enrol in their first or second choice university, including Bristol, Leeds, Durham, Edinburgh and Oxbridge, where two students won choral scholarships. Others went to Drama, Music or Art Schools; some went to North American universities, or took Gap Years - and have been back to School to tell us all about them. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them, whatever the length and direction of their journey after Alleyn's. Our role is to guide and support them – which is why we were delighted to host our first Higher Education Fair for students from Alleyn's and the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership in April, attended by representatives from 23 leading UK universities.

We hope to include representatives from European and American universities next year, too; but, in the meantime, we were pleased to welcome an eminent “alum” from Harvard in the person of His Excellency Mr Matthew Barzun, United States Ambassador to the Court of St James (a spectacularly pretentious way of describing a man who strives not to stand upon ceremony). The ambassador spoke to our Year 12 students about America's place in the world, and explored their perceptions of the United States via an interactive online questionnaire. It was all terribly modern. Mr Barzun was impressed by our students' knowledge of world affairs; and would not be surprised to learn that our debaters continue to

flourish, notably Rosa (Year 13), who has been selected to compete with Team England at the World Schools Debating Championship in Stuttgart this summer.

There can be no debate about the academic life of the School, which continues to flourish under the aegis of highly-qualified, brilliant teachers who love their subjects and strive constantly to inspire the pupils in their care. There has been a multitude of lunchtime talks across the curriculum, offered by staff, visiting speakers and students. One highlight was the European Day of Languages in September, which allowed the School community to celebrate some of the 30 different languages spoken at home by our pupils; as did the MFL concert last term, and the “Next Steps” conference on Thursday, with topics as diverse as the Golden Age of German Cinema and the Power of the Pronoun.

This has also been a big year for Science at Alleyn’s, with the opening by former Chairman Lord Kakkar of our newly expanded Science Building, dedicated to distinguished Old Boy Professor R.V. Jones, credited by Churchill as one of the most significant contributors to our victory over Nazi Germany. If you haven’t done so already, I hope you will get a chance to visit the building this afternoon, to observe the tropical fish, topical images, and at the centre of it all, a cloud chamber, which unveils the fundamental particles that make up all matter and are passing through our bodies as we sit here this morning. If the fundament doesn’t excite you, then the firmament might as you walk upstairs and find the Chris Marvin Observatory which is to be officially opened today by our generous Old Boy benefactor Mr Nicolas Jarman. Staff and pupils have already enjoyed making use of this facility, last month witnessing the transit of Mercury across the sun; and a new (over-subscribed) Astronomy course will be launched in September.

Pupils, staff and parents have also enjoyed the first of what will now be an annual R.V. Jones Science Lecture, to sit alongside the annual Chaplaincy and Edward Alleyn Lectures and, hopefully, unite the whole community in a love of multi- and

inter-disciplinary learning. This year, we welcomed fertility specialist Lord Winston, Oceanographer Dr Helen Czerski and presenter and particle physicist Professor Brian Cox, minus the backing band. We have our very own Scientist-in-residence, Dr Adam Rutherford, to thank for these connections and for his own weekly enrichment sessions on topics of all kinds, with pupils of all ages.

In terms of general Enrichment, our Year 12s have enjoyed another full programme this year, from Metal Work to Arabic. In addition, they heard talks from speakers like Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, a cellist and Auschwitz survivor; and Lord Gus O' Donnell, who served as the Cabinet Secretary under three Prime Ministers and spoke on the recent EU referendum. (It should be noted here that in both the Junior and Senior School mock referenda, 90% of pupils voted Remain.)

As well as Upper School Enrichment and Learning about Learning in Years 7-9, we have introduced a new critical thinking and study skills course into Year 11 this year, to help pupils to embrace the challenges of sixth form learning. Structured around the work of Carol Dweck's 'Growth Mindset', Angela Lee Duckworth's 'Grit' and Professor Steve Peters' 'Chimp Management', pupils have been coached through the requirements of effective independent study, both individual and collaborative, with due regard for scholarly integrity. This was certainly a feature of Jaleh's (Year 13) winning essay in this year's GRPP, exploring whether "it is in the discovery of guilt for the Western World that Achilles achieves a moral heroism which raises him far above the level of the other Greek warriors"? The runners-up, Hannah (on self and soul in Yeats) and Rosa (on transitional justice in 1980s Argentina) were also superb; as was Year 11 Ella's prize-winning entry in this year's Foyles Young Poet of the Year award. Also in Year 11, Marthe won the Reporting Award from Amnesty International and has been invited to the American Embassy to discuss her views on Amnesty and Human Rights. Not to be outdone by their older peers, Anna, Ginny and Sonny won a gold medal in the Year

8 Latin category of the prestigious and demanding Classical Association Greek & Latin Reading Competition: *Euge!*

Beyond Dulwich, the Classics trip to Sicily and Religious Studies Trip to Sri Lanka were both incredible experiences for pupils which they are unlikely to forget. Our physicists were fortunate enough to visit CERN in Geneva and the National Space Centre in Leicester; and our historians of art and artists have visited galleries both in London and Berlin. The fruits of their inspiration, labour and talent may be seen in this year's iteration of the annual Alleyn's Summer Show, which presents creative work from Art, Design Technology and Media Studies in the Atrium and Great Hall. Please also be sure to visit the Alleyn's and WWI display in Room 111, where you can see the results of a year-long collaboration between the Archives and Alumni departments along with staff and pupils in History, Art, English and the CCF. The result is a commemorative exhibition and accompanying website, launched today. School Archivist Nicola Waddington has been supported in this important and impressive work by a post-graduate intern (part of our broader and flourishing academic intern programme) and her team of honorary volunteers, as well as by a Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award pupil in Year 10, Seth.

Just as the superb archives exhibition reminds us of our links with the past, so our burgeoning partnerships programme enshrines our commitment to working with others in the present to shape, together, our shared future. Thus our link with Kobe University Secondary School in Japan has continued to develop, with pupils and teachers from Kobe spending a day in lessons with their English partners, and running a range of Japanese activities from a tea ceremony to a calligraphy workshop for the Lower School. A return trip to Japan has been organised for pupils in October 2017, by which time we hope that their attendance at our weekly Japanese language classes will have borne fruit. (Fruit being one thing I myself can eat in Japan: *watashi wa vegetarian desu*, as they probably don't say.)

Closer to home, our work with the Southwark Community Education Council has flourished this year, with a large and enthusiastic group of Year 11 volunteers helping with the Saturday Maths Scheme for Year 5 state school pupils. Twenty-eight mentors from Alleyn's were rewarded with Community Colours for their work, and the scheme is due to be expanded next year. We also continue to play a full part in the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership, where our leadership of events has greatly increased this year. We have hosted several big SSLP projects including a University Fair, Cricket Festival, Author Talk, and MFL Further Education evening. We also invited local state primary school children to watch a special matinee performance of the Middle School Play, 'Disco Inferno', something we plan to repeat in the future. Our link with Sydenham and Forest Hill Sixth Form has also been maintained through the beginner's Mandarin class offered for Year 12 students from both schools, hosted at Alleyn's; and I wrote to parents this week announcing our partnership with the new London Academy of Excellence, a free school Sixth Form college for bright local children in and around Tottenham.

Our involvement with LAET is just one example of our commitment to partnership work. Ten Year 12 Alleyn's students have participated in the 'Rhythm for Reading' project this year, whereby underachieving pupils at a local primary are taught to read music in an unconventional and creative way which supports and develops their cognitive literacy skills, making an average of nine months' progress in just five weeks. We are delighted that we will be developing this initiative next year as it will become firmly embedded within a new Outreach programme, run by Natalie Demain, which will allow for more of our Upper School students to get involved.

We are also the pilot UK school for a very exciting American project called 'Sweet Readers' which involves Lower School pupils working with elderly people suffering from the early stages of dementia. This month, a specialist team flew over from New York to lead the training for our staff and a group of pupils in Year 7, who worked 1:1 with the elderly people to create a 'shoe-box theatre'. Research

suggests that regular contact with young people in a project like this helps to delay the onset of the disease and so from September we are thrilled and proud to be expanding the project to include a whole Year 8 form across the Advent term.

These new initiatives fit into a long-standing framework of local Volunteering at Alleyn's, which continues to flourish. This year, pupils in Year 10 and 11 have worked at 'Fun Fizz', running each session alongside two professional carers for children with a wide range of learning and other differences. The 'Elm Talk' scheme at a local care home has also included Upper School students interested in studying medicine at university; and as a new initiative this year, a group of Year 12s offer computer and online skills to the elderly here at Alleyn's. Our link with Dulwich Hamlet, Junior Saints, continues to develop and Year 10 pupils now help to deliver a numeracy and literacy programme. Each of these important schemes places different physical and emotional demands on our pupils, who respond with exceptional maturity and develop a powerful sense of commitment towards, and membership of, the local and wider London community of fellow citizens.

Such an outlook also underpins the School's significant charitable activities each and every year, and the last twelve months have been no exception. The Charity Committee, which Miss Schüller has taken over from Miss Boltsa, has supported Hand in Hand for Syria via a "Lipsync" competition; Shelter from the Storm via a "Dance Off" (which I recall judging myself, with invaluable assistance from Miss Demain); and the Teenage Cancer Trust. (Please note that all the money made from the Lower School stalls today is in aid of this brilliant charity.) The Houses have raised many thousands of pounds for their chosen good causes too, with Brading's supporting the Epilepsy Society; Brown's Myotubular Myopathy; Cribb's WellChild and the Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation; Tyson's Nema and Beanstalk; Dutton's Reach and Meningitis Now; Spurgeon's Save the Children; Tulley's St Christopher's Hospice; and Roper's Fukeni Primary school in Northern Tanzania.

The Housemasters, with their teams of Tutors and Prefects, do an amazing job in nurturing, supporting and inspiring pupils from Year 9 through 13, and the School would not be the same without them. I was struck by this powerfully earlier this term, when we were able to celebrate the 90th birthday of former Roper's Housemaster Phil Gillard along with former Governor Martin Fosten and current Housemaster Paul Cochrane, who between them constituted sixty years of continuous Housemastering in one room! By the same token, at our recent Decades Reunion for Old Boys and Girls, we were able to celebrate the 80th birthday of former Cribb's Housemaster and Head of Upper School Gwyn Edwards. For once, House rivalry was set aside as the entire throng sang an enthusiastic Happy Birthday at the end of a lovely day of rendezvous and remembrance.

Occasions such as these only serve to underline our commitment to friendship and warmth – even, or perhaps especially, when the heating malfunctions, again! That sense of belonging to a community resonates long after the pupils have left the School; though what they often remember is what they experienced outside the classroom – in their Houses, on trips, and perhaps especially through the co-curriculum, which contributes so powerfully to each pupil's sense of achievement, fulfilment and self-esteem - all vital ingredients of an individual's well-being.

One part of our diverse co-curriculum is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which this year has 165 pupils enrolled (62 at Bronze, 41 at Silver and 62 at Gold). A full programme of training on Thursday afternoons and Field Days has been enthusiastically attended, followed by Easter practice expeditions to Exmoor and the South Downs. Bronze participants passed both their practice and qualifying expeditions whilst the Silvers and Golds are looking forward to their qualifying expedition in North Wales this summer. Special mention should be made of Hannah, Penny, Jaleh, Tobias, Ben and Lucy who are the 7th – 13th pupils in the 39-year history of the Award at Alleyn's who have completed their Gold Award whilst still at School. We are now a directly licensed DofE Centre and Mr Alldrick and I

enjoyed our day at Buckingham Palace receiving our licensed organisation plaque and seeing former students Thomas and Bea collecting their Gold Awards and from the Earl of Wessex and Jason Atherton, Michelin starred chef and guest-of-honour with the London contingent. (You will be relieved to learn that the complimentary tea and shortbread was of a similarly superior quality.)

Our Combined Cadet Force also continues to thrive, as it has done throughout the leadership of Contingent Commander Squadron Leader Melinda Pokorny, who alas departs at the end of this term, but leaves the Contingent in rude health. There are currently 192 Cadets and NCOs enrolled and enjoying Field Day activities like climbing, laser clay shooting, kayaking and flying!. Thirty-four cadets attended Easter Camp in Folkestone, where I enjoyed watching the JNCO Cadre pass off in relentless, character-forming rain. Following last summer's successful expedition to the Ardeche, the CCF are looking forward to a new Nordic Skiing expedition in 2017 as well as annual favourites like the 42km Spitfire March. Little wonder that the Contingent passed their Biennial Inspection - undertaken this year by Cdre Jonathan Fry – with flying colours. Special mention should be made of Cadet WO2 Saskia Praill for all she has done in leading Cadre this year, and to Cadet RSM Matthew, who has been an exemplary Cadet leader throughout the year.

Matty's training would serve him well in war-torn Westeros; and with four actors with Alleyn's connections (two former pupils and two parents) appearing in Game of Thrones this year, the credentials of our School as a long-standing centre of excellence in the performing arts needs little elaboration: but I intend to burnish them anyway.

The Drama department has staged three major productions this year: the Upper School performed *Henry V*, with Eliza (Year 13) mesmerising in the central role; the Middle School gave us *Disco Inferno*, an exuberant collaboration with Music and Dance; and the Lower School staged the *Jungle Book*, an impressive and

imaginative rendering of Kipling's classic. Each show featured over 40 performers on stage and an extensive design and technical crew behind the scenes. There was also a Bear Pit show - in what Mr Piper likes to call our "edgy fringe venue" (D1) - featuring 8 productions and 40 students, including Middle and Upper School directors and writers. Our LAMDA scheme now extends to 250 pupils in Years 7-12, with 5 showcase performances this term. Last August at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, a group of Year 12 students performed *17* and Year 13 *Ten Pound Tale*, skilfully devised and brilliant pieces of theatre which met with critical acclaim and commercial success. The venture will be repeated for the sixth time this summer with a Year 12 show, *All Might Seem Good*, in C Venues. Book your tickets now!

Dance at Alleyn's has gone from strength to strength this year, with *Disco Inferno* showcasing the exuberance of the art form. Our first-ever GCSE Dance class have been studying after school and pupils have been working with dancers from other year groups to create thought-provoking pieces of choreography ranging from a dramatic interpretation of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech to a kinetic representation of a Mondrian painting. There are now two firmly established and popular dance companies which allow pupils of all ages to get involved; and their work culminated in a huge dance show with 28 pieces of choreography, twice the length of last year's. From September, Dance will be embedded within the timetable for the first time at Alleyn's, with boys and girls in Year 7 and 8 pupils studying for one term of the year. Dance will also play a key role in the Upper School production of *Cabaret* in the autumn.

The musical highlight of this year was perhaps the concert at the Royal Festival Hall, in which the three Foundation Schools combined to perform Verdi's *Pater Noster* and *Requiem* in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Christ's Chapel. The occasion involved over 170 Alleyn's pupils, staff, parents and alumni and may be repeated in 2018 to mark the anniversary of the end of the Great War. This year has also seen the introduction of a regular series of Friday Lunchtime Concerts in

the Great Hall, bringing Music into the very heart of the School. Other highlights have included the hotly-contested House Music Competition (won by Tyson's); the annual Orchestral and Jazz concerts; various Christmas Carol Services (including for the Royal Warrant Holders' Association in Chelsea); the Year 7 Concerts in the MCT; the Year 9 Music Festival; A Lot of Hot Air and a Bit of a Scrape; the Chamber Concert at Blackheath Halls; a number of lunchtime concerts at Christ's Chapel in the Village; and the magnificent School Concert at St Johns' Smith Square featuring Penny Young performing Bruch's challenging Violin Concerto. This year's summer Music Tour will be to Barcelona, where the Chamber Choir will perform in Barcelona Cathedral and Santa Maria de Montserrat. The Chamber Choir is scheduled to sing Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in February; and we also plan to launch Alleyn's own Recording Label as well as an inaugural Jazz Night next year.

We then paused to listen to two students who went to Barcelona, Maddy & Mimi, singing a soprano duet: *Laudamus te*, from Vivaldi's Gloria.

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We now enter the home straight of this summary of the year at Alleyn's; so what better topic to turn to next than Sport, where we continue to offer a comprehensive programme for both boys and girls, with opportunities for extensive involvement in both recreational and competitive games at all levels.

In Football, more than 250 fixtures were played between September and Christmas, with a pre-season tour to Germany for just under 50 boys in August. We continue to support the FA and ISFA as a Focus School and now as a Junior Hub for London and the South East, confirming our credentials as one of the top footballing schools in the country. There were many highs (and a few lows) across the season, of course; but at least we didn't lose to Iceland! A particular highlight

was the U15 team winning the Elgin Final played under floodlights at Banstead FC, with Ross (Year 11) winning Man of the Match. Girls' football is flourishing too, with Alleyn's coming 3rd in the U13 ISFA tournament. Fourteen of our pupils were selected to train at the ISFA National Centre of Excellence with four boys (Luke, Billy, Zach and Sam) and two girls (Jo and Jasmine) selected for ISFA England teams at different age groups.

In Water-Polo, we qualified for five out of six ESSA National Finals which no other school has done and which we have only managed once before, confirming Alleyn's as the most successful co-educational school in the country in terms of the number of teams reaching national finals. More than 90 pupils won ESSA Water Polo medals; and special mention should go to the U14 teams (boys and girls) who have only lost one of their fixtures throughout the whole year; and to Sasha who represented England in the U17 EU European Nations Cup in Denmark where England won a Bronze Medal during the Easter holiday.

In Swimming, where numbers attending Early Morning Sessions has now reached over 130 (fortunately not all at the same time), we held our inaugural Invitation Gala for mixed schools in the refurbished pool. Both our boys and girls also performed well in the Bath Cup at the Olympic Aquatic Centre, with the boys qualifying for the final of both the Freestyle and Medley, and setting another School swimming record for the 4 x 100m freestyle. The School U12 50m freestyle record set by Alleyn's Olympian Zara Long in 1982 was broken by Sophie (Year 7).

In Netball, we were the only co-educational school to qualify for the Surrey finals in all six age groups; and the U14s qualified for the regional round of the National Championships. Two teams competed in a week-end netball tournament at Liddington, where the U14, U15 and U16 all won their respective age groups. As

well as being a great year for our Netball teams, a number of pupils won representative honours, including Renée (Year 10) in the U17 England training squad.

In Hockey, 11 boys' sides and 12 girls' sides enjoyed an excellent season on our new Astro, which has helped to boost the popularity of the sport at Alleyn's. Lots of pupils have been involved in the many B, C and D team fixtures for the younger age groups, and more players have kept involved as they move up the School. It was a particularly successful seasons for the U13 boys' team, who qualified for the Regional Championships for the first time in living memory. Building on this momentum, Alleyn's will be entering the newly formed Independent School Hockey Cup for girls (the equivalent of ISFA) for the U13, U15 and 1st XI next year.

In Basketball, we were one of only two schools to reach the final play off stages in the London Independent Schools Leagues in all of the four age groups, finishing 3rd at U14 and U16 and winners at U15 beating Dulwich College in the final! The U19s were runners-up in their League, but winners of the LISBA Cup, beating Whitgift. Alleyn's also attended the Girls' Rugby Fives National Championships for the first time, with pairs ranging from year 7-12 with runners-up placings in four of the competitions. In the boys' competitions, we won medals in both singles and doubles. There was also co-educational excellence in Cross Country (where Oscar (Year 9) and Jessica (Year 8) were selected to represent London at the National Championships) and in Athletics, where two Year 11 pupils (Saskia and Lohita) have been selected for the National Championships, too.

In Cricket, all teams have won significantly more games than they have lost, and the 1st XI have achieved fine victories against Latymer Upper, the XL Club, Emanuel, Colfe's and City of London. Girls' cricket has also made a welcome

comeback, with matches for U12, U13, U14 and U15 age groups, all of which have been won. Rounders has flourished, too, with the U13s winning the St Dunstan's tournament and the seniors winning their invitation tournament; and we also had success in the Dulwich Inter-Schools Cycling Championships with Maia and Sasha (Year 11) combining with Isabel (Year 10) to triumph in the girls' competition.

Before we take leave of this surfeit of sporting success, special mention should be made of Daisy (Year 11), who has been selected for the British Sailing Team for the EUROSAF championships in Austria this summer; Helen (Year 12), selected for an Advanced Fencing & Modern Pentathlon Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence; and Laura (Year 11), selected for the Fencing World Talent Programme having won silver at the 2015 Commonwealth Games and being the first-ever Alleyn's winner of the Public Schools' Fencing Championship (Epee) since the competition started in 1946. All these triumphs were celebrated at the new Senior Sports Awards Dinner in April with British women's hockey captain Kate Richardson-Walsh MBE, and at the Middle School Celebration of Sport with Sir Trevor Brooking – much to the excitement of our assistant catering manager Trevor Garner who, like Mr Ody, is forever blowing bubbles.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of teachers both within and beyond the PE department, who do so much to train, support and accompany the pupils to fixtures home and away, near and far. My sincere thanks to them, and to all my colleagues who do so much to inspire, care for and guide your sons and daughters each and every day. It is a vocation they love, but it is a challenging one, and they deserve our thanks. They are a truly special group of people.

Sadly, for some this is or was their final year at Alleyn's, and I should like to pay tribute to them now. Mr David Harding (Chemistry); Mrs Sheila Arthur

(Chemistry); Mrs Denise Storrs-Fox (MfL); Mr Fearghal Evans (History); Mr Simon Smith (DT); Miss Kerry Brown (Biology); Miss Hannah Smylie (Art); and Dr Anna Parrish (Chemistry and Biology) have all done fantastic work in a temporary capacity this year, and leave us for pastures new with all our best wishes. So too do all those support staff who have left us this year, including several long-serving colleagues like Gary Shepherd, who served the Bursary, School and Governing Board with great integrity and distinction as Director of Finance for 11 years. I was also sorry to see the two titans of my own office, Catherine Horan and Claire Robertson, retire after 14 and 11 years' service respectively. Thanks to their hard work and foresight, my new team, comprising Rachel Lumsden and Olivia Gavin, were able to hit the ground running and continue to compensate for the Headmaster's many and varied shortcomings in an eminently satisfactory manner.

Three permanent members of the teaching staff are moving on to new challenges next year, including Mr Dan Jewison, who joined Alleyn's in 2014 and now moves north of the river to join the English Department at Haberdashers' Boys' School. Miss Laura-Felicity Cooper joined Alleyn's in 2012, and leaves now to be Head of Drama at Newlands Girls' School. Finally, Miss Melinda Pokorny, after twelve years teaching Biology and Psychology and running the CCF, leaves to run Eltham College's new Psychology Department and to be Deputy Head of their Middle School. These colleagues follow two others who left earlier in the year: Miss Annabel Boltsa, who had taught Art at Alleyn's since 1995; and Miss Vicki Lodge, who left the PE Department after 7 years to join Bromley High as Director of Sport. We thank all of them for their hard work at Alleyn's, and wish them every success and happiness in their new schools.

Finally, I should like to pay tribute to two colleagues who are retiring this year after many years of dedicated service. Mr John Shelton joined Alleyn's in 2001, teaching PE and ICT as well as being a superb Housemaster of Dutton's between 2008 and 2015. He is passionate about the holistic development of every pupil,

and has contributed powerfully both inside and outside classroom over many years. We wish John, Flavia and the whole family every happiness in the future.

Mr Peter Berman joined Alleyn's the year after John, in 2002, teaching History, Geography and Religious Studies as well as running Boys' Hockey between 2005 and 2012. Peter is passionate about the opportunities for personal development provided through sport, and has instilled in the boys and girls he has coached a genuine understanding of sportsmanship and fair play. We wish Peter, like John, all the very best in his well-earned retirement; and would like to honour them both now with valedictory gifts as a token of our deep thanks and best wishes.

The warmth shown towards these long-serving colleagues only serves to exemplify the ethos of this place, an ethos which is endorsed and promoted by the Governing Board, through me as Headmaster, and embraces every single member of our School community. My sincere thanks to our new Chairman, Iain Barbour, who succeeded Lord Kakkar in September. I am hugely grateful to him, and to the Governing Board as a whole, for their advice, support and encouragement to me and to my colleagues. It is invaluable, and deeply appreciated. I should also like to thank the Dulwich Estate, its Chairman Martin Bagley and Chief Executive John Major; the Wardens and Court of the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, particularly the Prime Warden, Charles Barclay, and Clerk, Philip Napier, both of whom are with us today. My grateful thanks, too, to the supportive and industrious Alleyn's Parents' Association, its Committee and Chairman, Jessica Wattles; and to the Edward Alleyn Club, led by its Chairman John Battle and President Chris Grant. To these former pupils I should like to offer my deep thanks and sincere admiration to our current pupils, and especially to Year 13; to all the House Captains, Senior Prefects and Lower School Prefects, to Vice-Captains Ben and Oscar, and to School Captain Lucy, from whom we shall shortly hear a little more. They have been a cracking team, and part of a cracking year group: we shall

miss them all, but look forward to welcoming them back in the years ahead, sharing their stories and catching up with old friends.

For it is friendship which makes this School so special, in a carefully nurtured atmosphere of kindness, generosity and mutual respect – universal values which we hope will inform and inspire our boys and girls as they grow up and take their leave of us, ready to make a difference in our sometimes fractured world. I know they will make a difference, and I am truly proud of all they have done and will do to serve – in the words of the Founder’s Prayer – their country and their world.

It remains only for me to thank you all for being with us here today, sharing in the success of our prize-winners and indeed of the School community which has created the context in which such prizes can be won. I do hope that you all have a wonderful Founder’s Day, and a lovely, restorative summer. Thank you very much.

JUNE 2016

