

# SUMMER SUCCESS

## Examination Results 2005

### A Level

With an average point score for candidates of 343 points and a 96% subject pass rate, the 2005 A Level results represent outstanding achievement for many students.

50% of the subject grades at A Level were A or B. There were many outstanding individual results: four students gained 4 or more As (subjects with A grade listed in italics).

Sonya Mahony (*Chemistry, Maths, Physics, RS, General Studies*), Daniel Miles (*Design Technology, Geography, Maths, Physics*), Rebecca Hopson (*French, Geography, Spanish, General Studies*), Orla Macrae (*English, French, History, General Studies*): several gained 3As (Clara Vivaldi, Helen Collyer Merritt, Kayleigh Glass, Kate Goddard, Philip Gray, Emma Medlam, Fiona Smith and Robert Wright.)

The Lower Sixth's AS results were also overall very pleasing with an average pass rate of 87%. Two students gained 5 grade As (Lucy Buck and Mary Penman) and seven gained 3 or more grade As at AS: (Giverny Dobson, Charlotte Fettes, Emily May, Gemma Cort, Jenny Fletcher, Chloe Keedy and Hannah Yeomans).

### GCSE

We were delighted with the continued overall consistency of very high standards at GCSE, including those subjects taken by all pupils: Double Science, Maths and English Language and Literature. As



- Looking Back... page 4
- School Visits page 5
- Activities Week page 6
- Language College News page 7
- Leavers' Ball page 9
- Sport page 11



# Comment



**A**s a comprehensive school we pride ourselves in offering opportunity as widely as possible by keeping restrictions on entry to A-level courses to a minimum. We have possibly the most open entry policy onto A level courses of any comprehensive school in Surrey. As a result a number of students who in most institutions would not have been allowed to begin A-level course, have gained commendable grades giving them access to university places. For example, we had 16 candidates whose average GCSE grade was C or below and half of them gained an average D grade at A-level. ALL students in this all-ability comprehensive gained at least 2 grade Es (the normal requirement for pursuing a Higher Education course). What is particularly pleasing is that achievement across the spread of ability is outstandingly good.

One of the key reasons for our success has been a consistent focus on the interests of the students rather than chasing league table success; just as at GCSE there has been a reluctance to increase the number of GCSEs studied or focus just on the C/D borderline. There is very close co-operation and understanding between Governors, Senior Management, staff, parents and pupils to maintain confidence in this approach.

**In addition to the headline news there are a number of more technical points which may be of interest:**

**1.** It is important to note (especially in the light of the annual ritual debate in the national news about standards rising/falling) that simple comparisons with previous years could be misleading. This was the 4th year when Upper Sixth candidates had pursued the new 'Curriculum 2000' in which A level has been split into a Lower Sixth AS course and an Upper Sixth A2 course with most students pursuing an additional subject course in the Lower Sixth compared with previous years. At the end of the Lower Sixth students were able to 'drop' one of their four AS subjects taking forward just three to A2 level. Previous generations of students did not have this opportunity which must, overall, have a positive effect upon results and in part may explain the apparent national rise in the level of performance since the changes.

**2.** We remain concerned that there remains a discrepancy between the standards required in different subjects (so that students of comparable ability

will gain lower grades on average, in certain subjects, especially maths, sciences and languages; it is unsurprising that students may wish to choose subjects where they are more likely to gain higher grades)

**3.** The Ashcombe School refuses to participate in national press analysis of A-level results because of the unsophisticated manner in which data is interpreted and the simplistic conclusions which are drawn. For example, in some newspapers, selective and comprehensive schools are listed together in the same table! Although not participating in national league tables The Ashcombe School analyses its results in accordance with criteria used by the national press (\*described below) and is pleased to share information from such analysis with the local community. We are delighted that our results are very similar to those from last year, and that they are likely to place the school amongst the highest performing comprehensive schools in the county and country.

**The new tariff for A and As introduced by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) is**

**A-level:** A = 120 pts, B = 100 pts,  
C = 80 pts, D = 60 pts,  
E = 40 pts, U = 0 pts

**AS-level:** A = 60 pts, B = 50 pts,  
C = 40 pts, D = 30 pts,  
E = 20 pts, U = 0 pts

Scores in subjects which students took at AS level (usually in the Lower Sixth last year) are included.

## Travels to the Indian sub-continent



**S**onya Mahony, who gained 5 grade As at A level this summer has been selected as one of six people from the UK to run a GOLD (Guiding

Overseas Linked with Development) project in Bangladesh starting this December. The aim is to develop the Guide movement in countries where it is still young or needs improving. There are benefits for the community as well.

Sonya will be training young women in a country in which Bangladeshi women are seen as inferior to men, and the programme is designed to increase their

self-belief. Guiders there run vaccination programmes, slum health projects and they have a lot of authority. However, they do not realise they can use all these skills to their advantage in finding a job, for example.

Sonya will start her training in the capital, Dhaka, before going out into another region of the country.

Sonya has successfully completed her Gold Award for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and has found time to learn Chinese over the last two years, having learnt it at The Ashcombe, spent three weeks in China and hosted a Chinese student this summer.

Her project in Bangladesh requires some funding and she is happy to do a presentation to any organisation that is able to sponsor her visit. Please contact Mr Thompson at school if you are able to help.

## Moving Voices Festival

**A**shcombe School poets were invited to take part in this year's Mole Valley Refugee Awareness celebration. Students were treated with a variety of stimulus material to help creativity to flow. They were inspired by their reading of the novel 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah. Ex-student Katie Smith, who recently worked with Tibetan refugees in India, gave a moving presentation to Year 9 pupils. Audiovisual resources, such as current affairs programmes, were also used to help the young writers examine issues from both an intellectual and an emotional perspective. Their poetry is being displayed in the Gold Cup Suite at Sandown Park. The Moving Voices Festival culminated in a showcase of music and drama.

# Looking back...

End of summer term changes saw the departures of several members of staff and the retirement of three others. Amongst staff leaving were Mrs Cox, Head of English, who will be Head of Sixth Form in another Surrey school and Mrs Martin who taught Economics, Business Studies and ran the General Studies programme. She will be spending the next twelve months teaching in a school in Dodoma, Tanzania. We wish all leavers good luck in their new posts.

Mrs Wicks from the Study Centre retired, as did Mr Bourne who had an association with the school going back to its inception in 1976, and Mr Smith who had been with us since the late 80s as Head of Design



Technology. Martin Jones also retired after thirteen years as Chair of Governors. There was a special presentation event held for Martin after the final Governors' meeting of the year in July. Martin devoted an

immense amount of time to the school as a member, then chair of the PTA, then as a governor and chair of the Governing Body of the school. We wish them all a happy and healthy retirement.

## ...and looking to the future

We have started the term fully staffed. Mr Thompson, Deputy Headteacher, returns full-time after two years part-time secondment to the Learning and Skills Council. The work he did there will be very helpful as we undertake a major review of the curriculum in the light of forthcoming government changes. We welcome Mrs Sheikh who will have curriculum responsibilities, and Mr Drew (Head of Lower School) to our Senior Management Team. Ms R. Hall will be Head of English and Mr Harrow will be Head of Design Technology.

Other new staff joining us are: Mr Robinson (Head of History), Miss Coppard and Mr Wilkes (Science), Mr Simons, Mr Slater, Mrs Mendelski and Mrs Don (Maths), Miss J. Bird, Miss McGookin and Miss Eagles (Geography), Mr Smallridge (English), Miss Solomons (Modern Foreign Languages), Miss Molyneux, Miss Fitzgerald and Mr Cresswell (Design Technology), Miss J. Brown (Business Studies and IT), Ms Edwards (Sociology), Mrs Bradley and Miss Hussey (Drama), and Mrs Hanford (Music). Miss Watts returns as Mrs Wright following her marriage this summer.

## Bradley Arts Centre

The project was finished on time and on budget and we are delighted to have such excellent new facilities from the start of term.

We have purchased a print of Box Hill aken from an original painting by George Lambert in 1733. The print will hang in a new Art room alongside a window which looks on to Box Hill.



A big thank you is due to the many parents, families, local businesses and friends of the school who made contributions to the cost. The Ashcombe Trust gave £35,000 and the Ashcombe PTA gave £20,000 towards the project.



## Election

The mock election was a real success. An emphasis was placed on the importance of policy and in the build-up to the vote each pupil had access to each party's key policy outlines. Pupils compared notes on health, education, tax and a number of other areas.

On the big day, each class left at a given time to vote. The election was organised around year groups, with everyone taking part in lesson time. Pupils of the year group voting manned the booths and these same individuals also undertook the count.

The results were provisionally announced on the Thursday afternoon and the accurate percentage count was read out on the Friday morning. The Liberal Democrats won comprehensively in each year group. There are further pictures of this event on the web site.



# School Visits

## Year 8 Trip to Normandy, June



The popularity of the Year 8 trip to Normandy continues to grow. This year 150 pupils were accompanied by 19 staff and parents to two centres in Calvados and La Manche. There is a definite advantage over hotels in that there are recreation facilities on or near the site, as well as classroom/indoor areas, in case of inclement weather, for language activities and cultural talks

There were a variety of experiences for the pupils, either language-based

activities or cultural visits. Pupils enjoyed the 360° cinema at Arromanches, had to go into shops, speaking French to ask for stamps, cakes and ice creams and talk to real French people, buy food at Deauville market for a picnic, milk a goat at a farm, see the Bayeux Tapestry and visit the Pegasus Bridge Museum.

The cultural value of such carefully structured trips cannot be over estimated.

## Year 10 Battlefields Trip, March

At 5am on Wednesday 9th March, 45 Year 10 pupils gathered to embark on a residential visit to France and Belgium to investigate and experience the First World War battlefields and museums. After an early start, pupils revelled in the opportunity to enjoy a series of reconstructed trenches and have lunch at Hill 62. The group then moved on to experience the fantastic Ypres museum. After an exhausting day, the group settled into their accommodation and went straight to sleep!

The second day began with a rainstorm. We thought that this was atmospheric of the conditions in the trenches! We visited many battlefields around the Somme and Passchendale. We were all very wet and muddy by the end of the day. In the evening, we went to the city of Ypres. We paid our respects to the thousands of unknown soldiers who died during the First World War by listening to the 'Last Post' at the Menin Gate. The Chocolate Shop was next on the agenda. I have never

seen so many pupils excited about the prospect of Belgian chocolate! On the return journey to the chateau, there was little talking as most were eating chocolate.

The visit was a really good experience for pupils to understand and empathise with the conditions and fighting during the First World War. All the pupils had a great time and it will prove invaluable when writing their GCSE History coursework.

## ... and the One Day Battlefields Trip, May

The History Department also ran a trip in May to the Somme Battlefields and Vimy Ridge. This was an exceptionally long day, starting at 5.30am, but it really stands out as a superb experience. The pupils were exceptionally well behaved and highly motivated. All the staff found this day a really fantastic teaching experience and for the pupils it was similarly beneficial as a learning experience.

## Year 11 History Trip, February

Once again the History Department took 50 Year 11s to the Bloomsbury Theatre in London to see a theatrical re-enactment of the imaginary trial of Adolf Hitler on the charge of causing the Second World War. This is always a very thought-provoking experience in which one hears the evidence of the long-dead, including the Unknown Soldier, Joseph Stalin and Hitler himself. Not surprisingly, yet again the defendant was found guilty and finally suffered the consequences of his actions. This was a very valuable and valued experience for the Year 11s just three months before GCSE.

## AS level fieldtrip

In preparation for the skills and fieldwork paper, all AS Geographers spent two days in Guildford and Juniper Hall learning how to collect and present different forms of data. The day in Guildford was spent delimiting the central business district (CBD) and at Juniper Hall students studied the impact of human activity on chalk grasslands.

## GCSE fieldtrip to Brighton

Two days in late June 80 Year 10 pupils went to Brighton for the day to collect data for their coursework. In glorious weather, they collected information on environmental quality, building types, shopping habits and so on. All pupils are now in the process of writing up their coursework.

## Year 7 Trip to Germany, July

Over 200 pupils, accompanied by 26 staff and parents went on the above visit in the penultimate week of the Summer Term.

Details of this trip, and the visits to Romania and China will feature in the next edition of "Accent on Ashcombe."

# Activities Week

There was the usual massive amount of energy expended by staff, students and visitors during the penultimate week of the summer term. The pictures from the Year 9 week in the Isle of Wight illustrate this point very well.

For the first time this year we had Chinese students as well as teachers in lessons with Year 10s in International Business Week. The students gave a concert at the start of their visit and the Art teacher worked with Year 9 pupils on calligraphy.

The hall was filled to capacity on the Friday evening for two performances of "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."





## China links

The long-held ambition that we could get members of the local community, governors and friends of the school out to China to offer a rich experience of real China with the chance of meeting our friends in Shanghai was finally realised. The trip provided people with a trip of a lifetime. Beijing, Xian, Hangzhou and Shanghai were the bases for a fortnight. The school visit was wonderful for those who had never experienced an official Chinese welcome and the time spent there was very moving.

The visit also gave us a chance to progress our links. Firstly, we met the Director of Education for the province in which our link school is situated. As a result, he is coming over to the UK in the



Autumn Term with some colleagues this summer with a view to setting up a possible formal link between Surrey County Council and the Putuo district. Secondly, we discussed the possibility of

Changzheng students coming over to the UK on a homestay visit basis. We are delighted that eight families here hosted Chinese students for a fortnight. Four teachers accompanied the group.

Miss Myers continued to give her regular free ICT/Languages sessions to "full houses" (i.e. to teachers from all over the UK), and Mr Thompson hosted our first Chinese day. Miss Myers continues to be in demand as a speaker at national conferences and as a Lead Practitioner for the Specialist Schools' Trust. Miss Myers and Mr Thompson will be speaking at the 10th Language College Conference in Lille in October.



Will Westcott shows a visitor The ni hao Chinese language program.

## Business Week Award

We are very proud to say that we will be receiving an award for our International Business Week in September from Sir Trevor McDonald. The success of this annual week (first launched here in 1991) is a result of massive contributions from many people in and out of the school.



## Chinese Students at The Ashcombe

*Eight English families hosted eight Chinese students as we had students from our Chinese link school in Shanghai over for the first time this summer. The Collyer Merritt family write about their successful experience.*

### Hosting a Chinese student

Would she speak English? Would she eat our food? Would she want chopsticks?

These were some of our concerns before Rain arrived from Shanghai for a two week stay with us.

It was the first time she had been abroad and the first time she had ever been away from her family. Like all the Chinese students she, s an onlychild and so Rain was far more excited and nervous than we were. She arrived with gifts for everyone in the family. She was a delightful guest with a good level of English, an interest in everything and a willingness to try new things.

She joined the seven other students and four teachers for activities during school hours and returned in the evenings with scores of photos. She was full of enthusiasm and particularly enjoyed the London Eye. Using her phone card, she phoned her parents regularly and they were eager to know

every detail. Rain's ambition is to earn enough to bring her parents to England one day.

We learnt a great deal about Chinese culture and way of life. School life is particularly competitive for teenagers and they study for long hours in school, after school and even during the holidays. Rain showed Helen and Eve calligraphy and traditional tea making while they taught her to play squash and tennis. Rain was always polite and very appreciative, especially of outings like our picnic on Box Hill.

We, re in touch by email and we, ve all been invited to Shanghai!

*Collyer Merritt Family*



# Life in the Sixth Form

## Upper 6th Boat trip

The traditional leavers' Boat Trip on the River Thames was the most eagerly anticipated Sixth Form event that I can remember. Tickets sold out faster than Glastonbury, as the entire Upper Sixth attempted to guarantee their place on a voyage of a lifetime.

Similar to the Christmas Dinner Dance, this was an occasion for getting out your glad rags from the wardrobe. Teachers and students all looked amazing, obviously trying to make a lasting impression on everyone's memories, as thoughts of leaving and moving on to pastures new filled the mind. The excitement in anticipation of the arrival at the pier in London grew as the coaches made their way, packed with singing, dancing and laughter.

We were all soon on the boat and sailing down the river. The boat had three main areas: the top dance floor and bar, the downstairs buffet with seating, and the deck area. There was a great atmosphere with the melting pot of different groups of friends from the school mixing together. As the light began to fade the dance floor started to fill. We had enjoyed the sights of the

bridges, the Millennium Dome and the Thames Barrier, and the buffet had almost disappeared. The DJ was now the main attraction as the top deck swelled with people dancing.

Unfortunately the evening could not go on for ever and we returned to our coaches at midnight as Big Ben heralded the new day. We reflected on the night's events and on our future different paths in life on the coach home.

We hope that future generations of Sixth Formers will have as fantastic a time as our year group did and thank you to everyone at The Ashcombe for giving us the opportunities to do so much more than just learn in the classroom.

*Guy Simmonds U6th*



## Upper Sixth Leavers' assembly

On Wednesday 25th May the Upper Sixth met together for the last time to celebrate their years spent together at The Ashcombe. Sixth formers had spent many hours filming and editing an excellent leavers' video. Mrs Roberts and Mr Woollett succeeded in embarrassing and entertaining them with a nostalgic look at their last 18 years. Miss Parr and Mr Marshallsay

presented a superb awards ceremony which highlighted many individual talents and characteristics. We were very pleased that Mrs Wilkinson (Head of Upper Sixth) who had just left on maternity leave joined us as well as Mrs Williamson (an Upper 6th tutor) and her young baby. A delightful afternoon of fun and entertainment was enjoyed by all.

## Sixth Form Induction Day

We were delighted that over 150 Year 11 students came to the induction day. They thoroughly enjoyed the evening social and a chance to spend a day with their friends following the exams. Many found the information sessions really helpful and the course enabled them to gain an insight into their future sixth form experience.

## Senior Prefects

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as Senior Prefects:

Giverny Dobson, Mikaela Wall, Vicky Warnock, Katie Westwood, Jenny Woods, Tobi Barker, Charlie Coe, Richard Jolly, Tom Spencer and Ben Taylor.

We are delighted that Chloe Keedy and Jonathon Langford have been selected as Head Girl and Head Boy respectively.

We congratulate them all on their excellent start last term in their new roles.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Summer Term was again very busy. There were two Bronze practice expeditions around Box Hill, two Bronze assessed expeditions around Leith Hill, a Gold practice expedition in the Brecon Beacons and the assessed Gold expedition on Dartmoor.

All the expeditions were very successful, particularly the Gold expedition where we took a record number of Lower Sixth students (19) to the Brecon Beacons to train them

up for their assessment in July on Dartmoor. The students improved many of their skills such as navigation, teamwork and organisation.

Four of the Lower Sixth students helped train the Year 10s for their Bronze Award as part of the service section of their Gold Award. This has been a successful partnership and many of the current Year 11 are keen to do this next year too.

There were huge numbers of Year 9

students interested in the Bronze Award (197 at the initial meeting) so the level of participation is at a very high level. The main challenge is to support students so they are able to complete the award, as only about two thirds actually finish all the sections.

This year, there will be a change to the staffing as Miss Sampson takes over the main role of co-ordinator of the award scheme.

*Mrs Watts*



# Leavers' Ball

## May 2005, The Surrey Hills Hotel, Capel

The Year 11 Leavers' Ball is probably the most austere [flamboyant, surely? Ed] function of the social calendar. After many months of preparation, the dresses were made, the suits organised and the hairdressers booked. The Leavers' Ball Committee collected the flower arrangements and the array of balloons during the morning of the event. Whilst driving down to the venue the group of pupils were excited at the thought of decorating the hall. Ellie Fitzgerald took loads of photos at this point and I wondered whether she would have any film left for the Ball in the evening!

As seven o'clock approached, pupils began to arrive. The large driveway

at the Surrey Hills Hotel was ideal for grand and sweeping entrances. There were Rolls Royces, stretch Hummers, limousines and a double-decker red London bus. By far the most economical form of transport used was the Number 93 bus; a steal at only £1.20 a ticket! However, the show was stolen by the imitation tank that came roaring and thundering down the road at about 7.45pm.

All the pupils looked fantastic. Everyone looked so smart and well presented. Congratulations to Connie Whiston and Nicola Strapp-Freeman who made their own dresses. Andy Lacey looked particularly dapper in his brown

tweed suit. Ed Judge looked as if he had just stepped out of a Madness video.

The music began and everyone got up on the dance floor. The DJ was skilled at getting all of us doing the conga around the hall. There was always a group of people showing their moves on the stage. The eclectic mix of music kept all the pupils happy and bopping until 11 pm.

The Leaver's Ball was a thoroughly good evening. Even Miss Bedford and

I had a boogie! It proved to be a really great opportunity to say 'goodbye and good luck' to everyone.

The Year 11 group are a fantastic set of young people and deserve their examination success.

*Mr Rosser*



## Amnesty International

The local Amnesty International group organised a photo shoot with members of the Amnesty group based at The Ashcombe School here pictured throwing 'AK47 guns' into a rubbish skip in the school grounds.

Miss Myers, who oversees the Amnesty group within the school, said: "I'm glad that our pupils were able to take part in Gun Destruction Day. It's very important that young people are aware of what is happening in the world and, more importantly, that they realise how they can make a real difference by becoming involved with a human rights organisation like Amnesty International."

Members of the Ashcombe School's Amnesty International Group took part in this year's International Gun Destruction Day. All around the world 9th July is a day when real guns

are destroyed. In the case of Ashcombe School, fake guns were used which the pupils had made themselves to show their support for Amnesty's Control Arms campaign which Amnesty is running with Oxfam and IANSA (the International Action Network on Small Arms).

The Dorking Amnesty group were really pleased that pupils from The Ashcombe School agreed to take part in this action. In their newsletter they said "They did a fantastic job. Amnesty has published figures showing that there is now one gun for every ten people on the planet. Amnesty is concerned that governments are undermining attempts to control the spread of arms and estimate that one person is killed every minute by armed violence - that's 500,000 every year.

Ashcombe students will be playing alongside some nationally acclaimed acts at the third Amnesty "Light a Candle" concert on October 14th in the United Reformed Church, West Street, Dorking. This concert is part of the Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival. Tickets at £10 are available from 01306 740332.

*Students pictured with John Peppard from Dorking Amnesty International Group*



# Music

The term was again very busy with final GCSE performances, a lower school recital evening, a Year 10 performance evening, inter-house music festival and Summer Soirée.

The range of music performed by students was very wide-ranging, from ensemble pieces to rock bands, vocal solo performances to jazz.

It was good to see so many self-motivated students. Some who took part in the inter-house music festival were selected to take part in the "welcome concert" for the Chinese visitors and the Summer Soirée.

This last event had a special touch this year as the Upper Sixth organised some musical items as a farewell tribute to Miss Hayes, including a jazz band feature and an orchestral version of a favourite of hers (Isaac Hayes' "Shuffle" can you believe?!).

Other one-off events included a fund-raising series of lunchtime concerts to raise money for our Romanian charity and an invitation to sing on the World Cup 2006 single! Schools have been invited to participate in a record-breaking attempt to have the most people ever singing on a single release.



## Maths Challenge

Luke Caldwell, Ellen Powell, Kaleigh Stephenson and Sophie Naylor-Osborne went to the UKMT team Maths Challenge feeling confident after last year's success. They took the train to King's College in London early in the morning giving them a whole day for challenging Maths puzzles and quizzes. When all the school teams had assembled (with a mixture of Year 8 & 9 pupils) they were introduced to the leader of the organisation and then set some fun warm-up questions to get their brains going.

The first meaningful round in the challenge was a set of 10 long questions to complete as a group, working separately or in pairs. The questions had to be answered in a set amount of time. After doing,

checking and re-checking their work, the Ashcombe pupils received a result of 42 out of a possible 60 marks.

The second challenge involved sitting in pairs and completing a maths crossword, each pair with either the across or down clues. Our team finished the task reasonably quickly and ended up with a satisfying result of full marks.

The next task was also a success. Standing in a semi-circle with members of two teams alternating, each pupil took their turn to work out the next number in a number sequence. If they got it right they received a mark, but if they failed to recognise the pattern the spotlight passed on to a member of the other team. The Ashcombe did well at this,

beating every team they faced bar one and getting a fantastic total score.

The fourth and final round was by far the most fun. Sitting at opposite ends of the quaint hall, the two pairs had to answer a question they got from their teacher as quickly as possible, get it marked, and then sprint to give the other pair their problem. This cycle was repeated for 45 minutes, with much hysteria and people crashing into each other, before the competitors were allowed to rest and get their final scores counted.

In the end, the victorious school were St Paul's Girls' School with The Ashcombe finishing in an impressive 5th place - the best result for a non-selective school in the London area.

*Mr Dunfield*

# Sport

**A** key issue last term was liaison with local schools forming the Specialist Schools Trust Sports Partnership. We are pleased that Mr Leane will be taking on the role of School Sport Coordinator from September to assist with this national initiative. The links we have already forged with our primary feeder schools, local secondary schools and Starhurst will continue to grow with even more shared activities taking place.

## Highlights from the term included

- A day at the Stella Artois Tennis Tournament at Queen's Club, London. 30 Year 10 GCSE pupils saw Greg Rusedski, Leighton Hewitt and Mark Philippoussis
- A dance workshop for the lower school led by former student Anna Langford. 80 pupils benefited from this opportunity
- The summer carousel was held with over 80 pupils from local schools using our facilities. The sessions introduced pupils to activities they may not have experienced previously

## Athletics

- The District Athletics Championships were held at Kingsmeadow, Kingston in May. Individual success was achieved by 5 of our students. The following qualified to run/jump/throw for Central Surrey at the County Championships: Zoe Shannon (1500m), Becky Gardner (800m), Charlie Ward (long jump), Nick Haigh (shot) and James Gaymer (javelin). James came fourth in the final, just missing out on the chance to represent Surrey at the Regional Championships.
- The after-school Athletics Club has been one of the best supported activities held here. With up to 50 pupils attending there were opportunities to practise for Sports Day and achieve badges for different levels of ability from bronze to gold
- Dorking Cricket Club organised an under-15 tournament and our Year 10 team came second in their group and played Reigate Grammar School in the semi-final. Years 7 and 8 formed a combined team and were narrowly beaten in both their cup matches. Nevertheless, the players have supported the club well and even played an intra-school match between the X and Y band

## Sports Day

- This year saw a new format for Sports Day. We retained the Track and Field events, but alongside this we aimed to get 95% of each year group participating in a summer sport. This involved a House competition for athletics, rounders, stoolball, tennis and indoor cricket



## Swimming

- Several Ashcombe swimmers represented the school in the Surrey Schools Championships at Trinity School in Croydon. In the boys' gala, James Gartland (Y8) was placed second in the Junior backstroke

against strong opposition. Richard Bulbeck was fifth in the Intermediate backstroke and Chris Day put up a good effort in the freestyle, despite feeling unwell. In the Senior events, Oliver Horvath and Stephen Thomas were second and third in the backstroke and freestyle. The school finished eighth overall in Surrey: a most creditable performance. Year 8 girls April Richards and Charlotte Mann were fifth and sixth overall in the Butterfly and Individual Medley respectively. Rosie Holden and Alice Wearn also swam extremely well and were pleased with their times in backstroke and freestyle

- Ashcombe swimmers participated in the annual local Rotary Club Swimarathon. The speed team of Lee Holland, Joe Carter (both Y13), Hayley Wearn (Y12), Richard Bulbeck (Y11) with Chris Day and Jenny Martin (both Y10) completed a fantastic 104 laps. A wide selection of students and staff enjoyed the event, covering a total of nearly 19km and raising a promised money for charity. The Ashcombe teams were as follows:

**Junior One** (45 laps): Rebekah Harkins, Sarah Bridgman, Sarah Sugden, Anna Shopland, Emily Ebdon, Lee Witkowski (all Y7)

**Junior Two** (65 laps, supported by Hayley Wearn): Adam Day (Y7), Alice Wearn and Oliver Smith (both Y8)

**Senior** (48 laps): Abi Wood (Y10), Billy Thomas, Aaron Dias-Jayasinha, Richard Bulbeck (all Y11)

**Staff One** (68 laps): Steve Bowie, Miss Brown and Dr Scanlon with Oliver Horvath (Y12)

**Staff Two** (45 laps): Mrs Jackson, Mrs N Jones, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Stockdale and Miss Ward

Following the success of the Swimarathon, the Ashcombe Speed Team were invited to a presentation evening as guests of the Rotary Club Dorking (Deepdene). The Sixth Form members of the team were busy training or revising for their exams but Richard Bulbeck (Y11) was joined by Jenny Martin and Chris Day (both Y10) to receive the School Challenge Trophy and the sponsorship money raised by the school which exceeded £450 and which was divided between The Ashcombe Romania Link and the Royal Marsden Hospital.

# KEY DATES FOR THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL YEAR 2005-2006

## AUTUMN TERM 2005

Monday 5 September	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 6 September	TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS
Thursday 15 September	Upper 6th Parents' Evening
Saturday 17 September	Y11 to Alton Towers
Thursday 22 September	PTA AGM + Educ. Evening "Sensitive Issues" 7.30pm
Tuesday 21 September	Careers Fair 6 - 9pm (Y9 -U6)
Monday 26 September	European Day of Languages
Monday 26 September	Y11 progress reviews to parents
Wednesday 28 September	Games Day
Friday 30 September	Photo Day
Tuesday 4 October	11Y - Parents' Evening
Wednesday 5 October	11X - Parents' Evening
Friday 7 October	PTA Quiz Evening for parents 7.30pm
Thursday 13 October	Staff Training Day, Open Evening & Y10 Music performance
Friday 14 October	Staff Training Day
Monday 17 October	Y9 Assessments begin
Tuesday 18 October	Into the Sixth Form 6.30pm
Wednesday 19 October	Y7 SEN Parents' Evening
Thursday 20 October	Annual Governors' Meeting for Parents 7.30pm

## Saturday 22nd October - Sunday 30th October: HALF TERM

Wednesday 2 November	6pm Y7 Parents'/Tutors' Evening
Sunday 6 November	Dress rehearsal
Monday 7 November	Primary Schools' Performance
Tuesday 8 November	Performance of "My Fair Lady"
Wednesday 9 November	Performance of "My Fair Lady"
Friday 11 November	Performance of "My Fair Lady"
Saturday 12 November	Performance of "My Fair Lady"
Wednesday 16 November	Upper 6th mock interviews
Thursday 17 November	10X Parents' Evening German Exchange begins (until 25th)
Friday 18 November	6th Form progress reviews to parents
Monday 21 November	Y8 Assessments begin
Tuesday 22 November	10Y Parents' Evening
Saturday 26 November	PTA Dance
Tuesday 29 November	L6 + targetted U6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 1 December	Y11 Study Leave starts 6th Form Dinner Dance
Friday 2 December	Y9 progress reviews to parents
Monday 5 December	Y7 Assessments begin Christmas Service, St Paul's 7.30pm
Tuesday 13 December	Y11 trial exams
Wednesday 14 December	6th Form Certificate + Awards Evening
Thursday 15 December	Senior Citizens' Party
Friday 16 December	TERM ENDS 1pm

## SPRING TERM 2006

Tuesday 3 January	SPRING TERM STARTS
Wednesday 4 January	Y10 progress reviews to parents
Friday 7 January	Return of 6th Form preference forms
Wednesday 11 January	6th Form Recital
Tuesday 17 January	Y11 Certificate evening 7.30pm
Thursday 19 January	Upper School Introduction Evening 6.45pm
Wednesday 25 January	Y8 progress reviews to parents
Thursday 26 January	Y9 (V band) Parents' Evening
Monday 30 January	Y11 reports to parents 6th Form Assessments - until 6th Feb
Tuesday 31 January	Y9 (W band) Parents' Evening

Thursday 2 February	Y9 - 11 Maths Challenge Gym & Dance Evening German Exchange (until 10th)
Monday 6 February	Y11 & 1 year 6th Work Experience
Wednesday 8 February	Y10 Battlefields Trip (until 11th) 6th Form Recital
Thursday 9 February	Y7 progress reviews to parents

## Saturday 11th February - Sunday 19th February: HALF TERM

Monday 20 February	Charities Week
Wednesday 22 February	Lower 6th Berlin Trip - until 24th
Thursday 23 February	Y8(X) + targetted Y11 Parents' Evening
Monday 28 February	Y8(Y) Parents' Evening
Monday 28 February	Y10 exams for two weeks
Thursday 9 March	Y11 Music Performance Evening
Friday 17 March	6th Form reports to parents French Exchange (until 25th)
Thursday 23 March	Spring Concert
Thursday 30 March	Targetted 6th Form Parents' Evening
Friday 31 March	TERM ENDS 3.30pm

## SUMMER TERM 2006

Monday 19 April	SUMMER TERM STARTS
Thursday 20 April	Group Photographs
Tuesday 25 April	6th Form Recital
Thursday 27 April	Y7& Y8 Maths Challenge Y7(X) Parents' Evening
Monday 1 May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 May	Y9 National Curriculum tests begin Y8 exams begin
Thursday 4 May	Y7(Y) Parents' Evening
Friday 12 May	Last day for L6
Wednesday 17 May	Y11 leavers' assembly Y11 Study leave begins
Friday 19 May	Y10 Battlefields trip
Monday 22 May	Y7 Open Mornings this week GCSE exams begin
Wednesday 24 May	Last day for Upper 6th
Friday 26 May	Staff Training Day

## Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4th June : HALF TERM

Tuesday 13 June	Y10 Music Performance Evening
Thursday 15 June	Y7 reports to parents
Monday 19 June	European Primary Week Lower 6th return
Tuesday 20 June	Staff Training Day
Thursday 22 June	Interhouse Music Festival
Friday 23 June	6th Form induction
Wednesday 28 June	L6 H.E. (parents)
Monday 3 July	New intake evening
Tuesday 4 July	New intake Day
Thursday 6 July	Y8 Reports to parents
Thursday 13 July	Summer Soiree
Saturday 15 July	DoE Gold expedition to the Lake District
Monday 17 July and all week	Activities Week Lower 6th Work Experience week Y9 Activities week Y10 International Business Conference
Tuesday 25 July	Y9 reports to parents
Friday 28 July	TERM ENDS 1pm
Thursday 17 August	'A' Level results
Thursday 24 August	GCSE results