

THE GLEE CLUB

The Glee Club have had a busy term, performing at the Mole Valley Showcase Awards and the Surrey Show Choir Competition. The Mole Valley Showcase Awards was a fantastic evening, and the group are proud to have been asked to perform at this prestigious event. They performed

three songs; 'Skyfall', 'Crazy little thing called love' and 'Read all about it', including in their performance both singing and dancing. They then went on to perform at Dorking Halls again two weeks later for the annual Surrey Show Choir Competition where they competed against

seven other schools. This was a great opportunity to perform alongside some more experienced and older groups. The group are now looking forward to learning new songs during the summer term.



accent ON ASHCOMBE

ISSUE 32 • SPRING 2013



WE WILL ROCK YOU



The students rehearsed extremely hard to put on the Ashcombe School's annual production, with outstanding performances from the leads (Connor Shenton, Zoe Everson, Jo Goddard, Harry Baker, Zac Smith, Amy Ferris). Mr Ashwood was assisted by a fantastic technical team led by Edd Bodman, David Taylor and Philip Ellis and a strong production and backstage team. Choreography was led by L6 students Louise Chiverton, Jenny Chaplin and Georgia Harber. We were delighted that the band was wholly made up of students. All performers made great strides in the production process and audiences were delighted.

Congratulations to Miss Sampson who led the music and Mr Thurley for another superb, inclusive and enjoyable production.



THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL, DORKING



AWARDS EVENING

It is always an uplifting experience to attend Awards Evening, and this year was no exception. Speeches from the Head Boy, Head Girl and Mr Blow summarised the rich and varied life of The Ashcombe School over the previous year including academic achievements and a very wide range of extra curricular activities, demonstrating just how many opportunities are open to the students and how proud we are of the people who make up our community: pupils, staff and those who support them. We were delighted that Sir Hugh Orde, a distinguished Chief Police Officer who played a key role in establishing the Northern Ireland Peace Process accepted our invitation to speak to us and present the prizes. His speech was extremely engaging and appropriate to the evening. Recounting his personal career path and experiences he reflected on what makes public services successful he shared core principles and values including recognising that any interaction is important, all contributions and achievements need to be valued, and the quality of leadership in an organisation is paramount. Of particular interest in a school which is a 'Language College' was his statement that 'the only way to stay safe is to work internationally'. He concluded by telling prizewinners that they had much to be proud of: their school, their efforts and their achievement. He recognised that all cannot aspire to being the most intelligent, but underlined the importance of attitude and resilience. He told them that success was to be found in determination, aspiration and qualifications and that with all three he said 'you, and your school, are truly flying'. Then came the most important part of the evening: The Prizegiving. Heads of School called students past and present to the stage where they were presented with prizes generously donated by our sponsors, many of whom were present to congratulate the winners. It can be a daunting experience to cross a stage in front of so many people, but the students rose to the occasion and gave us all the opportunity to applaud their achievements and their efforts. Many thanks go to students who provided wonderful musical interludes and to the PTA who organised the refreshments and allowed for the happy 'buzz' to flow over into the Study Centre.



VIEWPOINT

Those present at Awards Evening heard first hand from Sir Hugh Orde his personal description of the key aspects of a public service, and they are ones which we too value and emphasise.

Each of us working in a school community is likely to have literally hundreds of interactions in a day, and each one has an impact. Whether it is standing in the foyer or by the canteen at lesson changeover or delivering a lesson, each interaction can demonstrate an interest in the individual or can convey a negative message. Getting those interactions right is a crucial part of the ethos of the school and builds strong staff-pupil relationships, an area which gets positive feedback from pupils and parents. They also give an excellent opportunity to value contributions and achievement. Sometimes the interactions arise from dealing with a problem, but there can still be a positive outcome if there is mutual respect and the problem is dealt with in a fair and calm manner.

A vital part of leadership at all levels is demonstrating those values day in, day out, even if one is tired or exasperated! We saw very clearly from Sir Hugh how, even in a short time at the school, he conveyed both an overall vision and a genuine interest in the school and the individual prizewinners, demonstrating first-hand the qualities which had enabled him to play such a significant role in the Northern Ireland peace process.

DJ Blow

D.J. Blow
Headteacher

DINNER DANCE 2012



Everyone in the 6th form knows that the annual Dinner Dance in December signifies the start of the build up to Christmas. 185 students from the 6th form dressed up and had a great time at the Burford Bridge Hotel. A special thank you has to go to George Guven (Upper 6th) who organised the event. George even organised the music into a pre-dinner playlist, after-dinner playlist and party playlist. A great evening was had by all.

THE ROLLER DISCO!

My friends and I were very excited beforehand about the roller disco and all the potential neon dressing up. We all started off a little rusty on our wheels but once we got the hang of it (and stopped falling over) it was amazing.

It was a great turnout with lots of people and teachers. We tried to get Mr Rea into a tutu but failed!

It was very safe and everything was well organised; straight away we went onto the dance floor. Even though there were a few falls, we all laughed it off and were straight back up. I never once left the floor, it was so much fun.

Then we had a competition, girls versus boys. All the helpers made this game fun and helped you if you ever fell over. Oh, and of course, the girls won! The DJ played great music and took everyone's requests.

At the end we were all drenched in sweat which showed we had had a good time! It was an incredible evening. I am not the only one who is hoping for another one next year!

Sophia Herouvin (Student)



HALLOWEEN

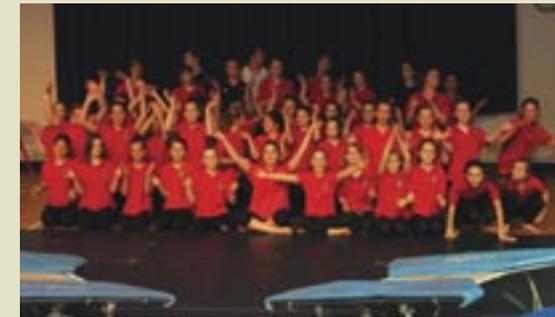
The Year 7s were transformed into little monsters for the annual Year 7 Halloween Disco on Thursday 25th October 2012. This was an opportunity for students to celebrate the end of their first half term at the school, strengthen existing friendships and make some more. Students enjoyed both the fancy dress and dance competitions, and also took great pleasure in witnessing their form tutors' scary dance moves! A wonderful evening was had by all.

GYM AND DANCE 2013

This year our Gym and Dance display had the theme of 'Battle of the Bands' with the debut of a live band at the Gym and Dance production adding to the incredible atmosphere! The Year 11 band included Sam McCormick, Steven Holmes, Mille Ellenger, Josh Birkett-Wood and Simon Vakeva-Baird. The majority of the music was selected by students to follow the theme and included bands such as ACDC.

There was a range of acts which included tap, ballet, disco, latin, trampetting, vaulting, sports acrobatics, gymnastics and cheerleading to name just a few! Due to popular demand the performance ran for two nights yet again this year, which provided the performers with an opportunity to showcase their talents to a larger audience and work towards a more extravagant production overall.

The 150 performers were absolutely fantastic! Pupils had been working incredibly hard on their pieces and were rehearsing non-stop to ensure the display was a success. Generous donations were received with much gratitude and this will allow us to invest in new gymnastic and dance equipment. The performers' hard work and dedication ensured the performance was a resounding success and this was reflected in the audiences' reception and feedback! Well done to each and every one of them!



SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY

The annual Senior Citizens' Party was a wonderful event; it sparkled with Christmas cheer and good spirits. There were close to seventy guests present drinking tea and tucking into a large array of sandwiches cakes and snacks. The food is always a highlight and this year it seemed better than ever. Thanks go to Mrs Cackett and her team of Year 10s for the preparation. The wonderful cakes caught the eye of the guests and their attentive Year 8 helpers.

Much praise was heaped on the musical entertainment, and the orchestra and choir were very fine indeed. Following a message from Mr Blow and a reading and prayer from Ms Cammack there was the raffle and a timely appearance from a certain bearded gentleman to round off the festivities in style.

The guests departed laden with gifts and the Christmas wishes of all the staff and students who took part ringing in their ears.



BAZAAR

The Year 10 bazaars in aid of the Senior Citizen's Christmas party were a brilliant success. There were stunning cakes on offer and the 'whack a jack' stall proved very popular!



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Young Enterprise has a strong heritage at The Ashcombe and we reintroduced it again in September to provide the 6th form with the opportunity to show off their entrepreneurial flair. Overwhelmed by the response from over 80 students, Lynne Skinner drafted in additional business advisers to mentor the 6 companies we have formed. Our companies made good use of the various open evenings to conduct market research amongst their target audience and wowed an audience of professionals at a networking event run by Business Networking International with their ideas and enthusiasm. Within a couple of months product ideas moved from conception to retailing and now range from organising 'big sister' parties for teenage girls to the now well-known Morph suits. Customised mugs and T-shirts are also on offer whilst we wait in anticipation for the glow-in-the-dark wellies to make an appearance! This is a real-life experience with the students having to raise their own funds to start up the business, register their company, pay insurance, manage their accounts etc. and abide by school's guidelines too! They have until the summer to make as much money as possible before 'winding up' the company but some are planning to take their firm on to greater things. Who knows, in years to come we may see them on Dragon's Den!



LEPRA FUNDRAISING

Year 7 took part in a fundraising activity for Lepra on Thursday 24th January 2013 during WSTP. Students spent 3 weeks raising money for the event, and came laden with jingling envelopes for the charity's representative. All students (and a number of embarrassed-looking members of the pastoral team!) danced, wiggled and grooved to the instructor's high-octane music. We have raised over £1000 in support of the fight against leprosy!



GERMAN EXCHANGE

The German exchange went to Cologne/ Bonn from 12th December until 20th December with 22 students from the Ashcombe School to stay with German host families. Our students spent a few lessons with their exchange partners in the German school and they undertook various activities, such as visiting the famous cathedral of Cologne or the "Haus der Geschichte" a history museum in Bonn. Besides learning about the culture, the students immersed themselves in the German language.

An account by Gregory Pratt 9XW: *"In December we went on an enjoyable and interesting trip that was a memorable way to end 2012. During the last two weeks of school we flew to Germany and engaged in fun activities for eight days. Activities included: going to Bonn and learning about its history, visiting a chocolate factory, taking part in a circus workshop and visiting a German school. But my favourite part of the trip was going to FantasiaLand (the German version of Thorpe Park) with our exchange partners. The best and fastest ride was called Black Mamba. Throughout the trip I tasted the traditional Bratwurst and enjoyed German cuisine. We all got on really well with our exchange partners and had a brilliant time."*



SLAPTON SANDS

In early October, 24 Upper Sixth Geographers visited the not-so-sunny Slapton Sands to prepare for their Geographical Skills examination. We spent four enjoyable days experiencing a variety of fieldwork methods along the coast of Start Bay covering everything from cost benefit analysis of coastal defence strategies to sediment size analysis of the beach. Students were also able to use the fantastic laboratory facilities to investigate the properties of soil samples and benefitted from the expertise of our tutor.

All returned with increased confidence, a host of new skills and a suitcase of damp and muddy clothes. Thanks to Mr Mackrell and all the Upper Sixth geographers for their hard work and continuously positive approach.



FRENCH EXCHANGE

Bitterly cold weather did not stem the spirits of the staff and students who went to Le Collège Sonia Delaunay in Gouvieux in January to spend nine days with families in Dorking's twin town, and every single one of them returned with really positive things to say about the action-packed and varied programme which included a visit to the historic town of Senlis, carving bas-relief designs on stone quarried at St Maximin, a jeu de piste in Chantilly, teaching English in the local primary school, following some lessons at the collège and an exchange-bonding trip to Eurodisney! You can hear their words (recorded on the way home in the coach) on a short video posted on our website: ... and read more information on the exchange blog, copied onto the website.

I learnt lots of new language (Sophie); I gained more confidence going into new families (Emily); I learnt more about the French way of living ... I made loads of friends I think I am going to keep for a long time (Jess); the French exchange was absolutely great fun... it did improve my French, you learn all the little phrases and the shortenings they use (Luke); I became much more confident speaking French... I'm more up for more saying it anyway - it doesn't really matter if I get it wrong (India); I visited the PSG shop where the mum bought me a PSG shirt and a football which was very good... we went to the Stade de France and had a tour... I was really impressed with it and thought it was a good day out (Toby); I learnt a lot about the French history of that area of France and I learnt a lot about cutlery in the French language and why it's called what it is (Will).

Ms Myers and Mr Ashwood thoroughly enjoyed the company of this delightful group of young people and were privileged enough to witness palpable progress in language, cultural understanding and social skills. We cannot recommend this experience highly enough and look forward to receiving the French students in our homes shortly. And we look forward to Will's thesis on the origins of French cutlery. You heard it here first.



THE QUEEN'S PICTURE GALLERY

Following a talk given by Jonathan Marsden, The Director of The Royal Collection, on November 30th to the 6th form, Jonathan kindly invited Mr Woollett to the early morning preview of the gallery's new Northern Renaissance exhibition. Mr Woollett cheekily asked if he could bring a couple of students, Dougie Baldwin and Emily Luker, who would be very interested in the exhibition. They were greeted with great warmth and ceremony by Jonathan and his staff personally. They looked at the exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by Holbein, Dürer, Cellini and other great artists of the 1500s. The exhibition was fascinating and one of the curators gave a wonderfully informative introduction to the exhibition. Jonathan introduced them to Sir Norman Akroyd, a world-renowned Royal Academician printmaker. They had a fascinating conversation with Sir Norman and he promised to help us set up more printmaking facilities at The Ashcombe School. .

HAMPTON COURT

Year 12 students visited the home of Cardinal Wolsey to learn about the rise and fall of one of key figures of Henry VIII's reign.

The trip was highly successful and gave students an excellent insight into a mysterious character in English history. As one student commented "I found it very factual, enjoyable and historically absorbing". Students investigated contemporary evidence, discussed the hidden meaning behind Hampton Court's architecture and discovered how Wolsey used his home to gain influence with the King. They also had the opportunity to look around the palace and get a greater sense of the everyday side of Tudor England, such as in the impressive kitchen reconstruction. The day gave students opportunities to practise their AS level source skills and also brought their work in the classroom to life.



SKI TRIP

Four teachers accompanied 34 students from Year 8 - 10 for a week's skiing over February half term close to Salzburg, the fairytale birthplace of Amadeus Mozart. At the centre of the Salzburg province is the picturesque holiday town of St Johann im Pongau. Unlike many purpose built resorts, it is a town that dates back thousands of years and this is reflected in its charm. Ski trips provide a vehicle for many educational opportunities. Geography, ecology, language and culture are as much a part of the experience as self-discovery and the acquisition of new physical, social and mental skills.



Y10 BLUEWATER

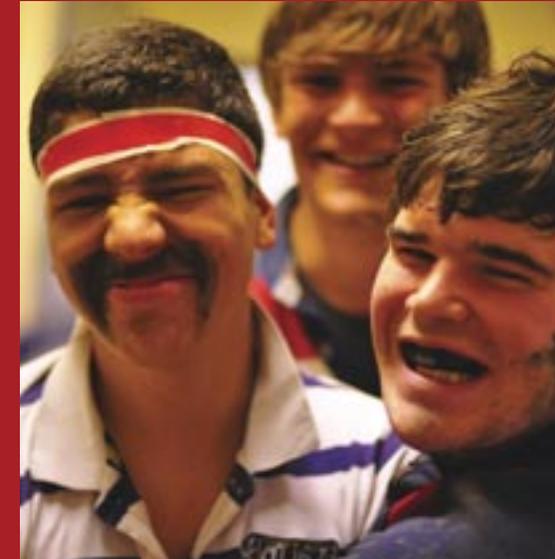
As a social activity and enjoyable end to a term's hard work, 89 pupils went Christmas shopping on Thursday 6th December to Bluewater. We took 2 coaches and shopped until we dropped!



WINTER GAMES DAY

On Tuesday 2nd October 2012 Y7-10 enjoyed their winter games day, with activities including Basketball, Hockey, Badminton, Football, Rugby and Netball. The number of participants for each of the activities was particularly impressive, with the vast majority of each year group participating. Students rose to the challenge with great enthusiasm, competing against their opposition houses. House captains provided fantastic support, dressed in their house colours, photographing the day and supporting their teams. The day involved students from beginners to school team and county players; it was great to see students combining their efforts to create a brilliant atmosphere. A level and GCSE PE students helped the PE department to officiate and run the day, ensuring its smooth running and a very enjoyable and successful day for all! Congratulations to the winning House – Windsor!

Winter Games Day results 2012	Stuart	Tudor	Windsor	York
Y7	2nd	3rd	1st	4th
Y8	4th	2nd	3rd	1st
Y9	4th	3rd	2nd	1st
Y10	4th	2nd	1st	3rd
Overall	4th	2nd	1st	3rd



RETRO SPORTS DAY

Retro Sports Day was an absolute success! Everyone made a special effort to look as retro as possible; it seemed as if there wasn't one student left who wasn't wearing pink neon tights or a tutu; that included the boys! There was a range of sports; some on offer were netball, basketball, football and perhaps the grittiest of them all, rugby, in which every boy ended up absolutely covered from head-to-toe in thick mud. It was not only the typical sports that were a success. Giant Jenga and tiddlywinks provided plenty of entertainment, especially for the 6th formers. There was great participation, and the day certainly provided a well-deserved break to those currently working hard at A-levels. Overall, it was very successful and a really fun day for both students and teachers!





ASHCOMBE TV

After the first two School Council meetings of the year discussions led to the possibility of starting up a TV programme that would keep pupils up to date with what was happening around school. Ashcombe TV was born. Still in its infancy Ashcombe TV is made up of a dedicated group of Year 7 pupils, ably supported by three Year 10 students and one Year 11. So far there have been episodes covering the senior citizen bazaars, the Christmas Carol Concert and an exclusive interview with Mr Blow. The episodes have also been uploaded to the school website, and go a long way in showing a pupil's perspective of school life.



GCSE HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Their task was to prepare a two-course meal for a high class restaurant. The Year 11 pupils excelled, and the meals were outstanding! The mixes of flavours, colours and textures were mouth-watering! And marks were boosted by those professional touches in the food presentation and in the serving of the meal. Well done to the pupils and thank you parents for all your help and encouragement.



CALLING ALL BUDDING COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS!

Miss Dobson and the ICT department are pleased to launch a new Year 9 coding project called "Greenfoot". This gives students the opportunity to try their hand at the computer programming language, Java and write their own computer games! They can share their finished creations with students from across the country through an online coding community on the Greenfoot website. A great opportunity for all budding programmers out there!



SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

On Monday 10th December the annual Ashcombe carol concert took place at St Paul's church in Dorking. Thanks to the Music staff for all their hard work, the students who took part and the PTA for organising refreshments. Thanks also to St Paul's for allowing us to hold the service at the church and for contributing such thoughtful words and prayers.

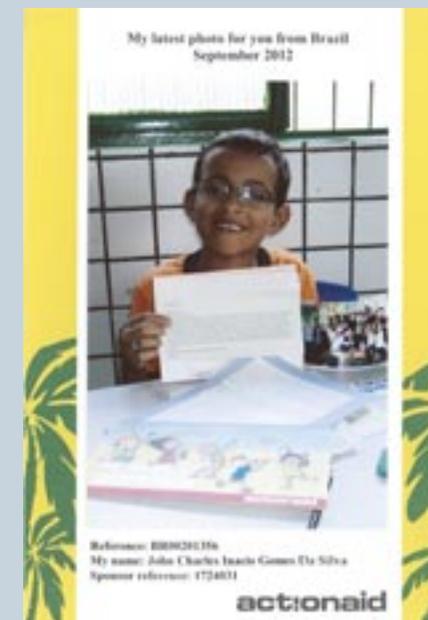


6TH FORM CAROL CONCERT

The 6th Formers braced bitterly cold weather for their annual Carol Concert. Chocolate log and mince pies were provided courtesy of the tutors and the carol singing was definitely an improvement on last year!

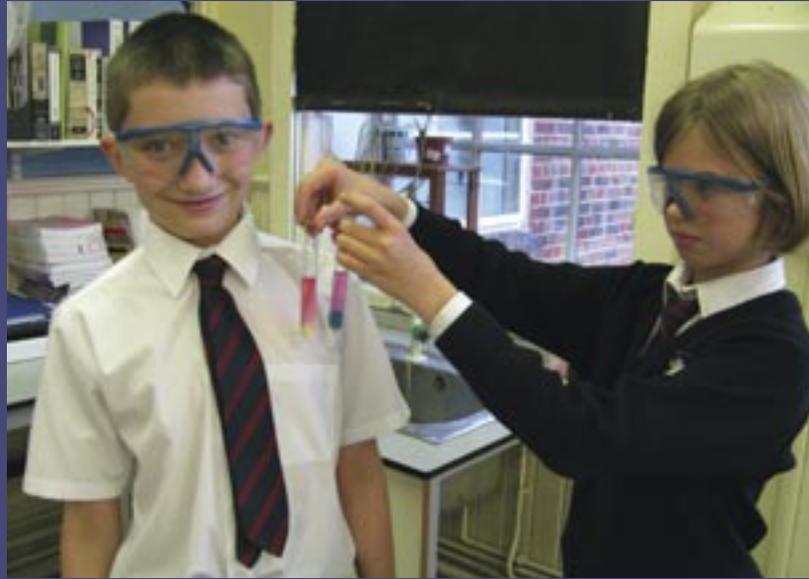
ACTIONAID – SPONSOR A CHILD SCHEME

The Ashcombe has for many years been proud to sponsor 12 children through ActionAid with students from the lower school taking a lead in maintaining a regular correspondence with them. Recently it was especially heart-warming to receive a letter back from John Charles, our sponsored child in Brazil, who had sent a photograph of himself surrounded by all the fantastic letters, pictures and tutor group photos that had been sent to him by 9XS and 9YS. Just before Christmas, students put in a stunning effort to produce hundreds of wonderful letters and pictures, including a beautiful hand-made friendship bracelet and impressive origami dragon, to send to their sponsored children.



SCIENCE CLUB

During last term students did some very exciting experiments including extracting the colour from a red cabbage to make their own pH indicator and then had fun trying to make a rainbow of colours in a test tube. They also explored the chemistry of polymerisation and made some slime. They had great fun making 'Methane bubbles' with fairy liquid in water that has methane gas bubbled through. The students pick up some of the methane filled bubbles and a splint is used to set them alight!



CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Johnny lost his footing tumbling down the steep sheer face of the cliff, the beast's foul breath like a bullet and pierced Johnny's nostrils with the smell of rotting flesh.

As quick as a flash, Johnny reared up behind a sharp protruding boulder. Johnny could feel the putrid breath of the beast tickle the back of Johnny's neck. The beast was getting closer. Johnny backed into the rock further and further, suddenly the sacred golden idol fell out of Johnny's grasp and descended down the cliff rolling further and further but not even denting itself. As quick as a cheetah, the beast sprinted after it. Johnny seized his chance and made his way back up the cliff. But who would be the next unlucky adventurer...?

Nino Barbato. Year 7

I watched as the tiny snowflakes fluttered down from the vast open sky. And with every breath a puff of hot air floated out of my mouth.

Tom Kiernan. Year 7

I remember,
The swaying palm trees,
Like monkeys swinging in the breeze.
And sand scattered across the land,
The sound of a Caribbean rock band.

I remember,
The blazing fire alight,
Like colours of the sun,
Shining so bright.

I remember,
The white blanket of snow,
Wrapped around all houses,
And white, dust like snow,
Falling onto the ground below.

I remember,
Rain falling from the sky,
Gazing up at the doom clouds up so high.
Puddles splashing when we walk through,
And lightning flashing more than we knew.

I remember.

James Niedermeier. Year 7

"Hand over the hammer!" bellowed Loki as Thor launched his hammer straight at Loki. "Nay" mumbled Thor.

Loki threw Thor back with dark magic. Suddenly a portal appeared as a frost giant stepped through with the enchantress following. The frost giant was like a tall mountain ready to squish the land and the enchantress was a thin beauty of a woman.

"Hello boys" she whispered as she blew a kiss to Thor.

Nathan Medhurst. Year 7

My phone blushes each time she sees the iphone
Blushing each time it goes past
Mine tries to show off to the other phones but they don't pay any attention
They only want to see the iphone.

Olivia Norrie. Year 7

"AGH, NO...." He was losing blood, fast. "Get my son." The prince ran up the stairs.

"Really, REALLY, what's up with all these murders? Huh, wait.....why is the king bleeding? I mean, Come on, seriou...oh."
And then, the king's last words came: "Barry. You imbecile, and for the love of all of mankind, don't go through the

door in the courtyard..." and thus, he died.

"What, you let him DIE???" asked a guard,

"Oh relax, he was only the, err...king." replied Barry.
"We can get a new one, they only cost, like, umm, £5000, 0000, 0000, 0000, I could be the king for free though, but I can't, I hate courts!"

Neo Elgie. Year 7

THE LIBERATION OF THE SKIES

You can take my love,
You can take my land,
Take me somewhere I cannot stand,
I don't care,
I'll still be free,
You cannot take the sky from me

Alister Cresswell. Year 7

