



## Olympic place for former pupil

Cassie Patten, 21, a former swimming scholar at Plymouth College, has been selected to represent Great Britain in both the 800m freestyle and 10K open water events in Beijing this summer. An open water specialist, for which she won a silver medal in last year's World Championships, the qualification to take part in the 800m freestyle is a bonus for Cassie.

Cassie joined Plymouth College in 2002 and was the school's first swimming scholar. Now based in Stockport, she is still a member of Plymouth Leander and trains several weeks a year with the club.

Plymouth College director of swimming, Jon Rudd, said: "The school's elite swimming programme has gone from strength to strength and it is fantastic to see the years of hard work and determination by both Cassie and her coaches come to fruition with her Olympic selection. I'm sure Cassie is just the first of many Olympians who will come from the Plymouth College/Plymouth Leander programme in the future."



The two teams had broadly similar routes for the first few legs and were able to set a good pace.



## Ten Tors

Training started at the end of January and it seemed that most practice weekends were cold and wet. However the actual event was warm and sunny to start with on the Saturday, increasing in temperature on the Sunday. The two teams had broadly similar routes for the first few legs and were able to set a sensible pace given the weather conditions. The 35-mile team reached their seventh Tor before camping. The next day proved quite tough, but a big team effort brought them home as a complete unit just after lunch. The 45-mile team also managed to reach their seventh Tor before camping, and their Sunday route allowed a pre-lunch finish. This was a tremendous effort from both teams and also from the reserves who came to the event and ensured the smooth-running of the Base Camp.

For the first time Plymouth College pupils assisted with the Jubilee Challenge. They helped train and then walk with five special-needs pupils from Hillside School. This proved to be such a success that the College hopes to be involved again next year.



The Plymouth College Student Investor team once again progressed to the national final as regional champions.

## Plymouth College do it again!

After winning the south-regional final for the third consecutive year, the Plymouth College Student Investor team once again progressed to the national final as regional champions. Having already beaten over 8000 teams to get to this point, the College team of James Smith (capt), Ben Neville, Robert McCormick and Ali Halawa tackled a daunting business challenge on social responsibility followed in the afternoon by a presentation in front of the crème de la crème of city financiers. Sadly, despite an excellent attempt to be the first school to win the trophy for a second time, they were beaten into third place, resulting in the third consecutive year of placed efforts for a Plymouth College team. The College was compensated by a £1000 cash prize with each of the students taking home £100 each.

In the CIMA Management Competition the Plymouth College team of James Smith, Monica Guly, Robert McCormick and Harriet Foster have also qualified for the national final. Their business plan on how a Nintendo Wii can be used and marketed in schools was adjudged as being one of the top four in the UK. This is the second consecutive year the College has qualified for the national final and as defending champions, confidence is high for a repeat success.

## Another entrepreneurial success

For the fifth time in six years Plymouth College has won the coveted best Young Enterprise company in Plymouth award. "Ambiante", a company made up of Plymouth College and Plymouth High School students, manufactured calendars and design-your-own bags, making a profit in excess of £200 for their shareholders enabling a 40% rate of return on capital. In addition to the overall winner's trophy, Ambiante also won best environmental awareness, best enterprise, best ICT and best Spring Trade fair performance trophies. A second Plymouth College and PHS company, "Flashfire" which manufactured plastic jewellery, also won the best Winter Trade fair performance, taking the College's trophy haul to a record six.



## Year 8 chemists win Salters' Festival of Chemistry

Mark Andrews (8ML), Oliver Foster (8KH), Clarissa Hocking (8ML) and Niall Mahoney (8WEM) won first prize of £100 at this year's Salters' Festival of Chemistry. Held at Plymouth University, the day of chemical challenge saw the team using their practical skills to solve a murder mystery problem and to identify the metals present in a sample of 'meteorite'. This was followed by a demonstration of chemical magic by Dr Roy Lowry of Plymouth University. Well done to all the team!



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## Berlin 2008

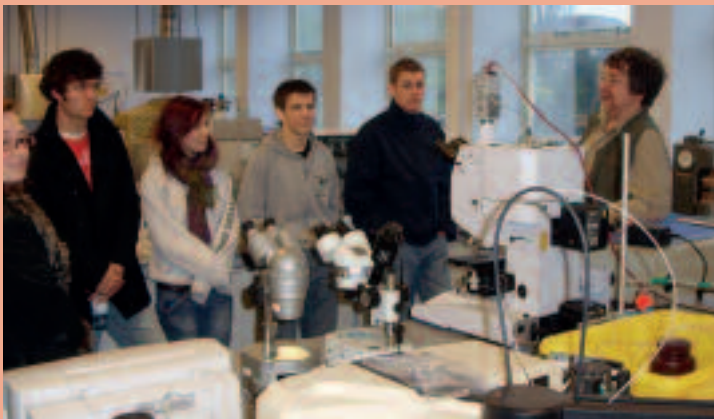
During the Easter break, Mr Robinson, Stefanie Schumann and eighteen students from Year 8 to Lower Sixth spent a week in Berlin. Staying with local families, practising German, eating traditional food and sampling the life of “ein Berliner”, mornings were spent at a language school having lessons about the city and its history.

Afternoon visits took in the sights of Berlin – the Berlin Wall and the Olympic Stadium being amongst the most popular. Other visits included the museum at Checkpoint Charlie, the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate, all of which provided many photo opportunities.

Good Friday was spent at Sanssouci, the former Summer palace of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. After a tour

around the palace the students took on an Easter egg hunt challenge, solving cryptic clues and using linguistic skills to work out the location of the hidden eggs.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, an invaluable experience not only in the speaking of German but also in sampling a different culture, meeting new people and making new friends.



## Upper Sixth analyse ancient perfume

The Upper Sixth Classical Civilisation class took a trip to Plymouth University’s analytical chemistry labs this term. As part of an outreach project to schools, the focus was on scientific techniques used by archaeologists to analyse materials including ancient perfumes and other pot residues. Many of the machines involved in this work cost thousands of pounds and it was a great opportunity for students to visualise complex processes first-hand. A bonus of the visit was a free lunch courtesy of the perfumery department!



## Boarders take to the waves with Will Young

Boarders had an extra treat when they went to Polzeath for a day’s surfing session in the Summer term. Sharing the waves with them was none other than pop star, Will Young!

Taking a break from a busy touring and recording schedule, Will, who went to university in Exeter, was happy to stop and chat and have his photo taken with them.

## US exchange visit

At the beginning of May, Plymouth College hosted four American students and one teacher from the Wilbraham and Monson Academy, Massachusetts. Brian, Jerome, Chelby and Ariel along with their teacher Mr Rakowski, spent time shadowing the Lower Sixth as well as taking in sights such as St Michael’s Mount, Dartmoor, Cotehele House and Bath. The Boarding House also arranged visits to the Eden Project and a surfing lesson in Polzeath. They also went to Lords to watch part of the England v New Zealand test, and in typical British fashion, it rained all day. A return visit to the United States is planned for next year.



The students from all the schools involved gave presentations on Fair Trade, the partnership topic for this visit.

## Comenius 2008

At the beginning of May Plymouth College hosted its Comenius partners. Students and teachers from partner schools in Lithuania, Hungary, Germany and Portugal spent four days visiting the College and the local area. The students from all the schools involved gave presentations on Fair Trade, the partnership topic for this visit.

Plymouth College has been involved in Comenius for nine years and in February pupils visited Lithuania. It is a European-funded exchange programme for teachers and students to learn how education systems work across the European Union.



## A lesson in French cuisine

French cheeses, pâtés, croissants and gherkins were just some of the things on the menu when a Year 8 class held a “food party”. Organised by teacher, Morgane Labrousse, the budding linguists had to practise the vocabulary they had been learning, which was all about food and ordering in a café. The classroom was laid out as a café and each table of students had a waiter. They had to take the order in French and then convey this to the chef (Mademoiselle Labrousse). At the end, they had to write comments in the past tense and report on what they had eaten.

“I was really impressed with them”, said Mademoiselle Labrousse. “They took it very seriously and were great waiters and customers. At the same time it was a fun way to learn”.



## OPM releases first single



Former Plymouth College pupil, James Robinson, has released his first single, ‘Sunshine Lady’, with his band Two Spot Gobi.

After Plymouth College, James (top left) attended Sussex University gaining a 2:1 in History before embarking on the rocky road to pop stardom. Most of the other band members also attended Sussex University.

Two Spot Gobi, which features James on acoustic guitar and vocals, are hoping to sell in excess of 1000 copies of the single so that their record label, IRL, will invest £30k in recording their first album. Promotion of the single has seen them interviewed by a number of radio stations and newspapers, and a gig at Bush Hall, Shepherd’s Bush, was streamed live around the world on the internet via StickAM.

For more information about Two Spot Gobi and to listen to ‘Sunshine Lady’ go to [www.myspace.com/twospotgobi](http://www.myspace.com/twospotgobi)

## Physics trip to London

Sixth formers studying physics went to London for a two-day trip in March, where they spent the first day looking at a great application of the subject – roller coasters! Thorpe Park was the venue, and students were treated to an excellent seminar on the physics of the *Stealth* rollercoaster, (which accelerates you from 0-80mph in two seconds and then throws you over a vertical 200ft hill.) After the seminar everyone tried

the rides out and had a great experience “feeling the physics”. The following day took in a visit to the Royal Society, one of the most prestigious scientific institutions in the world. This involved a tour of the magnificent library which displays manuscripts and first editions by scientists such as Hooke, Boyle and Newton as well as some artefacts by Newton and Rutherford, among others.

The gala had 110 competitors who participated in a range of swimming events.



## Medals for gymnast

Tim Champion, aged 13, had much to celebrate after winning an individual bronze medal and a South West team silver medal at the British Gymnastics Championships held in Newcastle. His individual podium finish at Intermediate 1 level came after completing seven disciplines – floor, parallel bars, high bar, pommel, vault, rings and physical preparation – gaining an overall score of 62.900. The South West team scored a cumulative 234.100.

A Year 9 pupil, Tim qualified for the national event after becoming UI6 Devon Champion at the end of March. He took up gymnastics at the age of 9 and has been doing competitive gymnastics for more than three years. He has previously been part of the Great Britain junior training squad and was selected to train with British coach, Barry Collie, in Exeter during the Easter holidays.



## Sports leaders organise swimming gala

A group of Year 10 pupils organised a swimming gala for Year 5 pupils from local primary schools earlier this term. The event was part of their leadership course for Sports Leaders Level 1 and involved Plymouth College Junior School, St Andrews Primary School, Montpelier Primary School and Hyde Park Junior School. The gala had 110 competitors who participated in a range of swimming events from float-aided races for non-swimmers to individual medleys for the experienced swimmers. The event focused on participation and enjoyment,

however individual winners received a certificate and all participants received a participation certificate. Results were:

1st	Plymouth College Junior School
2nd	Montpelier Primary School
3rd	Hyde Park Junior School
4th	St Andrew's Primary School



## Emma goes to Downing Street



Swimming scholar, Emma Wilkins, 17, found herself shaking hands with Gordon Brown after she was invited to attend a reception for the UK School Games at the House of Commons. The evening reception, hosted by former Sports Minister Richard Caborn and attended by a number of sports personalities, was preceded by a visit to Downing Street.

A Lower Sixth pupil and a member of the school's elite swimming squad, Emma has been chosen as one of 12 inaugural UK School Games Champion Ambassadors, a programme that will honour on an annual basis the outstanding performers from the UK School Games, many of whom will be tipped as competitors at future Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Games, at which Emma won a gold medal last year, replicate a major adult multi-sport competition with an opening and closing ceremony and an athletes' village.

The ambassador-honour comes on the back of Emma's first international selection, which will see her represent Great Britain at the World Youth Swimming Championships in Mexico in July. This will be followed swiftly by her first senior international selection when she will be part of the GB team in a tri-meet against Canada and France in early August. She missed selection for Beijing in this summer's Olympic relay team by just one place.



Marija has been riding for nine years and her goal is to take part in the 2012 and/or 2016 Olympics.



## National show jumping medal for Marija

Marija Juknevičiute, 17, has clinched a bronze medal in her native Lithuania in the National Indoor Show Jumping Championships. Lower Sixth pupil, Marija, was one of fifteen riders to qualify for the two-day event, which involved jumping at 1.3 metres and 1.4 metres. Competing on six-year-old stallion, Liverpoolis, her competitors were all professionals at least ten years her senior.

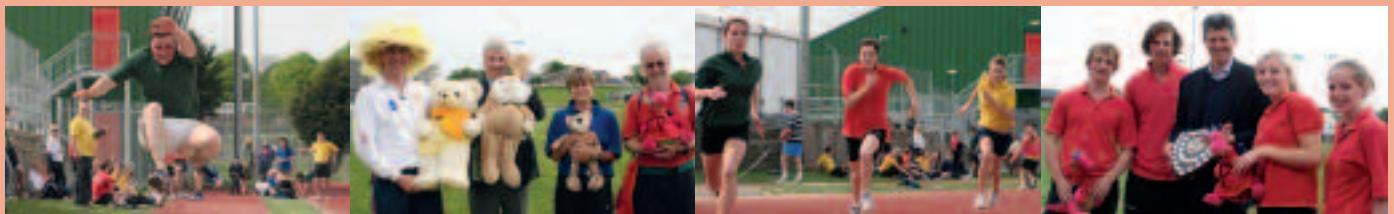
Marija has been riding for nine years and her goal is to take part in the 2012

and/or 2016 Olympics. After completing her A Levels she hopes to study for a BSC (Hons) degree in Equine Management at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

Her other passion, acting, has had to take a back seat recently although she already has three films under her belt, the most notable part being Helen Mirren's lady-in-waiting in *Elizabeth I* – she was also the riding stunt double for the leading lady in *Dungeons and Dragons II*.

Marija's next event is the Lithuanian Open Show Jumping Championships (Buddelei Cup) at the end of June, where she will be riding Liverpoolis, Samolo and Lux Perpetua.

"I was really pleased with my bronze medal, particularly because of the experienced field I was competing against", said Marija. "Hopefully I can do as well at the Open Championships in June".



## Sun comes out for Senior Sports Day

For the first time in a decade, Senior Sports Day was basked in warm sunshine. Held at Brickfields, Palmers House were the overall winners with Richard Skinnard and Alex Parford sharing the Victor Ludorum, and Abigail Philpotts the sole winner of the Victrix Ludorum. It was a fantastic atmosphere. Chaytors put on an arrival parade involving drums, the house mascots were out in force and our US visitors gamely took part in the very British egg and spoon race!

## Rain stops MCC match



Some very competitive cricket was seen when the College 1st XI played host to the prestigious MCC as part of their annual tour of Devon and Cornwall.

Batting first, the MCC found themselves under considerable pressure at 39 for 5. Sam Cload (2 for 44) and Tim Price (2 for

57) were the pick of the College bowlers. However, a magnificent rear guard action from the MCC middle order saw J Cooper and L Hodgson take the score to 205 for 5 before declaring their innings closed.

In reply, the College began steadily but increased the momentum after 10 overs reaching 89 for 2 after 20. Harry Stephenson reached 43 before being caught at mid off but younger brother George took up the mantle hitting a magnificent 79 not out in subsequent overs. The score was 149 for 5 with 18 overs remaining when heavy rain caused the game to be abandoned.

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