



## Young Enterprise team make national final

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Four Plymouth College students made an outstanding presentation at this year's regional Young Enterprise semi-final in Bristol winning their way to the London final. Jess Evans, John Hall, Jon Coyte and Ben Gorvin, are part of the 'Affinity' Young Enterprise team made up of pupils from Plymouth College and Plymouth High School for Girls. The winning enterprise is a book "Prables" containing pram-friendly walks for families with young children. It has been a sell out in Waterstones, attracted interest from a venture capitalist, created offers from publishers and even congratulations from Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The team also won "Best Use of Technology Award" and Jonathan Shields was awarded "Young Enterprise South West Teacher of the Year". Plymouth College has been involved in a number of Young Enterprise successes in recent years – four teams have made it to county finals, two teams to regionals but 'Affinity' have scored a first in winning a place at a national final. John Bennett, Chief Executive of Young Enterprise South West, says: "Competition was fierce this year which shows just how good the team is. 'Affinity' have the calibre of a national team and they will be serious contenders in the finals".



## Navy cadets are rowing champions

Ten teams of six competed for the Geoff Fabian Memorial Cup in the second Combined Cadet Force rowing race.

Held at Jupiter Point, the CCF rowers battled against each other and the clock to lift the prestigious cup that was introduced after the death of Acting Contingent Commander, Commander Geoff Fabian (RN retired), in 2007.

Contingent Commander, Major Sarah Johnson, said: "Rowing was one of Geoff's passions and he



loved taking the cadets out on the water. Introducing this race seemed a very fitting way for all of us to remember him each year."

With cadets from navy, army and airforce sections taking part, the winners this year were a team of Year 11 naval cadets.





**Taking seven days and averaging 123 miles a day, Andy took on the challenge at Easter.**

## Teacher cycles from Lands End to John O’Groats for St Luke’s

Maths teacher, Dr Andy Norris, cycled the 859-mile journey from Lands End to John O’Groats to raise £1000 for St Luke’s Hospice. Taking seven days and averaging 123 miles a day, Andy took on the challenge at Easter. Starting at dawn each day and cycling for over 10 hours on some occasions, Andy stayed at B&Bs and with friends and family as he made his way up the country. On day five his team mate, Martin, had to pull out because of severe knee pains, which he’d already endured for a day and a half. It was the right decision as the Highlands brought big hills, head winds and rain. A puncture and seized bike pump nearly left Andy stranded but after knocking on several doors, the loan of a 50-year-old bike pump did the job. Andy made it to John O’Groats at midday on Friday 10th April. Just over two weeks later he completed the London Marathon in under three hours!



## New faculty will broaden music and drama offer

Music and performing arts opportunities at Plymouth College are set to be greatly enhanced with the introduction of The Faculty of Music and Performing Arts in September. As well as offering new and exciting performance platforms under the music and drama umbrellas, the structure will allow the school to develop an enriched curriculum that is more in tune with pupil interests. It will open up possibilities for cross-department partnerships such as with Design Technology (stage design), Textiles (costume design), Art (photography, video recording, set design) and PE (dance, movement). The faculty will be headed by David Green, a former Royal Marine musician who comes to Plymouth College from Bourne Grammar School, Lincolnshire, where he was Director of Music and responsible for the production of a number of well-known musicals. Part of his remit will be to utilize the excellent



theatre and arts provision in Plymouth by building relationships with organizations like the Theatre Royal, Pavilions and the University. “We are very keen to broaden pupil participation in music and drama, whether it’s through GCSE, A Level and IB courses, or as part of an after-school initiative”, said Headmaster, Dr Simon Wormleighton. “Setting up the new faculty will allow us to redefine our current offer and involve larger numbers of the school community in a very relevant and contemporary way”.

## Lord Mayor reception for French visitors

A reception with the Lord Mayor of Plymouth was just one of the activities arranged as part of a two-week visit by pupils and staff from Lycée Amiral Ronarc’h - Plymouth College has had an exchange partnership with the Brest school since 2006. Other activities undertaken during the stay included trips to London, St Michael’s Mount and the Eden Project, as well as an evening of bowling and a cruise around Plymouth Sound. The visit was rounded off with a traditional cream tea in the OPM Suite. Plymouth College pupils and staff visited Brest in March, when they went to Mont Saint Michel, château de Brest, Océanopolis and Locronan, the village where the recent adaptation of ‘Tess of the d’Urbervilles’ was filmed.



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## Good year for Plymouth College in Ten Tors

This proved to be one of the best years for Plymouth College in the annual Ten Tors event. The training started back in November 2008 with day walks, so that the basics of navigation could be taught and progressed through to a two-day full practice walk two weeks before the real event. Along the way lots of cold windy conditions were encountered, but the hardest was the snowy weekend in February. The 35-mile team were very lucky as they found that their real route was similar to their last practice hike and they walked with confidence to their 7th tor before camping. They arrived at the finish just before 12.20 p.m. on the Sunday, this being one of the best times recorded for this distance by the College. The team was led by Ed Hirst.



The 45-mile team had a long circuit of the southern moor that included the tussock grass area of Pupers Hill, but even so they pushed on well and arrived at their 7th tor before deciding to camp. Annie Wigginton, as team leader, brought the team home for a 2.30 p.m. finish on the Sunday. Another excellent time for this route. Plymouth College also had a team of six who trained and walked with young people with special needs in the Jubilee Challenge.

## Author judges writing competition

Fifteen talented young writers made it to the final of this year's Creative Writing Competition.

Acclaimed author, Jasper Fforde, judged the competition, giving each finalist excellent feedback.

The winners were Sahila Kellett (Year 7), Emil Agobiani (Year 8), Saskia Wormleighton (Year 9), Ed Hirst (Year 10), Zoe Malone (Year 11), Seb Watts (Lower Sixth) and Hollie Goodall (Upper Sixth). The overall winner this year was Emil Agobiani.

## Drama and Ballet success for Bethany

Bethany Gare, 13, has passed her LAMDA Grade 5 Drama exam with distinction. She has also passed her Royal Academy of Dance Intermediate Foundation Ballet exam, the first of her Majors in Ballet.

Bethany has studied drama since she was seven years old and takes lessons with Mrs Blake. For her exam she had to present a piece with the theme of

'contact' and improvise as an animal. She has taken Ballet lessons with Italia Conti since the age of five.



## Auschwitz and back in a day

Leaving Exeter airport at 5 a.m., pupils Zoe Noakes and Hannah Pryke, and teacher Lesley Clark, were just three of 226 sixth formers and teachers from across the South West to be invited to go on a visit to Auschwitz by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

No amount of preparation could address the reality of the emotions experienced on arrival. The stillness of the camp, the railway tracks, fences and sentry posts assaulted the senses but it was the displays of piles of human hair, of babies' clothes and of artificial limbs which were the most heart-rending sight. The gas chamber, which countless people had innocently entered to take a

"shower", was truly awful.

The Birkenau site was the second destination and the sheer scale of it was awesome: row upon row of huts where people were cooped up and where lice and the typhus were rife. Sanitation was woefully inadequate and prisoners were huddled on bare wooden bunks at night with only rats for company. The tour of this site was interspersed with readings of survivors' accounts of their experiences. It ended with a very moving service at the memorial near the gas chambers. As the sun went down, the air chilled and the words of a Hebrew prayer rang out.

It was a truly memorable experience.



**MyoSung took a break from performing at the Theatre Royal to host a dance workshop.**

## Workshop ‘breaks convention’

Korean hip-hop group, MyoSung, took a break from performing at the Theatre Royal to host a dance workshop at Plymouth College.

Part of the ‘Breakin’ Convention’ production, the troupe, renowned for their gravity-bending, awe-inspiring physical movements, put pupils through their paces introducing them to ‘heel toe’, ‘crip walk’, ‘moonwalk’, ‘glide’ and ‘popping’.

The following day the workshop group went to see the professionals in action watching the Korean urban dancers perform along side a mix of international and local hop-hop artists.

## Business and Economics teacher has book published

Business and economics teacher, Jonathan Shields, has seen his name in print for the first time with the publishing of a leading GCSE text book.



Already a principal examiner for Edexcel’s Business and Economics GCSE, Jonathan was tasked with writing the standard core text for the course. Fifty thousand copies of the text book have been printed with 11 launch events around the country.

Also head of sixth form, Jonathan is more than qualified to write about the subject. Plymouth College has produced the top student in the country in this subject at GCSE, AS, A Level and Diploma in Financial Services many times in recent years.

In national competitions, Plymouth College has reached the final of the UK Student Investor five years in a row, winning in 2004, and has won the Share Forecast Challenge, Young Business Writer of the Year and the CIMA Management Competition (three times!). Young Enterprise also features strongly with Plymouth College teams winning the Plymouth competition four years in a row, the Devon competition twice, and the South West event for the first time this year.

## University hosts maths masterclasses

Are boys or girls better at maths? How can colouring a map help with decision-making? Is sculpture influenced by mathematics? Three Year 9 pupils from Plymouth College have been working out the answers.



Clarissa Hocking, Matthew Andrews and Niall Mahoney took up the challenge to join other able maths pupils at the University of Plymouth’s Year 9 Masterclasses. Giving up their Saturday morning lie-ins and regular weekend activities, they spent five Saturday mornings extending their maths. They were introduced to ‘Hypothesis Testing’ and ‘Problems from the Past’. In addition, Sculptor Simon Thomas showed samples of his work and directed the pupils in some practical activities.

Clarissa particularly enjoyed the second masterclass on the history of maths, while Niall liked making the 3-D models, which involved choosing and combining polygons to form the surfaces. Matthew summed up that the masterclasses were interesting and introduced him to a new side of maths.

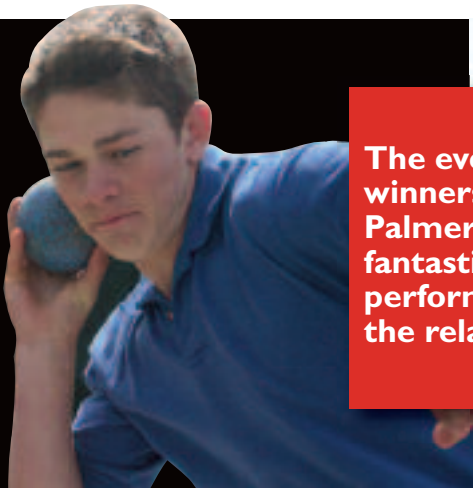
## Budding thespians successfully audition for National Youth Theatre

Upper Sixth pupil, Hollie Goodall, and Year 9 pupils Sebastian Slade and Luke Dickinson, have all secured places with National Youth Theatre.

Sebastian and Luke (pictured doing the ‘Sand Dance’ in a recent school production) were up against some of the best young actors and actresses in the country before being offered junior member places. The boys will initially take part in a training workshop at Easter in London next year after which they will get the chance to get involved with various National Youth Theatre projects and productions. With more than 4,000 young people auditioning, Hollie was accepted as a senior member and will attend a new members’ workshop in August. She will then get the chance to work with some of the countries’ top writers and directors in the coming years until she turns 21. Hollie recently passed her LAMDA Acting gold medal with distinction – it was the final exam in a series of three that completes her LAMDA Advanced Performance Award. With a busy summer ahead, Hollie has also gained a place on the LAMDA



Acting Shakespeare course in London in July, which is aimed at drama undergraduates as well as qualified actors.



The eventual winners were Palmers with a fantastic final performance in the relays.



# Sun shines for senior sports day



## England call-up for fencer

Plymouth College pupil, Georgina Barrington, 16, has been selected to represent England at the UK School Games in September. The Modern Pentathlon scholar is just one of four to be chosen for the U18 fencing team.

The Games, which this year will be held in South Wales, replicate a major adult multi-sport competition with an opening and closing ceremony and an athletes' village. Plymouth College Director of Modern Pentathlon, Andy Hill, said: "It is fantastic that Georgina has made the England team and because she is only 16, she has made it two years early! She has put many hours into her training and really deserves this."

It was a great atmosphere down at Brickfields for this year's senior sports day. The weather was good and luckily for the competitors and staff, it did not rain as in previous years.

The competition was tight between the houses with the lead held by Chaytors for most of the afternoon. However, with a late drop in form, Palmers, Dales and Sargents all managed to overtake Chaytors in the latter stages.

The eventual winners were Palmers with a fantastic final performance in the relays. There were many fine performances with the Victrix Ludorum going to Georgie Barrington of



Palmers for shot putt, and the Victor Ludorum awarded to George Stephenson of Chaytors also for shot putt.

The final positions were:  
1st = Palmers; 2nd = Sargents;  
3rd = Dales; 4th = Chaytors.

## Six swimmers selected for World School Games



Six elite swimmers from Plymouth College have been selected for the ISF World Schools' Games in Qatar in December.

Jonathan Hill, Sam Straughan, Grant Halsall, James Young, David Gregory and Achieng Ajulu-Bushell will be part of a team of just 24 swimmers from around

the country representing English schools.

The competition, which takes place every three years, is the biggest international sporting event for schools. The swimmers' house mistress and coach, Lindsay Dunn, will travel with them as an English Schools' swimming coach.



**A sporting declaration of 191-4 off 52 overs gave Plymouth College a chance.**

## Rain stops play between MCC and Plymouth College for second year running

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

MCC won the toss and batted on a damp slow pitch. James Burke and captain, Sam Cload, opened the bowling with maidens. With good controlled-pace bowling, backed up by disciplined fielding, the MCC batsmen found it difficult to score runs freely and would have undoubtedly lost wickets if half chances had been taken. Ollie Mulberry made the breakthrough having Hughes caught by Price before Jake Libby bowled Hefferman.

Burke and Cload, the pick of the bowlers, returned just before and after lunch. Alex Hill bowled at the end of MCC's innings, when Parker 56no and former Somerset player (now Cornwall player) Keith Parsons 34no were pushing the score on. A sporting declaration of 191-4 off 52 overs gave Plymouth College a chance. In reply, James Burke and Jake Libby started off in positive fashion but the weather stopped them in their tracks when heavy rain arrived as forecast. With Plymouth Sound and Mount Edgcumbe no longer visible from the OPM suite balcony, the match was abandoned for the second year running after an early tea was taken.

## Swimmers selected for World Championships

Swimmers, Achieng Ajulu-Bushell, 14, and Christian Homer, 17, have been selected for the World Championships in Rome this summer. Achieng will represent Kenya in the 50M breaststroke and Christian will represent Trinidad in the 50M backstroke.

Named Kenya's most promising female athlete, Achieng has won gold medals at the South African Championships and the African Senior Swimming Championships. Christian has already represented Trinidad at the CARIFTA (Caribbean Championships). Plymouth College director of swimming, Jon Rudd, will be joining the swimmers at the championships as head coach for Kenya.



## Successful rounders season

Plymouth College girls have enjoyed a very successful rounders season this year, securing 11 wins out of 17 fixtures. The U12 and U13 sides fulfilled the most matches and were comfortable winners over Ivybridge, Kelly College and Stover, with the U13s also beating Exeter School. The U14s and U15s suffered from cancellations due to rain but still afforded good wins over Exeter, with the U14s also beating Stover and the U15s achieving a convincing victory over Kelly College. The senior team fielded two competitive but sociable sides against Kelly College, and after spirited performances in the rain, they lost by just two rounders.



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