



Two Commonwealth golds for Tom

Plymouth College pupil and world-champion diver, Tom Daley, put his recent injuries well and truly behind him when he scooped double gold in the Commonwealth Games. Hot on the heels of claiming the 10m synchro title with diving partner, Max Brick, Tom beat Australian Olympic Champion, Matthew Mitcham, in a close-fought final of the individual 10m platform event.

In second place after the first two rounds, his third dive of perfect 10s put him just ahead of Mitcham. Having saved his most difficult dive for the last round, the Australian was unable to hold his nerve and Tom won through with a margin of 29.20 points to become Commonwealth champion.

Back at school, the champion diver's classmates were eager to catch up with him and see his gold medals for themselves. He was greeted by a 'Well Done Tom' banner, made by pupils in Art Club.



Students celebrate public examination results

There was much to celebrate when the A level results were published with more than a quarter of students achieving at least one of the new elite A* grades at A Level – two students, Ed Knight and Tom Li, secured three A* grades each.

Other high achievers included James Goldney and Jon Hall, who both walked away with 1 A* and 3 As, Guy Walker with 4 As and Susannah Kellagher with 2 A*s and 1 A. Head Boy, Alex Smith, gained 2 As and 1 A* while Head Girl, Grace Singh, was awarded 3 As. The overall pass rate remains strong at 98% with an impressive A* to B grade pass rate of 61%.

GCSE results saw one in four pupils gain at least seven top GCSE grades. Six pupils – Sophie Brown, Michael Daniel, Steve Hajiyianni, Ed Hirst, Sarah Norris and Megan Woodrow – clinched at least ten top grades. The Plymouth College A* to C pass rate this year continues to be well above the national average at 90% with an A*/A pass rate of 39%.



Baroness Dean visits Plymouth College

Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde visited Plymouth College just before half term to give a talk to the Sixth Form. Part of the 'Peers in Schools' programme, Baroness Dean talked to the students about life in the House of Lords, its structure and the work that she does.

Combined Cadet Force are inspected

The Plymouth College Combined Cadet Force had its biennial inspection in October. One of the most important events in the CCF calendar, passing the inspection is a requirement of the MoD. The inspection was carried out by Captain Stephen J Murdoch MBA Royal Navy, Captain HMS Raleigh. After the formal inspection on the parade ground, Captain Murdoch observed various training activities such as rifle firing on the range and a communications command task in the school grounds.

This was the first inspection involving pupils from Stoke Damerel Community College, who joined Plymouth College CCF last year. The initiative has proved a huge success and has seen pupils from both schools sharing ideas and skills. As well as the inspection, the cadets have taken part in a number of events together, including the Remembrance Sunday parade, outdoor field events and Ten Tors.



Expert brings the world of wildlife alive for Plymouth College pupils

Adventurer and TV presenter, Steve Backshall, gave Plymouth College pupils a fascinating insight into the weird and wonderful world of wildlife in his talk to Years 7 to 10.

Famed for CBBC programmes Live and Deadly, Deadly 60 and The Really Wild Show, Steve has just returned from an expedition to Bhutan where he was filming for the BBC's Lost Land of the Tiger, a series that also includes Lost Land of the Jaguar and Lost Land of the Volcano.

During his presentation he showed clips from some of his challenging expeditions to places such as Alaska and Borneo and talked about getting 'up close and personal' with whales, crocodiles and snakes. He also dispelled a few myths about which animals are the biggest threat to humans and why many have become endangered species.





Mouth-watering cakes raise money for Children in Need

Pupils, parents and staff did themselves proud with an amazing array of homemade cakes at the Children in Need cake sale. From whole chocolate cakes to fairy buns, from flapjack to cookies, the 'bunfight' ensued in the dining room and sixth form centre. By the end of break not a crumb remained and more than £200 was made from the sale.

Business teacher is National Teaching Award finalist

Economics and Business Studies teacher, Jonathan Shields, travelled to London at the end of October for the National Teaching Awards. He was invited to the national finals after winning the South West Secondary School Teacher Award in June, which was presented by Carol Vorderman. Jonathan was nominated for the teaching award by a group of his students who said: "What's great about Mr Shields is that his door is always open and his support doesn't just stop at the end of the school day. He works many extra hours helping with projects and taking us to events all over the country. His passion for the subject really motivates everyone in the class and we all have the greatest respect for him."



Creative Arts Week

The school's second ever Creative Arts Week proved to be just as exciting as it was first time round. Involving the whole school with two days packed full of activities, workshops ranged from rock 'n' roll dancing to mask-making, circus skills to film-making, shell carving to body junk...and many, many more. Year 7s spent a day at Whiteworks doing watercolours and photography, while Year 8 took their creativity to Portwrinkle beach in Cornwall.

Year Book 2010 arrives!

The waiting was over at last with the arrival of the 2010 Year Book just after half term. Adding to the excitement of the book's arrival was the unveiling of its new look. Year Book editor and deputy head, Sarah Dunn, said: "We did our first book in 2000 and for the last ten years have used the same design. We decided to start the new decade with a new look and I think designer, Mike Holden of MyKreative, has really done us proud.

"It's a lot of hard work putting the book together because there are so many amazing achievements, interesting activities and fun events to include. But I always know it is worth it when I see the delight on our pupils' faces when the book arrives and this year was no exception."





Lots of fun on Open Morning

A Euro café, interactive science displays, musical interludes, drama performances and sport demonstrations were just some of the activities on offer at Open Morning in October. Nearly 70 families came to look around the school, meeting staff and pupils and getting the chance to join in with some of the activities.

Encore du succès! Wieder viel Erfolg!

A team of linguists from Plymouth College have won the South West Linguafest for the second year running. Paul Vallis, Jeremy Eason, Hannah Napier, James Douie, Jay Warner and Kevin Vandabona won the junior section with their melodrama, 'Histoire d'amour'.

Now in its fourth year, the aim of the South West Canford Group event is to give some of the keenest young linguists in South West independent schools the opportunity to demonstrate and to compare their skills in a multi-lingual dimension. Plymouth College was this year's host and welcomed Year 9 to Upper Sixth competitors from Truro School, Exeter School and Blundell's.

Beginners, intermediates and advanced level students delivered sketches, songs, poems and dramatic presentations on topics ranging from a French whodunit and a romantic melodrama, to a Spanish soap opera, poems accompanied by a flamenco guitar and a German sketch about love without pocket money! Seniors performed presentations on Turkish "guest-workers", the European Union and Schubert's "Lieder".



Band 'rocks' Plymouth College students

Rock Band, Two Spot Gobi, held a series of concerts and workshops at Plymouth College in October.

The band, whose lead singer is former Plymouth College pupil, James Robinson, have already released one successful album and recorded their second album at the Californian home of Grammy-winning, multi-platinum selling artist, Jason Mraz. As part of their 'Music Set Free' initiative for schools, the band performed their set at assembly and at a lunchtime concert. They also held workshops during the day and for the after school club, Rock School. "We had an awesome response from the pupils", said lead singer, James Robinson. "We discovered some fantastic voices during the workshops and got some great harmonies going. The school bands were our 'support' acts for the lunchtime concert and we worked on some of the sixth formers' compositions in the afternoon.

"Our aim with this initiative is to inspire creativity by bringing the live music experience to as many school kids as possible", James continued. "Two Spot Gobi is an eclectic mix of jazz, pop, classical and rock music and we wanted to show them how they can express themselves through music whatever the genre."





Street Dancers bring home Welsh Championship prizes

Prep pupils, Sam Harvey and Ceri Evans, returned from the Welsh Street Dancing Championships with a trophy each. Held in Newport, the two children had to dance their way through a number of rounds before competing in the final. Sam, aged 7, took the championship title in the U8 intermediate solo category. A member of Rhythm City, Sam is now working towards the British Street Dance Championships in February. Ceri, aged 10, came second out of 40 competitors in the U12 intermediate duo class. She dances with B3 Dance Studios.

Enhancing learning through popcorn!

Year 2 and Kindergarten were able to share in each other's lessons just before half term in a fun session involving popcorn! As part of their science lesson, the children in Year 2 were learning about the story of corn: from seed, to soil, to harvest, to market. A highlight of the lesson was making and eating popcorn. The children were able to share their learning with the younger pupils in the Kindergarten, who were busy building a 'cinema' so, of course, popcorn was very welcome! The older pupils also read Kindergarten a short story about corn.



Food donations are bountiful at Prep Harvest Festival

Loaves of bread, tins of soup and baskets of fruit were just some of the many food items the children at Plymouth College Preparatory School brought in to the Harvest Festival service.

Held in the school chapel, the service started with a rousing rendition of 'All things bright and beautiful' followed by a Harvest Song sung by the infants. Two Year 6 groups performed short sketches, creating new words out of the word Harvest to convey the Harvest Festival message and the choir sang a special Harvest samba.

The children remembered those less fortunate than themselves in their prayers at the end of the service. All the food was donated to the homeless charity, Shekinah Mission.



Year 4 enjoy Cotehele in the sunshine

Year 4 visited Cotehele House as part of their studies on Tudor England. It was a beautiful, sunny day and the house and gardens looked very inviting in the sunshine.

On arrival, the children were greeted by the two guides and after a brief introduction were all given the opportunity to dress in Tudor style costumes. Some were lavishly dressed as nobles and some as the servants. The children toured the house as 'Tudors', much to the delight of fellow visitors, and were given a fascinating insight into how life would have been at Cotehele, 500 years ago.

After lunch, which was enjoyed out in the sunshine, the pupils walked down through the Tudor gardens, past the stew pond and dovecot, to the river, where they enjoyed the legend of Richard Edgcumbe's escape from Richard III, before the Battle of Bosworth Field.



Prep children present wreaths in Remembrance Service

The Plymouth College Preparatory School Remembrance Service was held on 11th November in the school chapel. The children, aged 4 to 11 years old, sang a song for peace and the readings covered most of the conflicts of the last century. The two minutes silence ended with the presentation of the wreaths at the foot of the Memorial Board to all the nurses and doctors from the Plymouth Royal Naval Hospital who gave their lives during the First World War (the school is based on the site of the former Royal Naval Hospital). This year the Last Post was played by a Year 6 pupil, Thomas Douie, who rose to the occasion magnificently. It is normally played by a Senior School pupil. Headmaster Chris Gatherer said: "The service was a most moving occasion and the children marked the occasion very respectfully".



OPM News

Former First XV Captain, Jamie O'Gallagher, has been signed by Plymouth Albion after impressing chairman of rugby, Graham Dawe, while on work experience last season. A 2010 leaver, Jamie now finds himself training and lining up alongside international players at the Championship club.

His 12-month contract means that his University studies are on hold for now. "It is going really well for me", said Jamie. "But I have come from school and I am still trying to learn as much as I can because joining Albion is a huge step up. I have not really set myself any targets and will just see what comes my way." Plymouth College is sponsoring Jamie at Albion and part of the 'deal' is that he coaches pupils at the Prep School.

The Foundation Office

Katrina Gibson, Plymouth College Foundation Officer, introduces the Plymouth College Foundation Office...

The Plymouth College Foundation is a new and exciting initiative which aims to connect the Plymouth College community in a more dynamic way with a particular focus on supporting the aspirations of current students. We believe that the wider school community of OPMs, St Dunstan's Abbey alumni, friends and parents have much to offer in experience and expertise. The Foundation will also raise funds to support capital projects to enhance the College's facilities and to provide scholarships and bursaries to help fund places for boys and girls in financial need through initiatives such as those outlined below. We hope that you will support us by registering your career details and areas of expertise with the Foundation Office to enable us to create a resource bank for our students and recent graduates. We are also keen to receive news stories about former pupils for our website and newsletter. We will be having an official launch in the very near future. If you would like to be a part of this exciting new venture then please get in touch by contacting me on 01752 203300 or email kgibson@plymouthcollege.com. More information about the Foundation Office and its work can be found at www.plymouthcollege.com/foundation.



Travel2Give

Go on holiday and donate to the Bursary and Scholarship Fund

The Plymouth College Foundation has launched a new partnership with the fundraising travel network, Travel2Give South West. Travel2Give is a unique fundraising programme that provides quality holidays at fantastic prices. In return, the organisation gives time and part of its profits to local and national charities. The Plymouth College Bursary and Scholarship Fund is one of those charities and Travel2Give will donate approximately 4% of the value of each holiday booked. From city breaks to the snow, cruises to flights, virtually every type of holiday is offered through the programme, which is enhanced by the sponsorship of over 20 tour operators and cruise lines. Booking is easy, just call 0843 216 4017 with your travel enquiry and remember to quote 'Plymouth College'. You will then be given a quote, full itinerary and the value of the donation your booking could generate. Travel2Give will give the money to the Plymouth College Bursary and Scholarship Fund on your behalf once the booking is made. All holidays are ATOL and ABTA protected.

amazon.co.uk

Donating through Amazon

With Christmas just around the corner, now is the perfect time to help the Plymouth College Foundation raise money through online retailer, Amazon. Each time a purchase is made on Amazon via links on either the College intranet or website, 15% of the money spent goes into the Plymouth College Bursary and Scholarship Fund. This does not affect any other discounts and the price is exactly the same as if the purchase has been made directly with Amazon.

Since launching the partnership with Amazon.co.uk in November 2010, more than £80 has been raised for the Fund. Items purchased include cooking utensils, revision guides and MP3s. To make sure your Amazon purchase counts, please visit the site via www.plymouthcollege.net or www.plymouthcollege.com/our-school. The link to Amazon is half way down on the left.



Silver medal for Poppy

Year 8 pupil, Poppy Tank, won a silver medal at the South West Track and Field Championships. Representing Devon, she came second in the 800m. Poppy is a member of the City of Plymouth Athletics Club and regularly takes part in regional and national events. In 2009 she was the National Prep School U12 1500m champion.



Christian wins Olympic gold for Trinidad and Tobago

Elite swimmer, Christian Homer, won a gold medal in the inaugural World Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. Swimming for Trinidad and Tobago, it was his country's first gold medal at an Olympic event since Montreal in 1976. Christian qualified for the final of the 50m backstroke as the top-seed, setting a new national record of 26.31 seconds in the semi-finals. He then went on to clock 26.36 seconds in the final of the one-length event at the Singapore Sport School Olympic-sized pool.

Already a multiple Carifta, Caribbean Island Swimming Championship (CISC) and Central American and Caribbean Age-Group Swimming Championships (CCCAN) champion, Christian had to defy large home crowd support for Singaporean, Kal Wee Ng Rainer, to touch the time pad first. Ng Rainer posted a 26.45 silver medal effort, while there was a tie for third place with Kuwait's Abdulah Altuwaini and Australia's Max Ackermann both clocking 26.46.

Rosette for Lily in national equestrian competition

Lily Spry, 13, has clinched the individual runners up rosette in the National Schools One Day Event held at Stonar School in Wiltshire. With a dressage score of 33, the Modern Pentathlon scholar missed out on the top spot by just 1.5 penalties. Competing against 23 teams from all over the country, Lily was one of four Plymouth College pupils taking part. Three double clear rounds earned the school team 5th place overall. Photograph: L to R Lily Spry (Woodfalls Thatcher), Emily Dinnis (Camway Sunshine), Morwenna Moore (Cherrimill Beaugeste), Alex Moore (Master of Moy).



Biathlon star is National Triathlon Champion

Already a double British champion in biathlon, Myles Pillage, 12, has taken the Youth D boys title in the National Triathlon Championships. The championships, held in Wolverhampton, featured top young athletes from schools and clubs around the country. Securing personal bests in the swim and the shoot, Myles finished the swim-shoot-run competition on 3392 points. Along with twin brother Alex (9th individually) and James Murphy (7th individually), he was also part of the winning team, beating Whitgift and West Midlands into second and third place respectively. Plymouth College had an impressive team of 20 athletes at the national event. Emily Ackford took silver in Youth D girls with Harriet Mitchell close behind claiming bronze. Together with Hattie Slade they came second in the team event. The Plymouth College Youth C girls' team came 5th.



Hockey player aims for England place

West of England hockey player, Julia Hayes, 17, is hoping she has done enough to secure a place on the U18 England hockey team after being observed by England selectors at a number of regional matches this season. If successful, the talented player could be wearing national colours in the next couple of months.

Fencer makes Great Britain épée team

Plymouth College fencer, Megan Woodrow, 16, was selected for the Great Britain U17 épée team for a 20-nations competition in Heidenheim in Germany in November. The Modern Pentathlon scholar has been a boarder at Plymouth College for four years and has just started studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma in the Sixth Form. She is the South West U16 Fencing Champion and is currently 8th in the U17 UK rankings.



Modern Pentathlon star takes runners up spot in British Championships

Modern Pentathlon scholar, Harriet Mitchell (Year 8), has come second in the British Pentathlon Championships. Competing in the Youth D Girls category, Harriet secured PBs in shooting, fencing and swimming and scored a clear round in riding. She was just outside her PB in the 1 km run.

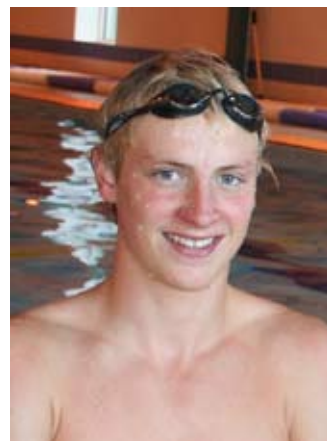
The event in Solihul saw the best club and school athletes in the country take part, including 19 girls in Harriet's age group. Earlier this summer Harriet became the South East Pentathlon champion and last year she took silver in the South West Triathlon Championships.

Gold for Joe

Swimming prospect, Joe Patching, has won a gold medal in the UK School Games. Representing England South, Joe took the boys' 400m individual medley title at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre.

Joe faced some of the best up and coming swimmers from around Great Britain and recorded 4:36.66 on his way to victory, almost five seconds ahead of his nearest opponent.

The UK School Games replicate a major adult multi-sport competition with an opening and closing ceremony and an athletes' village. Other sports include athletics, badminton, gymnastics, hockey, judo, swimming, table tennis, track cycling and volleyball.



First XV unbeaten!

As we go to print the First XV remain unbeaten, having accounted for QEH, King's Taunton, Truro School, Exeter School, Cornwall U18s, Exeter College (a regional academy side), Kelly College, Kirkham Grammar and Bryanston. The team will face Kelly again on 1st December in the final of the Devon Cup. On the national schools rugby website, Plymouth College is one of only a handful of schools to have not been defeated.

Henry Slade is in the England elite squad, Charles Attis is in the final trial for the South West region and Jon Dawe has represented Cornwall this season. Captain, Josh Tolan, is currently under scrutiny from the Irish Exiles.

The Second XV have also secured some good victories against strong opposition such as QEH, Truro School, King's Taunton, Exeter School and Kelly College. At age group level, the U13s have been largely competitive and count victories over Ivybridge and Shebbear amongst their highlights. The Year 7s have some talented players among their numbers and recorded a number of victories in a local competition, as well as defeating Shebbear in a recent fixture.