



Swimming team Commended in national awards

Plymouth College's swimming team has been Commended in the Team of the Year category at the Aviva and Daily Telegraph School Sport Matters Awards, held at Twickenham Stadium. The swimmers were nominated after another highly successful year in the pool.

Luminaries from British sport were there in force to present the awards, hosted by former Olympic medal winners Sally Gunnell and Iwan Thomas. The Team of the Year category was presented by former Arsenal and England footballer turned pundit, Lee Dixon, and Keith Perry, TMG Group Managing Editor (Sport).

In other swimming news, the girls' team won Female Team of the Year in the School Sport Magazine Awards. Laura Vertigans secured a silver medal for England in the Commonwealth Youth Games while Ruta Meiluteyte and Joe Patching represented Lithuania and Great Britain respectively at the FINA World Cup in Berlin. Katerina Blanco, who has recently been declared Chilean, became National Champion in her first Open Water competition and Director of Swimming, Jon



Rudd, was the England Team Coach in the Commonwealth Youth Games.

Photograph: Lee Dixon, Joe Patching, Jon Rudd, Laura Vertigans, Keith Perry.

More than £1,000 raised for Children in Need



A cake sale, leg waxing, staff V pupils swimming gala and mufti day raised £1,187.83 for this year's Children in Need. The dining room was the hub of the fund-raising activity where a vast array of mouth-watering cakes were on offer, many home-made by pupils, parents and staff. Meanwhile, a group of brave Year 11 boys broke the pain barrier by having their legs waxed. The staff were almost as brave when they took on some of the school's top swimmers in the pool. As ever, the chance to leave school uniform at home for the day proved hugely popular.



World silver medal for Deputy Head

Plymouth College Deputy Head, Sarah Dunn, has won a team silver medal for Great Britain in the World Coastal Rowing Championships. The British crew, for which Sarah is the cox and includes Olympic rowing medallist Miriam Batten, travelled to Bari in Italy for the event which they won in Plymouth last year. Battling 5ft swells, Sarah guided the team around nine marks on the 8 km course. A tactical race that follows the same rules as sailing, they were just beaten into second place by the French.

Plymouth College shortlisted in local awards

As the awards season gets underway, Plymouth College pupils, former pupils and staff lead the way. At the Herald Youth Awards, Michael Daniel and Ed Hirst (pictured) were runners up in the Social Entrepreneur of the Year category while Young Enterprise company, Ecovation, took the same spot in the Business category. In the sports section multi-eventer, Tia Simms Lymn, was shortlisted along with former pupil and elite swimmer, Grant Halsall.



As we go to print, the Herald Sports Awards are due to take place in early December. Swimmer, Ruta Meilutyte, features in the Young Sports Personality category as do former pupils Grant Halsall (elite swimmer) and Henry Slade (U20 England rugby player). Henry (pictured) is also shortlisted for the Champagne Moment for scoring a try for Plymouth Albion against Cornish Pirates in his Championship debut. Director of Swimming, Jon Rudd, and Director of Modern Pentathlon and Fencing, Andy Hill, are both shortlisted in the Coach of the Year category.



Ben is world street dancing champion

Following on from his success in the British Street Dancing Championships earlier this year, Plymouth College pupil, Ben Harvey, can now add 'World Champion' to his string of accolades. Part of dance crew, Atomic, the Year 8 pupil competed against teams from all over Europe, Asia, Africa and the USA in the competition in Blackpool. The Plymouth dancers put in a superb performance and beat 16 nations to lift the U18 Newcomer Team Street Dance World Champions 2011 trophy. Earlier in the competition Ben and his dance instructor fought off stiff competition from 17 pairs to take 3rd place in the world in the Adult and Child category.

Year 9 pupils are kings of the jungle in enterprise challenge

Year 9 pupils, Billy Goord, Heloise Wormleighton, Freddie Thompson, Ewan Gare, Harry Luxton and Oscar Marsland have returned triumphant from the Dartmoor Zoo Enterprise Challenge. Competing against six other teams ranging from Year 8s to Year 11s, the pupils became Zoo Development experts for the day and had to devise an innovative and money-making plan to bring animals to the Zoo. The Plymouth College team chose penguins because there aren't any at the Zoo. Not only did their plan come in under budget but they also came up with numerous ideas for making money including an adopt a penguin scheme, cuddly toys and a breeding programme, which fits in with the Zoo's sustainability ethos. Other teams that took part on the day were two other teams from Plymouth College, two teams from Churston Ferrers Grammar School and two teams from Park Community School.





Floating bunkhouse is base for CCF camp

A recent field trip saw Plymouth College CCF afloat at Dartmouth next to the Royal Naval College. Retired mine hunter, HMS Hindostan, provided bunk accommodation and a base for the visit.

During the two-day camp, cadets were kept busy with a try dive in the college pool, powerboating on the river Dart, leadership exercises, a mini assault course and, on the last day, a visit to the Royal Navy's ice patrol ship HMS Protector. Everyone enjoyed themselves and many want to gain more experience in the activities that they tried out.



Chinese sailing team host Plymouth College pupils

There was great excitement when the junior sailing team and a group of boarders paid a visit to the Chinese sailing team during the America's Cup. As well as a private tour of the team base at Millbay Docks, the pupils were able to chat to team members and watch while the giant catamaran was launched into the water.



Senior students take on High School Dance challenge

Five years after Plymouth College took part in Channel 4/E4's High School Dance series, senior students are marking the anniversary with a prom-style event. Back in 2006, the Plymouth College High School Dance committee were filmed over a 3-week period as they organised a Moulin Rouge-themed evening. The programme, the second in a series of six, was a huge success and has been shown several times on national television. This time round the added pressure of TV cameras won't be in the mix but the six committee members from Year 11, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth will still be responsible for every aspect of the event including choosing a theme, booking entertainment, decorating the venue, marketing and managing a budget.

At the time of going to print the theme had been announced as Casino Royale. The episode of High School Dance featuring Plymouth College can be viewed in the video section of www.plymouthcollege.com
Photograph: Committee members L to R Millie Evans, Sophie Adams, Olivia Roper, Michael Daniel, Dominic Day, Harry Cobbold

Musicians take the spotlight in two concerts

Music scholars from all year groups got to showcase their talents in two evening concerts this term. The guitar evening in October covered everything from classical to acoustic to rock, and saw both group and solo performances. The brass and woodwind event in November was an equally impressive evening.



Outdoor education programme offers exciting adventures for pupils

A fleet of mountain bikes, a specialist outdoor education vehicle and other state-of-the-art activity equipment are just some of the additions to Plymouth College's Outdoor Education department this term. With two new staff at the helm, activities such as power-kiting, mountain biking and ultimate frisbee have already been introduced with archery, gorge-walking and adventure racing on the agenda for the future. Utilising the school's outdoor education centre, Whiteworks, on Dartmoor, the team has injected more variety into the PE syllabus, run staff CPD training and continue to support existing programmes such as Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Ten Tors. Two new residential trips are also in the pipeline – Scottish winter mountaineering and Ardeche multi activity week.



Business teacher meets David Cameron

Plymouth College Economics and Business Studies teacher, Jonathan Shields, travelled to Downing Street in November to meet the Prime Minister, David Cameron. A finalist in the 2010 National Teaching Awards, Jonathan was invited as part of the celebrations for the 2011 event. Also Head of Sixth Form and International Baccalaureate Diploma Co-ordinator, Jonathan is best known for being the driving force behind the school's phenomenal success in business competitions. Since joining the school eleven years ago he has steered pupils to victory in ten national and 61 regional competitions including top spots in Young Enterprise, Make Your Mark (twice!), Student Investor and England Social Enterprise Awards in the last two years alone.



Sixth Formers are sight guides at Plymouth event

A group of Plymouth College sixth formers have helped out at an event for blind and deaf people. The Hearing and Sight Centre, part of the Plymouth Guild, held a free Hearing and Sight Exhibition at Plymouth Guildhall.

Prior to the event the students received sighted guide training. They were then able to assist people with a visual impairment to find their way around the event, which had more than 60 exhibitors offering help, advice and products for daily living. The students also carried out market research among the visitors, gathering information about care and support needs. British Sign Language Interpreters were available for those with hearing difficulties.

"It was a great experience to be able to help at the exhibition", said sixth former, Jason van der Schouw. "Everyone was really friendly and it was very rewarding to know that I was helping visitors to get the most out of the event. I can now appreciate that day-to-day tasks that seem easy to me can be quite challenging for someone with a visual or hearing impairment."

Head of History visits sponsored children in Tanzania

In January 2011, Plymouth College Year 7 students decided to take on the challenge of sponsoring a child from a Tanzanian orphanage. Working with Mr Beavington's Banana Tree Project charity www.bananatreeproject.org, the pupils raised over £1400 through various activities, including a fun run undertaken by two girls dressed as bananas, which has seen immediate effects.

Head of History, Mr Beavington, visited Mwanza in Tanzania during half term to get updates from the children, schools and orphanages and was delighted to report that the children have seized the opportunity that UK sponsors have given them with relish. Asha Hassan, who goes to school because of Plymouth College's pupils, wrote a letter thanking them for their support and made a short video message to say thank you. She is performing strongly in Form 3 at Sunrise Secondary School and is enjoying her studies.

This year's Year 7 students at Plymouth College, inspired by their predecessors' efforts, have also committed themselves to sponsoring a child through The Banana Tree Project.





Roman Centurion visits Prep School

Year 3 pupils at Plymouth College Preparatory School spent a day in the life of a Roman soldier. The all-day workshop run by a 'Roman Centurion' saw them dressed in traditional costumes. They got the chance to have a close look at weapons and armour as well as more day to day items like plates and bowls. The children then spent some time making a shield each before donning helmets and going into battle against the teachers!

Year One 'Rockpool Ramble' at Wembury

It was a misty morning when the Year One classes arrived at Wembury beach. However, as they began their 'Rockpool Ramble', the sun began to shine. The children spent a very productive morning finding most of the creatures that they had been learning about in their science lessons. They enjoyed seeing the plants and animals in their natural habitat. After a picnic lunch they explored the beach, looking at pebbles and shells and making beach sculptures. When it was time to go, soggy Wellington boots were removed and everyone headed back to school.



U9 rugby team win Mount House tournament

The Prep School had a very successful afternoon at the Mount House under 9 rugby tournament. Teams from Blundell's, Truro, Stover, St Peter's Lymington, Mount House, Plymouth College and St Michael's Tawstock took part. Plymouth College won all their group matches beating Truro 5-0, Blundell's 15-5 and Stover 15-5. They went into the semi finals where they beat St Peter's 10-5 in a very hard fought game. The final was against Blundell's, who Plymouth had already beaten in the group matches. With fatigue creeping in for both sides, the boys managed to put on a fantastic performance. Blundell's scored first but Plymouth came back to go over three times. Blundell's scored their second try in the last move of the game but Plymouth won with a final score of 15-10.



Chris Tanner opens high-tech cooking class room at Prep School

Budding chefs at Plymouth College Preparatory School are now cooking up a feast thanks to the opening of a new Food Technology Centre. Designed in partnership with top chefs, the Tanner Brothers, the state-of-the-art kitchen contains a series of child-sized cooking stations. Each one is equipped with an oven and hob, large work surface, sink and drawers filled with essential cooking utensils. The adult-sized teacher's station is linked to a webcam that feeds to screens around the room so that the children can closely follow every detail of the teacher's cooking demonstrations.

Located in the 'Round House', the specialist classroom has been kitted out and decorated in the style of the Tanner Brothers' leading Plymouth brasserie, Barbican Kitchen. Chris Tanner was on hand to do the ribbon-cutting duties at the official opening. "We were asked several months ago if we would be interested in becoming involved in the new food tech facility at Plymouth College Prep School", said Chris. "Now, in such a short space of time, a rundown disused building has been transformed into a gastronomic temple! This is a fantastic addition to the facilities and a perfect space to teach the children about everything foodie! It can only ever be beneficial as they learn about food, where it comes from and how important it is to us all but most importantly, how to cook it." As well as thanking the Tanner Brothers for their inspiration and support throughout the project, the Prep School's Chairman of Governors, David Woodgate, also thanked the Bailey Partnership for their role in the initial planning and design, and the Plymouth College maintenance team, who undertook the conversion of the former Naval Hospital building.

Photograph: Chris Tanner (right) cuts the ribbon with Plymouth College Preparatory School pupils, Headmaster Chris Gatherer (left) and Chairman of Governors David Woodgate (centre).



OPM takes centre stage at Senior Awards

Former pupil and opera star, David Webb, is the special guest at this year's Senior Awards Evening. David won a Music Scholarship to study at Plymouth College where he also enjoyed playing in a number of school sports teams, drama groups and various other extra-curricular activities. On leaving Plymouth College in 2002, he won a Choral Scholarship to Truro Cathedral. From here he auditioned at the Royal College of Music, later becoming the Irene Hanson Scholar at the Royal College of Music International Opera School. 2010 saw David make his French operatic debut at the Opéra Comique, Paris, and the Theatre Caen, as well as his American debut at The B.A.M, New York, singing the role of 'Autumn' in Purcell's The Fairy Queen. In the same summer, David marked his Spanish debut at the Teatro Real as Secondo Soldato and Consoli in L'Incoronazione di Poppea.

Christian takes his studies and swimming to Florida

Former pupil and elite swimmer, Christian Homer, who won Trinidad and Tobago's first Olympic gold medal since 1976 in the World Youth Olympics, reports back on his progress since leaving Plymouth College in the summer...

I've been training in Florida with an elite high school team and it's been going well over here. Also I have been accepted into the University Of Florida (ranked fourth best swimming college in America and also has really good academic standing). I will be starting in January so I'm buzzing for that! I will be pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering and I am looking forward to training with the top guys such as Ryan Lochte (multiple Olympic and world championship gold medallist).

I also wanted to say thank you to everyone for all the work put in with me and the assistance that you have rendered to help me to get to this stage in both my academic and my swimming careers. I will definitely keep you guys posted on my progress.

All the best, Chris



America's Cup brought to life by former Plymouth College pupil

The America's Cup director of media production and OPM, Gary Lovejoy, took time out of his busy schedule in the run-up to the prestigious event being held in Plymouth to talk to sixth formers at his former school. With a mission to open up the world of sailing to as many people as possible, Gary talked to the students about the competition's history, the boats and the teams involved and the complexities of broadcasting the event to the world. He showed high-energy video clips of racing in San Francisco and Portugal – a particularly spectacular capsized drew loud gasps from his young audience!

Gary also talked about his time at the school, which he left after completing his A Levels in 1972 - he was a member of the first XV rugby team, ran the 400m and 800m for the school and was a sixth form prefect. "The aim of the 34th America's Cup is to encourage more young people around the world to embrace sailing as a top action sport and to follow our events leading up to and including the America's Cup itself in San Francisco in 2013. So to be able to talk to hundreds of young people at Plymouth College about the best sailors in the fastest boats on the planet was ideal for our message. It was even better for me personally as the school means so much to me still. "I had many great sporting days at Plymouth College and I would put down today's meeting with the class of 2011 as being another highlight for me, it was great fun."

Photograph: Gary Lovejoy (4th from left) is pictured with student and staff members of the Plymouth College Sailing Club.



Cricket

The One2One cricket programme has been running on Saturday mornings and Monday evenings since the beginning of the autumn term and includes a number of Prep School pupils. It is already over subscribed for the spring term! If any pupil (Y11 and upwards) who has an interest in cricket would like to be the 1st XI scorer, or if a member of staff or parent is interested, would they please contact Jonathan Mears (Mobile 07973909601 or jmears@plymouth-college.co.uk).

George shoots his way to the top

Plymouth College sixth former, George Mitchell, has been ranked in the top ten in the U21 World Clay Pigeon Shooting rankings. The talented teenager is currently the U21 UK and English Open Universal Trench Champion, the U21 British Open Olympic Trap Champion and the South West Champion in three different disciplines. Shooting for four years and using regular small competitions for his training, George won a Great Britain team bronze medal in the World Championships in August. He follows in the footsteps of his grandfather who also won similar accolades when he was younger.

George is on the Talented Athletes Support Scheme and will continue his shooting when he takes up a place at Harper Adams in September 2012. The Shropshire-based university college has a very strong clay pigeon shooting team. Currently taking A Levels in PE, Business Studies, Photography and the finance diploma, Dips, George plans to study Rural Property Management.



Tia tops fencing rankings



Tia Simms Lymn's fencing continues to go from strength to strength after coming second at the Bath Epee Competition and winning the Cornwall Epee Competition on consecutive weekends in November. The results mean that she is currently ranked No.1 on the Leon Paul Under 13 series list and is ranked No.4 in the UK for Under 15 Epee (No 3 in England). But it is not just fencing that Tia excels at and the day after the Cornish fencing event she went to Dawlish for the Devon Sportshall League Event 2, incorporating the Devon County Championships. Tia managed gold medals in four lap (joint first, same time) and standing long jump 2.34m. She managed a silver medal in vertical jump. All three events were personal bests and Tia is awaiting verification that the long jump is a county record.

Tim Andrews is the U15 Leon Paul National Ranking Champion.

Hockey teams notch up a number of wins

The hockey pitch has been a hive of activity with teams across all age groups securing some impressive wins. The 1sts (3-0), U16s (3-1) and U14s (2-1) all beat Kelly College in rounds of the Devon Cup – the 1sts (pictured) went on to beat them for a second time (1-0) in a routine fixture. The U14s also beat Shebbear (5-0) as did the 2nd team (who beat their 1st team 1-0!), U13s (2-1) and U12s (7-0). The U13s and U12s beat Stover (both 3-0) and a combined U12/U13 team beat Ivybridge (6-0).

Bizzie Dinnis, Hannah Fullalove, Poppy Tank and Tommy Eyston are all through to the final Devon trials from West Devon. Ana Hampson, Leanne Moore and Chloe Parford are all going for Devon trials.





Plymouth College athletes secure British Triathlon titles

Kelcey Pillage (pictured) has been crowned the British Triathlon Champion for Youth B Girls while Naomi Craig has become British Triathlon Champion for Youth C Girls. Plymouth College clinched the team silver medal for Youth C Girls. Kelcey also won a silver medal for Great Britain at the Olympic Hopes in Poland.

Plymouth College U13s clinch West Devon title

On a dark, cold and windy evening at Plymouth Albion's Brickfields, Plymouth College took on Ivybridge in the final of the U13 West Devon Cup.

An early chance saw the ball fly wide leaving John Alao space to fly through and score under the posts. Ivybridge fought hard to avenge their lapse but met resilient Plymouth defence at each attempt. Tackles from Alex Hill, Saul Auty and Hamish Rose stopped attacks dead until relentless pressure from the Ivybridge pack led to a scrambled converted try. At half time, Plymouth were 5-7 down.

Plymouth threw themselves back into the battle in the second half. Thom Leman orchestrated attacks with a clean ball from Peter Loxdale while captain, Tom Brooker, strained every sinew to take his team forward, leading by example if ever a player did. Quick hands from Paddy James saw John Alao go over for his second try of the night, converted effortlessly by Harry Mason.

A final assault by Ivybridge saw crucial tackles by the entire backline giving a masterclass in defending against bigger numbers. It was hard-fought and all players on the night did rugby great service, but it was Plymouth College U13s who came out champions with a final score of 12-7.



National Championships for talented horse rider

Plymouth College Sixth Former, Jess Cronk, has competed at the British Show Horse National Championships, held at Addington Manor, Buckinghamshire. Jess qualified for the Classic Supreme Riding Horse Class after competing at a number of local BSH events.



Securing a top ten place, Jess, who was the youngest and only amateur rider in the class, was selected to ride in the evening performance.

Bronze for Katie in UK School Games

Plymouth College fencer, Katie Davies-Gregory, 16, won a bronze medal in the UK School Games, where she was competing for Wales. The Welsh team came third in the women's epee team event. Held in Sheffield, the Games replicate a major adult multi-sport competition with an opening and closing ceremony and an athletes' village. In the individual competition, Katie was seeded third after the knockout stages, where she beat 2010 world finalist and current British champion, Amy Radford. Katie finished ninth overall in the competition that involved the top young athletes from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Megan Woodrow represented Northern Ireland and came seventh.

