

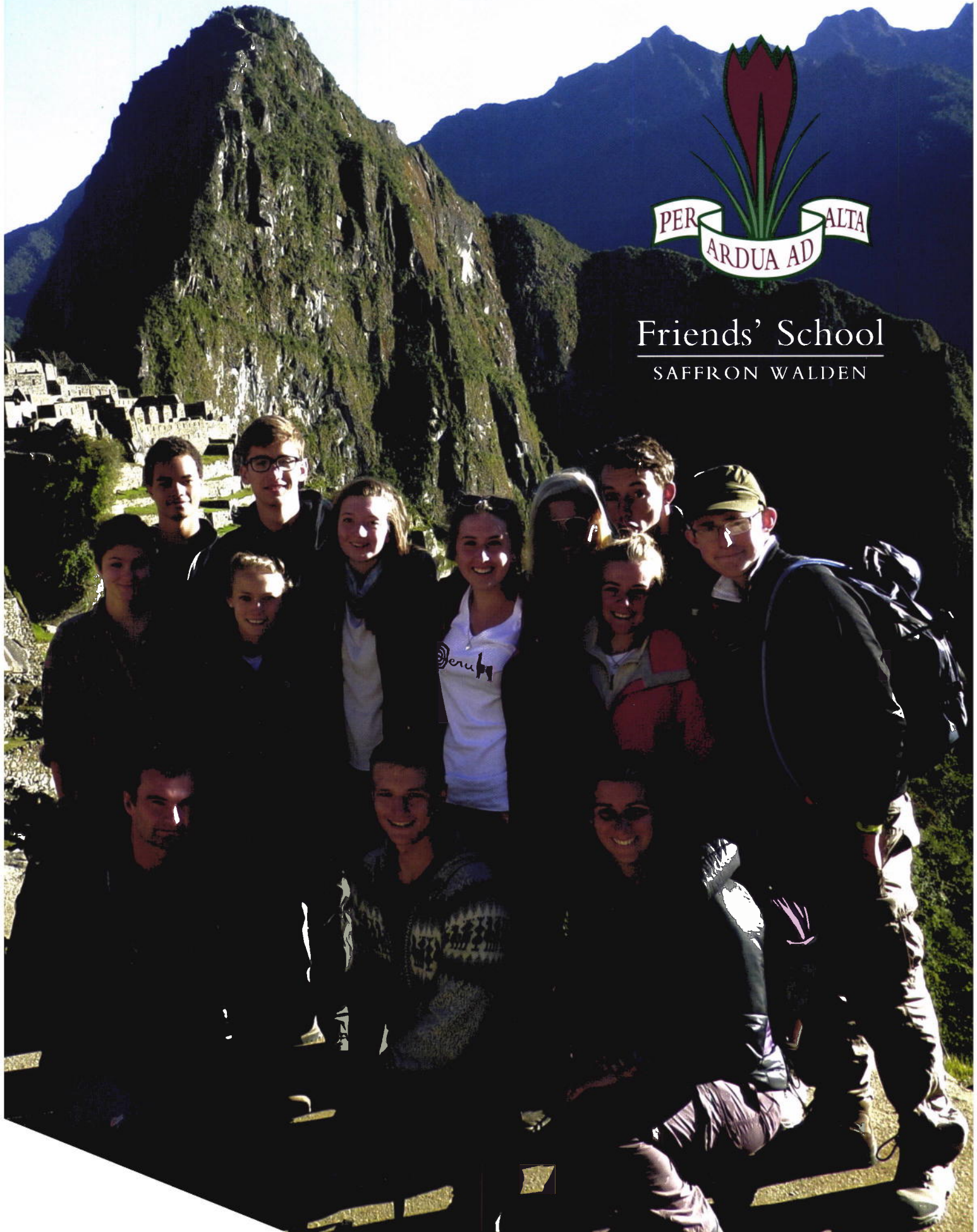
A View From the Hill

Friends' School Magazine • 2015



Friends' School

SAFFRON WALDEN



Welcome



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Welcome From The Editor

Welcome to this first edition of the Friends' School Magazine. We hope that you will enjoy the wonderful glimpses of school life, both past and present, which are captured in the pages that follow. Friends' is a hub of activity throughout the year and the education which all our pupils receive is varied and stimulating, encouraging them to become resourceful, well-informed global citizens, with a strong moral compass. This has been a great year and we can look back on many highlights and distinguished performances. We ended the academic year very strongly in August, posting the best set of GCSE results for some years, with 91% of students achieving A* - C grades, and 32% A* - A. At A Level the pass rate was 100%, with 58% achieving A* - B and a very high uptake of first choice university places.

Throughout the year 2014/15 we have seen our students represent us in sport, public speaking, art exhibitions, concerts and drama productions. They have gone out on many educational visits and taken part in competitions and whatever they have done, wherever they have been they have done us proud.

Some of the calendar highlights include the Mini Music Festival, the energetic Gymnastics Show and the charming production of *Wind in the Willows*, all of which ran very close together towards the end of the Spring Term. David Vant won the solo performance category at the Catrine Basil Music Awards in January, with one of his own compositions and we have recently completed a Concert Tour to Paris. We sent a Year 10 and a Year 11 Public Speaking team to the English Speaking Union and the Year 11s, James Rand, Oliver Northover and Matthew O'Callaghan made it through to the regional finals. We heard more of Matthew's and Oliver's rhetorical talents at the hustings in the recent Mock Election we held on 7th May. Poppy Munro Scott was awarded a prize for her poetry on the subject of the First World War, François Earp was part of the winning team at the Perse Enterprise Conference, Joseph Man got through to the regional finals of the Rotary Young Chef Competition, where he was awarded the prize for best dish. Brigitte Parnham submitted a winning entry to the National Doodle Day Art Competition.

In the Autumn Term we were privileged to host the Society of Heads' Schools' Art Exhibition at the Thaxted Guildhall. The quality of the artwork on display from the many schools was impressive but for us the unforgettable work was the centrepiece sculpture of two mountain goats by Imogen Candler, which was selected for a national exhibition.

Our UN Quiz Team of Sophia Wieland, Kamal Taghizada, Lotte Zlotkowski and Miles Burgess won the Inter-Schools

UN Quiz in November and we also sent a team to the Model United Nations event at Felsted in March. In the recent British Biology Olympiad, William Turnbull, Matthew Morris and Suzanna Cronk all achieved Gold Awards and there were several Silvers and Bronzes too.

In Sport our teams have done well, particularly the Senior Basketball Squad. Our regular teams have competed every week against other schools and represented us very well at district events. We are also very proud of the individual sporting success of William Turnbull, Lucy Robinson, Barnaby Deller and Ed Candler, who have all been selected for County Hockey teams. Skye Wicks and Hannah Irwin continue to put in excellent performances in athletics and this year we have run two very successful sports tours, netball and football, to Holland.

We have made trips to Rome, Bremerhaven for the German Exchange and CERN for the senior scientists. Next year we plan to take an Outlook Challenge Team to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands and also a ski trip to Italy. Nearer to home, our students have attended many lectures, productions and curriculum events and we have played host to some high quality guest speakers.

We have continued with our fundraising and community work, through assemblies, non-uniform days, cake baking, including the weekly bake for Jimmy's Nightshelter for the Homeless and many other student innovations. Our annual parents/teachers v 1st XI was again a great success thanks to the brilliant organisation of Nick Guest. Student and staff energy was palpable at the Harvest Celebration and in the remarkable staff Christmas recording of 'Teach the World' which raised funds to send several girls to school in Tanzania.

Our PTA continue their staunch support of the school through their calendar of events: the Bonfire Bash, Christmas Fayre, Charity Ball, Quiz Night and Coffee Mornings. The year's events culminated in the Summer Fête in June, a lovely old-fashioned family day out which was enjoyed by all who attended.

We hope that this and subsequent editions of the Magazine will give you a flavour of school life as it has been during the year and encourage all members of the wider school community, including our Old Scholars and their families, to keep in touch with us and perhaps contribute an article or news item from time to time. Among other things, the Magazine is here to celebrate continuity of tradition as we move through our fourth century of continuous education.

Kirsten Batcheler



'My home is my castle': promoting the value of privacy in school

'... we live in broad daylight inside these walls that seem to have been fashioned out of bright air, always on view. We have nothing to hide from one another.'

This is how Yevgeny Zamyatin described the glass-walled, glass-floored apartments in which the members of a twenty-sixth century dystopian society dwell. In his 1924 novel, 'We', Zamyatin portrays a society with a collective dream of technology, a society without the concept of the individual, a society without privacy, living in a true age of the 'goldfish bowl.'

In a modern democracy much is made of the concept of privacy, although an exact definition in legal or philosophical terms can prove difficult. Nevertheless, privacy is widely regarded as an adjunct to individual freedom, a right, essential to our psychological well-being and self-respect. There are aspects of our lives which we regard as private, information, thoughts and opinions which we prefer to keep to ourselves. Surely everyone would agree that we need a degree of privacy in our everyday lives, a time when we can shut the door and 'be ourselves', relax, daydream, reflect and think clearly.

Children also need to learn the concept of privacy and to develop reflective space in the course of their daily lives. The importance of reflection as part of the learning process is well established. Some schools have introduced programmes of mindfulness or meditation into their curriculum. Spaces are set aside, 'thinking corners', where pupils can seek solitude and quiet time to read or simply sit and think. The creation of true reflective space is, however, more than a physical reality or a set time within the school day. It is a state of mind and in school we need to inculcate this in our pupils, to develop their desire to be alone but not

lonely. If this can be achieved, the pupils may develop greater self-reliance and reflect maturely on their interaction with others. In periods of calm, questions will occur to them and they will have the time and space to work out their own answers. Creativity will flourish if the imagination has time and space to grow.

Finding this private space is proving to be a challenge for both families and schools in the context of the internet society, the 24/7 culture of constant connection and communication. There has never been a time in human history when people of any age could have instant contact with anybody at any time and virtually unlimited access to images, opinions and information of all kinds. When every mobile phone is also a mini computer, camera and recording device which can be connected to the internet almost anywhere, every moment of our lives can be shared at the touch of a button. The proliferation of social media and avenues of electronic communication has gathered a momentum of its own and is moving at a pace which scarcely allows us time to adapt or work out a moral perspective.

Our job as parents and educators is to guide the young people in our care into a new era in which we ourselves do not necessarily feel comfortable. How do we help them judge information from misinformation, dissuade them from wasting time in endless streams of electronic gossip, advise them on which images they may safely share and which sites they should avoid, when we ourselves do not always know what is out there? The front door of our homes, the school gates are no longer the protective barrier they once were and somehow we must find a way to educate young people to behave responsibly, safely and with discernment in their relationships with others. Moreover we should not



be afraid to intervene and prevent where we see this as necessary to their wellbeing.

Schools are required to develop policies of increasing complexity to safeguard pupils; internet-related bullying and safeguarding issues are occupying significant amounts of time in school, even where the incidents reported often take place outside school. It is more necessary than ever to work closely with parents to support and advise young people and above all we must try to set an example and set some clear directions. Our children may appear to be a great deal more electronically savvy than we are but this does not mean that they know their way through the virtual or the real world.

Friends' School is a Quaker school and as such, places strong emphasis on reflection and silence. Every week we meet as a whole school for a period of silent worship and this space for thought is respected and valued by both staff and pupils. Silence and listening is integral to our educational practice and a year ago we decided that we wanted to try to impact on the developing culture of internet gossip; as a school we felt that our world was becoming a place in which everyone was talking but no one was listening. After a brief initial trial, therefore, we have asked our pupils not to use their electronic devices during break times and lunchtimes and we have encouraged parents to get their children to leave their phones at home wherever possible. Tablets and small laptop computers are welcome in the classroom but they are to be used as working tools in the school day and free time is to be used to socialise, chat, exercise and get outdoors, or else seek some peace and quiet in the many attractive spaces around the school campus. Parents have been supportive of the move and although staff

must take the time to reinforce the policy and set the example by not using their own mobile phones around school, this has greatly enhanced the positive and respectful social atmosphere of the school day.

This may seem a relatively modest thing to have done but it has two practical outcomes: Firstly we reduce intrusion and distraction during a substantial part of the day and secondly we are encouraging healthy social interaction and creating more space for listening. This is firmly underpinned by our Quaker principles. After school we cannot control what pupils do once they leave in the evening but in engaging our parents, we hope that they will continue the good work for us at home.

We accept the challenge of educating our pupils into the technological society; we embrace the use of technology as an essential part of learning and preparation for the world beyond school but we are also trying to focus a strong light on personal and social development, since it is only a confident, well-rounded and responsible individual who will be able to contribute and take a full part in adult society. We should be doing all we can to guarantee some privacy and reflective space and time, so that young people can develop a sense of inner peace and strength.

Zamyatin's twenty-sixth century hero was scathing about the living conditions of today:

'Maybe it was the strange opaque dwellings of the ancients that gave rise to their pitiful, cellular psychology. 'My home is my castle'.

We need to retain those castles in our minds and in those of our children. Privacy and a sense of space have never been more important.

Anna Chaudhri



Friends and Families Day

Another brilliant Friends and Families Day saw our whole school community come together for our annual day of celebration. It is always a wonderful thing to see so many parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, former pupils and Old Scholars enjoy our speech day. The Quartet, as ever, spoke with poise and confidence which is no mean feat in front of a packed Sports Hall full of faces! Their speeches are printed here for your interest and entertainment!

It was a pleasure to host our guest speaker, Piers Loxton Edwards (of the Edwards' Family Awards) and in spite of changeable weather our spirits were not dampened as picnics went ahead, the Old Scholars' cricket match was hotly contested, the dance troupe entertained us outdoors and the Junior School Big Song and Dance provided a fantastic display of colour, movement and fun.

A delicious afternoon tea with some live music provided a lovely finish to this very special day on the school calendar.



Friends and Families Day



The Quartet

Claudia McCrea

14th August 2013 it became very clear soon after arriving at school to collect my AS results that I would be retaking year 12 again. Due to a lack of confidence and self-belief I had not achieved the grades to even consider applying to university. To ensure I improved my grades finding the right school was vital. With very little time I visited a few schools, from Oxfordshire to North Essex, and found Friends' to be the most welcoming. This was particularly evident during my first week on the school bus, when various students in other years would engage in friendly conversation. At any other school, that would be a casual "hello". At Friends', I had five students pile on top of me. Although painful, and a little alarming, it was very welcoming. I have never been to a school where the students in different year groups are such good friends. This is just one thing that make Friends' so unique.

I couldn't do this speech without thanking all the teachers I have had over the last two years. Mrs Mac - I will never understand your love for plants, but I'm not complaining because you have been the best biology teacher I have ever had. Mrs Millard - what you lack in height, you make up for in chemistry knowledge. Mr Dant - I've never known a Chemistry teacher to break the apparatus more than the students, until now. Bidy - great things come in small packages and this certainly applies to you. I will miss our chats and the tea and cakes. Thank you so much to all of you. You have helped me regain my confidence and reminded me why I love my subjects.

As most people know, Friends' School isn't just about obtaining good grades. Over the last two years, I have made some great friends and have lots of fond

memories that I will never forget. Soon after joining I was begrudgingly made to go camping in October, having to measure 640 rocks and being forced down a dark cave by Miss Sargent. Although I may have complained at the time, I secretly enjoyed it. This year I was also given the opportunity to go to Rome. Finding our way around proved to be quite a challenge. A sense of direction and Miss O'Neill do not go hand in hand. Despite this, it was a great trip.

Although I have only been here for two years Friends' has helped me in so many ways. Thank you for choosing me as a member of the Quartet. This was a real privilege. Although it seemed quite daunting at first and has kept me busy, I will always be proud that it is because of me there is now juice on Fridays. I have really enjoyed this role and I am so happy I got to share my experience with Kate, Paul and Yerzhan.

Two years ago the possibility of going to university was non-existent. But thanks to Friends' and everyone that has supported me, I am hoping to study biochemistry at Newcastle University next year.

Finally, I just want to thank Mrs Chaudhri and Mr Slinger, for welcoming me into your Sixth Form and helping me to reach my potential. I will never forget my time here; although short, it's been sweet.

Thank you.

Claudia McCrea
9th May 2015



Kate Roberts

407 days ago it was announced that I would be a member of the Quartet and I have been regretting this moment ever since. For the past five years I have seen four other Quartets read their speeches to an audience like yourselves so being here speaking to you feels surreal.

When I first arrived at Friends' School in September of 2010 I was literally crying my eyes out. I was greeted at the main door by the staff with open arms and smiles...Now you can understand why I was crying...

I remember my first day quite clearly, I had no idea what being at Friends' would hold for me. I had heard a lot of rumours about private schools; I had heard that private school teachers were strict and scary looking... so you can see why I was apprehensive. So when I walked into my first class, nerves flying everywhere, opened the door... and there was standing... Mr Cusick Smith, to my relief. The rest of that day continued to surprise me mainly because how friendly everyone was.

The rest of Year 9, 10 and 11 flew by so quickly I barely remember most of it yet I will never forget the alarming sound of Mrs Askew's voice when my fellow roommates and I attempted to fly a mattress down three flights of stairs one evening. For the sake of innocent ears, let's just say she wasn't happy.

My year group from Years 9 to 11 wasn't exactly the school's most popular set of students as I'm sure most teachers would agree. Most of our greatest moments, were nightmares for some of the teachers. Don't worry staff I won't torment you. But I sincerely do apologise to Mr Mordini for that time we locked you out of the Year 10 common room and to Mrs Golden for jumping out of the RS window during your lesson.

I am grateful to Friends' for their full range of teachers; thanks to all the teachers I had in the lower years such as Mr Dant, Mrs Allwood, and Mrs Armitage and of course thanks to you Mr Twinn. Also thanks to those who never taught me but were always there if needed. But I can say it was down to my A-level teachers who have really guided me through my final two years, with me hopefully accepting my place at Brunel Business School in London to do Business Management and Marketing this September.

For some reason history remains my favourite subject and that has been down to JSB and Miss O'Neill mostly because of your enthusiasm and tolerance. JSB I can't lie and say that 19th century British politics has been the most interesting subject



I have ever been taught, yet I have learnt a lot. Miss O'Neill you have been the only teacher I have had throughout all of my time at Friends' School and after five years my most memorable moment

has to be our trip to Rome. Myself and fellow other 6th formers travelled to the Vespa infested city in February half term. Despite Miss O'Neill convincing us all that she had been there so many times and that she knew the area like the back of her hand, we arrived late 80% of the time, got lost 95% of the time with Miss O'Neill being right 5% of the time. At one point we even thought she had dragged us into in a riot. But don't worry Miss we forgive you mainly because of the pizza.

To Miss Sargent and Mr Slinger ...I used to like Geography... for those who don't know, on 17th October 2013 I experienced the worst moment of my life at the expense of the Geography department. Cutting the story short, we were 100s of metres underground in a dark claustrophobic cave, till I was brought physically to tears. Despite this however, you two have been two of my favourite teachers; fun, kind, informative and only occasionally boring.

To Mrs White you are my favourite Business Studies teacher indeed you are the ONLY Business Studies teacher. Thanks for everything including the routine chats that have nothing to do with the actual course; you have been instrumental in my passion for carrying on business as a career.

I can't do this speech without giving a special shout out to the boarding staff being my home away from home for the last five years. Mr Kiely thank you for making boarding such a welcoming place, you have managed to stand up against the legends that were Steven Staerck and Barbara Askew, it's like you've been here for years. To Sonia, Mrs Camp, Grant, Mark, Mr and Mrs Batcheler and to all the other boarding staff thank you for all your help over the years. For those continuing at Friends' don't underestimate how lucky you are to be in such a kind, friendly and welcoming environment. In the next few weeks I will be taking my A level exams and then leave the school officially after the Summer Ball in June, yet I will not leave behind my great memories and true friends that I have made here.

Kate Roberts

9th May 2015

Yerzhan Sadyk

I have thought long and hard about how to start this speech. Some advice I have had is, "Whatever you do, don't try to be too charming, too witty or too clever – just be yourself". So here goes!

Hello my name is Yerzhan.

Personally, the most memorable day at Friends' was the first day here, back in September 2011. Having a long eight-hour flight and another two hours of getting to school, by the time I got to Friends' I felt exhausted, but at the same time excited to see where I was heading. For me, coming to Friends' wasn't just a change of one school to another. It meant getting used to living in a new country, socialising and being taught in a different language to my mother tongue. Not surprisingly my English was terrible, besides it didn't get me any further with conversation other than "Hi, how are you?" and I had no clue what my lessons were about. But the only advantage I had over English students was that, I had a brilliant excuse in case I forgot to do my homework, referring to my lack of English. Fortunately living in England and hearing the language 24/7 made my level of English progress; well that's what I think! You can decide after this speech!

Boarding at Friends' is something that will always stay with me, getting to know people with different views, interests and cultures only broadened my knowledge. Being a boarder has given me a lot in terms of being independent, resilient and valuing other people.

Physics, Maths and Further Maths are the A-levels that I am currently doing and Physics was the subject that I had least understanding in, but with all the

help, motivation and the effort that was put in by Wayne Steel and Genevieve Millard, slowly but effectively I have started seeing the light in my understanding of science; so thank you.

Adrian Clarke, Vicky Charlesworth and Geoff Curtis - your Maths lessons were always open and chilled and yet thank you for integrating my skills.

Thanks to Nick Batcheler and Grant Ward for the endless support in sport.

Matt Kiely and Sonia Hood, thank you guys for making the boarding feel like home to every boarder.

Lastly thanks to Jane Henfrey, an ESOL teacher who played a huge role in my first few years in England, always being supportive.

What I am planning to do next?

Well I have been accepted by the University of Nottingham where I am hoping to do mechanical engineering for the next three years and certainly the experience that I have gained while being at Friends' will benefit me further in my life.

For me, Friends' always will be a small community of students, where you know each and everyone, and for this reason it will always be a place that I will remember and cherish.

Thank you.

Yerzhan Sadyk
9th May 2015



Paul Yeung

"Friends, Romans, Countrymen – lend me your ears!"
– only I've lost mine!

Good morning, everyone, I'm Paul. As you can tell, Drama has played a great part in my life at Friends' and it is one experience I would never have had in Hong Kong.

In fact, there are many experiences I would never have had if not for Friends' – like the friends who helped me to learn how to shower by Braille, by repeatedly turning off the lights in the shower! And how to deal with a pigeon trapped in your room, and how to flush a toilet when it isn't working (you wait!)

My first day set the tone for the rest of my five years here. People were shouting my name across the field when I first arrived, and I thought, "What a weird school this is!" And I was right – but it's a good weird. So what does weird mean here? For me, the chance to argue with teachers about the answers is weird – and wonderful. The chance to try new stuff is also wonderful, as is the support you gain from teachers and the chance to make many friends.

Working in the Quartet this year gave me a chance to work with the students in other years, which has been a pleasure. It is lovely to be greeted by name by the younger years. It has also given me the chance to work REALLY HARD! I learned quite a lot.

So many people have given me so much in this school. If it wasn't for the support and encouragement of

Serena O'Connor, I would not have discovered my interest in art.

Thanks to Mr Steel and Mrs Millard, you have completely changed my understanding of the world by feeding me with the knowledge of physics.

Thanks to Mrs Charlesworth, Mr Clarke and Mr Curtis for your patience while talking me through every step of the questions that I didn't understand.

Thanks to Miss Henfrey, who was my ESOL teacher, she helped me to learn about the wider world and gave me confidence to try. It was Mr Staerck who always said he wanted to train me to become an English gentleman – I told him it wasn't possible, because I am Chinese, but I hope he is not disappointed?

Finally, thanks to all the staff and students who have helped me through the years.

Having been here for five years, I must have become a bit institutionalised, a bit like being in prison – first I didn't want to come here, now I don't want to go. But the doors are wide open and it's time. And Friends' has given me good strong wings to fly.

Paul Yeung
9th May 2015



Christmas Words and Music

10th December 2014, St Mary's Church





Charity begins at Friends' School

There are times when the problems of the world seem just too big and too many to tackle. Every day's news brings stories of need and hardship around the world and the morning post often brings letters from charities requesting support for a variety of causes. But the old Scottish phrase 'every mickle makes a muckle' could apply to the attitude of staff, parents and pupils at Friends' when it comes to charity. Across the school every year there is a bustle of charitable activity and the wholehearted enthusiasm with which everyone gets involved is inspiring. Take the annual Harvest Celebration in the Senior School as an example: the

pupils bring in fresh produce and other foodstuffs and these are displayed before being loaded on to the school van and driven off to Jimmy's Night Shelter for the Homeless in Cambridge; the staff bake cakes and these are sold at breaktime and we all enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of a non-uniform day, which raises further funds. Last year we raised around £800 and the proceeds were divided among three charities. Our founding Quaker principles underpin a genuine concern for, and engagement with, the wider community; we believe that we can each do a little and that the little we do makes a difference.

House Fundraising in the Junior School

This year each House took on a fundraising challenge for charity. Cadbury opted for a cake stall and baked over £220 worth of goods for Wood Green Animal Shelter while Fry decided on a Saturday morning Jumble Sale which was open to the public and raised an impressive £520 for Accuro.

Penn held a film night in June raising an impressive £465.25 for Cancer Research and Red Balloon, a Cambridge based charity for the recovery of bullied children.



Kilimanjaro Young Girls in Need

We have been supporting the charity, 'Kilimanjaro Young Girls in Need' for a number of years, which raises money so young girls in Tanzania may go to school. We are very proud that we have raised enough funds to cover the costs of giving a number of young girls an education for a year.

The Quartet decided that their fundraising during the Autumn Term should support this project so it was brilliant to see students come together to raise money in a number of different ways. A Christmas Jumper non-uniform day, an austerity lunch on the last Friday of term, the sale of Christmas biscuits (with thanks to Year 9 and the Food Technology Department) and the school disco all helped towards the total.

A number of staff got in on the act too. There was busking in centre corridor and a staff version of Band Aid 2014 – 'Teach Aid', which premiered during a school assembly thanks to the talented trio of Jess Armitage, Richard Smith and Robert Pepper. Over £600 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Our thanks to the Quartet and all the students, parents and staff who gave so generously.

Over £600 was raised



Jimmy's Cakes

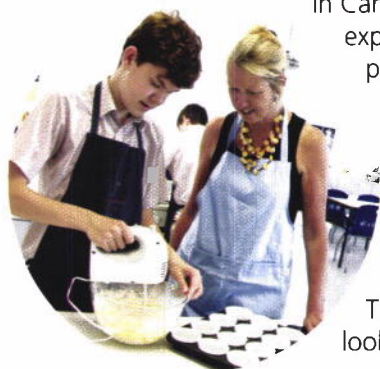
It was in 2010 when a presentation by Jimmy's Night Shelter during a school assembly, got Food Technology teacher Catherine Whyte thinking. "I had wanted to create a small, manageable scheme that would enable pupils to use their talents to benefit others. This seemed the perfect opportunity to link our pupils with a project where real 'home cooking' would be appreciated."

Since that time, a small group of pupils from Friends' School have spent their lunchtimes every week to make 'Cakes for Jimmy's.'

It is testament to both Catherine and the pupils' commitment as they all give up their own time during the week to help others, especially as it's a strict rule of the club that they aren't allowed to sample any of the cakes!

Pupil views are best represented by Jonny (Year 8) who said " I just love cooking – my ambition is to become a chef. I've been inspired by my dad, who owns a café in Cambridge. So this is great work experience for me, as well as helping people who aren't so lucky. I felt sad when I heard about those guys and wanted to do something to help them. "

Catherine delivers the cakes every week to Jimmy's, who are always so pleased with the contribution. They have come to rely on it and look forward to the weekly delivery.



Nepal Emergency

"What can we do to help?" was the first question asked by pupils in Year 5 after seeing the news coverage of the devastation caused by the earthquake in April in Nepal. They quickly organised a programme of fundraising activities in order to help those affected, holding a bucket collection from staff and parents, followed by a red and white-themed non-uniform day and cake sale. The grand total raised was £708, which was matched by the Independent Association of Prep Schools and donated to Save the Children's Nepal Appeal.



The Classroom without Walls

School Trips at Friends'

There is nothing like seeing and experiencing 'the real thing', whether that is an interesting coastal rock formation, a famous painting or a foreign city. This is what brings learning to life, gives it proper context and creates a sense of wonder for us all. Included in this section is a taste of trips at Friends', so read on to find out what our pupils have been up to...from a first overnight visit to an expedition in Peru...

Early Years Visit Hatfield Forest

Bringing their 'journey' theme to life, children in the Early Years took on the public transport system, travelling to Hatfield Forest by both bus and train.

All went smoothly and once there, the Forest provided an exciting day ahead with a National Trust art activity in the morning followed by picnicking in the woods, climbing trees and building dens in the afternoon.



A Fiery London Adventure

Years 1 and 2 were thrilled by the sights of London, as part of their investigation into the history of the capital and the Great Fire. They were fascinated by the old-fashioned fire engines in the Museum and impressed by the grandeur of the Tower and Tower Bridge...and, of course a spot of lunch with the ravens.



A Night Away for Year 3

The old-world charm of St Mark's College was enjoyed by Year 3 as they undertook the adventure of a first residential visit. Lunch in the Great Hall and decorating heraldic shields seemed just the right thing in the peaceful old building but there were also the noisier attractions of an African Drum Workshop and a campfire at night to finish off a memorable day. As Heston put it, "It was my first residential trip at school and I felt really excited and so happy!"

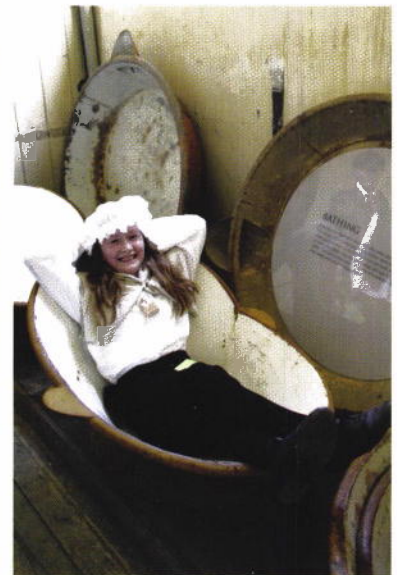
Annual Visit to Flatford Mill

Pupils in Year 4 on the search for small mammals, pond-dipping and sketching in the inspiring setting of Constable country.



Things ain't what they used to be...

.... and perhaps Year 5 are quite glad about that after their visit to Audley End House, as part of their study of Victorian England, where they compare the lives of rich and poor. The stark contrast was brought to life in the great house, as the children learned that they would have had to get up at 4.00 am and work until dark, fetching and carrying all day, at the beck and call of their 'betters'. True enough, as servants they would have been well fed but, as one boy wryly observed, 'That's probably so they could carry the heavy coal scuttles, fill buckets of water and empty the chamber pots even quicker.'



Year 7 Visit Woodbrooke

As part of National Quaker Week, Year 7 made their annual visit to Woodbrooke early in the Autumn Term. The trip serves to help Year 7 get to know each other really well and bond as a year group. They led the Epilogue (a final Meeting for Worship at bedtime) each evening and learned a lot about the history of Quakers, their faith and practice and their contribution to society. As ever, the week culminated in what was a highlight for chocolate lovers among the group, with a visit to Cadbury World! The trip, which was full of fun, but also of reflection, proved a valuable excursion in the Year 7 programme



Snowdonia – Conquering the Summit



Wales provided both warm weather and magnificent scenery for Year 5 and 6 as they set about measuring rivers, exploring the glacial features of Cwm Idwal, and experiencing first-hand what it is like to climb to the summit of Mount Snowdon. 'Tired, but I made it,' puffed Thomas Brafman-Kennedy at the top, closely followed by Isolde Northover and Michael Wilson who both agreed the long trudge up the mountain was 'an epic adventure'.

This trip is a regular feature in the calendar and inspires some fine project work on the return to school. Some of the geographers, biologists and environmental scientists of the future will have started their journey from the base of Mount Snowdon.

