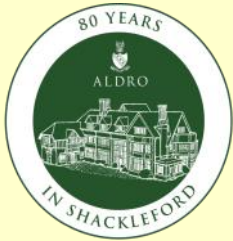


The Headmaster writes:



...on a preference for 3D and the arrival of girls at Aldro!

At the start of term we hosted a number of Zoom meetings for parents. Feedback suggested strongly that the online format was well-received. Why? Perhaps because no babysitters were needed, perhaps because the sofa at home is more comfortable than the undersized classroom chairs of the junior corridor, or perhaps because it's just easier to turn off the camera, sit back and sip quietly away at the gin and tonic whilst the Headmaster is talking! More recently, however, we brought parents in to school in person for a parent-teacher meeting (masked and socially distanced, of course). I asked each of them as they left if they would have preferred the meeting on Zoom. The response was unanimous; a triumph for 3D over 2D, with every parent confirming that they preferred to meet the teachers in person. The September return to school has served as a post-lockdown reminder of just how profoundly relational we are as human beings. After nearly six months away from school, it has been wonderful to be back this term, in person.

On 15th September we announced that Aldro will soon welcome girls for the first time. Word travels fast! The school had received its first registration for a new girl before lunchtime, and the parents of over 30 girls have since expressed interest; we have been enormously encouraged by the initial response. Plans are now well under way to develop the old tennis court behind the CHC into our first netball court and multi-use games facility, and we are planning to develop the CHC into an outstanding dance facility. We have recently met with Phillipa Hogan from the Phillipa Hogan School of Dance and hope to partner with her as we bring dance to Aldro. As we look ahead, the school's strong sense of family, its independence, its academic aspirations at

13+, and its strength in sport and the creative and performing arts will continue to ensure a thriving future for generations of boys, and now girls, to come.

At the end of this half term, I would like to pay tribute to my extremely hard-working staff. The teachers have had to cope with unprecedented challenges over recent weeks and months, all against a backdrop of inevitable anxiety, increased supervisory duties and a raft of new COVID-related protocols. Throughout it all, they have never stopped putting the needs of our pupils first and have so often gone far beyond the call of duty. The happiness of the Aldro boys over recent weeks is testament to the commitment and dedication of the whole staff team and, on behalf of us all, I would like to thank them most sincerely.

No doubt for a combination of all that precedes, we have been much buoyed by the busyness of our Admissions department this term. The phone has not stopped ringing and the team are working overtime as we have sought to handle a threefold-increase in enquiries from prospective parents compared with this time last year. The current interest in Aldro is palpable and, against a backdrop of uncertainty on a local and national level, we remain optimistic and excited by all that is going on here at Aldro!

Chris Carlier
Headmaster

Head Boy and Deputy



Mr Carlier was delighted to announce the Head Boy for Aldro this year is Ollie Butcher and his Deputy is Tom Wild. Congratulations boys!

Eighty Years in Shackleford

Happy Birthday to us! September 2020 marked the 80th anniversary of Aldro arriving in Shackleford. To mark the occasion we recreated the photo taken 80 years ago with our new Form 3 boys and Mr Stovold (President of the OAs and a new boy 80 years ago!)



History Table on a Friday

At a History Table the Form 8 boys were taught about the English Civil War. Afterwards they went to the Jekyll garden and watched our shooting instructor Mr Vaughan firing a real musket!



Author Tomos Roberts visits Aldro

We were thrilled to welcome Tomos Roberts to Aldro to celebrate National Poetry Day. Tom is the author of 'The Great Realisation', a poem which has received over 60 million views online and has now been published as a book.

There was a buzz around school leading up to Tom's visit and all expectations were certainly exceeded. Tom presented to Forms 5 – 8. He explained how he plans and constructs his poems and then helped our boys to put together a poem using all their own ideas. Writing a poem about Football, Maths, Chicken and Wildlife with fifty boys is not an easy task but not only did Tom manage it, there was also a lot of fun along the way. Tom joined the Junior boys for their Friday fish and chip lunch. The boys were very excited to have a poet in their presence and made him very welcome.

Our boys did themselves proud, it was noticeable how polite and well-mannered they all are, well done Aldro boys.



Science at Aldro

Our Form 8 boys are using experiments to work out the reactivity of metals and they have got some very cool results



Our Energising scientists were given an acids and alkalis challenge this week.



The boys are energising their curiosity of chemistry in the new Aldro Enrichment classes



Aldro's first ever DT Conker Catapult Competition

This year saw Aldro's first ever DT Conker Catapult Competition. Inspired by Jerry's conker catapult he built in the 2019 DT Pallet Challenge, I set the boys the challenge to make their own device to project a conker the greatest distance possible. True to the Aldro spirit the boys set to with whatever they could lay their hands on. Making full use of wood, nails, screws, rope, bungee cords, elastic, chains, cardboard, paint, glue, tape, rubber bands, spoons, springs, house bricks, old furniture, tree branches, bottle tops, yoghurt pots, plastic pipes, paint tins, construction kits, banana boxes, metal brackets, sand bags, dowel, cocktail sticks, gaffer tape, wood burners, nuts and bolts, washers, hooks, studding, leather pouches, metal weights, haematite weights, plastic bags, string, Lego, flags, wheels, bamboo canes and pencil axels (I hope I haven't forgotten anything!) our budding young engineers set to constructing a huge variety of different contraptions.

Mr Carlier could be heard laughing across the ASC car park when larger and larger models were being brought into school, especially so when one came in on the roof rack! Risk assessments carried out, firing zone duly cordoned off and the masterful compere Mr Rose at the mic, the 2 rounds took place on a beautifully sunny autumnal lunchtime with a crowd of spectators cheering on all the competitors.



Each boy who participated was awarded with 10 squad marks, and a bag of edible conkers (aka Maltesers). Additional credit was given to each of the year group winners and those who had gained merit for exceptional design inspiration and of course our overall winner. The competition could not have been closer with Henry E and Freddie E coming in 3rd place with a distance of 24.65m, their older brother Barnaby with 27.55m on the same device, and George L just pipping him to the post with a 27.57m distance. Special awards were given to Alfred W for his Shacklefort inspired castle structure, Charlie P for his excellently creative camouflage paint job, and to Freddie W-C for his monumental pyramid structure. The Form 8 winner was Jerry T, Form 7 Leo H, Form 6 Barnaby E, Form 5 George L, Form 4 Freddie E and Henry E, and Form 3 Henry M. Much praise must also go to Form 3 boys who had the highest percentage on entrants with 12 out of 20 boys participating, over a third of our 31 different entries.



A most excellent time was had from both participants and spectators, and my favourite quote from the day from another member of staff was 'it just feels like Aldro regaining its normality again!' Mrs Matthews



Ceramics in Art

Just before lockdown our Form 7 boys were busy with their ceramic projects and Mrs Fenwick promised that they would continue when we returned to school. As a result, the Form 8's have been working really hard and with much enthusiasm on these delightful pots. They were challenged to combine the concept of vessel or container with the human figure. The pots are being fired at the moment—watch this space for glazed masterpieces!



Aldro Art Success

Before the summer, during Distance Learning, all the boys in Form 7 and Form 8 selected a window in their home and created an art work showing that window and the view beyond it. Near the end of the project, we discovered that Ampleforth College, in York, were hosting an art competition with that exact theme! What a co-incidence... Every boy who finished his piece before the deadline had his work submitted and the results have just been announced! The overall winner of the competition and the runner-up are both Aldronians. In addition, 5 Aldronians' work was awarded Highly Commended certificates. All the boys have received certificates from Ampleforth College and the Overall Winner has also received a £50 Amazon voucher. Congratulations to the following boys, who richly deserve the recognition for their hard work:

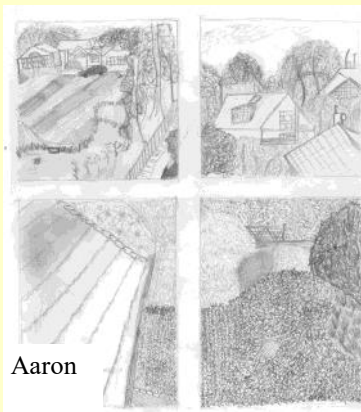
Overall Winner: Ed L Runner-up: Aaron Duhra

Highly Commended: Sahib K, Tom W, Alexander S-O, Dominic DV and George W.

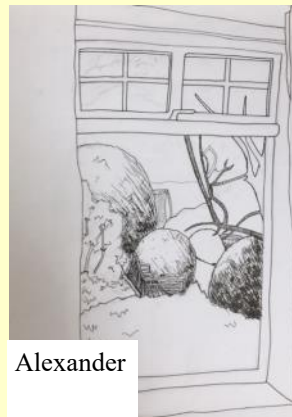
A thank you, to Ampleforth College, for this lovely opportunity for our boys to showcase their work.



Ed



Aaron



Alexander



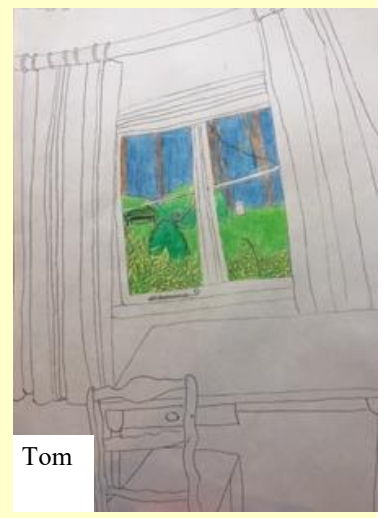
George



Dominic



Sahib



Tom



This painting of a popular Marvel Hero was done during the Summer holidays by Alexander Sheridan-Oliver. He used acrylic paint on board. He worked from a photograph and has achieved a very good likeness. Particularly noteworthy is his mastery of the "dry-brushing" technique, to accentuate the shadows and highlights that give the painting a sense of depth.

Royal Academy Young Persons' Exhibition

On the first Sunday of half term, Mrs Fenwick met Rocco and his mum and grandmother, to travel to London to see his art in the Royal Academy Young Persons' Exhibition. It was a wonderful day out and Gemma Whitehouse, Rocco's mum, wrote:

"What an incredible day, going to see Rocco's artwork on display at the RA. I wasn't sure if the day would ever come as it was supposed to be in the summer and Covid-19 messed that up good and proper! It was such a privilege to see his work amongst so many incredible pieces, the whole room felt so special, so much talent it was unbelievable! 17,700 entries and just 209 chosen for the exhibition. Amazing!!! Rocco loved the whole day and the fact that London wasn't very busy was a bonus. He was very interested in the pigeons..."

Massive thanks to Mrs Fenwick for submitting his work in the first place and being such an inspiring teacher and accompanying us on such a special day. We will never forget it."



Young Artists' Summer Show

#rayoungartists

The Young Artists' Summer Show returns to the Royal Academy for a second year to celebrate the overwhelming resilience and creativity of young artists and teachers everywhere.

As the country went into lockdown in March, submissions for this year's exhibition increased. The world was in turmoil, but young artists turned to art as a way of expressing themselves, as a coping mechanism, a distraction and even a delight.

By the time applications closed at the end of April we had over 17,700 submissions – nearly three times as many as last year – from almost 3,000 schools across the UK, Europe and internationally.

Making art enriches young people's lives by developing a sense of freedom, resilience and by promoting flexible thinking. And although creating art can help us to make sense of the world, so can looking at art, which is what we encourage you to do now. Enjoy the humour, insight, innovation, humanity and innocence of the works on display, and celebrate with us the persistence and encouragement from teachers in the UK and beyond, and the brilliance of young artists everywhere.

Royal Academician and Keeper of the RA Schools, Cathie Pilkington, has kindly co-curated this display with Mary Ealden, Project Manager - Young People and Teachers. Rebecca Salter, President of the RA, has awarded prizes to the two most inspiring artworks in each key stage as well as a special President's Prize.

Thank you to our sponsor, Robin Hambro, a passionate advocate for the importance of access to art, and the benefits of encouraging the arts, for children and young people everywhere.

Thank you to our judges

Primary
Ages 5–11 years

Bob and Roberta Smith RA Artist

Millie Layton
RA Schools student

Rebecca Lyons
Director of Collections & Learning

Sofia Clausse
RA Schools student

Secondary
Ages 11–19 years

Cathie Pilkington RA Artist and Keeper of the RA Schools

Catrina Malaimare
RA Schools student

Eliza Bonham Carter
Curator and Head of RA Schools

James Lomax
RA Schools student

To see the online exhibition visit royalacademy.org/youngartists

Scan to sign up to our mailing list



Sports Talk

Senior Squad Football Matches

We were delighted to welcome spectators back onto the Aldro grounds last Saturday for the annual Squad matches, featuring all available boys in Forms 7 & 8. The boys have been patiently waiting for a chance to play some competitive football, so the Squad Tournament provided an ideal opportunity to show off the skills they have been developing over the last few weeks. In a tightly-contested 'round robin' competition, New Zealand ran out winners by winning three and drawing two of their matches, with West Indies pipping both India and Canada for the runners-up slot on goals scored. Australia and Africa battled gamely, but finished fifth and sixth respectively. With some fast, flowing football on show, decent weather, good pitches and an enthusiastic crowd, it proved a fine afternoon of sport - and hopefully the beginning of a return to normal fixtures.



Sports Talk

Middle School Squad Football Matches

In these extraordinary times it was truly wonderful to host an event that felt 'normal'. The 2020 Form 5&6 Football Squad Matches will probably be remembered for all the wrong reasons, but we as a school were delighted to be able to host them and indeed in front of witnesses! For only the second time this term we were able to invite some parents to come and watch and enjoy an Aldro sporting event on site! As such the boys thoroughly enjoyed finally playing a competitive match that actually meant something.

We were extremely please in the spirit in which the boys played. Each of them showed commitment and enthusiasm whilst being competitive, tough, and determined. The manner in which each accepted winning and losing element of the matches was exemplary and a credit to the teaching staffing who have worked so hard to engendered this vital personality trait.

We congratulate all the boys on their efforts and highlight the players who showed genuine resilience when their team was encountering a tough game.

Well done

GD

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN	GOALS	POINTS	POSITION
West Indies	5	4	0	1	11	13	1st
New Zealand	5	4	1	0	9	12	2nd
Australia	5	3	2	0	5	9	3rd
Africa	5	2	3	0	4	6	4th
India	5	1	3	1	2	4	5th
Canada	5	0	5	0	2	0	6th



Sports Talk

Junior Squad Football Matches

What a delight to be able to hold the 2020 Form 3&4 Football Squad Matches in October of this year and with parents watching. It is possible the event will be remembered for all the wrong reasons, but we as a school were delighted to be able to host them and indeed with spectators during this Covid-19 effected times.

For all the Form 3 boys and some of our new Form 4 pupils this was their first experience of Squad Matches. Having only been inducted into their squads a few days earlier this was a true baptism of fire! However, we were extremely pleased as how quickly the boys adapted and got into the spirit of squad matches. Each of them showed commitment and enthusiasm whilst being competitive, tough, and determined.

At this stage in their Aldro journey we place a high focus on the manner in which each player accepts the winning and losing element of such matches. We work to help them deal with the emotion of the event as well as their own emotions coping with winning, losing and playing together with new players. We congratulate all the boys on their efforts and highlight the players who showed genuine resilience when their team was encountering a tough game.

Well done

GD

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN	GOALS	POINTS	POSITION
India	5	5	0	0	15	15	1st
Australia	5	3	1	1	5	10	2nd
New Zealand	5	2	1	2	7	8	3rd
West Indies	5	1	3	1	5	4	4th=
Canada	5	1	3	1	3	4	4th=
Africa	5	0	4	1	0	1	6th



Boarders' News

Life in the Aldro Boarding House

What a great start to boarding we've had this term with the 'new normal'! It definitely feels a lot more like Aldro again with the boarding house back to being a hive of activity and boys! The full time boarders have had some great weekends out this half term including a trip to the pottery café to paint their very own breakfast bowls and hot chocolate mugs which are now used every day! Mr Nixon got over his fear of inflatables on water and returned with the boys to Liquid Leisure where the sun shined and boys and staff alike got their own back pushing each other into the cold waters!



We've been go-karting, to the beach for fish and chips and had some lovely evenings with popcorn and duvets watching new and old films alike. The boys are all buzzing with a new edition to the boarding house, the PS4! They're stepping up their Football skills with FIFA 2020 on the console to make up for not being able to play matches outside of school!

We have had an influx of Form 6 boarders which is great for the house and it's nice to see our boarding family grow as the terms goes on. The new boys have been enjoying everything boarding has to give and earning their greens and tuck at any given opportunity. We have re-instated the 'boarder of the week' and so far impressing the boarding team we have had Peter X, Solomon M, Tom F and Henrik W all receiving this accolade. We're not sure what's more enticing for the boys aiming for boarder of the week, the thought of an extra piece of tuck or the fact that matron will help with their dreaded bed changing!

We have also had our first boarders council, headed up by Miss D where lots of different ideas were put forward from the boarders about changes they'd like to see in the boarding house including some great comments from the Form 5's "everything is already great" which we like to hear!

Lots more to look forward to in the next half of the Christmas term.



Junior Department

Form 3 arrive and settle in at Aldro!

It has been super to see the Form 3 boys adapt so quickly to their new life at Aldro.



Junior Department

The Juniors introduced to la pétanque

Fine weather at the beginning of term allowed us to resurrect la pétanque for a few unusual Autumn sessions. During French lessons, the Junior boys were introduced to the history and the philosophy of the game before having a go on the grass. Senior boys used our state-of-the-art *boulodrome* with Sir James and Monsieur in their French activity, and took the opportunity to learn a few relevant idioms such as this one - used when a player only needs one more point to win: "*il est à Rome, mais il n'a pas vu le Pape*" (he is in Rome, but he hasn't seen the Pope yet).



Junior Department

Form 3 boys Welcomed into their Squads



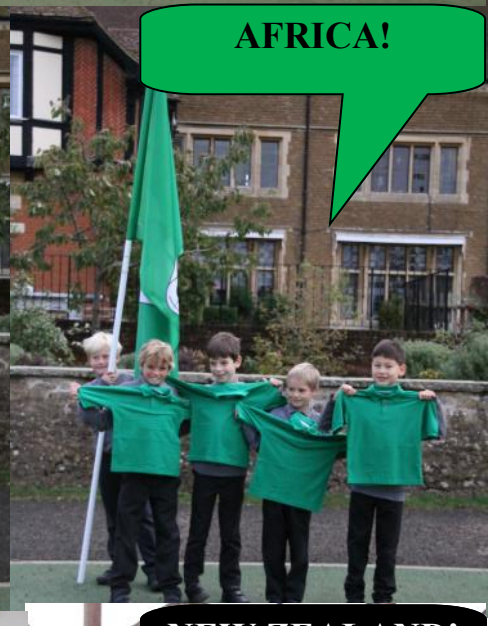
WEST INDIES!



AUSTRALIA!



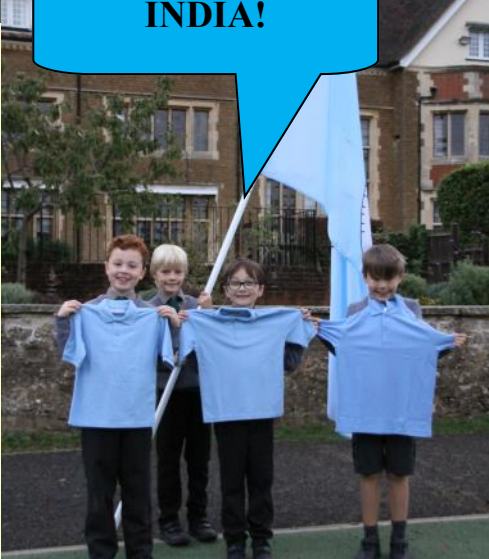
AFRICA!



CANADA!



INDIA!

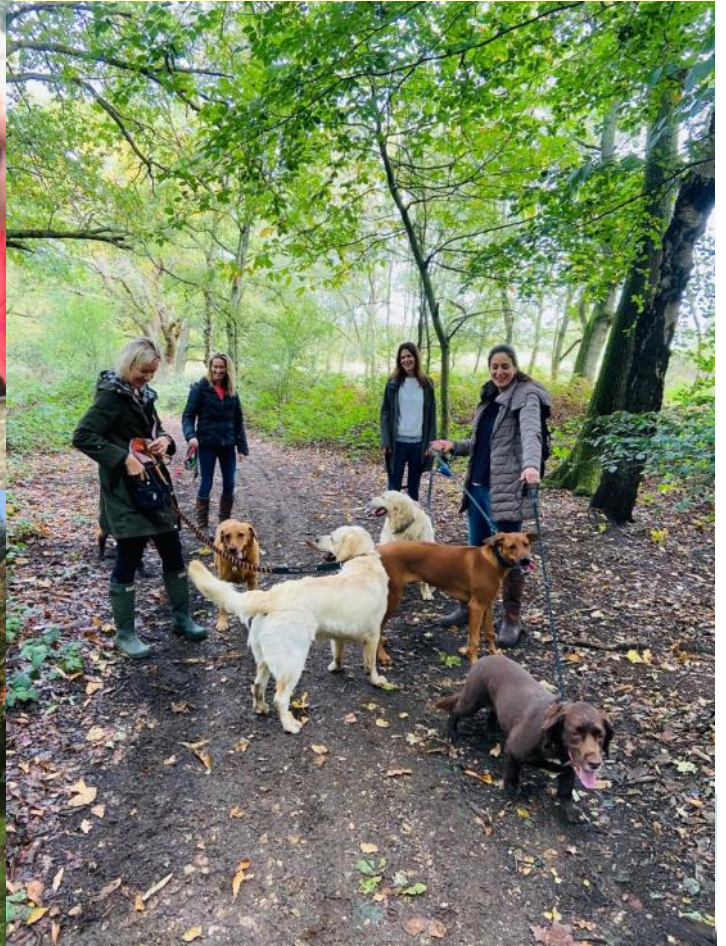


NEW ZEALAND!



Friends of Aldro

A huge thank you to the Friends of Aldro for organising some social distance events helping to keep the Aldro community together.



Dates for your diary

ALDRO LECTURE



Graham Hoskins

THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

7PM

ALDRO ONLINE WINTER FAIR

23rd—29th November 2020

More details to follow...

