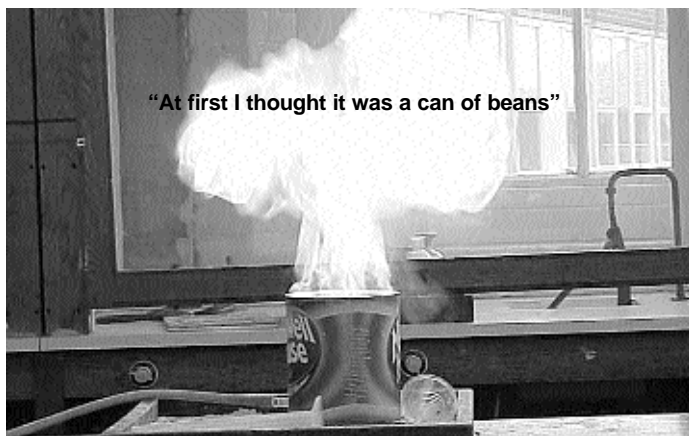


W I N N E R S



Alchemy

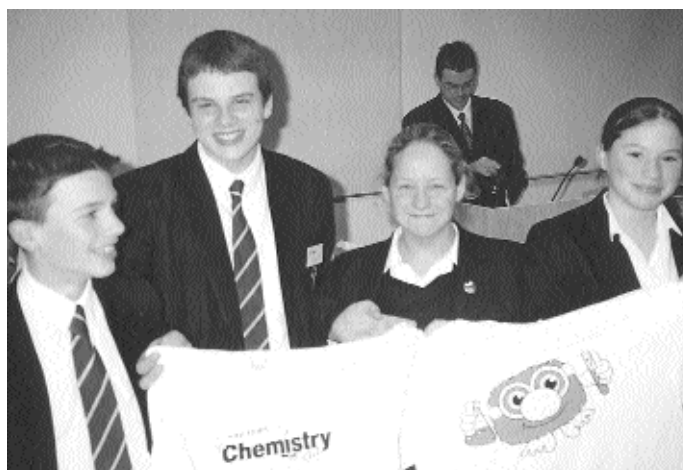
This year was an excellent one for Alchemy. Most of the year was spent carrying out project work for the bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award. Projects ranged from growing the largest crystal of copper sulphate to making the largest flour bomb explosion!

The Salters' Institute organises a Chemistry Festival every year, for children in Years 7 and 8. This year over 500 schools took part, at more than 30 different universities across the United Kingdom.

Alchemy, our Year 8 Chemistry Club, has taken part in these Festivals since 1996. This year the club was represented at the University of Brighton event by Richard Greenhill, Emily Hindle, Rose Paine and George Woodhams (pictured). This is how Emily described the event:

"On Friday 31st May, Dr Miller took four pupils from his two Year 8 classes to Brighton for the day to take part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry. The day was split into two different parts. Before lunch was a detective case in which we had to find the most suitable location for a factory, and then after lunch was the Chemical Egg Race. We were against the clock, and although we were given one hour to complete the task, we only needed five minutes to produce accurate and well thought through results. As well as some tasteful souvenir T-shirts, we also received a grand prize of £100. It was an overall enjoyable day."

Festival of Chemistry – hard at work on the chemical egg race



Armstrong Society

Michaelmas term began with a lunchtime talk from the Rt. Hon. The Lord Jenkin of Roding, who is a member of the Select Committee on Science and Technology. This meeting was arranged jointly with the Politics Society – a new departure for the Armstrong Society. October saw a visit from Dr Mike Forshaw who described some fascinating techniques that enable scientists to make minute devices such as computers that are each small enough to fit on the head of a pin.

Drug abuse in sport remains very topical and Professor David Cowan, who is an acknowledged expert on the subject, provided us with some fascinating background to the world of drugs in international athletics. This talk was the Armstrong Society's contribution to Chemistry Week 2001, as was the following lecture by Professor David Phillips of Imperial College London. He showed us how it is possible to visualise the most tiny objects and how our knowledge has advanced now that we can learn about the structure of things virtually at the atomic scale.

Professor Bonnie Wallace from Birkbeck College London talked on 'DNA and The Components of Life' – an excellent introduction to the subject for the biologists present and inspiring for everyone when the talk moved into a discussion about how the structural information obtained from these molecules gives scientists insight into diseases. This helps in the rational design of new pharmaceuticals.

The start of Lent term saw a return visit from Dr Clare Stanford, an expert on the chemistry of the brain, in particular the so-called mono-amine transmitters which do so much to affect our mood.

Dr Robin Grimes talked about what makes materials strong – defects. His presentation reviewed the types of defects that can occur. Through some excellent demonstrations he provided examples of where they are essential and how poor our present understanding of defects processes can be.

Dr Alan Pickering from Goldsmiths' College London taught us how neuroimaging techniques such as positron emission tomography (PET) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) provide a way of observing the brain at work. Both techniques have been used to localise the parts of the brain that are involved in activities such as face perception, problem-solving, and memory.

This year's lecture programme was ably concluded, at our Annual Dinner, by Dr William Marshall, himself an former Armstrong Society secretary, who gave us a fascinating potted history of his career since leaving St Dunstan's. His career has taken him into science, medicine, teaching, educational planning, writing, publishing and finance, sometimes all at the same time.

In the academic year 2002-2003, we have lined up an excellent series of talks, with topics ranging from the incredibly small (electronic devices made on an atomic scale) to the mind-bogglingly large (The Universe as seen from the Hubble Space Telescope). Everyone is welcome at these talks – please visit the Armstrong Society page at www.sdchemistry.org.uk to get details on topics and dates.

AJM

The Debating Society

The debating society has experienced unprecedented success over the last twelve months. With standards being raised constantly, and met! Participants have shown a level of commitment and determination usually only seen on the sports field, and together have made team St Dunstan's a major player on the debating scene.

The year got off to a fantastic start with the Senior house debating competition. The level of quality was high indeed. A close fought competition, the Usherwood team of the measured Ruth DeSouza and rambunctious Kier Marston eventually won; for Hecker, a highly amusing Fong-Phu and always incisive Harriet being runners up.

Showing that age doesn't matter, both the Lower and Middle School have flourished. The Middle School house debating competition was a showcase of the school's debating muscle. Adai Monnerville and Samuel Hines won the competition for Forder, in the well-attended and expertly fought final.

The short preparation Lower School debating competition capacitated twelve teams and was the largest competition the debating society has ever organised. It proved a highly enjoyable and informative experience for those involved, allowing members of the lower school to get their first taste of competitive debating. Fifteen to one style whittling down saw Lucy Heffernan and Alice Lucas emerge victorious, and show the potential to make top class debaters.

Tom Neenan and Fong-Phu Tran took part in the prestigious Observer Mace Debating Competition and were runners up in the London Final (next time Westminster . . . next time)

Even the papers are realising the strength of St Dunstan's Debaters. Hanna Retallack, Adrian Benn and Emma Kerr made The South London Press for their astounding triumph in the 'English Speakers Union', Emma winning best questioner.

With such amazing achievements all round much is expected of the society next year. All who participated would like to offer their extreme gratitude to the dynamo of encouragement, enthusiasm and expertise that is, My Amy. Under his watchful eye, who knows what successes you could be reading about next year?

Tom Neenan

Politics Society

A post election hiatus meant that the Politics Society had to cast its net far and wide to attract a variety of interesting and informed speakers.

After the annual Lower Sixth trip to Westminster, the first meeting was a joint meeting of the Politics Society and the Armstrong Society. Lord Jenkin of Roding [former Conservative Party Cabinet Minister Patrick Jenkin] gave a very expert and highly accessible talk on the impact of politics on science, giving genetically modified food for thought to students studying science and Government and Politics.

This was followed by a visit from Mr Jim Dowd, the Labour MP for Lewisham West. He began by giving some insights to the internal workings of the parliamentary Labour Party from his time as a Whip. Mr Dowd also gave his views on local issues, receiving a detailed cross-examination on the value of locally elected mayors by Roland Bensted and the value of incinerators by Gabby Williams.



Jim Dowd MP

To balance the down to earth views of Mr Dowd, the next speaker was Dr Geoffrey Robertson of the Natural Party, an organisation made infamous for its advocacy of yogic flying. Despite a highly interesting discussion on the importance of spirituality and inner calm, the students remained somewhat cynical and happy to keep their feet on the ground.

The Arab Israeli conflict is an issue of huge contemporary importance. Mr John Levy of the Friends of Israel organisation gave a sympathetic view of the historical position of the state of Israel. A strongly argued debate occurred following his presentation, with Gabby Williams raising the issue of the rights of displaced Palestinians and Kier Marston arguing the case for a Palestinian state.

During half term, Nadia Messina enjoyed a highly successful work placement at the European Parliament in Brussels at the offices of Mrs Jean Lambert, the Green MEP for the London area. Nadia hopes to return during her university semesters and was an excellent ambassador for the College.

The College was delighted to be visited by Professor Peter Hennessy, the world's leading expert on the internal workings of Whitehall and the Prime Minister's Office. He gave a highly entertaining, original and comprehensive talk on the Blair administration, offering colourful anecdotes about some of the leading players matched by colourful language that shocked some of the less worldly Sixth Formers present. It was a real privilege to listen to a leading academic with the ability to pitch his presentation to A Level students without diluting the central message.

The final speaker this year was Mr Lembit Opik MP,

the first Liberal Democrat to address the society. A regular media pundit, having appeared on shows such as Have I Got News for You, Mr Opik was an extremely accomplished performer, who was happy to speak candidly and honestly. His main concern was the amount of apathy in the political process and the need for politicians to engage young voters. Mr Opik impressed all the students who attended the meeting and was happy for our students to contact him to follow up some of the many issues that were discussed.



Lembit Opik MP

Many thanks to Miss Monique Howell and her



successor as Politics Society Alistair Brockbanks for their help in putting the programme together.

Congratulations to the Upper Sixth Politics students who recorded an impressive 70% A grade success this summer. Astonishingly, one third of all the units were passed with students achieving 100%, with Lerone Bowyer and Rebecca Dove attaining 100% in all three modules.



Japanese Language Club



Play Station 2, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Manga, Sushi, Anime, Godzilla, Sumo Wrestling, Karaoke, Cornelius, the Power Rangers,

Pokemon, Inamoto (the soccer player who was perpetually appearing for Arsenal 'in a mo'). As Japanese culture slowly takes over the world, steps have been taken to ensure that St Dunstan's pupils are more than adequately prepared. Every Wednesday for the last



year, students from Year 7 right up to Year 13 have enthusiastically participated in after school classes where they have been taught the rudiments of Japanese language and culture by native speakers from the Institute of International Education in London. In fact, demand became so high that more advanced classes eventually had to be held. How long will it be before Dunstonians add 'Chookakkoi!' (Ultra Cool!) and 'Chooberiba! (Ultra Uncool!) to their stock of teenage slang?

The Japanese Language Course

I am writing about the Japanese Language Course, because it was something I thoroughly enjoyed doing. Taking on extra work at the end of the day, does not seem like fun, but believe me it was. We learned the Japanese alphabet, and how to write some of the characters, and we also learned how to say simple phrases, and to interpret simple actions.

I did two courses, the beginner's course and the post beginner's course and although in themselves, they were quite different I enjoyed them both equally. The first was, of course a little less academic and we learned quite a bit about Japanese culture and about their homes and pastimes and I found this very interesting. We also learned about Origami, Martial Arts (something very big in Japan) and how to draw cartoons and finally Japanese fashion (Manga). We finished our sessions with Japanese games. These were fun but very difficult to explain.

As I said at the beginning I thoroughly enjoyed the classes and will now have to finish, as there are no advance classes at present. I found the language very pleasant, to both learn and listen to, and what I learned about the people left me wanting to learn much more!

Chris White, 10L

Modern Languages Society

This has been a rather eventful year for the Modern Languages Society. There were many stimulating contributions from members of the Modern Languages Department. Mr O'Shaughnessy presented a brief history of Spain followed by images of this fascinating country as seen by tourists today. Mr Gordon helped considerably with the smooth running of all events and gave a most useful presentation on the diversity of future employment prospects for those with modern languages qualifications. This was followed by a riveting talk from an outside speaker, Adam Pearson, who presented his personal experience of working abroad to the obvious keen interest of his audience.

Finally Mr Glyne-Thomas spoke of his travelling experiences, which curiously largely focused on trucks abroad. The rather impressive powerpoint presentation made this worthy of mention, although the relevance



remains a little tenuous to this day! However, this was speedily followed by a truly valuable session on improving IT skills to assist in the effective studying of languages.

The central event was, of course, the Modern Languages dinner, which provided an enjoyable opportunity to catch up with former colleagues and hear of our linguists' future plans.

I would like to thank our secretary for this year, Nadia Messina, for her unfailing enthusiasm in motivating her fellow 6th form linguists, and wish Fongphu Tran success in his forthcoming year as the new Modern Languages Society secretary.

Science Week 2002

Science Week at St Dunstan's was launched in a traditional manner with the Armstrong Society's penultimate meeting of the year. Dr Alan Pickering of Goldsmith's College, London, gave a talk on 'Neuroimaging: from Physics to Psychology', in which he described the techniques used to observe the brain while the owner carries out various tasks, such as problem-solving and remembering events. Creepy Creatures returned to give Year 7 pupils hands-on experience of various arthropods and reptiles. A welcome addition to the show was a bearded dragon that caught locusts with its long tongue! Members of Year 7 were also involved in the Lower School Science Competition. This year PowerPoint presentations featured alongside the more traditional practical demonstrations. The eventual winners, from 7H, Alice Lucas, Olivia Mackay and Felicity Martin, gave an informative presentation on Light, working effectively as a team, and employing simple

clear demonstrations. The runners-up, from 7S, Oliver Kay, Imogen Large and Debbie Ikiebe, explained the origins of the Steam Engine, and used a straightforward demonstration to illustrate the science behind the early locomotives. For the first time, Year 10 pupils competed in the House Chemical Egg Race. Teams of four had to solve a crime using forensic evidence combined with their chemical knowledge. Points were also awarded for presenting how they arrived at their conclusions. The clear winners were from Forder House. Quantum Theatre for Science provided Year 8 with a Complete Guide to Forces. The actors combined slapstick with Newton's laws of motion in a very entertaining and memorable manner. Professor Ivan Parkin and Dr Graeme Hogarth of UCL visited the College and took Year 9 on a tour of the Periodic Table. Their spectacular demonstrations included plunging various items into liquid nitrogen, exploding balloons of hydrogen, and setting fire to biscuits soaked in oxygen. Thankfully there were no casualties! As part of their final approach to the GCSE examinations Year 11 spent a morning at the Natural History Museum, consolidating their understanding of evolution. Their visit focussed on an excellent exhibition on the Origin of the Species. The week's events concluded with the Armstrong Society Lecture and Annual Dinner. The guest of honour was Dr William Marshall of King's College Hospital, who provided a very entertaining review of his rather eventful and varied career.

MW

Community Service

Pre-Prep Internet club

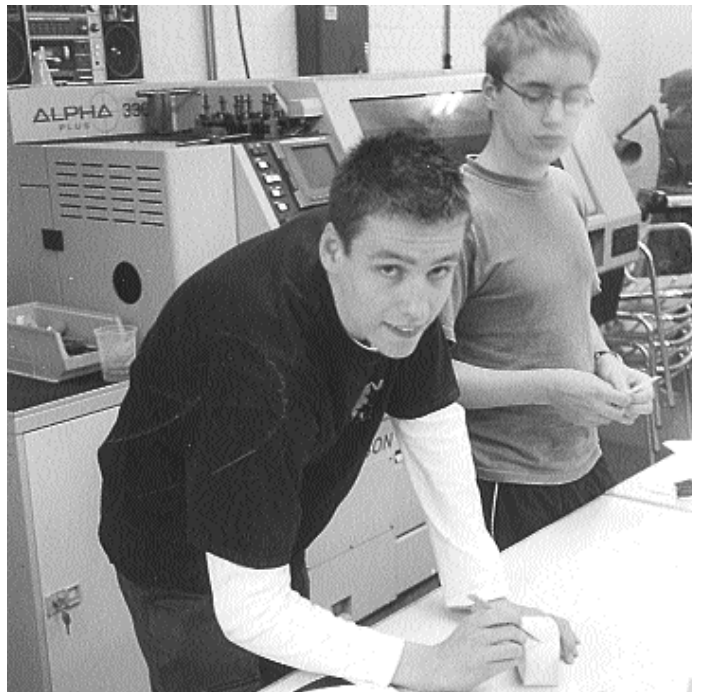
2002 was the second year that this activity was run. It was originally conceived to empower the pre-prep children with Internet skills suited to the 21st century. This has without doubt been achieved and even more. Pupils have learned keyboard techniques, mouse control and searching skills and thoroughly enjoyed the activities to boot (no pun intended).

Year One used sites from a list of favourites and learned how to discriminate between good and bad information. Their particular favourite site being Bob the Builder's bobbing apples. This raises the question as to whether there is any educational value in computer games. In this instance, I can confirm that there is. Mouse skills and hand-eye coordination were developed to a high degree and this will pay dividends in many areas of their learning in the future.

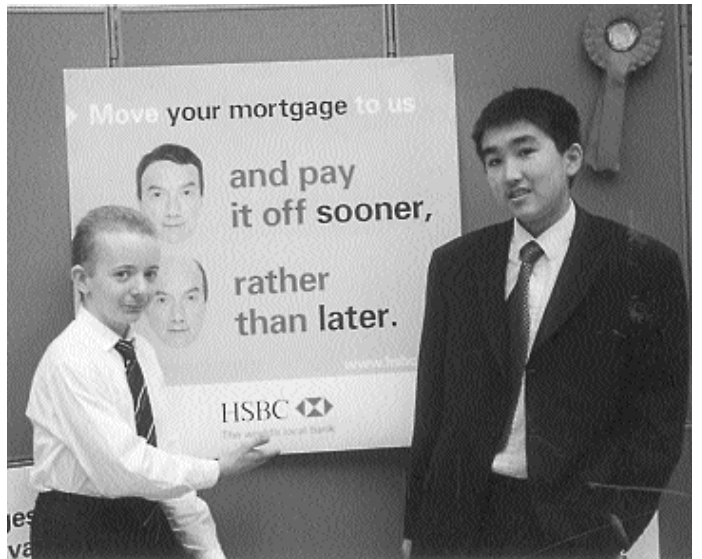
Year Two used search engines to acquire information. This was done in conjunction with their class History project on famous people. The Internet is a great source of information and this was used to great effect. Both Year Two classes produced an enormous book of Famous People but this was not to be the extent of their learning. In conjunction with this each pupil created a



Jonathan Yirrell working at the Reptile House, London Zoo (with Iggy!)



Douglas Baker and Pearson Matthews at the Design Partnership



Alex Sequeria and Aidyn Adylov at HSBC headquarters

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

variety of word searches using new and dedicated software that teased the brain with their complexity. Keyboard skills and cross curricular links came to the front and the obvious hard work which their teachers put into their learning was most evident.

Special thanks must be given to my excellent team of classroom assistants. I am sure that we are the only group who can truly claim to provide one on one learning and without doubt, this has been of great educational value to all of us. This is one of the activities that makes our school special and long may it continue.

CMR

Work Experience

Year 11 students were engaged in a variety of activities during their Work Experience at the end of the College Year. As usual the placements were of an extremely high quality and the employers were impressed with the skills and manner of our students. Many thanks to Mr David Lea, Mr Martin Leang and Mrs Sonia McGarr for helping organise and supervise the activity.

PAG