



RADLEY



Unforgettable Nights of Jazz & Piano

Two prestigious musicians, Giacomo Smith and Sir Stephen Hough, each performed sell-out opening concerts in the newly refurbished Silk Hall and ran a series of masterclasses with Radley's musicians.

The acclaimed woodwind player Giacomo Smith, along with his Hot Five band, brought the Silk Hall to life in a vibrant evening of jazz, performing alongside some of the College's own groups, including the Jazz Ensemble, Big Band, and 5'9. The evening also featured a number of standout student soloists. Jovan (6.2, J) gave a powerful performance of *St James Infirmary*, while August (6.1, G) captivated the audience with *The Very Thought of You* and *I Loves You, Porgy*. Students also collaborated with Smith on several of his own compositions and arrangements, including *Two Four No More* and *Blues Overture*. The Warden described the concert as one of the finest performances he had seen at Radley during his entire tenure. A recording of the concert can be viewed [here](#).

The next day, Radley welcomed internationally renowned concert pianist Sir Stephen Hough who inaugurated the College's new concert grand piano. A packed audience enjoyed a varied programme that included arrangements of Schubert, Schoenberg, Schumann, and music from *Mary Poppins*. Earlier in the afternoon, Luca (V, B), Zaki (6.1, A), Gabriel (S, G) and Lawrence (S, B) took part in a workshop with Sir Stephen. Head of Keyboard Sam Mitchell wrote, "I was

Parent Information

All Parents

ISI Inspection – A Message from the Warden

As you know, the College was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in January 2026. The team looks at all aspects of the school with one of the main aims being to check that the regulatory standards are being met. I am delighted to say that it was a successful inspection and I am grateful to all the staff whose day-to-day work was affirmed in this way.

I am grateful too to all parents who filled in the questionnaires and were overwhelmingly positive in their feedback. The same was true of the boys and I want particularly to commend them for the way in which they represented themselves, and the College, during the inspection itself; the team praised them throughout for their politeness, commitment and enthusiasm.

The final report is below. It is a slightly frustrating part of the process that there is a generic feel to such reports but at the same time there are many positive comments about what we do and how we do it. To pick out just one which is a good summary of what we care about: inspectors noted 'a positive culture which has at its heart the values of humility, kindness, responsibility and duty'.

Inspections can only be a snapshot but it is lovely to be able to have such an obvious stamp of approval for the College from those who know and understand schools. I am particularly pleased that our Partnerships work has been recognised as a 'significant strength', a phrase reserved by ISI for examples of sustained excellence within what a school does.

It is always an important moment to complete another inspection cycle and to do so successfully; thank you to all involved. A lot of hard work goes into the process; much more importantly, of course, that hard work goes on day to day for – and from – the boys.

A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

Required Documentation for Entry to the UK

The Home Office Nationality Team has issued an important reminder regarding the documentation required for British citizens travelling to the UK, as part of the continued transition to a fully digital immigration system. This notice is particularly relevant to students and families who hold dual nationality. To enter the UK as a British citizen, individuals must hold and travel with one of the following valid documents:

If a student holds two passports, they must use their UK passport to enter the UK. Naturalisation or registration certificates alone are not valid for entry, and travellers without the correct documentation risk being denied boarding and potential difficulties at the UK border. Parents and guardians must ensure that children who are British citizens, including those who hold dual nationality, travel with their own valid British passport or Certificate of Entitlement. If you do not currently hold one of the above documents, you must apply before travelling. Further information and applications:

- [British passports](#)
- [Certificate of Entitlement](#)

Ensuring that students and families are properly documented before travel will reduce the risk of disruption at boarding or on arrival in the UK.

Music School Opening Concert, 22nd March

We are looking forward to our upcoming Opening Concert in the new Music School on the 22nd March. This performance is fully sold out. We therefore kindly ask that you only attend if you have secured a ticket. A ticket checking system will be in place at the door. We are keen to avoid any disappointment and would not wish for anyone to be turned away. If you were unable to book for the event, tickets are still available for a number of forthcoming events. Please take a look at [this brochure](#) for further information.

6.1 Play – *Dead Poets Society*, 13th March

Join us for this year's 6.1 Play, *Dead Poets Society*, on Friday 13th March, 7.45pm, in Theatre. No tickets required.

Old boy and English teacher, John Keating, is introduced to students from Wellton Academy, an all-boys independent school, that is known for its ancient traditions along with high academic expectations and standards. Using unorthodox methods, Keating enables students to break out of their shells and pursue their own paths. However, when a student's aspirations do not align with their father's expectations, tragedy comes calling.

Boys Taking Public Examinations This Summer

As your sons approach the final stages of their exam preparations next term, we wish them all the best in their efforts. On rare occasions, circumstances may arise that impact your son at the time of his exams. Such circumstances might include the recent death of a family member, personal trauma, temporary illness, or serious disruptions during the exam. In these cases, the school may apply for Special Consideration, which, while not significant, can help to ensure a fairer outcome. Special Consideration "provides adjustments to marks or grades after exams for students who were affected by temporary illness, injury or other circumstances at the time of assessment." (JCQ Guidance). The maximum adjustment is 5% reserved for the most exceptional situations, though adjustments typically range

encourage you to inform us of any issues that may make your son eligible to apply for Special Consideration. While we will gather information through Tutors, please ensure nothing is overlooked by emailing the Head of Exams, [Louise Vaan](#) directly and copying in your son's Tutor. This information should be with us in a timely fashion before the exam takes place – except in cases where an incident happens during the exam, in which case, as soon as possible afterwards, and no later than five days after the exam. The email should include a brief description of the issue, the date it occurred, and any relevant evidence eg, a medical report. All cases will be reviewed by a committee, and in every instance where Special Consideration is applied for, the student will be notified. Final decisions on any Special Consideration awarded lie with awarding bodies.

Parent Event: Careers in Corporate Law – London, 17th March 2026 at 6.30pm

Parents are invited to join us for an evening of expert insight, advice and networking. Perfect for parents who want to:

- Support their son's interest in law – routes in and how to get ahead
- Hear advice from a head-hunter on the skills firms look for
- Get insights on AI, the future of law & growth areas
- Network over drinks with industry experts, those starting out and other parents

Parents with sector experience are particularly encouraged to attend as your perspective will be especially valuable. Register for the event [here](#).



Talking Heads. AI in Education: Threat, Tool, or Transformation?

Tuesday 17th March – 7pm

Join us for our upcoming parents' webinar, *Talking Heads*, as we tackle one of the most significant issues in education today: AI-enabled plagiarism



As artificial intelligence tools become more powerful and accessible, how should students, parents and educators respond? What counts as cheating, what counts as legitimate support, and how are expectations changing beyond the classroom?

We're delighted to welcome Daisy Christodoulou MBE as our speaker. With her trademark clarity and evidence-informed approach, Daisy will explore the implications of AI for learning, assessment and future careers – and offer practical guidance for navigating this rapidly evolving landscape. Daisy is Director of Education at No More Marking, a provider of online comparative judgement assessments. She works closely with schools in the UK, Australia and the USA on developing new approaches to assessment, and on applications of artificial intelligence in the classroom. She was previously Head of Assessment at Ark Schools, a network of academy schools. She has taught English in two London comprehensives and has been part of UK government commissions on the future of teacher training and assessment. Daisy is the author of four books: *Seven Myths about Education*; *Making Good Progress? The future of Assessment for Learning*; *Teachers vs Tech?* and *I Can't Stop Thinking about VAR*.

Register [here](#).

Shell

This week has been full of incredible cultural highlights. Congratulations to all Shells who have been involved in the extraordinary concerts to mark the opening of the new Music School. Debating at Radley is a lively quick-witted activity, and the Shells have been writing reviews of the debates taking place throughout the term, with prizes awarded for the best reviews. I have also encouraged as many of the Shells as possible to see the wonderful 6.1 play: *Dead Poets Society*. I hope it will inspire some of the boys to get involved in theatre at Radley whether it be treading the boards or behind the scenes. Last Saturday, I took 50 Shells to Cheltenham Ladies College for a Retro Games evening, where they had a great time immersing themselves in classic "museum games". Most importantly, the CLC staff were full of praise for their gentlemanly and good-humoured behaviour. There will be more Saturday socials for the boys next term when the weather allows for in-Social barbeques

German Exchange

Boys studying German next year are encouraged to take part in our new exchange programme with a school in Cloppenburg. For more details and to register interest, please complete [this online form](#) – families will receive more information before the Easter break.

[action]

Dr Matthew Rumbold

Interim Head of Shells

MIR.Rumbold@radley.org.uk

Remove

Barcelona Exchange – Deadline: 20th March

Parents of boys with a place on this upcoming Easter trip are kindly asked to log in to [myschoolportal](#) to complete the Consent and Code of Conduct Form. Deadline for completion is Friday 20th March. Parents will shortly be sent the details of their son's exchange partner, along with a packing list and itinerary. [action]

German Exchange

Boys studying German next year are encouraged to take part in our new exchange programme with a school in Cloppenburg. For more details and to register interest, please complete [this online form](#) – families will receive more information before the Easter break.

[action]

Mr Alan Chandrachud

Head of Removes

AJC.Chandrachud@radley.org.uk

Fifth

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award – Sign-up Deadline: 24th March

Fifths are eligible to sign up for their Gold DofE. They may begin the Award immediately (once they have turned 16), or choose to wait until after their GCSE examinations. To help with planning expedition numbers, the deadline for sign-ups is 24th March. Please find a letter about the Award [here](#), which includes a link to register your son. If you have any questions, please contact the DofE Award Manager, [Paul Fernandez](#). [action]

Madrid Trip, 25th – 28th September

with details about the trip can be found [here](#). **[action]**

Mrs Jo De Ritter

Head of Fifths

JDR.de.Ritter@radley.org.uk

6.1

Congratulations to all the 6.1s involved in the play this week. It's been a fantastic production and hugely enjoyable for everyone who attended last night's performance, as well as for those going tonight. Today, the boys had a PSHE talk from Lead Nurse Alex Gilley on relationships and sexual health. They are also continuing the research phase of their upcoming UCAS application. We have challenged them all to return next term with a clear idea of which course (or at least subject area) they would like to study, should they apply to university. Next week marks the final full week of the Lent term. **[info]**

International Universities Consultation Sessions

At the start of the Summer Term, we will be hosting a *Talking Heads* parent webinar on international university applications and destinations. The talk will be led by David Hawkins, founder of [The University Guys](#), an independent advisory company that specialise in advising students on applications to overseas universities. In addition, David is offering parents of 6.1 boys who are interested in international universities to book a free, 30 minute one-to-one consultation with him to discuss international university applications. A booking link for those who would like to take up this opportunity can be found [here](#). **[action]**

Madrid Trip, 25th – 28th September

For those who haven't already done so and are studying or will be studying A-Level Spanish next year, please register your son's interest for the Madrid trip by filling in [this form](#). A letter with details about the trip can be found [here](#). **[action]**

Interview Coaching – Sign-Up Required, Deadline 15th March

Interviews can be daunting. To help practice this life skill, we are offering all 6.1s tailored interview coaching sessions with an experienced external provider. For more information and to sign up, please [click here](#). **[action]**

Request for Support from Parents: Share your Career Insights with 6.1s

On Tuesday 30th June, we are holding our annual Futures & Networking Evening, giving 6.1s the chance to hear about a range of industries and practise their networking skills with speakers. Can you help? ORs and parents have been invaluable in supporting this event in the past, and we would love to continue broadening boys' horizons by introducing them to

Mr Tim Lawson

Head of Sixth Form

TCL.Lawson@radley.org.uk

6.2

At the end of last week, and start of this week, the boys have been reflecting on their mock results with their Form Master and Tutor. These grades will play an important role in discussions about which university offers they choose as their firm and insurance options. Further details about the logistics of this process can be found in [this document](#) from Mr Deasy. Next week marks the final full week before the Easter break. **[info]**

Revision Guidance

The Easter break will be a crucial time as the boys prepare for the final push towards their exams next term. Please read [this document](#) which offers advice from the various departments on how the boys should be revising for their subjects over the break. **[action]**

Online Tuition

In the vast majority of cases, pupils who engage fully with the work set by their dons have all the academic assistance they need. We do, however, understand that some parents may occasionally wish to arrange additional external online tuition. If that is something you currently do or are considering, we would be grateful if you could take a moment to read our [Online Tuition Guidelines](#) so that any arrangements are well-coordinated and supportive of your son's overall balance and wellbeing. **[info]**

Mr Tim Lawson

Head of Sixth Form

TCL.Lawson@radley.org.uk

News



Andrei's New Film

Andrei (C, S) attended the premiere of his new animated fantasy *The Land of Sometimes*, in which he voices the starring role of Alfie. The cast includes Ewan McGregor and Helena Bonham Carter. "Andrei is a lead alongside A-list Hollywood actors," praised Director of Drama Victoria Buse. "What an achievement!"



Dead Poets Society

Audiences were inspired by this week's 6.1 Play, *Dead Poets Society*, a stage adaptation of the classic 1989 film starring Robin Williams. Boys have been working hard since Christmas to bring to life the story of John Keating, an English teacher in an independent school, whose encouragement of his students' individuality leads to both powerful but also tragic consequences.



Guitar Prize

"Every boy performed with such focus, musical communication and character," wrote Precentor Sam Gladstone about the Guitar Prize, which saw incredible solo and group performances in Silk Hall. Congratulations to Rex (6.1, H) and Zubyn (6.1, G) for their well-earned first and second places.



Chemistry Challenge

Radley's Removes and Fifts competed against 126 other schools in the Junior Chemistry Challenge. 14 boys won Gold certificates, placing them in the top 15% nationally, while Cayden (V, A) and James (V, K) came first and second while Yat Fung (V, F) and Paul (V, L) came joint third within the College.



Countryside Programme

Shells have entered the penultimate week in this year's Shell Countryside Programme, during which the boys have laid over a hundred metres of native hedging, planted two oak trees as part of a national WWII commemoration, walked the hounds, and observed veterinary and husbandry practices for sheep, pigs and goats.



Wales U18 Rugby

Congratulations to Mosese (6.1, E) who has been selected to play for Wales U18 against Italy U18 in the Principality Stadium this weekend. Master i/c Rugby Nick Wood called it "an amazing achievement!"



Shirley's Retirement

Wishing a happy retirement to Shirley Davis, who has worked as a cleaner in A Social for nearly three decades. Boys applauded as A Social's Tutor Richard Hughes presented her with a rare orchid in recognition of her years of dedication and care across the tenures of four separate Tutors, making her a familiar and much-valued presence in the boarding house.



Acting Workshop

Drama Scholars Bertie (R, F) and Hugo (R, F) assisted fourteen Year 8 students from St Hugh's Prep School, in a practical acting workshop in the Studio Theatre. The subject was melodrama, and the students enjoyed exploring the exaggerated performance style and stereotypical characters.



Dragons' Den

CEO of car insurance app Cuvva, Freddy Macnamara (2001, E), spoke to boys about 'What Makes a Great Pitch' and the key elements he and the other Dragons will be looking for in Radley's upcoming *Dragons' Den*. Several boys discussed their ideas with Freddy, who was impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm. We now look forward to receiving the 60-second pitches and business plans, due on 17th April.



Inter-Social Chess

After a series of intense rounds which began in January, the Inter-Social Chess final was a close match for the prestigious Margaret Pugh Trophy. Eventually, the five-strong H Social contingent came out on top, with a 3-2 victory.

Fixtures & Travel Information

We are always delighted to see parents supporting fixtures. Due to the dynamic nature of fixtures and venues, please check **SOCS** and speak to your son before making travel arrangements. Please keep dogs on a lead and pick up after them. Radley is a non-smoking campus. Due to the development of the Music School, parking is restricted at home fixtures.

Saturday 14th March

Cross Country: ESAA English Schools Championships

Fives v Rugby Fives Association

Football v Haileybury

Football v MCS

Hockey v Eton

Rowing v St Paul's

Tuesday 17th March

Real Tennis: National U16 Singles

Squash v Harrow

Wednesday 18th March

Fencing: Public Schools' Fencing Championships

Tennis: LTA National Round 1

Thursday 12th March

Basketball v Stowe

Hockey v Teddies

Real Tennis: National U15 Singles

Real Tennis v Wellington

Upcoming Events

6.1 Play – Dead Poets Society

Friday 13th March, 7.45pm

Theatre

No booking required

Music Scholars' Showcase

Wednesday 18th March, 8.15pm

Recital Room

Book tickets [here](#).

Battle of the Bands

Thursday 19th March, 8pm

Theatre

Book tickets [here](#).

OX14 LP Shakespeare Shorts

Friday 20th March, 8pm

Theatre

No booking required

New Music School Opening Concert with composer Cecilia McDowall

Sunday 22nd March, 6pm

Silk Hall

Latest Photo Galleries

We are grateful to all our professional, staff, and boy photographers who work hard to capture the true essence of Radley. As ever, all photographs are available to download from [Flickr](#).



**Giacomo Smith Hot Five
and Radley College Big
Band**



**Chamber Music
Lunchtime Concert**



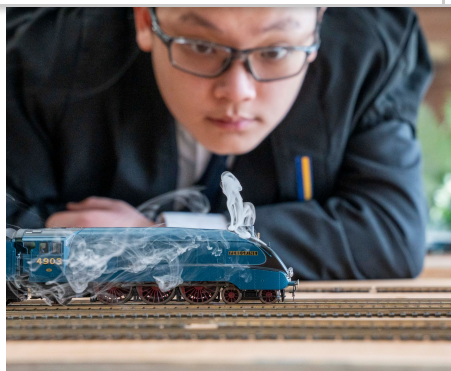
Football v Abingdon



Hockey v Marlborough



Guitar Prize



Highlights LT26

Latest Videos



**Giacomo Smith Hot Five
and Radley College Big
Band**



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