



## Raspberry Pi Guy

Computer Science student, Matt Timmons Brown has created a motorised skateboard by using a Raspberry Pi computer. We caught up with Matt and asked him a few questions about his latest invention.

### What is The Raspberry Pi Guy?

“The Raspberry Pi Guy is a YouTube channel that I started when I was 12 years old. I provide computer science tutorials and videos based around the Cambridge-born Raspberry Pi



Matt on his motorised skateboard

### When did you start getting interested in electronics/computer science and why?

“When I read a tiny magazine article about a computer that I would be able to buy with pocket money. This was a pretty exciting thing for an 11-year-old! Your own computer... for less than £30?! It was called the Raspberry Pi. I bought myself one and over the summer I set about learning everything I possibly could about both Electronics and Computer Science. In September 2012, I decided to share this journey and help other people to learn about computers through Raspberry Pi. To do this, I setup a YouTube channel called ‘The Raspberry Pi Guy’.



Matt's modified skateboard

Four years, 70 videos and 4.25 million views later, I have just finished my latest Raspberry Pi project: an electric skateboard. This was inspired by another YouTuber, Casey Neistat, who frequently vlogs himself racing through the streets of New York on a commercial electric skateboard. These cost in excess of £1500 and I thought that I would create one for myself to save some money and learn along the way.”

## Wellbeing workshops



During this term's Progress Review days, students took part in Wellbeing workshops. Several organisations came in to College to offer workshops including ‘What is the role of Counselling’ and Kung Fu. Also on offer was the opportunity to play board games, table tennis and Kurling!



## Finn Jarvis

Year 12 student Finn Jarvis has recently won a competition run by the Cambridge branch of the Classical Association. He entered the Senior Latin Prose and Senior Greek Verse categories, for which he had to prepare readings of a passage of Tacitus' Annals and Sophocles' Antigone, respectively.

Finn competed against students from other sixth forms in the area in each category, and was awarded first place (and a book token) in each. Well done Finn.



Finn Jarvis

## Curator for a day

Seven Year 12 students attended a 'Curator for a Day' experience at Cambridge University Library on 11th November.

The day was organised by Anita Irving, Careers Administrator at Hills Road and Rosie Sharkey from the Cambridge University Library in Queen's Road, Cambridge.

Anita said "The students had the opportunity to meet members of staff who work in the many departments at the library, including curation, conservation, digital imaging and rare books."

"The students then worked together to curate a mini pop-up exhibition of objects drawn from this collection which involved researching the artefacts, writing labels, and learning about display, conservation and communications around exhibitions."

You can find out more about the visit at: <https://specialcollections.blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=13536>



Students learning about display and conservation

## European Languages Day



Left to right: Isabelle Corlett, Tzveti Christov, Gina Morris, Jack Steward, Mikey King

26 talented students raised almost £600 in 12 hours for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) in a sponsored 'talk only in a

foreign language'.

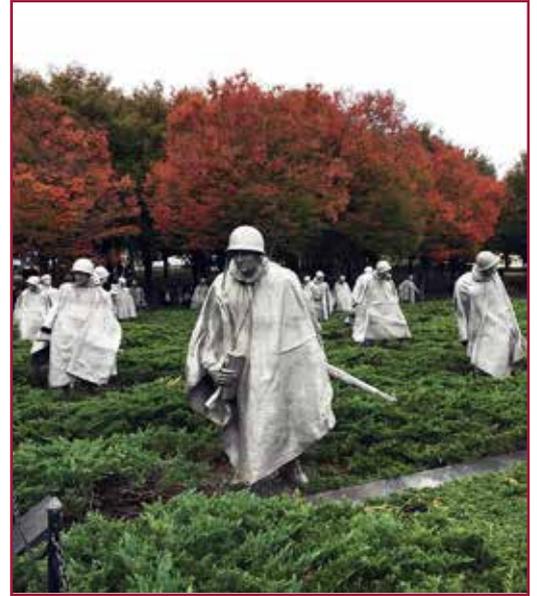
The photo above shows Isabelle who is studying both French and Spanish. Tzveti speaks Bulgarian as well as

English and is studying French. Gina and Jack are both studying French. Mikey is studying French, German and Spanish.

## Government & Politics trip to Washington DC



Students walking towards the Capitol Building, Washington DC



Students visited the Korean War memorial

The week immediately preceding presidential election day, 55 Hills Road Politics students spent four days exploring the US capital, Washington DC. Students got a taste of politics as it operates in one of the world's superpowers with a tour of the US Congress, visiting both the House of Representatives and the Senate at the Capitol Building.

The highest court in the American judicial system, the Supreme Court, was next on the agenda, with students listening to a fascinating lecture followed by a question and answer session with a Supreme Court expert. The next day was

an opportunity for students to explore and learn about some iconic Presidents via the city's many political monuments, including visits to the Washington Monument and memorials to famous presidents such as Thomas Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

A poignant afternoon was spent visiting the Vietnam and Korean War memorials where students took the opportunity to chat about American politics with veterans visiting the site. A visit to Arlington Cemetery, the location of the Kennedy family plot, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and

countless war graves provided a moving end to the day.

Students were also given the opportunity to look around some of Washington's many and varied museums including the National History Museum, which includes an excellent exhibit on the presidency, the American Indian Museum and the Air and Space Museum.

On the final day, just before their flight home, they visited Yorktown High School, where students from both organisations shared knowledge and ideas about both British and American politics.

## A Christmas Carol

This musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, portrayed the favourite and classic tale by Charles Dickens. It was directed by Hills Road Performing Arts teacher, Helen Garner who sensitively and light-

heartedly brought to life the enthusiastic and talented young cast of Enrichment students.

With beautiful music, Christmas cheer, and memorable singing and dancing, the audience were able to join in

with Scrooge's journey through his past, present and future and the audience were left feeling full of Christmas 'Spirit'.

It was a wonderful way for everyone to start their festive celebrations!



Photo by Brendan Syngé

A scene from *A Christmas Carol*

## Art History has been saved!

The Art department are celebrating the good news that Pearson have recently announced they will be offering A level History of Art from September 2017. In October exam board AQA announced that they would no longer be offering A level Art History - they were the only examining board to offer the subject at the time.

Alumna Nerissa Taysom, who studied A level Art History at Hills Road, set up her own petition and managed to get just over 18,000 signatures. She says, in an article she recently wrote about A level Art History being withdrawn, "My voice is a small one amongst the

many well-known artists and art historians who have already expressed their doubts and dismay about the decision. But this petition and the reactions it has generated has proved that Art History is about humanity. And surely, whatever our background, we should encourage and embrace that."

Nerissa who now works as a researcher for a renowned ceramicist and is also researcher for publications and engagement, is a passionate advocate for Art History remaining in the A level curriculum, she also says "To think that a school subject could be so enjoyable was a revelation

to me."

"... I wrote an extended essay on Botticelli's 'Primavera' and humanism. My bedroom floor was briefly filled with excerpts of Petrarch, postcards of the Medici and a pack of tissues bought in Florence with the faces of 'The Three Graces'. This was the first proper bit of independent research I had done and I loved it."

You can read Nerissa's full article on the subject on the Courtauldian website: [www.courtauldian.com/single-post/2016/11/24/Save-Art-History](http://www.courtauldian.com/single-post/2016/11/24/Save-Art-History).



Hills Road student on an Art History trip

## Alexia Sloane

A level Music student and talented composer, performer and linguist, Alexia Sloane 16, has been awarded the Cambridge Young Composer of the Year. Her winning piece, *Passiflora*, was premiered and performed by The Hermes Experiment at West Road Concert Hall on 30th October.

Another one of her commissioned pieces, *Reverie*, was performed on 21st November at Jesus College Chapel as part of the Cambridge Music Festival.

Alexia, who is also a First study Composer as well as Second Study Recorder at the Royal College of Music, recently found out that she has been successful in gaining a place as a Composer for the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) of Great Britain! Hundreds of highly talented composers apply each year to become a Composer for NYO and there are usually only one or two places awarded.

The remarkable thing about Alexia is that she has been blind since the age of 2 years old!

Alexia said "I write the pitches down in Braille music notation and then dictate them to an amanuensis, who transcribes them onto notation software". Her winning piece for the Cambridge Young Composer of the Year Competition, *Passiflora*, which is 5 minutes long, took 8 hours to dictate to an amanuensis.



Alexia Sloane

# Big Biology Day

October 15th saw the fifth and biggest Big Biology Day (BBD) hosted by Hills Road and organised by Cambridge Biologists. There were 33 exhibitors from schools and colleges, Higher Education establishments, research institutes, learned societies, Cambridge Science Centre, Papworth Hospital, Cambridge University Botanic Garden, the Raptor Foundation, Alzheimer's Research UK and others.

Over 120 Hills Road Biology students helped at the event, engaging with a public audience and sharing their enthusiasm for biology. This event is now firmly established as one of the major, free public engagement events in biology nationally. Over 2,000 people visited BBD 2016, some travelling over 100 miles to be part of the day.



Participants at this year's Big Biology Day

# The Great British Bake Off



Students taking part in the Hills Road Bake Off

The makers of the TV Programme The Great British Bake Off, Love Productions, are looking for the UK's best home bakers to enter the tent. Who is the best baker you know? Visit: [applyforbakeoff.co.uk](http://applyforbakeoff.co.uk) for more information.

# Sports News



Back row: (left to right) Linda Swain (Coach); Laura Butcher; Millie Nathan; Kate Little; Jenny Hill; Gracie Breen; Rose Cates; Jazz Latham; Louella Hodgson (Assistant Coach). Front row: (left to right) Sarah McLaughlin; Juliet Tyndall; Kerri Hilton-Taylor; Harriet Lander

**Hills Road Netball**  
Team are one of the College's teams who will be representing the East Region in the Association of College's National Finals in April 2017 after winning the East Regional tournament at Cambridge Regional College on 9th November.

The memories from last year's tournament came flooding back as Hills warmed up, memories of missing out on the Nationals by one goal in extra time in the final against the South East Essex College (SEEVIC). Hills were determined to not let this happen again. They started off the day well with impressive wins against Cambridge Regional

College, East Norfolk and Suffolk.

The semi-final was a tough match against Colchester with Hills in the lead 6-5 at half time but they knew they had to step up their game to secure a win and get to the final. Hills kept calm heads to achieve a final victory of 15-7 and a place in the final where they would face SEEVIC College from Benfleet.

The 2nd & 3rd netball teams are also competing locally and have had some good results.

There has been an increased number of students wanting to play social netball. To accommodate the increased interest, the Sport department

are offering two classes running at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays this term and they are proposing to run a third in the spring term.

The following teams have also qualified to represent the East at the nationals: Men's and Women's hockey teams, Men's volleyball team, Women's cross-country, Men's badminton team, tennis, squash, table tennis and golf.

Hills Road students will be one of the largest squads of any college in the country going to the three day National championships held in Nottingham 21-23rd April 2017.

# Ultimate Frisbee

Congratulations to the Hills Road Ultimate Frisbee team who were recently crowned Cuppers winners completing the double as they have also recently won the University Michaelmas League (Cambridge University league and cup).

Well done to all those involved: Nat Brown (Capt.) Seamus Turvill, Blake Maltby, George Wright, Ben Phipps, Akito Oyama, Andrew Nixon, Angus Gostick, Marcus Gaiser-Porter, Toby Darroch, Hyeong Won Son and Tolu Ojo.



In action at the Cuppers tournament

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Articles and photographs for this edition of HillsReview were produced by Vivien Brownlee, Ian Cutting, Isabelle Depiot, Ian Harvey, Ann Hemming, Anita Irving, Finn Jarvis, Thomas Roegele, Alexia Sloane, Linda Swain, Brendan Synge, Matt Timmons-Brown, Barbara Tucker, Tim Winn,