

Toby's ready to rock the West End in his dream role

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DREAMS are coming true for an 11-year-old guitar prodigy who is about to rock the West End stage.

Princethorpe College pupil Toby Lee shot to fame after recording a piece of music for

the late BB King which went viral, being viewed more than five million times online. And after a whirlwind year which has seen the youngster perform across the globe, and at the likes of the London Palladium and Hyde Park, he is set to take

on the 'role of a lifetime'. Toby beat off stiff competition to bag the role lead guitarist Zack Moonenham in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new West End show, School of Rock the Musical. He told the Observer: "School of Rock the film is the reason

I picked up a guitar in the first place. I played it so many times the DVD broke. I've wanted to be like Zack Moonenham since I was about five years-old. It's a dream come true to actually get to be him in the West End."

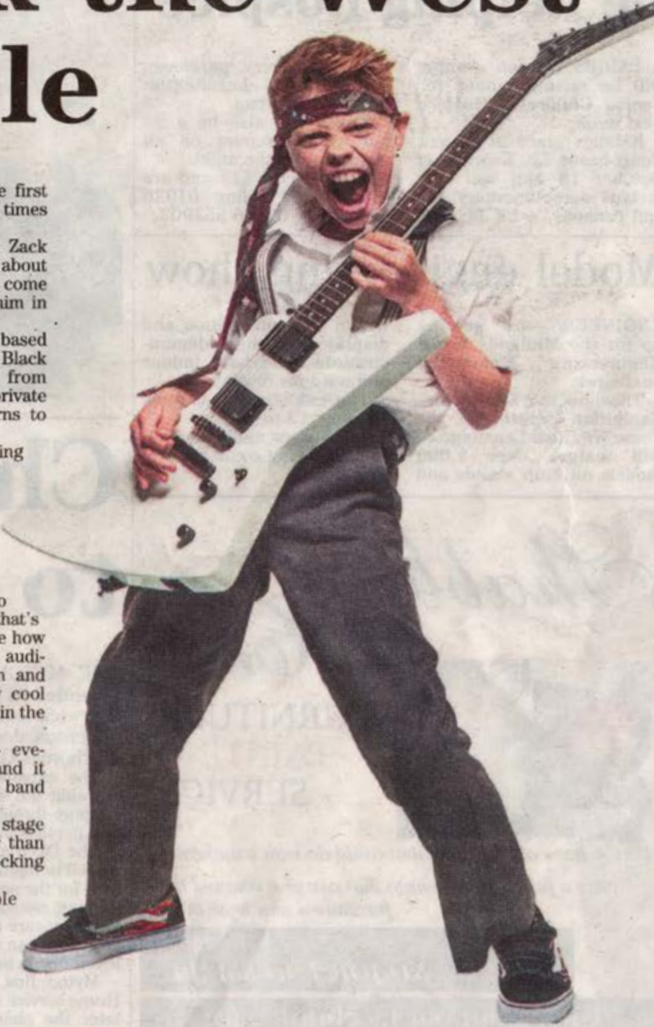
But the show - which is based on the hit film starring Jack Black - has not stopped Toby from his studies as he has a private tutor in London and returns to Princethorpe when he can.

Toby is currently practising for the show at the New London Theatre. It tells the tale of a wannabe rock star who poses as a teacher and turns a class of straight-A students into a rock band.

Toby said: "I was asked to audition for the show so that's what I did. I couldn't believe how many people were at the auditions and it was great fun and I got to meet some really cool friends - some who are now in the show with me."

"I love the rehearsals - everyone is sounding great and it feels like we have been a band for ages. Normally when I play on stage it's with people a lot older than me so I'm really enjoying rocking with kids my own age."

Tickets are available from October 24 to next January. Visit uk.schoolofrockthemusical.com to find out more.



The West End cast of School of Rock with Toby Lee to the right of Andrew Lloyd Webber. (s)

Success is at art of Selin's portrait work

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A TALENTED painter from Princethorpe College scooped two prizes in an art competition. Despite being nervous about portrait work when she started studying art, Selin Hassan's portrait of herself and her mum, along with her sketchbook work earned her two awards.

The A-Level art student bagged the top award in the Sketchbook category and the 'Key Stage 4 2D

category at the Midlands ISA Art Competition - which was hosted by the college. Head of Art Paul Hubbard said: "This year's judges were very tough."

"Their experience made them look for the best technicians on show so we were pleased to have so many winners."

Selin's painting 'Generations' compares herself and her mum. (s)

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS



Hundreds of people raised thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support, as part of the charity's World's Biggest Coffee Morning event last Friday (September 29). Among those having a cuppa were pupils from Crackley School in Kenilworth (pictured above). They raised over £1,000 during a record turn-out of 'Bake-Off' inspired cakes, tarts and fans that were exchanged for generous donations after assembly in the school hall. The PTA, chaired by Kara Wasley, organised a troupe of volunteers to set up a drive-through coffee tent as busy parents did the early morning drop off. Pupils also contributed by baking cakes to be sold at break time. Kenilworth Mayor Richard Davies joined the coffee morning at Kenilworth Grange (pictured far left). Julie Packer of Kenilworth Grange said: "This was the 11th year of holding a coffee morning and just like the last 10 years the morning was a great success." About 100 people joined in the coffee morning held at St Nicholas Church, Kenilworth on Friday morning raising £480 (pictured left).

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A MEDIEVAL-inspired illuminated manuscript has been returned home to Princethorpe College.

The school's archivist Nick Baker found the ornate book by chance at an auction and realised it was originally from St Mary's Priory - which later became Princethorpe College.

At over two feet long and bound in vermillion goat skin, the manuscript is handwritten in Latin and details the story of the birth of Christ.

Sister Mary Walburga and Sister Francis de Sales worked on the nine page volume at the start of the 20th century, decorating the page's borders with colours, patterns and gold leaf. It is believed the Sisters took inspiration from medieval illuminations when creating the manuscript.

Nick said: "It's a delight that the manuscript has come home to the college. Every book has its own story and we're still investigating the history behind this one."

"Already we have used the volume with Religious Studies classes as pupils learn about Princethorpe's past."

"They're astonished by the use of gold and silver leaf and the delicate scratch work that gives the illuminations a three dimensional feel."

"The manuscript has galvanised discussions between pupils about the lives the nuns at The Priory used to lead. "True to its original purpose, it is still inspiring wonder and contemplation."

Princethorpe College archivist Nick Baker with his lucky find. (s)

RUGBY ADVERTISER 23 SEPT 2016

Revel and Crescent in close final



Teams from The Crescent, The Revel School, Milverton House and Our Lady's at Princethorpe College's Primary Schools' Football Festival

Teams from four primary schools: The Revel, Crescent, Milverton House from Nuneaton and Our Lady's took part in Princethorpe College's 13th Football Festival for Under 11s. Princethorpe College

sixth formers Jordan Rigby and Matthew Duigan refereed the two pitches, where teams played games of nine minutes each way.

The Revel won their first game 8-0 against Our Lady's. The Crescent School beat Our

Lady's 6-0 and drew against Milverton House. In the deciding match between Revel and Crescent it was a late goal in the second half that clinched the win for The Revel overall. Princethorpe College Di-

rector of Sport Neil McCollin brought the tournament to a close with a speech of thanks to all the visiting teams. Medals were awarded along with refreshments and souvenirs for all participants.

RUGBY ADVERTISER 21 NOV 2016

College netballers hope to sting with performances with Wasps

Two Princethorpe College netball players have been selected to play in the newly created Wasps U19 National Performance League.

Looking forward to a packed netball season are Molly Geehan (Year 11) and Georgie Peake (Lower Sixth).

A tough three-day selection process at Wolverhampton University confirmed that

Molly, who plays goal shooter, and Georgie - goal defence, are in a good place as it gets for possible future England selection.

NPL training will take place alongside their regional club (Henley Netball Team) and Princethorpe College fixtures, making life fast-lane busy for both of them. Lower sixth former Geor-



Georgie and Molly.

gie said: "It's what I want to do so the sacrifices are worth it. Sometimes I'm having to do homework in the car as I'm travelling to training but that's just what has to be done."

Year 11's Molly said: "I love the game. I'm often forced to make sure that I get both school work and training done."

RUGBY ADVERTISER 16 NOV 2016

Magnificent seven make splash

Seven Princethorpe College swimmers have continued in the school's strong tradition of qualifying for the Independent Schools' Association's National Swimming Championships to be held early next year.

Joining a team of 30 swimmers from the college who travelled to Walsall Gala Baths to compete against 15 other regional schools, the pressure was on for national qualifying spots the minute the first whistle blew. This year saw the old style 33 metre pool blocked off to create standardised 25 metre lengths, making the distance commensurate with



Four of the successful swimmers.

most of the pools swimmers are used to training in.

A tally of seven swimmers will head down to Stratford, East London, on January 21 to

the London Aquatics Centre. Swimmers Caitlin Newport, Mollie Dibb, Jess Mackenzie and Charlie Bracken are pictured above.

Dancing glory for McGrory

By ALISON BAGLEY
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A Kenilworth Irish dancer celebrated her 10th birthday with a transatlantic dance competition success.

Dancing star Molly McGrory has had a busy summer of international jumping and reeling, winning gold and silver medals in two major competitions.

Just days after her 10th birthday, Molly took to the stage at The Orlando Center Resort, Florida, to compete in her fourth North American Irish Dancing Championships.

With the under-10 age group swollen to a capacity 215 entrants, Molly was placed in pool B to perform her reel and horn pipe compulsory routines.

A call-back indicated that

all was going well for the Turley-Duggan Dance School pupil, who then set the stage aflame with her set piece 'Vanishing Lake'.

The top 10 prize winners were called back on stage to reveal that the Crackley Hall student had been awarded second place, just three marks behind the overall winner.

Older sister Grace made it a family double by also coming second in the under-13 category.

Three weeks later, fleet-footed Molly travelled to Manchester, this time for the British National Championships where a repeat performance of her American dance routines saw her go one better by winning gold and being crowned the 2016 British under-10 champion.

"I was so pleased with the way I danced, all the practice has paid off."

"It's been an amazing summer," said Molly.



Molly McGrory with the trophies she won over the summer



Crackley Hall
School



Princethorpe
College

In the news

RUGBY ADVERTISER
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Sebastian is star in West End hit gala

BY LUCIE GREEN
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Student Sebastian Dibb starred in a celebrity studded gala performance in the West End.

The Year 8 drama student joined forces with nearly 200 nationally auditioned young actors for the performance at the Adelphi Theatre in London with the National Youth Music Theatre.

It saw youngsters joined by a glittering array of alumni from the professional world of musical theatre including Jasper Britton, Gina Beck, Siena Kelly and Gavin Spokes.

The evening, called Encore, involved 38 show-stopping numbers from the 40 years of NYMT performances including staple favourites such as Bugsy Malone, Whistle Down The Wind and Guys and Dolls.

Sebastian had a busy night performing in 20 musical items including two solo pieces where The Adelphi stage rang to the sound of the Princethorpe pupil's voice.

A taste of NYMT shows planned for 2017 was also in the offing with Sebastian taking on the titular role of the newly commissioned musical 'Billy The Kid' in the penultimate act of the thrilling gala programme.

Acclaim for Sebastian's performance came in the guise of an email sent to him from the writers of 'Billy The Kid', Rich Hough and Ben Frost.

It said: "You were utterly terrific - to say you brought the character to life, frankly doesn't do justice to your performance."

With Sebastian describing



Sebastian Dibb as Billy the Kid



Performing on stage.

Taking part in the performance was magical

the experience as "magical", he's already looking ahead to future auditions with NYMT to be held early next year.

Having already performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company on two previous occasions, Sebastian said: "Being on stage with like-minded people who perform to such a brilliant standard is incredible."

"I wish I could do it all over again."

LEAMINGTON COURIER
16 SEPT 2016

Bethan is bowled over by her School Games gold

HOCKEY

Princethorpe College sports prefect Bethan Ellis is celebrating an amazing summer of success after being part of the England 'Red' victory in the UK School Games at Loughborough University.

The four-day sporting spectacular saw protégées from not just hockey but athletics, judo, cycling, gymnastics and fencing in action as part of the AASE (Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence) programme which aims to give the best in the country a taste of elite competition.

Funded by Sport England through the National Lottery Ellis' path to England recognition came off the back of years of solid graft.

Describing herself as "not naturally good at the game, but a hard worker" the 17-year-old from Leamington modestly puts her top 50 national ranking down to a dogged determination to be the very best she can.

"It's been tough to get to this stage and to be honest I still don't see myself as being that good," said Ellis.

"But it was brilliant to be part of the winning team at such a prestigious event. We beat Scotland and Ulster to take the gold medal."

The accomplished cricketer had already helped Warwickshire make the 2016 National finals only to lose out to Yorkshire so it is no wonder she is feeling slightly jaded as the new academic year begins.

"I'm focused on reading Sports Science at Uni so that's got to take priority now."

"Everything will slot back into place once I've had a few good nights' sleep."



Budding hockey and cricket star Bethan Ellis. Picture submitted



YOUNGSTERS are one boot nearer to rugby glory after being selected for a training programme with Wasps.

Princethorpe pupils Sam Warne, George Evans, Oscar Blunson-Washbrook, Mason Winterburn and Connor Cooke, all aged between 11 and 13, have been selected for the team's developing players programme.

Just 24 hours after a trial

for the team which saw them impress on the pitch, all five boys had received an invitation to join the training scheme.

Princethorpe's head of rugby Pete Bucknall said: "This is a tremendous accolade for the boys and for the college. The skills they develop over the season will bring all sorts of advantages."

The pupils will now train weekly with Wasps and continue to play at the college.

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Student's invention takes him to UK final

BY SUNDARI CLEAL
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A young aspiring engineer from south Warwickshire has made it to the final of a national science competition for teenagers.

Michael Gucluer, a sixth form student at Princethorpe College, impressed judges in the regional heats of the Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Competition with his electronic scoring device, which can be programmed to keep score in sports and games, for example.

He will go on to join around 200 other project teams from across the UK in the finals, which take place at the Birmingham NEC in March 2017. The annual competition,

which aims to help build skills and confidence in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), is open to 11 to 18-year-olds. Participants compete to win prizes such as international experiences worth more than £50,000 and awards such as UK Young Scientist and UK Young Engineer of the Year.

Michael said: "Having the opportunity to put theory into practice has been great fun and has given me an idea of just how interesting a career in engineering could be. To be through to the national final is the icing on the cake - I can't wait to show off the project again and hope to come back from the UK finals in March with an award."

Online entries are still open until November 20. Go to www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/competition



Michael Gucluer.

Musical Ben hits the right notes

BY ALISON BAGLEY
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A teenage woodwind prodigy has wowed the judges of a prestigious music competition, winning applause and a cash prize.

Princethorpe College clarinet player Ben Pinto has impressed adjudicators at the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust by winning the Nigel Hobbs Fellowship.

The 17-year-old won the competition, worth £500, by performing two contrasting pieces in a tense final against 20 other musicians.

Ben, whose musical career began in Year 2, puts his love of

the clarinet down to an assembly he had whilst at primary school.

A group of visiting musicians opened his eyes and ears to the sound of the woodwind favourite, and he fell in love with it.

Already playing the piano, Ben's rapid trajectory through the formal examination grades saw him pass Grade 8 piano and clarinet.

For now, it's all about making it into a Conservatoire to further his passion to become a clarinetist with a national orchestra.

Practising for two to three hours a day, Ben juggles his musicianship with his A Levels in music, ICT and physics.

Ben said: "To be frank I was horrified by my performance at the competition but the ad-

judicators loved it.

"A lot of the time when you play at this level you're in pain. My diaphragm and lips are screaming."

"But I know that in order to get better, to make the air flow less lumpy, I've got to keep working."

Competing at the Nigel Hobbs Fellowship Competition has given Ben, a regular performer with Northamptonshire Clarinet Choir and Youth Orchestra, an additional platform to showcase his audition pieces.

He added: "I can practise a single bar of music five or 600 times and still find ways to improve it."

Ben now has his sights set on winning a coveted places at one of the country's top music colleges.



Ben Pinto with his clarinet

THE CATENIANS - PROVINCE 6
SUMMER 2016



Public Speaking Competition

Provincial Public Speaking Competition 2016 'The Eloquence of Youth'

Every year Regional heats around the country are arranged by local Catenians and all Catholic schools in that area are invited to send candidates to compete. These Public Speaking Competitions are open to pupils aged 16 to 18 years old who attend Catholic Schools.

Organised this year for the first time by Rugby Circle, this year's competition for Catholic Schools in the Midlands area covered by Province 6, took place at Princethorpe College, near Rugby, on Sunday 10th April and a total of eight schools took part.

Contestants were asked to deliver their chosen subjects under formal conditions to an audience of family, teachers, Catenians and friends that filled the college's hall. Subjects chosen by the candidates came from a varied list ranging from 'Practice makes perfect' to 'Bombing people into changing does not work'.

The judges for the competition were the chief adjudicator, Mrs Janet Wakeman, well known to the competition and a well known authority on the art of public speaking; Mrs Mary O'Farrell, a retired head teacher and Chair of Trustees for Princethorpe College; and our Provincial President Will Feely who also a former Head teacher.

Before Mrs Wakeman announced the winner and runners up she made reference to the range of skills which the speakers had demonstrated and how these skills are so important in the modern world.

The winner was Dylan Wana Key from Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy, Wolverhampton, and he was presented with a book voucher for £100 plus his winning certificate. The winning school was also presented with the Catenian Association Shield to be held for one year and a book voucher also for £100. The second prize was awarded to John Turner representing Blessed William Howard High School, Stafford, and third place went to Max Ponsonby from St Augustine's Catholic High School, Redditch.



*The Top Three: L to R, third place Max Ponsonby, Provincial President and judge Will Feely, competition winner Dylan Wana Key and second place John Turner



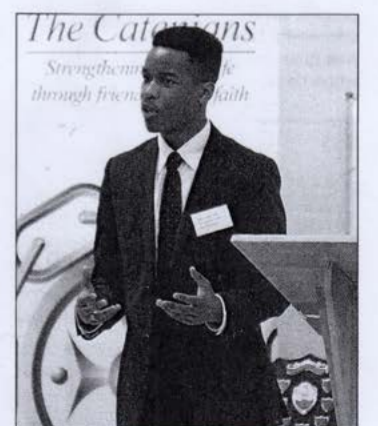
*The panel of Adjudicators: Mr Will Feely, Mrs Janet Wakeman and Mrs Mary Farrell

The winner, Dylan Wana Key is now invited to attend the National Final to be held at Manchester Conference Centre on Sunday 11th September 2016.

Speaking about the Competition, Rugby Circle's President Tom Hope said that he was 'delighted to be able to stage the competition on behalf of Province 6' and he was 'particularly grateful to Princethorpe College for the use of the college's facilities'.

Visitors also had the opportunity to see the college chapel, designed and built by Pugin.

Rugby Circle has announced that the date for the competition next year will be Sunday, 19th March 2017 at Princethorpe College. (Ed - Mothering Sunday is the following week.)



*Dylan Wana Key in full flow and representing Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy, Wolverhampton

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"PLAYING the piano makes me happy," says nine-year old Kenilworth schoolgirl Chen Chen Pan.

And the young Crackley Hall protégée's playing certainly makes others happy too after she won at the Solihull Competitive Music Festival for the third year running.

This year she entered two categories - the solo Grade 6 class, and for the first time the U13 Duet class - and she won both. Playing the technically demanding Allegro by Johann Ludwig Krebs, ChenChen explained its speed and liveliness made her feel happy.

Crackley Hall music teacher Susan Olden said: "ChenChen's musicality is a joy to listen to. She also plays the cello and sings in the school's choirs. Because she works so hard at what she loves doing the results she achieves are simply stunning."

Piano protégée ChenChen Pan. (6)



Crackley Hall School



Princethorpe College