

## Farnborough Hill

- [student area](#)

### African Drumming

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

On Thursday 24 November Farnborough Hill received a splash of culture from visiting musician, Steven Kasamba, a master drummer. He gave some students from Years 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form the opportunity to learn more about African music and then to try it out for ourselves. After Steve explained the different types of drums from various parts of Africa and demonstrated the singing and dancing that accompanies the drumming, the instruments were distributed and the noise began!



We managed to create a typical African singing and drumming piece and even tried out a few dance moves, much to our own entertainment. We learnt how to put the specific elements of African music that we have studied in GCSE into practice. It was fascinating to observe the way a different culture composes and performs their music, which is used as a means of communication too, as we were shown with call and response.

When lunch-time came and we felt confident with the djembes beneath our slightly numb hands from all the pounding, we gave a performance in the Hall led by Steve with native African dancing.

Everyone agreed it was an excellent workshop that was both enlightening and amusing. We went away feeling a little less Western, still humming the song throughout the remainder of the week.

***Report by Laura McReynolds (11A) and Beth Mabin (11ω)***

