

The Review 2020



DUKE *of* KENT
SCHOOL

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Head's Introduction

As I read through the pages of this delightful snapshot of Duke of Kent School life, 2019-2020, I am transported back in time. I marvel at the plethora of activities, events, opportunities and learning. Casting my mind back, I can picture myself as a captivated audience member watching magical shows and performances and participating in the annual favourites of House Music and World Book Week. I am cheering at the side-lines, chatting with parents and grandparents as our sports teams play their hearts out and give their all. I am reading with Pre-prep children, helping Prep School pupils build their Bug Hotels and marvelling at the human body during the Medical Mavericks workshop with Senior School pupils. I am enjoying hot chocolate and brownies with our Head Boy, James F; Head Girl, Minnie C; along with Blue R and Archie L, our fabulous Deputy Heads, as we talk about their School and how we can make it even better. I can picture some marvellous moments: listening to the Tanzania reports from pupils who experienced a life changing trip; celebrating at the ISA Awards dinner with fellow teachers; and listening to Sir Anthony Seldon encouraging us how to be "happy" while explaining that children need our love, care, attention and respect to become the best they can be. These memories are so vivid and I take time to look at every photo in The Review, read every article and remember each and every person and activity.

I reflect on the final School assembly on the 20th March when, with the whole School in attendance and parents joining us from all over the world, it was live streamed through Instagram. We said farewell to our Year 11s and went into a National Lockdown: our world changed. We moved quickly into a new way of working; pupils and teachers adapted brilliantly. Creative ways of teaching and learning were embraced and our School took on challenges with vigour. We all mastered new technologies and our spirit remained strong. I remember our incredible virtual Spring Concert; the whole School rendition of Three Little

Birds; our virtual Sports Day; a whole host of virtual assemblies as well as the end of year celebrations and keeping in touch with parents via the PAdoK year group Zooms. The Summer Term was unlike any we had experienced before but teaching and learning did not miss a beat as we continued to tweak the provision, ensuring every pupil finished the year well.

With the School year drawing to a close, one thing remained incomplete: a proper farewell and thank you to our wonderful Year 11 pupils. They were an amazing group of young men and women who had the final stage of their Duke of Kent School journey cut short. The chance to sit their GCSEs was taken from them as well as their end of year celebrations. And yet, they demonstrated such maturity and understanding. Each one of them should feel incredibly proud of all they have achieved in the face of such immense challenge and uncertainty. It was such a joyful day as we welcomed them back to receive their results and heard their plans and aspirations as they move forward to their new school or college settings. We are absolutely committed to welcoming them back, whenever it is possible to do so, to give them the send-off they deserve.

I hope you enjoy this wonderful record of the year. Whether you flick through or sit down and savour each page, I know you too will reflect back and remember some truly special moments.

To each of our departing Year 11 pupils, I dedicate The Review 2020 to you. Follow your dreams, let your heart believe, feel your spirit soar and just imagine what can be. And remember, there are always reasons to be optimistic.

Mrs Knox
Head



ISA Awards

Excellence and Innovation

Duke of Kent School were announced the winner of “Excellence and Innovation” in 2019. The Art Department embraces visual innovation and processes from around the world and across the centuries. The department is set up as a multi-use space and this leads to a rich cross-fertilisation of ideas where students across the age range can draw mutual influence from each other’s artwork. Duke of Kent School’s establishment of an annual Artist in Residence post was also praised by the ISA judges for its focus on connecting pupils to their local community, inspired by accomplished artists.

Remarkably, as well as its award for the Arts, the School was shortlisted as one of three finalists for “Academic Excellence and Innovation.” The newly established ‘Endeavour Award’ lessons for Years 4 to 6 challenge pupils to take greater responsibility for their own learning. ISA judges were hugely impressed with the ambitious programme of child-led projects, including Cultural Awareness, Enterprise and Skill Development.

Mr Wright and Mr Watson

ISA Football

There were three major ISA football events this year: the U16 National Boys 6 a-side, U13 and U15 Girls National Football Festival and the U11 London South 5 a-side Tournament. The U13 girls delivered some amazing performances to win the shield semi-final on penalties and, thanks to a Millie W-D goal, won the final! The U15 girls’ team produced some fine defensive displays in the group stages and the knockout section to win the trophy final! The U16 boys’ team were unbeaten in the group stages. Unfortunately, they were not quite strong enough to go through to the final but put in a spirited performance in the semi-final. The U11 boys had the daunting task of trying to retain the title that we won last year. Despite some very skillful performances from all of the boys, on this occasion, we did not progress beyond the group stages.



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ISA Swimming

Duke of Kent School Senior Swimming team produced some fine performances in the London South Regional Qualifiers at Trinity School. Violetta P, Emily B and Calum McK all qualified for the National Finals at the Olympic Pool in Stratford. Violetta P swam brilliantly to win the U12 Backstroke, achieve second in the Butterfly and together with Emily B, won silver in the Medley Relay. Both Emily and Violetta swam with great pace and technique in the Medley and Freestyle Relay. Calum McK qualified for the final of the U13 Butterfly; he showed very good technique and determination in his race. This was an exciting day and a fantastic experience for all who took part.

ISA U16 National Netball Tournament

The U16 netball team travelled to Nottingham University to take part in the ISA National Netball Tournament. The girls played superbly throughout the group stages and managed to put themselves into a position where winning their last group game would allow them to progress to the knockout stages. With so much at stake it is amazing that Duke of Kent School played so brilliantly and were able to beat North Bridge House 16-2. The girls were not quite strong enough to win the semi-final but should be very proud of their achievements and it was wonderful to see them awarded the bronze medal.

The PE Department

ISA Senior Cross Country

Duke of Kent School were very proud to host the ISA London South Senior Cross Country Meeting in January. The course provided a real challenge for all of the runners and the wet conditions made keeping a good pace quite difficult. We had some amazing results with Duke of Kent School winning seven medals and 23 of our runners qualifying for the National Finals. Unfortunately, the finals did not take place.

Musical Theatre Competition

Early in the Spring Term, three girls from Years 10 and 11 entered the ISA Arts Musical Theatre Competition. Martha M. in Year 10 entered the Key Stage 4 solo category and Josie M. and Sophie D. in Year 11 entered the Key Stage 4 duet category. The girls had to prepare and record a video of themselves performing only one song from the musical theatre repertoire. This was the first time any of our pupils had entered a competition of this sort and it was a resounding success. Martha, performing the tricky song 'If I Had You' by Drew Gasparini, was highly commended by the judge in her category, and Sophie and Josie, performing the beautiful 'What About Love' from the musical 'The Colour Purple', stormed into first place and won the Musical Theatre duets category! Winning a national competition like this is a wonderful achievement and thoroughly deserved it was too, with the girls' performance being remarked upon by the judge as 'sensitive, musical and emotional – portraying the depth of feeling that the song demanded'.

Mr Rye

Pre-prep Review

As everyone knows, no two days are ever alike in Pre-prep; individual moments of wonder can occur at unexpected times. Watching a child descend the fireman's pole in the playground for the first time or seeing them marvel at glistening ice on a winter's day and exploring the slippery surfaces are delightful for us to witness. If only we could share it all but here are some of the highlights from the year in Pre-prep.

The Year 2 trip to the Brighton Sea-Life Centre was an incredible experience for the children; they marvelled at all the magnificent animals and learnt a great deal of facts that they were able to include in the fact files they wrote later in the term. The Year 2s also took centre stage in the early Spring Term to perform their assembly which centred around 'Kindness'. The children each took on the role of a 'Mr Men' or 'Little Miss' character and confidently showed the rest of the School how easy it is to be a kind and caring member of the School community. Later in the term, Year 2 played in their first Netball match, representing Duke of Kent School with pride! It was an exciting and tightly matched game with a delicious post-match tea to follow.

A firm favourite in the Year 1 calendar is the Arundel Castle trip. The children's interest in both medieval toilet facilities – straight out the window – and the dungeon, led to many fascinating conversations upon their return to School. The art-work, following the visit, was notable for its quality and accuracy, and everyone's knowledge concerning the medieval era was much enhanced.

I was immensely proud of the Reception class on their trip to the Weald and Downland Museum: the children had only just formed as a class and were a credit to the school in the way they conducted themselves, asked questions and participated in activities with such enthusiasm. I'll never forget the look of wonder and amazement on their faces as the huge water mill was started, just for us, and the cascading water began to turn the wheel directly in front of the children.

Nursery had another fun filled year which began by delving into the world of fairy tales. The children spent

a magical morning exploring the glorious Painshill Park, dressing up as their favourite characters and enjoying some enchanting moments. I fondly recall the Nursery children making and playing on their hobby horses, galloping around the school grounds accompanied by excellent and realist neighing. In October, we had lots of fun ordering pumpkins by size and enjoyed exploring the contents of the biggest pumpkin. During lockdown, Nursery studied minibests and created some imaginative pieces of work. I particularly loved the minibest hotels, some of which are still standing today. When we returned to School, I was astonished by the children's resilience and we went on to have a blissful few weeks under the beamy blue skies.

Throughout the year, we were fortunate to be visited by some of our Senior pupils who came to read alongside the children in the classroom and play outside at lunchtimes with boundless vigour. It was joyous to see the oldest and youngest pupils from our School community happily spending time in each other's company, exemplifying the Duke of Kent School family feel.

The Christmas Show is always an exciting highlight; it never fails to amaze me that on the day, everything comes together and there are laughs, cheers and a few parents shedding proud tears and so it was with 'Toby's Christmas Drum'. Every child played their crucial part, singing, narrating, dancing and acting to provide us with a radiant feeling in the mid-winter. It is also a wonderful opportunity for all the family to join us to see the children perform and then finish the occasion off with some warm mince pies!

World Book Day is a perennial favourite! This year the department was over-run with 'Wallys' as the Year 1 children all dressed as this fun character. I've always liked the Beatrix Potter books myself so I was pleased to see a smattering of Peter Rabbit and Flopsy Bunny characters bouncing around the department. The staff didn't miss out on this chance to get involved either, dressing up as some of the characters from the Mr Men books.



I would like to mention all the wonderful work that goes on in the classroom. Whenever I pop in to see what's happening, the fantastic learning and enthusiasm is evident and the children always want to show and tell me what they are doing. One thing that is always notable in Pre-prep is the quality and individuality of the children's displays, which are truly theirs, and everyone celebrates each other's achievements.

Fridays have remained a firm favourite in the week throughout the year, come rain or shine! Spending our afternoons in Forest School followed by Star Assembly, which celebrates the notable events from the week, brings a busy week to an exciting close with a chance to reflect as a whole. There are so many worthy winners of 'Stars' for effort and work, and 'Diamonds' for kindness and helpfulness that every Friday my heart swells with pride to be part of the special and caring department that is Pre-prep.

We look forward to the new set of highlights and joy that next year brings.

Mrs Henry



A Day in The Life of....

Nursery

Our day starts with a cheery smile and words of welcome for all. The children are happy to come into school. Putting away their bags and coats, they look around, curious and excited to see what we have prepared for them. Each day is full of new opportunities for adventure and exploration: will it be squelchy green swamps for dinosaurs to wallow in; building bricks with sand, water and diggers to create amazing constructions or a huge tray full of flour, sieves, spoons and funnels to dig their hands into? Will the water tray have the sea creatures in? Perhaps there will be something that feels nice to touch, like the colourful rice, shaving foam or water beads? Each day is full of new opportunities for adventure and exploration.

We join together for Circle Time, taking turns to count or sing our days of the week song before discussing the plan for the day ahead. The children might learn about a new animal, minibeasts or the seasons. We are incredibly lucky to be surrounded by outstanding countryside and even luckier to be able to seize a magical moment to leave footprints on frosted grass, take photos of webs and wildlife, watch wood ants build their colonies, roll down hills and gallop across fields on homemade hobby horses. Sometimes we prefer to stay indoors and bake, sing songs, count, create, write, dance and absorb ourselves in play:

"I like all the toys and all the stories, I loved our beanstalk and liked building a rainbow and stars in the playground," declares George F

Snack and lunch times provide the perfect moments for developing social skills. I love to watch the children chat happily amongst themselves, even sharing the odd terrible joke! In the playground, we have sand, mud, water, places to climb and dig and bikes to whizz around on:

"I like playing with all my friends," announces Maddie C

Each day in Nursery we all work together to make it a happy home, away from home; the children develop a real sense of being part of 'Team Nursery':

"I like playing with the castle and animals. We worked as a team to have a treat!" says Obie M

Mrs Ragless



Reception

In Reception, every day brings new exciting challenges. Our morning begins with registration and the daily calendar activity, taking it in turns to sequence the days and identify the weather. We take time to think about our school values of kindness, effort, respect, responsibility and honesty and share ideas of how we can support each other.

We often kickstart an exciting day of lessons with phonics. The children are keen to engage with one another using the sounds they've learnt and enjoy practising through games and activities using the interactive whiteboard:

"I love the games," giggles Henry H and Mila S likes the "Tricky Words - we take turns to choose who goes next!"

Maths is a wonderful opportunity for the children to challenge themselves with numbers, shapes and measurements. Henry H likes working with 'tricky triangles' - which are no longer tricky Henry! - and we regularly play games with numbers and test our friends with new problems and skills we have learnt that day. Recently, we all had fun learning about time whilst being chased by 'Mr Wolf' on the field; having the grounds right next to our classroom is a real bonus!

In the afternoon we continue to play and look at our chosen topic, which might be: Traditional Tales, Space, People Who Help Us or Transport to name but a few. The children may do some crafting, painting or construction and we are lucky enough to have the use of iPads for our topic work and for the children to use for their research with:

"I love making things, the aquariums have been great!" declares Norah C.

We end the day with a shared story, except on Fridays with our celebration of the week's events in Pre-prep during Star Assembly. What busy lives we have - full of learning and fun!

Mrs Henry



Year 1

In Year 1, the first thing we do is our morning work which is usually English or Maths based. During this time, the children also have the opportunity for one to one teacher reading.

Our lessons begin with English, during which we usually share a story, such as The Gingerbread Man, followed by story sequencing, character description or even thinking of a different ending. In Year 1 the pupils are introduced to spelling tests which they really enjoy:

"I like practising my handwriting and doing spelling tests!" declares Olivia W,

After break, the focus changes to Maths in which much of the work is practical and based around playing exciting games, such as Snakes and Ladders. The children enjoy tackling number problems, learning about sequences, and money and are encouraged to learn through exploration:

"I enjoy all of Maths. It's really helped me with working out the right amount of money I need for purchasing lots and lots of properties, hotels and houses when I play Monopoly!" announces Rufus S-C.

In the afternoons, we explore a different subject each day. The children find the Science experiments fascinating:

"My favourite experiment was putting skittles in water and watching the sugar dissolve and the colours mix!" Herb M says.

At the beginning of the Spring Term, we worked collaboratively with Reception looking beyond Earth and into Space. Mrs Henry and I have particularly fond memories of helping every child make their unique papier-mâché helmet ready for our Astronaut Day. The day itself was a huge success and celebration of our learning; our thanks to Juliet Cheverly for sharing her experiences of being 'in Space' in the film

Gravity. As a grand finale we took a trip to the Intech Planetarium where we all had the experience of feeling as though we were travelling into Space.

We are extremely lucky to be surrounded by the amazing artwork produced by the children, using lots of different mediums:

"I really enjoyed making the space helmet for our Space Day." exclaims Rufus S-C

During ICT lessons there are further opportunities for the children to demonstrate their creative flair: *"I really like ICT best, drawing on computers and making beach pictures is lots of fun!"* Jack C

Forest School is a huge hit with everyone! How lucky we are to spend the whole afternoon in the woods, building dens, cooking marshmallows on the fire and sawing wood!

The children listen to a story together as they wind down at the end of the day; Roald Dahl is a big hit with children - and also with me

Miss Walpole



Year 2

No two days are quite the same in Year 2 and that's what makes each and every day a special one! After giving their parents a wave at the door, the children bounce into the classroom, flash me a winning smile and excitedly greet their friends at their tables. They love the morning session as it is a chance to catch up on any work that is not quite finished and is also an opportunity to delve into the exciting and mesmerising world of reading:

"My favourite part of the day is reading to Miss Able. I like putting on funny voices for different characters!" declares Hope N.

Just like their reading slots, the children's daily English lessons also take them on a journey. Whether they are recounting their amazing class trips so they can relive them again and again or learning how to write a diary entry from the perspective of someone else, I like to give them plenty of time to plan, draft, edit and polish their writing not only so the work they produce is their best but, more importantly, so it is something they feel genuine pride for:

"I love writing the 'good copy' and get so excited when I see Miss Able has put our writing up on the wall!" announces Charlotte C.

Practical Maths is always a hit with children so I love incorporating fun activities as often as I can! Whether we are making and sharing playdough sandwiches to help us grasp fractions or playing with water and containers outside to understand the concept of capacity, the children's smiles seem to spread like wildfire in Maths lessons!

"Maths is definitely my favourite subject! I loved the time when we measured each other's feet and height!" declares Hubert S.

Although we stick to the routine of reading, Maths and English in the mornings, the children's afternoons are always excitingly different, depending on the day. Whether they are mastering their kick in the swimming pool, learning how to throw a rugby ball in P.E, creating masterpieces in Art, conducting experiments like true scientists, hitting those high notes in Music, becoming 'code masters' in ICT, greeting their French teacher with an enthusiastic, "Bonjour!" or mastering a few hip-hop moves in Dance, the world of learning is their oyster!

Miss Able



What Forest School Means To Us

We started Forest School 9 years ago and it has evolved naturally as we gained experience and confidence. Sessions run from Nursery through to Year 3 and we cherish these moments each week: *"I just love this space, I like that everyone is together, it's my favourite place!"* These days children may spend a lot of time indoors, in front of screens and this is the perfect antidote to that. Young children love to get out and see nature, hear it and feel it; the softness of the forest floor, the crunch of leaves the edge of a feather.

The benefits of this experience are both immediate and long term. It helps to develop the body and mind and creates opportunities for diverse and exhilarating exercise outdoors. Children are naturally motivated to climb trees, drag sticks and move logs. They love the challenge of the rope climb and work together to reach the top. Making shelters, hiding, pretending and imagining are all multi-sensory experiences which help a child develop and increase their sense of well-being: *"We like to play on the rope bridges and do our singing"* On our way back to School we like to take 'short cuts' and explore alternative routes that involve rough terrain, so children learn strategies to travel safely.

Forest School develops confidence, social skills, cooperation, language and communication. It allows children space to express themselves in ways that may differ from those used in the classroom. The nature of Forest School ensures freedom for children while they play, but we balance that by learning important life skills: how to respect nature, manage risks and keep safe: *"I like eating marshmallows by the fire"* It provides a wealth of activities which allow our children to breathe fresh air and immerse themselves in their surroundings: *"I like digging, finding pirate treasure, making traps and having lots of fun"*. Their minds and bodies can bloom, burst into life and be inspired to love the natural world around them. This is why we love it!

Mrs Ragless



Prep School Review

The Prep School has been a hive of activity, as usual, and our pupils have continued to prove themselves eager to learn, explore and follow their curiosity and passions. By providing the children with a settled, supportive environment, we help them develop confidence and inner drive and, as ever, they have all achieved personal bests in a whole host of disciplines. As well as celebrating the talents and achievements of our pupils, we take equal pride in their unique personalities. Examples of the School's Values abound every day in Prep School and it is as much the small gestures of kindness or honesty that may never be acknowledged - picking up a piece of litter in an empty corridor, tucking in someone else's chair - for which we are equally grateful.

Typically, we look to our oldest pupils - the Year 6s - to set the tone for their younger peers. As captains of their Houses, Tom B, Daisy N, Daisy R and Oscar H rewarded our faith in them, undertaking their roles with consummate maturity and enthusiasm. Yet beyond these formal roles, each and every Year 6 pupil contributed to nurturing a sociable, inclusive bond not only within the year group but, by example, across the whole department. Prep School Council representatives have again been industrious and committed. The fourteen councillors were elected by their peers to represent the views and ideas of each class, and it is always heartening to see those who have previously not been elected have another go, showing admirable perseverance and a desire to contribute to the department. This year, the Council developed a child-friendly Anti Bullying Policy creating drawings, choosing age appropriate vocabulary and focusing on which information they felt was most important. The Council was also instrumental in helping organise and run the annual Prep School Charity Disco.

Visitors to Prep School have enjoyed a customary warm welcome, regularly commenting on how friendly and happy the children are. On World Book Day, celebrated author Lauren St John shared her expertise with our young writers, and local artist, Amanda Cobbett, showed us some of her astonishingly lifelike textile recreations of nature. On Pi Day pupils showed off their skills alongside pupils from a host of other local schools, as Duke of Kent School hosted the UK Maths Challenge, and in Spring, the Surrey Beekeepers' Association taught us how bees play a critical role in sustaining our ecosystems, inspiring us to create our very own Duke of Kent School Air "Bee 'n' Bee". I'm delighted to say that pupils' interactions with inspiring people beyond the School site, weren't stymied by our enforced closure in March. Instead, they met marine biologists in Brighton, primatologists in Rwanda and an author in the French Alps using video conferencing from the comfort of their own homes, exemplifying a few of the ways in which Prep teachers kept the children learning and motivated during lockdown. Mastering new technologies under difficult circumstances helped us stay connected and kept our vibrant Duke of Kent School spirit undimmed. Having overcome such challenges, we are looking forward to another productive and fun - and hopefully rather more conventional - year, next year!

Mr Wright





Hi Mum,
 I'm for many of 16, and
 engineer.
 name in the
 name is
 him "Joss"
 and "Joss"
 at Felbury
 e was already
 en aren't
 wing to do
 e. Hopefully
 return to
 again soon.
 to write.

Maddy Cottage,
 Woodhorse Lane
 Ashbury St. May
 Dist. King
 Rits 6NN

Dear Scarlett,
 I am writing on
 behalf of my Dad, Fred Lewen,
 who is a resident at Felbury
 House Care Home. Dad is 94,
 and doesn't find it so easy to
 write now as he has arthritis
 in his hands.
 He was very pleased to
 receive a letter from you, and
 to read that you are interested
 in sports, especially running. Dad
 used to be a keen sportsman
 and played football, cricket,
 tennis, badminton and golf.












Prep School

Endeavour Award

The Endeavour Award has continued the excellent progress that it made during its maiden year. It has become increasingly popular with Prep pupils and staff alike, who value the unique experiences and challenges that the subject provides. It was highly commended at the Independent Schools Association's 'Excellence Awards' in 2019, drawing particular praise for its innovative, child-led ethos.

The focus on exploratory learning has remained the core pillar of the subject, with pupils continuing to follow their own project paths while working towards one of 9 badges:

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Community Service |  Project Management |
|  Cultural Awareness |  Public Speaking |
|  Enterprise |  Responsibility |
|  Enquiry |  Skill Development |
|  Heritage | |

The solid foundations, built in the previous academic year allowed the students and teachers to be even more adventurous and ambitious with the chosen projects each half term. These included: record profits from stalls at the Christmas Fayre, pupils getting stuck in with improvements to Junior Jungle, Prep pupils independently organising and delivering activities for younger pupils and some, even starting to learn musical instruments during Skill Development.

Another new feature has been the invaluable introduction of Google Drive. It has made key badge elements, such as the Launchpad Sheets and the process of collecting and sharing evidence, much more efficient enabling teachers' greater flexibility in guiding their students.

As before, each project is awarded either a Bronze, Silver or Gold depending on how closely it meets the success criteria agreed at the beginning of a half term. In the coming academic year, a new level of award will sit above the Gold: Sapphire, which is reserved for the very best projects that embody the spirit of Endeavour.

Due to the organic nature of the Endeavour Award, pupils were able to continue completing their badges during Remote Learning, in new and innovative ways, further demonstrating how empowering the process can be for those who embrace their own ideas. The range of projects conducted at home was astounding. Pupils were: helping new pets settle into their homes; supporting their community by sending letters to those feeling isolated; as well as learning invaluable skills such as cooking and gardening.

It is safe to say that the Endeavour Award has continued to change and grow considerably over the previous two years. It is exciting to consider how it will look at the end of our next academic year, when we will have had our first ever Year 6 cohort complete all three years.

Mr Gritton

Creative Writing

Writing is such a core skill in children's development; it allows them to communicate feelings, demonstrate their understanding, share opinions and conjure new and imaginative stories for others to enjoy. Prep School launched Pobble this year - an award-winning online resource for pupils and teachers to inspire and share great writing. Here is just a small selection of the wonderful writing our pupils have been doing.

Formal letter to Angela Richardson MP

Dear Mrs Richardson, MP,

I am writing to draw your attention to the devastating effects of deforestation.

50% of animals and plants live in the rainforest and the rainforest produced 20% of oxygen for the world. Every minute, one football pitch is cut down from the rainforest.

If this continues, there will not be any rainforest in 100 years! I would like you to spend some of your money to make a machine that makes seeds to plant more rainforest trees.

Yours sincerely,
Harry L

by Harry L (Year 3)

Debating the pros and cons of school uniform

Our class has been discussing lately, should school uniform be compulsory? I think it is extremely obvious that school uniform is, out of the question, terrible. The tie itches, the jumpers are too big and we all look the same. It's good to be different, and yes there are lots of disagreements between the two, but I don't see the competition. Teachers don't wear uniforms, so why do we? Plus, uniform is expensive and nobody even likes it. Parents are wasting money on bad clothes for no reason! As well as all that, it's much harder to lose your home clothes because our coats and jumpers aren't all the same.

Secondly, the argument for: School uniform is appropriate and very smart. Also, it makes mufti days more fun. If you wore home clothes every day, what's the fun in mufti days? As well as that, pupils will see other people's clothes and get distracted by their Real Madrid top, or whatever. It also avoids the problem of unique clothes getting spoiled in the mud. As well, pupils are easy to identify in case of getting lost.

Overall I think there was a good argument, but the against side caught me the most. I can now declare the debate over. Uniform is now banned!

by Patrick W (Year 4)

'From a Railway Carriage'

Faster than fire, it falls into ditches,
Slower than cows, which all have stitches;
Charging along like me eating ice cream,
All through the thorns, the forests and streams;
All the sights you don't want to see,
Although we all know that they all have to be;
Again and again in ten winks of an eye,
Painted stations go slowly by.

by Wilfred K (Year 5)

'The Scream'

Blazing ember sky,
Torrential icy waters,
Impending doom nigh.

Swifts swirl everywhere,
A ghostly scream echoes around,
Piercing the night sky.

Dark night, no light seen,
Streams of water, flooded land,
What is happening?

Silent screaming face,
Swirling waters, sky on fire,
Sail boat, sail away.

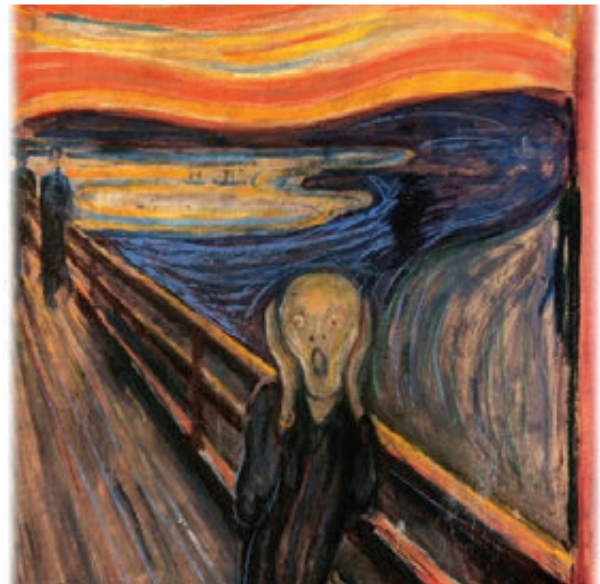
The unstable bridge,
Mountains rising to fire,
Colors light the sky.

Screaming and crying,
Is it somebody dying,
Or is it just me?

The flaming fire soars,
Your world is breaking in two,
Time is running out.

A scream of torn souls,
A sky of deadly lava,
Hell has broken loose!

You spot the wave quick,
Your life rushes before you,
Will anyone live?



The sun is setting,
We can't get back to the town,
Will we be okay?

With the bridge falling,
And the waves engulfing them,
Everybody screams.

Help help, he's calling!
As he sees his last sunset.
The next day he drowned.

The screams of mankind,
As the sun burns our world down,
Will we ever learn?

Are they coming now?
Dive into the waterfall,
Bright, marmalade sky.

A shrill scream shot out,
The whole world turned to listen,
And then the world wept...

I look at my friends,
I look at the harm I've done,
I turn round. I scream.

by Year 6 (inspired by Edvard Munch's painting)



The UN Children's Festival

On Tuesday 11th February, a delegation of Prep School pupils represented Duke of Kent School at the second annual UN Children's Festival, organised by Greenfield School in Woking. The event focuses on the UN's seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, with each participating school giving a presentation on one of them. Duke of Kent School's chosen goal was number 12: Responsible Production and Consumption - the topic for the project work undertaken by some of the Prep pupils over the Christmas holidays.

Chester B, Matilda R, Daisy N, Quentin J and William M had worked very hard in break times over the Spring Term to prepare for the day. They interviewed Mr Stacey, our Operations Manager, about the school's commitment to reducing waste, and also spoke to our Head Girl and Head Boy, Minnie C and James F, who described the great progress and increased awareness they had seen both at Duke of Kent School, and nationally, during their years at school.

Our pupils presented an engaging, entertaining and thought-provoking talk, which they delivered with charisma and confidence. They discussed the problems

that we face, including food waste, single-use plastics and non-recyclable packaging, and potential small steps that every individual can commit to in order for us to move forward to a brighter future. They also encouraged other schools to hold a 'Waste Week' similar to the one held at Duke of Kent School, when pupils designed their own waste superhero comic strips, pledged to reduce food waste and made posters sharing information on food provenance and air miles.

Other delegates commented on how impressed they were that Duke of Kent School has a Sustainability Committee, and that we have stopped using single-use plastic bottles for trips. The day finished with a speech from local MP, Jonathan Lord, and a Children's Parliament, during which all the visiting pupils had the chance to share their views on gender equality in an energetic and enlightening debate. Well done to all the pupils who put so much time and energy into their presentation and who absolutely shone on the day itself.

Mrs Nicholson

Year 6 Final Assembly

On Wednesday 8th June 2020 the amazing Year 6 pupils said a fond farewell to the Prep School during their assembly. It was a celebration of the children's time in the Prep School, here at Duke of Kent School, sharing memories of both teachers and peers.

Parents and families were invited to watch the final assembly via a YouTube livestream, a very emotionally charged experience for all, as the Year 6 children shared memories from Reception to the current day. In addition, parents were invited to have their own input of how proud they have been of their children. Teachers were presented with awards and parents, thanked. Once the pupils had shared their memories, they were treated to the Duke of Kent School version of the poem 'If', written by Mr Wright, and read to them by their Year 6 teachers.

After the tears were wiped away, it was time for the highlight of the assembly; the pupils to sing their song, written with a little help from Miss Barnes. The song described many more cherished memories of their time in Prep School and they performed it flawlessly, dance moves and all!

All in all, it was a very memorable morning, a perfect goodbye to a fantastic group of Year 6 children! Good luck everyone as you move up to the Senior School.

Mr Ellarby



Senior School Review

An ever growing Senior School has continued to thrive this year with event numbers increasing and a 'let's get involved' attitude being ever more prevalent. As a small school we are reliant on pupils embracing a wide range of activities and interests so as to flourish and this has been hugely evident with school representatives successfully competing in national maths challenges, dance, singing, sporting and design to name but a few.

Teambuilding trips to Sayers Croft have sat in the calendar alongside events such as the Art trip to the Booth Museum and the PSHE trip to the Houses of Parliament. The English department attended the West End production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' as well as going to see the outstanding Benjamin Zephaniah perform. An optional Careers trip to the Apprenticeship Fair proved highly useful for some of our more senior students whilst musical performances at places such as Guildford's 'GLive!' and the Old Rectory proved very popular. Internationally, our most ambitious trip to date saw students set off to Tanzania on a hugely worthwhile adventure whilst we also saw a number of Senior pupils go off to France for a week as part of the inaugural French Exchange programme.

Over the school year we hosted an evening with Sir Anthony Seldon, had a number of evening musical recitals as well as a jazz evening and the incredible 'Beauty and the Beast' production. This took school production values to a whole new level with all lighting, sound and acting done by the students (and the majority of the Senior School involved) it really was a whole Senior School event; pupils truly showcasing their talents over a number of memorable nights.

The Senior School Council have been invaluable this year; a source of pertinent, insightful and considered ideas. As well as discussions centring around infrastructure issues, such as water access, food options and wet break protocols, the group were crucial in pushing through new ideas regarding sanctions and anti-bullying initiatives. The proposed new school scarf design is ongoing and the proposals regarding how tickets are distributed for school productions will be implemented this year. Possibly their greatest achievement has come in the form of the newly installed decking area, designed and envisaged by the school council and providing valuable outdoor space. Alongside the furniture and plantings proposed by the Prefect body this area now provides a calm, sunny locality for the Senior pupils to enjoy.

The Prefect Team has formed a strong bond and proven themselves a reliable, trustworthy and adaptable outfit. Led by Minnie C and James F they have been involved across all aspects of school, championing new environmental initiatives whilst also organising a rota of support in the Pre-prep department, particularly assisting with one-to-one reading. They have been a great asset to the School; helping organise sporting events, inspiring younger pupils in an advisory role during after-school activities, running the weekly tuck shop and presenting ideas during their weekly feedback sessions with Mrs Knox.

Our focus on Mental Health awareness has come to the fore with a greater emphasis within PSHE lessons, assemblies and classroom settings. More staff than ever are now qualified Youth Mental Health First Aiders and the numbers continue to grow. We are confident this focus regarding the topic has resulted in less anxiety, more self-awareness and a greater set of tools for each pupil to have in their armoury in the battle for better wellbeing. This remains at the forefront of our planning as we move forward.

This last year has truly reiterated why we at Duke of Kent School are so proud of our Senior pupils. A year that has not passed without challenges but one which has seen pupils stand up to these challenges and surpass expectations, showing grit and determination in bucket loads. Never could I have imagined that school pupils across the world would have to cope with so much. Nonetheless, it has been so heartening to see them retain a positive mindset, supporting one another and coming through with a conscientious attitude. Missing out on the chance to attend school for almost half the academic year is not fair. Yet the maturity, consideration and decency they have displayed in understanding the bigger picture has been incredible and left me quite in awe. The success of our Remote Learning programme was very much down to the attitude displayed by these pupils, along with their parents, and for this I am hugely grateful.

I cannot wait to see what can be achieved now we are back in school and I for one will be cherishing every moment.

Mr Wilson



SATRO

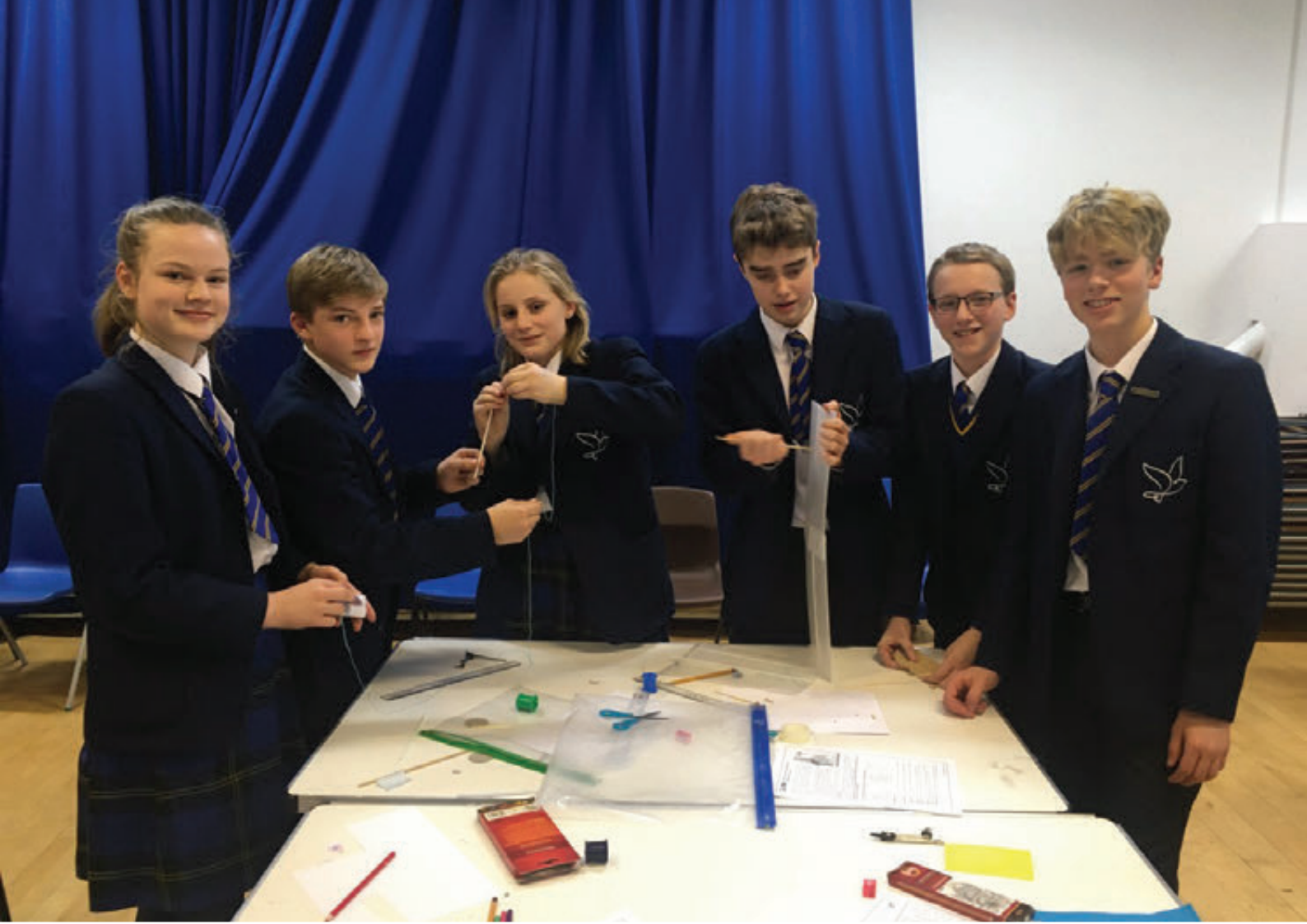
Problem Solving Challenge

Every year, Duke of Kent School enter teams of KS3 and KS4 students into the SATRO Challenge. Over the past few years, we have had a very strong record of teams winning their heats or coming runners-up. This year, the students excelled themselves, as both KS3 and KS4 teams won their heats and were set to go forward to the final competition.

Students were asked to design and build a device that lowered a full packet of Love Hearts down a castle tower in a gentle and controlled fashion. The device needed to be operated by one team member with a single, trigger mechanism. Students also needed to build a free-standing tower, attached to a base. They were given a limited amount of material and tools to carry out the task. A successful solution required creative design and teamwork, as well as excellent problem-solving skills. As the competition progressed, one judge took time to speak with me, and commended both teams for their organisation, teamwork, communication and general approach towards the task. Our students were a credit to Duke of Kent School.

Challenges and creative problem solving are at the heart of everything we do in Design Technology. For example, our Year 5 students produce model gliders, to be launched from the rolling deck of a scale-model aircraft carrier. Year 8 students have a dedicated term of STEM problem-solving activities, where they design products such as egg launchers, self-propelled buggies and wind-powered hoists. Year 9's creative design project brief requires the students to include three key elements: a mobile feature, a method of telling the time and some form of lighting. These skills continued to be developed in lockdown with a range of fun and quirky DT challenges aimed at developing lateral thinking and creative solutions. Students seemed to have a lot of fun carrying out these activities. Hopefully this will stand them in good stead for success in future SATRO Challenges, as well as giving them STEM skills for their future careers!

Mr Usher



The Kids' Literacy Quiz

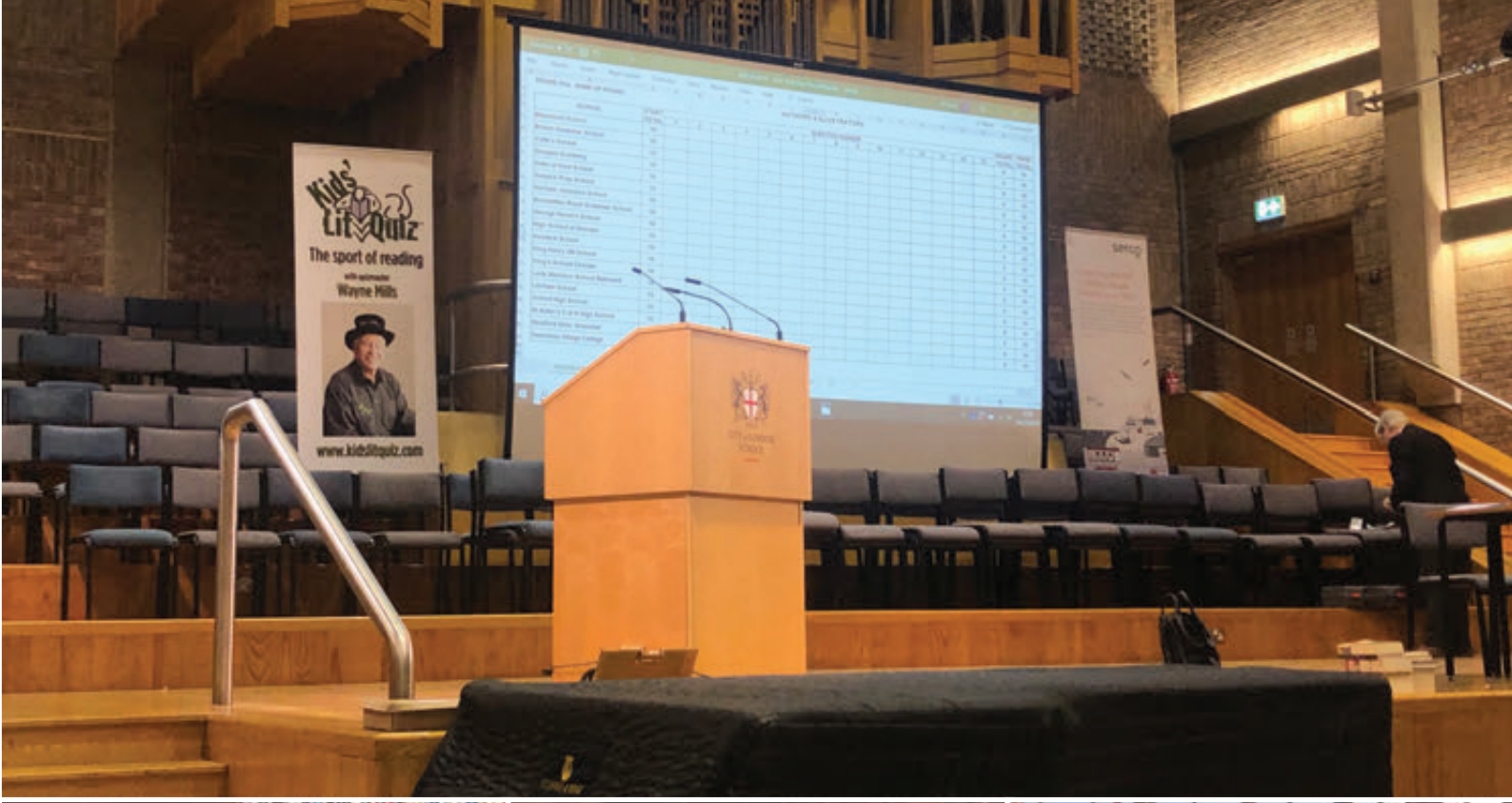
Every year, Duke of Kent School enters the Kids' Lit Quiz competition; the UK's most famous annual literature competition for children aged 10 to 13. Our pupils always enjoy the team spirit while showcasing their knowledge.

Team One (Ozzie H, Leo H, Harry D and James B) and Team Two (Matilda R, Harry A, Imogen C, Freddie W) were chosen to represent Duke of Kent School after gaining the most correct answers in the in-class quiz! After 10 intense rounds, hearing "Duke of Kent School" called out as the winner of the Southern Regional Heat in Portsmouth was the most unbelievable moment - Miss Anand and Mrs Douglas jumped out of their seats in sheer excitement!

After their triumphant win at the Southern Regional Heat in Portsmouth, our top literature team (Team DOK) Ozzie H, Leo H, Harry D and James B were invited to the Kids' Lit Quiz National Final 2019 in London. The competition took place at the City of London School, and this prestigious event included an array of guests, including several authors and guest speakers, such as Compere Alec Williams, the Sheriff of London and of course, the ultimate quizmaster - Wayne Mills! There were five rounds of 15 questions and even prizes for the audience - Mrs Douglas and Mrs Hunter both won a book during the competition! As part of the event, the students were invited to an afternoon tea with the other schools and were able to mingle (and get their books signed!) by authors Teri Terry and Cressida Cowell. Team DOK were also very pleased to have a photograph with Wayne Mills!

Although Team DoK fought hard against the other 17 schools taking part they sadly didn't win, but as we say to all of our pupils, "It's the taking part that matters" and taking part in the National Final was a victory in itself and certainly an experience which we hope our students will always remember. A special thank you goes to Mrs Douglas for practising with the pupils beforehand to get them ready for the big day!

Miss Anand





Duke of Edinburgh Award

The year began with the traditional Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition for Year 10 in the Autumn Term. Six groups of explorers trekked between Ranmore Common and Mickleham village, staying overnight at Henfold Lakes. They experienced two warm days, separated by a very fresh, dry night. The groups all successfully managed to find checkpoints crossing railways, hiking up hills, through forest and across busy roads.

The expeditions are about team performances, with members supporting each other through some physically challenging moments at times. That said, a sense of urgency, resilience and humour was displayed by most. Daisy M, Milly B, Bella R-B, Tom S and Arthur B displaying acute map-reading skills. They were shepherded through the whole experience by Mr Wyllie and I throughout, also supported overnight by the ever-cheerful pairing of Miss Anand and Mr Usher, and at checkpoints by Mrs Punter and Miss Walpole.

Participants at the weekly DofE Club after school successfully cleared litter round the school site, washed school notice boards, weeded the Prep School garden, cleaned the cookers and were kind and respectful to animals and local walkers during our training events. They all covered a DofE practical first aid training course from Mrs Sarjant (covering bleeding, breaks, bites, CPR, hydration and much more) which put them in good stead for their upcoming expeditions.

A number of students subsequently signed up for the Silver Award and sadly that is when lockdown began. One of the many impacts of the pandemic was the curtailing of expeditions and many of the Skills, Volunteering and Physical activities that the pupils needed to complete. Yet, from the apparent ashes, rose a new phoenix of opportunity embraced by some including Tom S, one of our DofE Ambassadors, who completed a course in Aquarium Keeping as well as posting a video on Volunteering during Lockdown which was shared by the DofE Twitter account. He, together with his fellow ambassador, Arthur B, also contributed to a virtual assembly about their DofE roles. Oscar B put his musical skills into action by leading the Pitch Hillbillies bluegrass band at several roadside concerts while Ben H-F progressed in his martial art of Choi Kwang Do via Zoom!

The inaugural DofE Celebration Evening was another casualty of circumstances but at least those outgoing Year 11 participants had the extra chance, with the encouragement of parents and staff during lockdown, to achieve extremely high completion rates of 29/36 for the Bronze Award and 21/23 for the Silver Award. Every qualification reflects four hard-earned reports and a wealth of stories and experiences to share forever! The extra effort and resilience required to complete an Award tested many participants but also served as tremendous examples of fulfilment and fun! The latest successful participants are Oisin W and Poppy S.

Mr Lodge

A Sensational Year for Science

We started off the school year with Biology Day, organised by Mrs Vermeulen, in October. The Senior School were lucky enough to have Medical Mavericks visit with lots of hands-on medical equipment which supported learning about the wide range of possible careers in healthcare. Ellis McK, Year 10, demonstrated the patience and tenacity required to master key hole surgery and Jeremy H, Year 11, had a great time using various vision altering goggles to understand different eye conditions. A popular activity with many, was using ultrasound to look at growth plates, with some children being relieved to find that they have finished growing and others delighted to know they still have some growing to do!

Mr Wyllie took Year 10 to a GCSE Science Roadshow, in February, to enjoy a day of interactive and educational presentations all linked to the GCSE syllabus. A highlight of the day was seeing Sandy T, Lily W-D, Milly B and Tom S examining various anatomical parts from a pig, with fascination. Lily W-D made us proud by heading onto the stage to help us understand the use of command words in exams. Year 10 had lots to talk about on the way home, and Mr Wyllie was delighted to hear about the student's highlights.

Just as Lockdown was starting to feature in daily conversations, we had a visit from a pop-up planetarium in early March with an ambitious schedule to get every student from Duke of Kent School into the planetarium, from Pre-prep to Year 11, in one day! The Science department enjoyed seeing the smiling faces coming out of the planetarium as much as the students enjoyed seeing the beautiful supernovae and nebulae that exist in our night sky, all of which are seen by the naked eye as just a star.

The first Duke of Kent School Science House Competition took place this year, with Ms Shaw and myself designing an Escape Room style activity to celebrate 150 years of The Periodic Table. The week started with Year 11 Triple Science students delivering an assembly on the origin of the elements and telling us which ones they thought should be on the "most deadly" list. During the week, house teams worked with focus and determination to solve the Escape Room, with house points earned for determination, resilience and teamwork, as well as for being the first to crack all the codes and locate the missing element - well done to Whittle who won the most points! Pupils were also treated to a whole Periodic Table cake baked for by Kim from our Catering Department for the entire school.

Sadly, some of our planned events, such as the Chemistry Festival, could not take place in the Summer Term, however several of our Senior School pupils, Hannah S, Aoife W, Oisín W and James C, ventured to Hurstpierpoint College to take part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition; although we did not win the Regional Heat on this occasion, the team did a fantastic job of completing practical work and a chemistry quiz and should be really proud of their efforts and how they represented our school on the day.

With a few canon fire bangs, highly exothermic reactions, colour changes and dry ice rockets along the way it's been a great year for Science at Duke of Kent School and we are looking forward to continuing the fun next year!

Mrs Tattan-Robb





The Tanzania Project 2019

There is a Swahili saying, 'elimu haina mwisho - education never ends'. This echoes the philosophy of a lifelong learning that we endeavour to encourage at Duke of Kent School. This doesn't mean we endorse a life spent in educational establishments or value a dedication to academia over other pursuits. Rather that we should approach every moment, each experience and the places we find ourselves, as learning opportunities. The Tanzania Project was designed with this ethos very much in mind.

Before tickets had even been booked students were aware that this was not an average school trip; the hard work began immediately. With numbers limited, students were asked to apply for a place on the Project by demonstrating something they had learned about Tanzania through a piece of creative work. Entries varied from powerpoints and poetry, to documentaries and dance. The students we selected demonstrated a passion for knowledge and recognised travel as an educational opportunity.

Despite the obvious challenges Tanzania faces, the residents remain warm, friendly and welcoming. This was reflected by our hosts, Morogoro International School. Arriving in Julius Nyeri Airport we were greeted by David Hubbard, an old friend of Duke of Kent School, who was instrumental in enabling this project. His open smile and that of Abdula, our bus driver for the week, were

a welcome sight after our lengthy flight. We began our journey to Morogoro International School along main roads that gave way to dirt tracks with little warning, lined with traditional houses and small shops called dukas. Even this journey was an eyeopener for many of our students. There was a palpable shift in mood when it dawned on the group that the buildings at the roadside which they had been describing as sheds, were in fact family homes. This was the first of many moments of realisation and developing understanding of the realities of everyday life in Tanzania.

When we arrived at MIS the warm welcomes continued. Our students were taken aback by the openness of our hosts and the obvious desire our Tanzanian friends had to get to know us. Mealtimes, classrooms, shared common rooms, film nights and, of course, the football field, were all opportunities to make new friends. Before long our students were mixing happily with their African peers, finding plenty in common while discussing cultural differences. Some of our most rewarding hours were spent working alongside them in the classroom studying Art, Biology and Maths. The MIS Prep students were keen to meet us too, and we spent our time with them telling stories, pretending to be wild animals and revisiting some challenging Year 6 geometry.

The economic realities that Tanzania has to cope with, a struggling education system and high levels of unemployment, leads the country to rely heavily on charities and Non-Governmental Organisations. Developing an understanding of this stark reality was central to the Project. Students visited a number of charities that are making a tangible difference to people's lives and future prospects. Perhaps the most impactful and life changing is SEGA Girls School. This US based NGO runs a boarding school for girls who would otherwise be working in low paid jobs with little to no future prospects. With an education behind them, the ambitions of the girls we met were unbound, and they talked excitedly of becoming doctors, journalists, entrepreneurs and engineers.

The school is a model of sustainability and prides itself on its green credentials. Students stick to a strict regime of jobs and chores and are all dependent on working as a community for basic essentials such as fruit, vegetables, meat and dairy produce from their own farm. In addition, they maintain and clean the school building themselves and have a real pride in SEGA as an institution. All this is in addition to their regular lessons and homework!

The social responsibility demonstrated by SEGA School is echoed in Tandala Lodge and Restaurant, a charity run by disabled Tanzanians offering an education and an income in a society where they would ordinarily be seen as second class citizens. The level of education provided by the charity is such that the literacy levels demonstrated by the restaurant's waiters was considerably higher than that of many of the other locals we met.

Much of what we read and see of Africa paints a picture of a helpless continent supported by NGOs, charities and Western handouts. This is an outdated image; Tanzania is a youthful, ambitious country that looks to the future and sees opportunity. 35% of the population is aged 15 to 35 and this ground swell of youth brings with them an ambition, social conscience and a determination that modern Tanzania will not repeat its past mistakes. This was something we experienced first-hand working with Tengenya Generation (TEG), a grassroots youth group, local to Morogoro's Uluguru mountains. They have witnessed the deforestation of the mountain over the last decade and have joined forces with local farmers to try and reverse this decline.

Hiking through the Uluguru Mountains with TEG exposed students to the traditional, rural side of Tanzania. While staying in MIS they experienced urban Africa, with its traffic filled roads, loud motorbike taxis and eager vendors, vying for precious trade. This contrasted starkly with the quietness of the thin mountain paths, where eagles circled below us and the sun picked out the brightly coloured kitenge wraps of the occasional passing village women. The walk was long and hot, and we could feel the heat of the dusty red earth through our boots. This uncomfortable sensation was a physical reminder of the deforestation of the mountain that, ten years ago, was covered in lush, green rainforest. We came across occasional surviving patches of foliage and basked in their cool shade. A memory of what this mountain used to be. We were a novelty in the small villages we walked through and groups of children ran out of the doorways of traditional huts to greet us clamouring for their photos to be taken so that they could see themselves on the back of our cameras. This was a very different view of Tanzania and brought home the contrasts between life in Britain and Africa. At the highest point of our walk we worked with local farmers and members of TEG to plant over a hundred trees to add to their growing nursery. Looking at the deforestation around us this felt like a small gesture, but it is thanks to organisations like TEG and the example of our students, that the mindset of local farmers will begin to change.

This sense of hope and the desire to work towards a positive future that we saw with TEG, was tangible on an international rather than local level at Apopo. Apopo trains Southern Giant Pouched Rats to sniff out landmines and detect tuberculosis. Students watched the rats being trained and were astounded at their achievements. These land mammals allow their handlers to clear landmines five times faster than humans and with 100% accuracy. They have cleared literally thousands of mines all over the world and to date have not missed a single one. Along with their huge talents they are also undeniably cute and good natured. We spent some time petting Hilary Clinton, Madonna and Pele before these comically named heroes were returned to their cages for a well-earned rest.





The landscape of Tanzania is a series of contrasts. Leaving the Uluguru Mountains behind we headed west towards our safari in Ruaha National Park. From the lowlands of Morogoro we climbed ever higher through winding mountain roads; eventually plateauing and passing through miles of baobab forest we reached our safari lodge. We left our dusty bus to be greeted by a small group of Massai warriors, who led us to our rooms. After a few moments decompressing and, remembering to, 'cover the soap in the bathroom so that the bush babies don't eat it' (!), we had a well-deserved dip in the pool, the perfect end to a long and dusty journey.

Our game drive began by making our way to the 'mighty' Ruaha River, following its banks to a watering hole, where we saw a bloat of hippo (best collective noun ever!), crocodiles and herons enjoying the cool waters. Further downriver we came across an area popular with elephants; there were quite literally more than we were able to count. Young calves cavorted in the mud while mothers dug down into the dry river bed to find water. Younger males fought over potential mates with older, battle scarred bulls. The object of their desires looked on, seemingly unimpressed. While elephantine soap operas played themselves out like a scene from 'The Jungle Book', we enjoyed the spectacle and tucked into our picnic.

Sadly, these days the River is lacking in 'might' and the locals fear for its future. The Ruaha, sometimes called Tanzania's 'ecological backbone', provides their livelihood, irrigates their farms and gives them the animals that adorn their local stories and fables. With a shake of his head and downcast eyes, our guide told us that, when he was a teenager, the River used to flow all year round and was often impassable. It now fails to flow for months at a time, this is predominantly due to controversial, large scale farming and irrigation projects upriver.

Driving away from the magical sights of the river we encountered an extreme variety of bird life. Tiny weaver bird nests hung from almost every tree, their delicate shapes contrasted the stout, lumpen baobab branches. Ostriches charged back and forth at comical speed and, high above these flightless comedians, vultures and birds of prey circled endlessly; searching for the next abandoned kill, waiting no doubt for the lions to give up their feast of giraffe long enough to steal a mouthful or two. The birds lived alongside a soap opera of wildlife,

shy kudu ducked behind trees and impala leaped out of the road in front of us while young male giraffes, siblings we suspected, tested themselves in a good natured tussle in preparation for mating season.

Waving goodbye to our lodgings and Massai guards we returned to our friends at MIS, to complete the final chapter of our own soap opera. Emails and addresses were exchanged on our final evening and a dizzying number of social media platforms were discussed to facilitate contact with our newfound friends. I know that some of these friendships continue online today. Rather than coming to Tanzania and experiencing difference, our students realised that there is more that brings us together than you may think at first sight, and that our differences are what makes us interesting to one another.

In the final days of the Project our now tired, slightly ragtag bunch took on the MIS first team footballers in a friendly, but hard fought, match. I sensed MIS smelt a victory as our team ambled onto the field without a kit, some wearing flip-flops and tired from our grueling schedule. However, MIS were denied victory and we won by a single goal! The focus of the MIS coach's after match briefing was not about skill or formation, but about togetherness and teamwork, something the Duke of Kent School team had demonstrated in spades! This Project has brought this small group of students closer together while simultaneously widening their horizons, through shared experiences, sobering sights and amazing adventures. They left the UK nervous passengers, unsure of what they were going to encounter, and returned seasoned travellers, all walking a little taller, ready for the next big adventure.

In the words of Henry Miller; "One's destination is never a place but rather a new way of looking at things".

Mr Watson





Ski Trip to Les Deux Alpes, France

We were greeted in Les Deux Alpes with an Alpine wonderland of fresh snow and white tipped peaks following a metre of snow which had dumped in the resort prior to our arrival. An early start was required to get 90 through ski fit and onto the slopes ready for ski school at 10! With blue sky and perfect skiing conditions we couldn't have asked for a better start. Les Deux Alpes is one of the most impressive French resorts due to its size, the variety runs for both beginners and advanced, and its vibrant après-ski.

As an historian I am of course interested in the origins of the place. The original 'ski resort' of the area was not Les Deux Alpes as we know it, but La Berarde, which was founded in 1925 when the first access road was completed. The first 'ski lift' was a simple tow rope that got off to a fairly inauspicious start when it apparently fell down a mere 15 minutes after the opening ceremony! Hostilities with Germany and Italy then somewhat got in the way of the resorts development, as the opposing sides fortified strategic positions in the Alps. The Italian invasion of France, also called the First Battle of the Alps, in June 1940, was the first major Italian engagement of World War II and the last major engagement of the Battle of France. Between August 1944 and May 1945, French forces again faced Italian troops along the Alpine frontier. It was the French who then got the upper hand, towards the end of the war, as they managed to reoccupy all their lost territory in the Second Battle of the Alps in May 1945.

In 1946 the first local ski school was formed with a grand total of 3 instructors. Notably, 45 keen pupils enrolled on the first day! It then took around 10 years for the resort to establish itself; the opening of the Diable Gondola in 1956 and the launch one of the first ski passes a year later helped the development of Les Deux Alpes into one of the leading ski resorts. These days it has 200km of pistes served by 43 lifts, and the glacier with a top altitude of 3,568m means that even in the worst winters for snow cover the pistes are still in good condition.





With our trip heading off very early in the season Les Deux offered a snow sure option for our intrepid, 90 strong, party of enthusiastic alpinists. Throughout the week the behaviour of the pupils was exemplary and it was a real delight to hear so many positive comments about the politeness and conduct of the pupils from instructors, shop owners and hotel staff. The progression of the pupils was incredible and it was a pleasure to see them develop their confidence, and speed!

With so many entertaining anecdotes, and comical chronicles, emerging each day from our exploits on the slopes, it is impossible to recount them all here. In the same way as the fisherman's catch gets bigger with every re-telling, our tales of daring do, accidents, clatters, thumps, pile ups and collisions each became more embellished and extravagant with the telling. Blacks became steeper, the slippery ice icier, the wind blusterier and the unconventional crashes even crazier. Each evening after dinner the pupils relived the day's events and humorously re-told the tales of miraculous misadventures and injudicious icy undertakings. A light-hearted vote was then taken on the skier who had attempted something so far beyond their ability that it had ended in an hilarious calamity. This honour became known as the 'Eddie the Eagle' award and was rewarded with accolade of having to wear a rather fetching golden eagle ski helmet cover on the slopes the next day.

In the evenings there was plenty to do with ice skating, outdoor swimming and bowling all being extremely popular, not to mention acquisitive expeditions to the Spar in search of supplies! A few end of term winter bugs and illness hampered the experience for some and it was hard for those who were poorly on the trip. Quarantine, Calpol and courage got most of the kids through week, but it was certainly hard for those that fell ill so far from home. Nevertheless, the Duke of Kent kids showed what a robust bunch they are and remained stoic throughout.

Overall, it was a tremendous trip with some really amazing experiences and truly exceptional skiing. The progress of the beginners was incredible; it was a delight to see them venturing skyward on the Jendri 2 cable car to the mid-station by day three. The progress of our intermediate skiers was immense with the instructors commenting on how well they listened and implemented what they were taught. The advanced group truly shredded the mountain to bits with speed, skill and a bewildering absence of trepidation and fear. The resilience, determination and grit of our plucky party was evident in the assured way with which they embraced all the challenges that they faced.

It was a super trip with the children once again showing that they are a credit to both their parents and the School.

Mr Seeley

The French Exchange

Proud does not begin to cover how I feel towards the nine pioneering Year 9s and 10s (Reuben D, Ben D, Issy F, Molly G, Ben H-F, Lucy M, Layla S, Lily W-D and Aoife W) who embarked on Duke of Kent School's first ever French Exchange. Going to stay with a family you have never met before, who don't speak your first language and who come from a different culture is a gargantuan challenge, to which every single one of them rose.

The nerves were palpable as we arrived at Meaux station, but the warmth with which the French hosts from Lycée Bossuet greeted their English partners instantly reassured Mr Macdonald and me and made our students feel so welcome. All of them were shown the most extraordinary hospitality over the first weekend, being taken shopping for food they like, going to the cinema, being given a tour of Paris by night and even going to Disneyland!!!

Everyone was bursting with stories when they were reunited at French school on Monday morning. Our pupils were put to work in English lessons and enjoyed the buzz of a French lycée, as well as the independence of being in a town school where they could pop to the café with their new-found friends at the end of the day; a real novelty which Peaslake Village Stores just can't quite equal!

On Tuesday, we had a chilly wait in the queue for Versailles, but the famous Hall of Mirrors was definitely worth the wait. Packed lunches were compared to see "whose host family loved them the most"!

School finishes early on Wednesdays in France, and the French students had an exam in the morning so we were treated to breakfast at school before a viewing of a French film, "Les Visiteurs", which entertained us all greatly. We then enjoyed a mooch around Meaux together before returning to school at lunch time and enjoying a well-earned rest in the afternoon (or going shopping in some cases!).

On Thursday, we headed into a rather rainy Paris and visited Notre Dame, learning about the effects of the fire and how the building is being reconstructed...or eating crêpes, pains au chocolat and ice-cream as if they were going out of fashion, depending on particular areas of interest! Fortuitously, the rain stopped just in time for our bike tour of Paris with our fun and knowledgeable guide, Johnny. We visited the Eiffel Tower, École Militaire, Bastille, Grand Palais, Pont Alexandre III and Louvre, on two wheels, learning some fascinating history and anecdotes along the way. Our pupils asked some great questions and really engaged with the experience.



Our last day arrived all too quickly, with several of the students saying they wished they could stay! After fond farewells at school, the history teacher from the Lycée Bossuet gave us a fascinating guided tour of Meaux and made us notice things we never would have, like the Roman roads and a tiny marksman carved into one of the cathedral pillars by a disgruntled worker some time in the 12th or 13th century! Our guide seemed to know everyone in the town from the shopkeepers to the mayor, so we were privileged to be given VIP access to the town hall, where we were shown birth records from the 15th century by the archivist. Reuben wondered if Madame Fellous might be in there...! After a final trip to the fromagerie and pâtisserie, we made our way home to be met by well-deserved cheers at Dorking Deepdene station!

Naturally, as a French teacher, I was euphorically happy to hear Ben D proclaim, "What's weird is, I can really feel my French getting better" halfway through the week and, at the end, Ben H-F declaring, "I feel like now, if I were plonked in the middle of France, I would be able to cope", as well as accidental little French expressions slipping out on the train on the way home, but language proficiency is far from being the only thing the children learnt. These nine students have overcome paralysing nerves, matured and grown socially, learnt to overcome challenges, to embrace new cultures and experiences, manage themselves independently and communicate effectively. Please do ask the students about their experiences; I am sure they will be glad to share them with you. Last, but not least, THANK YOU to Mr Macdonald for his calm, warm and unfailingly good-natured support throughout the week.

We were all looking forward to welcoming 20 French students and two teachers to Duke of Kent School in March, but sadly Corona Virus put paid to that, as the French government banned all school trips abroad. We are very much hoping to be able to rearrange their visit next year. Thank you to all the families who volunteered to host the "extra" students!

Miss Francis



Sports Review

Autumn Term

There were many football matches in the Autumn Term, with Duke of Kent School hosting or travelling to, on average, fourteen games per week. It is very difficult to single out any particular team as there were so many good performances. However, the U16 away match to Box Hill was a definite highlight. With injuries and illness decimating the team, the U16's travelled to Box Hill with just 11 players. Our captain, Alex W, had to be taken off due to injury in the first half, leaving us playing 10 v 11. It was always going to be a difficult game but all players worked incredibly hard to keep their defensive shape and tried to catch Box Hill on the counter attack. Duke of Kent School ended the game with a 2-0 victory; an excellent result. The U8/9 team also had a great result at the Handcross Park U9 Tournament where they triumphed, despite the very cold conditions to win both the semi-final and final of the plate competition on penalties; a superb result!

House events are such an important part of our fixture calendar where pupil's effort and determination seem to be raised even higher than usual. There were many such events this term, including football, swimming and cross-country. The swimming gala is usually in the Summer Term but due to a postponement it was carried forward to the Autumn Term when pupils from Years 3 to 11 took part. The atmosphere was fantastic with so many swimmers and a large crowd of parents. Many of the races were very tightly contested with swimmers displaying excellent determination and technical ability. The scores were extremely close with only one point separating first and second going into the relays. Congratulations to Chichester for winning this fabulous event and also to Violetta P and Sam I who won the Best Female and Male Swimmer title.



In October, Duke of Kent School played their first table tennis match at home against Longacre. The Year 5 and 6 players were very excited to be playing on our new tables and all performed extremely well. The standard of play was encouragingly high and the sportsmanship from both teams was excellent with Duke of Kent School managing to win 7-5.

Mr Herbert

Autumn Term was busy, as usual, with a mixture of netball, hockey and football matches for the girls. It was a great start to the term for the Senior girls (Year 9, 10 & 11) with convincing wins in netball for all four teams against Shoreham College in week 2! The Seniors continued to win game after game with the U15 and U14 teams unbeaten throughout the Autumn Term in hockey, netball and football! Particular highlights include some high quality games and excellent wins against Frensham Heights, Farlington and Box Hill. The U16 team also had great success in netball playing an incredible match against Christ's Hospital with a mixture of girls from Years 9, 10 & 11 as part of the winning team on that occasion. On Wednesday afternoons, the enthusiasm and effort from all the girls from Years 5 to 8 was exemplary and the Year 7 & 8 pupils played some brilliant netball against Pennthorpe, Box Hill and Belmont resulting in wins and draws! The U9/8 team also had some great performances, particularly against Belmont and Pennthorpe but more importantly, the girls showed great improvement in netball and their energy never wavered! During the Autumn Term, every girl from Years 3 to Year 11 had the chance to take part in competitive matches against other schools - a win in itself!

Miss Vickers



Spring Term

The Spring Term was mainly wet! However, there were many exciting events that took place, including rugby, basketball, hockey matches, our annual hockey tournament and some exciting cross-country events. I was particularly proud to see so many Duke of Kent School runners qualifying to represent Waverley at the Surrey School Championships in Reigate. Matty S was unfortunately injured which was a real shame as he had a great chance of winning this event. All of the other runners including, Minnie C, Tom H, Violetta P, Emily B, Jack B, Rufus B, William R and Luca H, ran exceptionally well on an extremely muddy and testing course; they should all be very proud of their achievements.

The DoK Dunkers basketball squad played in a triangular match against St Edmund's and Kingswood House. We played St Edmund's first and turned around a recent defeat from a couple of weeks previously to win 18-2. The second match was a tightly contested game, ending in a draw between the DoK Dunkers and Kingswood House. The basketball matches are always an enjoyable experience and this was no exception!

The U13 Rugby Sevens squad used all of the experience they gained from positive performances in the Belmont Tournament to help them produce some excellent sevens play in the Kingswood House Festival. Every player gave their absolute all throughout the afternoon to finish the festival unbeaten; a marvellous achievement.

Mr Herbert



Spring Term continued with a busy schedule of matches with some netball, hockey and football being played by the girls. The term started well for the Years 7 and 8 girls achieving some good wins against St. Edmund's in hockey with the B teams both winning their matches. In addition to their hockey success, the U13/12 teams produced some quality netball against King Edward's and Belmont to gain more wins and draws. Meanwhile, on Tuesday afternoons, the senior girls continued in their winning ways! Some highlights include wins against Shoreham and King Edward's in close and exciting netball matches! A particularly memorable afternoon came in February when the senior girls took on St Edmund's at netball; the U15B team drew 23-23 in a nail biting game and the U14B played brilliantly to win their game. The Prep School also enjoyed some fantastic games with close matches against Dorset House for the U11/10 teams, including wins against Pennthorpe. The U11 team had a wonderful time at the Belmont Football Tournament in March: they learnt so much and came 4th in their competition. On Thursday afternoons, the U9/8 girls continue to enjoy their sport, devoting their full effort to every match. They enjoyed a draw in netball when going to Pennthorpe School and some wins and draws v. Ripley Court in hockey.

Miss Vickers



Summer Term

Teaching remote Physical Education was a challenge but one that all involved relished during lockdown. There were challenges set on a weekly basis which pupils had the option to take part in. These challenges included toilet roll keepy ups, target, balance and flexibility challenges. The videos and images that the PE team received from the pupils' attempts were incredible! Pupils pretended to be famous sporting icons, they showed off their skills when waiting to catch a ball and showed great willpower when attempting to hit balls into a bucket.

Remote PE Learning allowed pupils to practise their cricket, tennis and athletics skills in their gardens and many attempted the techniques taught by the Year 11 GCSE students. Live fitness sessions were very enjoyable, if not a little hard on the body for one of the older members of the PE team! Miss Vickers had the Prep School jumping around their lounges in her live circuit training sessions with the Spiderman Lunge, a very popular move. Although we all missed sport at Duke of Kent School during lockdown, the pupils' sheer enthusiasm, humour and willingness to improve was brilliant to see. Thank you to all those who sent in so many fantastic videos.

The PE Department



Virtual Sports Day

Virtual Sports Day took place towards the end of the Summer Term. At this point, we had a number of pupils back in school although the majority were continuing with Remote Learning. Therefore, we had some pupils completing challenges in their gardens and others in the School grounds. The event required pupils to complete a range of different tasks and submit their scores via Google Classroom. Tasks were as diverse as, toilet roll shot put and holding a stork balance. It was fantastic to see some of our sports scholars sending us videos to help demonstrate how the skills were to be performed for the rest of the pupils. Staff and pupils attempted so many challenges, with some a little more competitive than others; Mr Macdonald was determined to clap his hands more than anyone else between throwing the ball and catching it!

This was a very different event to the one that usually takes place each year. However, it did not hinder the enjoyment, enthusiasm and sheer determination that the pupils (and staff) displayed. So many pupils were involved in some or all events during the day. Miss Vickers found it surprisingly easy to talk for two hours on the live stream; I'm sure she could have a career in broadcasting in the future! Mr Green, Mr Monk and Mr Gritton showed excellent data entry skills to keep on top of all the results that kept coming our way throughout the day. It was amazing to watch the videos sent by the pupils at home; their effort matched those that were competing at school. The scores were very close throughout and the final results were as follows:

1st	Armstrong
2nd	Hillary
3rd	Chichester
4th	Whittle

Congratulations to Armstrong and well done to everyone who took part.

Mr Herbert



Performing Arts Review

Music

The Music Department continues to be a popular and busy part of the School, providing a wide range of performance and learning opportunities for every pupil. Whole school singing, 225 individual music lessons a week, six choirs and no less than ten school ensembles can all be heard emanating from the Performing Arts building. A typical week sees rehearsals for the Senior Chamber Choir, Rock Choir, Year 7 and 8 choir, Chamber Vocal Ensemble, Junior Chamber Choir, Prep School Choir, Year 10 Vocal group, Ukulele Club, Big Band, Jazz Band, Rock Bands, School Orchestra, Cellobabies, Year 2 Violins, Senior String Ensemble, Brass Ensemble and various small pupil led ensembles – and a wonderful Mum's choir! We have been lucky enough again to have had some superb professionals entertain and work with the children who have also been on trips to the Cranleigh Arts Centre, Wicked the Musical, the Bridge Theatre, the London Coliseum, GLive and Dorking Halls.

Autumn Term

As always, Christmas is the focus of this term and a busy one it was. The annual Prep School Christmas Concert was held again in the Performing Arts Hall with 40 children performing, creating a relaxed and joyful affair the School was out in the community in force, visiting and performing in two local retirement villages and raising over £300 through some lusty traditional carol singing in the local town of Ewhurst! The term finished in traditional fashion with our annual Carol Service in St. Nicolas Church, Cranleigh. Carols were sung by the Junior and Senior Chamber Choirs and Year 2 stole the show again!

Spring Term

Rehearsals and auditions began almost immediately for the House Music competition, the combined schools concert at GLive and the Pre-prep Spring Concert, as well as the Senior Choir trip to Norway, planned for the end of term, and the ISA Musical Theatre competition.

House Music was once again a riotous and successful event. The judge this year was all-round top chap and drummer for Ed Sheeran - Mark Pusey. He was brilliant, providing a wonderful insight into the life of a session musician and inspiring the GCSE Music pupils with his enthusiasm and approachability in their Q&A session. The afternoon was then given over to the finalists and the House Songs, which feature every single pupil in the Prep and Senior School.

The final event of the term, just before lockdown was declared, was the annual Combined Schools Concert held at GLive in Guildford and hosted by the Rotary Club. This year, we took over 130 pupils and put on a 30-minute set full of variety, talent, entertainment and class. The pupils always bring their A-game to this event and it is a wonderful example of what we do so well - providing performance opportunities for all those who wish to be involved while also focusing on quality entertainment as well as quantity!



Summer Term

Faced with a term in which performance opportunities had been sadly removed from the pupils, the focus was on how to keep the music playing despite the School being shut.

It started with a wonderful virtual rendition of the Bob Marley classic 'Three Little Birds' recorded remotely by staff members of the school Performing Arts Department and released on Youtube on the first day of term, giving the start of term a positive and uplifting beginning. This then became a whole School project, resulting in no less than 180 videos and recordings being sent in by pupils, parents and staff.

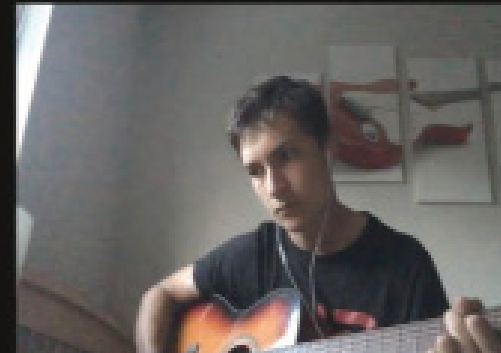
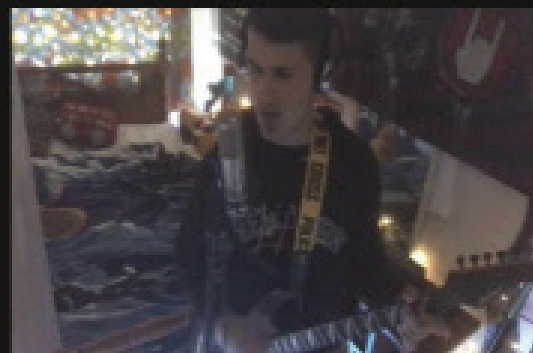
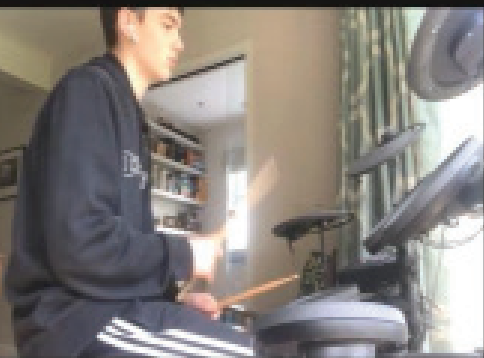
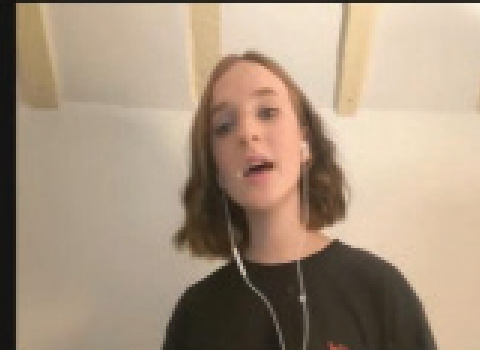
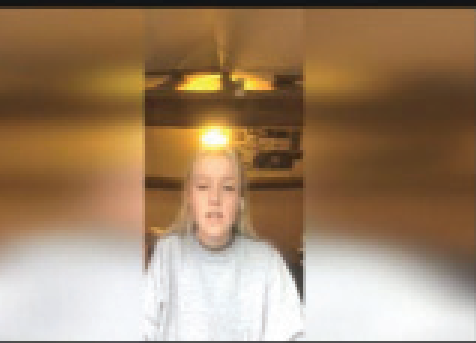
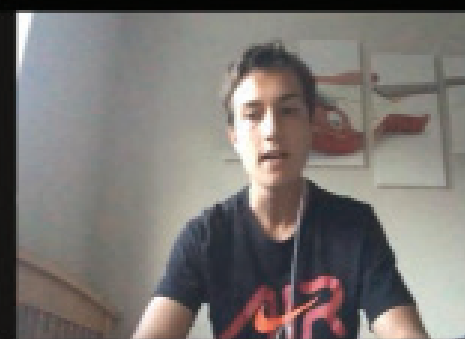
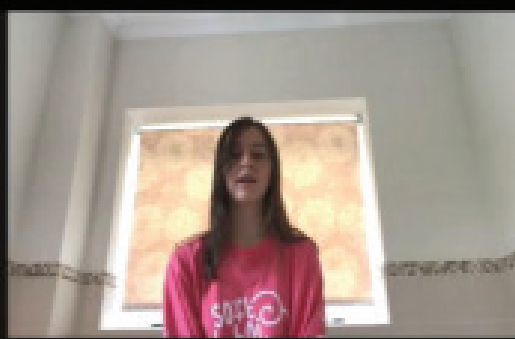
Technology came into its own as the term unfolded; Mr Rye recorded weekly podcasts from his studio at home, all about the wonderful world of music and Pre-prep pupils received weekly videos of original songs, encouraging the whole family to learn and sing along. There were weekly ukulele tuition videos released and every Friday afternoon the Prep School were encouraged to have a sing and a boogie at home as part of their school day!

The annual Summer Concert went 'virtual'. Pupils from across all three sections of the School recorded themselves playing or singing a piece at home and then sent it into Mr Rye. All these videos were then Live Streamed on 27th June by Mr Rye from his home studio and, against the odds, we managed to have a wonderful Virtual Summer Concert; a moving reminder of what we can achieve despite being separated. It was a real moment of cohesiveness and community in the face of adversity.

Duke of Kent School Album – Volume 3

Every two years, the School releases a CD, raising money for charity and showcasing some of the incredible hard work and talent across the school. This year, we managed to release a wonderful album featuring the Senior Choir's remote version of 'Don't Dream It's Over', the Year 9 vocal trio, the Chamber Vocal Ensemble, some original compositions and some sensational covers. With there being no opportunities to sell the CD at concerts or Speech Day etc., it was released as an mp3 download via our website, this year raising money for the charity Music For All; a wonderful charity that brings free of charge 'Learn To Play' experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds. The album is still available and can be downloaded via the School website www.dukeofkentschool.org.uk

Mr Rye



Drama

Drama continues to flourish in the School, both as an academic subject and an extra-curricular activity. The introduction of GCSE Drama has proved very popular with almost 30% of Year 10 choosing it as an option and LAMDA lessons numbers continue to increase. The LAMDA results were exceptional with a 100% pass rate of which 70% achieved distinctions.

The highlights of the Autumn Term were undoubtedly the Senior School musical and the Pre-prep Nativity. The musical this year was the Disney classic 'Beauty and the Beast', which featured a cast and crew of 67 pupils from Years 7 to 11 who performed to three sell-out audiences in the Performing Arts Hall. Directed and choreographed by our Dance Teacher, Lisa Lee, and co-directed by our Drama Teacher, Sam Honey, this was a wonderful team effort, with a live professional band, wonderful scenery, costumes and performances full of commitment and dedication. All those involved put huge amounts of effort into this technically and musically difficult piece and stretched themselves considerably, achieving a very high standard on the stage and most certainly learning a lot along the way.

The Pre-prep Nativity was its usual celebration of the Christmas story, and every single pupil from Nursery to Year 2 was on the stage, singing their hearts out and asking poor old Toby to 'stop banging his drum'!

Add to this a brilliantly acted Year 10 GCSE Drama workshop production of 'The Crucible' and it certainly was a busy Autumn Term.

As we headed into the Spring Term it was the Prep School's turn to rehearse and focus on their annual Easter production: a musical written by Deputy Head, Felix Macdonald, and Director of Performing Arts, Nick Rye, telling the journey of the magical 'Tree of Time' which ends up, after many adventures through the centuries, becoming an enchanted piano. Having worked so hard, it was heart-breaking that lockdown cruelly stole the chance to perform this from the pupils. A sensational dress rehearsal was performed to Mrs Knox two days before schools shut and, true to form, our amazing pupils gave it their all and put their hearts and souls into a show that they knew could not be performed to an audience.

With the School shut for the Summer Term, the challenge was how to sustain the momentum of a flourishing department in the face of adversity. Technology played a large part in the answer and a term full of home projects and opportunities was created by the wonderful Mrs Honey. 'Live' Drama lessons for the Senior School proved successful for all and pupils created radio plays, scripts, stage sets, theatrical designs and self-devised pieces. The Prep School made film trailers, wrote and filmed suspense scenes and kept video diaries of life in lockdown.

The nature of Remote Learning suited perfectly our first ever House Drama competition. Pupils were given a choice of text and then had to rehearse, direct, film and submit a scene. It was a great success and there were some brilliant entries featuring family members, pets and even some special effects! We were also very lucky to have professional actor Andy Whipp as the judge. Andy has worked extensively in film, television and theatre for over thirty years. He was full of praise for all the entries and remarked on the commitment and variety of the pupils' work.

Dance

Dance remains an important part of school life, with all those in the Senior Musical learning full routines, weekly dance lessons taught by Lisa Lee to each Pre-prep class and ballet and lyrical dance taught in the Prep and Senior schools as part of the after-school programme. Our wonderful ballet teacher Emily Francis (who also happens to be Head of Languages) entered her Ballet Club again for the ISA Dance competition and again they acquitted themselves superbly, receiving special commendation for their group dance and Myles C. in Year 5 won the individual dance off, a huge well done to him. Miss Francis also ensured that there were online ballet lessons made available during lockdown with her teaching them from her garden!

Mr Rye









An Evening with Sir Anthony Seldon

On Wednesday 16th February, Duke of Kent School was lucky enough to have a visit from Sir Anthony Seldon, who is a leading authority on contemporary British history and education. He delivered an inspirational and life affirming talk to parents, pupils and staff about how the happiness and wellbeing of our children is central to their success at school and beyond.

Sir Anthony has a reputation for being an iconoclastic leader, a radical reformer and a ruthlessly ambitious man, with a flair for publicity. A very different impression was created by the small, softly spoken, gentleman with floppy hair who engaged his audience completely, with his unique brand of eccentric charisma and evident passion for education and the welfare of young people. The audience was exhorted to appreciate the importance of silence and stillness, of seeing what's there in the mind. Young people, he argued, need to be given guidance on how to be 'happy' and to discover how to manage their minds, their bodies, their emotions and their relationships. It was a message to educators and parents alike, that if young people are to become the best they can be, they need our love, care, attention and respect as the unique and special individuals that they are.

After a moment of stillness and reflection, when the entire audience closed their eyes and engaged in a mindfulness of breathing exercise, Anthony warmed up and took aim at the policy makers whose guiding principles have been, by their very nature, so deeply damaging to our young people. He argued that over many years they have been the victims of an ideology which is so profoundly wrong and detrimental to their wellbeing. That ideology, he contended, was that the only way that pupils, teachers and schools are judged and ranked is by their exam results. He pointed to the example of Aristotle who stated that schools have a dual role, to teach students about the best that mankind has thought and created, and to teach good character and values to help them live lives that are meaningful and good.

Sir Anthony finished by commenting on the outstanding work being done by the Duke of Kent School, with its focus on the development of the whole child and its positioning of the wellbeing of pupils at the heart of everything we do.

Mr Seeley

Q&A with Grace Carter

During the Summer Term, with the pupils stuck at home, a highlight for the Music Department was the opportunity to hold a Live Streamed video Q&A with pop star Grace Carter. Grace is a rising pop star, regularly played on Radio 1 and Radio 2 and is building a big following both here and in the U.S. She grew up in Brighton listening to the likes of Lauryn Hill and Nina Simone and began making music during her school days. Last year she came third in the BBC Sounds of the Year poll and has had over 10 million views on YouTube.

Pupils sent in questions for Mr Rye to ask Grace via Google video link which was live streamed to the whole school community. Grace was a delight, answering a full range of questions with honesty and insight, discussing topics such as her inspiration, life in the music industry, online pressures, the recording process and how lockdown affected her career. The whole interview was a wonderful chance for the pupils to hear from a young, articulate and ambitious woman making her way in a tricky industry and also a lovely highlight in the middle of a strange term.

Mr Rye



World Book Day

Walking through the corridors of Duke of Kent School on Thursday 5th March 2020 was like entering the magical world of Hogwarts. Smiling brightly were several Potters and Ginnys; the most sinister apparition being Hagrid, aka Mr Rye, lurking, or rather towering, over his muggles in class. There was a buzz of excitement in the air as the entire School community embraced the opportunity to dress as their favourite book character for the day. There was a Hungry Caterpillar, a gaggle of Oompa-Lumpas, a group of Year 9s dressed as all the characters from Alice in Wonderland and several Mr Men and Little Misses.

The day began with a grand celebration of everyone's costumes in a parade throughout the School. The Pre-prep started the procession followed by the rest of the school in year order, with staff interspersed. The pupils were particularly excited to welcome Dennis the Menace and Gnasher (Mr Macdonald and his dog Billy) into the midst. In the morning assembly, Mr Southee hosted a rendition of a 'Pointless' quiz with a range of literature questions. Like all House events, the competition was fierce but eventually...Chichester triumphed! The pupils were also shown a montage of pictures which were taken for the House 'Random Reading' Challenge and involved the Prep and Senior pupils taking cool and quirky snaps of themselves reading their favourite book in a 'random place'. Even the staff (and Mrs Nicholson's pet dog) got involved! The lucky winners were Daisy N (Prep - Armstrong) and Violetta P (Senior - Whittle).

The celebrations continued for the rest of the day - the Prep School, welcomed author Lauren St John who inspired and enthused the pupils about her life as an author. She started with an illustrated talk of her fascinating life, including rescues of leopards from slum zoos, horse treks across Australia and a childhood in Zimbabwe where she regularly gave sanctuary to monkeys, warthogs and even a giraffe! Her focus turned to helping the pupils create their own collective story. She emphasised the importance of writing about believable and interesting characters. Even the teachers took away some helpful ideas from the workshops, and all the pupils were left with a passion to put pen to paper with their own version of the class' story.

One of the main highlights of every World Book Day is the collaborative reading that takes place between the Senior and Pre-prep pupils; Year 11 spent a heart-warming 20 minutes reading to Reception, Year 1 and 2. Year 10 listened to Year 5 read and the Year 9s designed their own Reading Journeys, cataloging what they have read through the years - some of their designs were so imaginative, especially Casper C's 3D 'Mount Reading' which he made out of rocks.

At lunchtime, all the students were invited to showcase their costumes in the Old Hall using the 'World Book Day' frame (courtesy of Natasha B's father!). Meanwhile, in the Meetings Room, Year 7 (with the help of Mrs Pakenham) held a Duke of Kent School Book Swap for their year group and Year 8, as part of their Young Leaders Award. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to dust off any old books from their shelves and read something new and exciting. It was thrilling to hear so many of the pupils eagerly recommending their books to their peers.





Whilst World Book Day was a chance for the school to embrace its love for reading, we wanted to remind the pupils that this celebration was also a charitable deed; all of the children were asked to bring in a donation of £1 to support the International Book Aid Charity; we chose to support this charity because it provides books to less fortunate children all over the world to access the wonderful world of books and literature. Our combined efforts across the school raised a total of £248.00 and 148 new books were sent to schools across the world!

Overall, World Book Day 2020 was yet another success which would not have been possible without the involvement of our incredible staff who embraced the day with such enthusiasm and team spirit.

The English Department





Photographer of the Year Competition

In his video message, to this year's 'Duke of Kent School Photographer of the Year Competition' entrants, our guest judge, Giles Duley, said; "Photography is a gift, it's a way of communicating stories and our own personal journeys". Giles' journey has been more eventful than most. His career began documenting the 90s Brit Pop scene, a hedonistic world of models and cool rock bands. He worked with Oasis, Pulp, Maria Carey and Marilyn Manson, to name just a few. As the scene dissolved Giles became increasingly disenchanted with the world of celebrity and turned to documentary photographers such as Don McCullin for inspiration. Here the idea of storytelling really began to take hold in his work as he began seeking out and documenting the forgotten victims of war, bringing their plight to our attention through his photographs. He eventually exhibited his work in the Palace of Westminster, showing these visual stories to our politicians, as they entered the chamber to make decisions that impact the lives of the poor and vulnerable, here and across the globe.

In 2011, his life was changed violently and suddenly. While on foot patrol in Afghanistan, documenting the day to day life of the 75th US Cavalry Regiment, he stood on an improvised explosive device (IED). Most would not have survived the injuries he sustained, and during his 45 days in intensive care he almost succumbed to them on more than one occasion. Giles was thrown from being the storyteller behind the lens to the subject of news reports and the international media.

He awoke from his injuries having lost both legs and his left arm, but after months of rehabilitation he returned to Afghanistan and made *Walking Wounded: Return to The Frontline* for Channel 4. Through this documentary he explores the impact of the Afghan conflict on himself, the local people caught in the crossfire and the US soldiers who saved his life, with whom he shares shots of tequila while they express in colourful language their surprise that he is still alive!

In March, just as we opened our annual Photography Competition to entries, the lives of our School

community changed quite suddenly. Although thankfully not as violent as Giles' life changing experiences, this period has been difficult for everyone to navigate. As a School we encouraged and supported our students to continue their education, to pursue their interests, and to maintain a sense of positivity and community. Our energetic young people rose to the challenges we set them, and across the school teachers witnessed the production of an exciting array of self-motivated projects from community singalongs and virtuoso Bake Offs, to sporting achievements and beautiful prose. The Photography Competition was no exception. Giles' observation of photography as a storytelling tool was evident in many of the entries; these gave us an insight into our students' lives, feelings and responses to this difficult time. Read as a group, their images share a narrative thread of contemplative calmness and serenity; many depicting a reconnection with nature and the slowing of busy lives to appreciate the beauty immediately around us. A slowing of time not just to reflect and contemplate, but to play and explore; something so vital to childhood. This theme is clearly captured in the winning images by Maddie I (Senior) and Tom S (Prep). These photographs also capture a sense of humour and childhood innocence; fear and anxiousness are conspicuous in their absence - feelings perhaps left to the adults. These photographs are a document of the happiness and carefree nature of childhood, unrelentingly positive and unimpeded by the complexities that surround them. A great document of the contagious, optimism of childhood.

Although it is sometimes difficult to see an end to this peculiar period, to see 'the story' continuing beyond the pandemic, we know that it will. We will always encourage our young photographers to understand that there is always a story to be told, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem. As Giles said in his congratulations to the competition entrants;

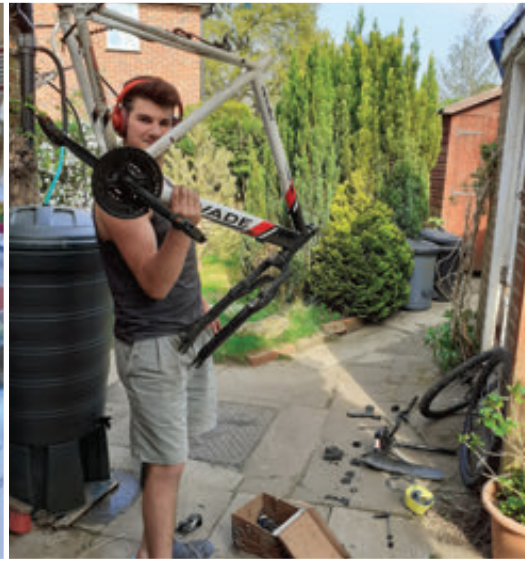
"Every photograph is important. Keep taking photos, what's important is that YOU keep telling YOUR stories."

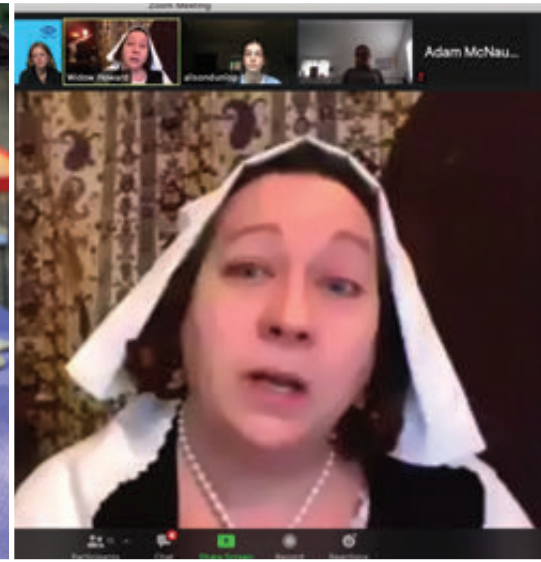
Mr Watson

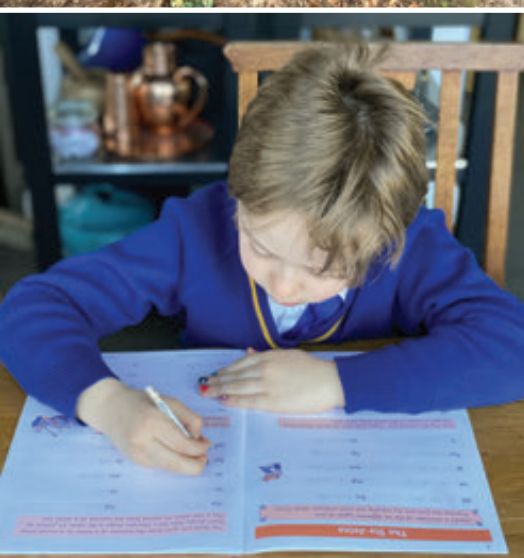


Remote Learning









School Charity Work

At the beginning of the year, a small band of students volunteered to join our new Charity Committee. The Committee presided over the whole School vote to choose a charity to support through the academic year. CLIC Sargent, a relatively little known charity, won the vote by a good margin.

CLIC Sargent supports young people who have been given a cancer diagnosis, guiding them through their treatment, providing accommodation during hospital visits, offering emotional support and giving financial aid where needed.

Throughout the year, we raised money through various events, CLIC Sargent sent representatives into School, educating our students, raising their awareness of young people fighting against cancer and highlighting for us the wider impact cancer can have on personal and family life.

As well as raising money for CLIC Sargent we also supported Zack, a pupil at Morogoro International School, our link school in Tanzania. Zack's father had lost his job and Zack faced an uncertain future, unable, for one reason or another, to join the state system and without the income to afford a place at MIS. Earlier in the year, a group of Duke of Kent School students and teachers visited MIS on a trip to Tanzania which had been made all the more magical by the generosity of our hosts. In supporting Zack we could see the immediate benefits of our donations and the strengthening of the bonds between our two schools.

Over the year, we raised close to £3,000 for these two charities. As a school we are rewarded with a widening of horizons, educational opportunities and a deeper empathy towards our fellow human.

I would like to thank the whole School for their generosity and support of our charity partnerships. Moving forward the School has voted to support Access Adventures next academic year. We look forward to a fruitful, mutually beneficial relationship with them.

Mr Watson



Celebrating Some Student Achievements



Evie M (Year 11) Raising money for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Evie M, in Year 11 wanted to support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month because her own sister, Issy, was diagnosed with leukaemia at the age of 11. This, of course, has had a profound effect on Evie and her family. Evie and her team, Matthew C and Jasmine B, ventured around the school selling Gold Ribbon badges to all which were worn proudly on blazers and jumpers by students and throughout the School, for the whole month. They raised £462.25 but they did so in a meaningful, yet understated way. Because of the personal connection, the whole event was particularly moving. Well done to Evie and her team.



Ellis and Calum McK (Year 10 and 8) Charity Bike Ride Raising Money for Cystic Fibrosis

Ellis and Calum McK (Year 11 and 9) and their parents, Karen and Kenny, underwent a charity bike ride in aid of Cystic Fibrosis in July. They cycled from Gretna Green to John O'Groats, - that's a whopping 470 miles! The completed journey took them 12 days and the elevation gained was 24,713 feet, which is higher than any mountain outside the Himalayas! The route took them through forests and cities and next to beautiful highland lochs, rivers and the sandy bays of the north coast. To date, they've raised £6,240 which is way in excess of what they thought was possible and testimony to the generosity of family, friends and numerous complete strangers they met along the way who wanted to contribute. Well done!



Martha McA (Year 10) Charity Bake Sale for Macmillan Cancer Support

On Friday 27th September Martha McA in Year 10 ran a cake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Martha has been running these cake sales every year with her year group and it remains an eagerly anticipated event in School. This year Martha and her peers raised £354.72 for the charity. Well done Martha, yet again, it was a fantastic event and tasty too!



Poppy S (Year 10) Regional Netball

Already a member of Waverley Vipers Netball Club and having completed a year playing for Surrey Netball, Poppy S was selected as part of the squad for the CN U16 Elite Regional team. Competing in matches all over the South of England it was a fun and challenging season playing against the top teams in the South, including one match in Guernsey for which they were lucky enough to fly there for the day, just before lockdown. The long trip was well worth the effort as they won the match in a nail biting finish going from 15 goals down in the first quarter to winning 48 - 45. Well done to Poppy.



Izzy B (Year 9) Surrey County Tennis

Over the Summer holidays (2019) Izzy B played in the Surrey County Tennis Trophy in the U14 and U16 categories It's A Knock Out tournament for girls and boys across Surrey. Izzy did really well and got through to both finals, which took place at LTA's home courts in Roehampton, where all the different age sections came together. She played superbly on the day to win the U14 girls' final and came runner up in the U16 girls' final. It was a thrilling day of tennis and so exciting to be at Roehampton. Well done Izzy.



Toby T and Rufus B (Year 7) Surrey County Cricket

Surrey County Cricket Club is committed to identifying and developing home grown cricketers to play for Surrey and England. Toby T and Rufus B were both successful in being selected for the summer match-play programme following the U12 Development phase assessments and winter training programme. This is a fantastic achievement as only 80 boys across the county are selected out of the many assessed annually. We are really proud of the boys and wish them the best in their teams. Fingers crossed for next year!



Zac W (Year 6) Raising money for the NHS

Zac W in Year 6 took on a huge challenge in lockdown! Zac has been busy clocking up the miles running and mountain biking to raise money for the NHS to say thank you for all the work they have done over the isolation period. He cycled 232 miles and ran 51 miles one month and by the end of May completed 400 miles in total. His goal was to raise £250 but he managed a huge £1,555. Well done Zac.



Prep School Pupils Sponsored Swim for Macmillan Cancer Support

Twelve energetic pupils from Years 4 and 6 challenged themselves whilst having fun to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of the Duke of Kent School 2019 Coffee Morning event. A couple of pupils tested their football skills at a penalty shootout and ran laps whilst the others were swimming as many laps as they could in the swimming pool at Cranleigh Leisure Centre. 100 penalties were taken in only 15 minutes by Jack R and John B with the help of Tom B in goal outside the sports centre and Eve M, Levi L, Poppy F, Eddie C, Elliot S, Erin C, Isabella N, Isla W, Patrick W and Scarlet R swam a total of 483 laps for the swim team. In a 25 metre pool that's over 7 miles! We are all so proud of these amazing individuals as should they be of themselves for raising so much money for such a worthy cause.

Alumni Achievements

Hamish Pratt (2008 - 2017)

Hamish Pratt (Duke of Kent School pupil 2008-2017) has been appointed one of the two 'Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex's Cadet of the Year' (2019-2020) at an awards ceremony at Christ's Hospital, Horsham. The Lord-Lieutenant, whose primary duty is to uphold the dignity of the Crown, is Her Majesty's personal representative in the county and among his many functional duties are: arranging and accompanying Royal visits to West Sussex; presenting medals, Queen's Awards and other commendations and maintaining links with the armed forces and the emergency services.

The awards recognised Reservists, Civilian volunteers and Cadets and there were about 20 meritorious awards made that evening. Hamish, whilst currently at Bristol university, can expect to assist at around three (out of twelve) such events in the year ahead. (The screen behind him shows his rank as Cadet Sergeant but he has since been promoted to Cadet Flight Sergeant)



James C (2002 - 2014)

James C has just completed his training for the Royal Marines. The training is said to be one of the most challenging in NATO. It consists of 32 weeks of physical and mental tests, which are sure to separate those who think they want to be royals and those who really do.

Of the 45 men and 1 woman that started with him, only three of them passed out as originals and 14 passed out in total, the rest made up of back troopers, who were sent back in training because of either a professional failing or after sustaining an injury. This gives you an idea of the physical demands put on recruits throughout the 8 months.

There have been both massive highs and lows, but the thing that stands out the most throughout training were the men he got to know and became great friends with.

The next step for James is to finish his driver training down at Lympstone, where he will be qualified to drive vehicles up to the size of artic lorry's and then move to 42 Commando at Bickleigh, Plymouth. This unit is primarily involved in maritime operations, so he is hoping to get on a ship and travel around for his first draft. Following this, James will find out more about the corps and what job role appeals to him once he has had a bit more experience before submitting requests for a specialisation.



Harry Crabtree (2008 - 2014)

After Harry left Duke of Kent School, he went to Godalming College for his A Levels where he studied English, Maths, History and Music. From there he took a gap year where he worked for Headstart, a corporate events company after which he spent a month in New Zealand training at the International Rugby Academy. Following his gap year, Harry took a place at the University of Exeter studying Law from which he has just graduated with a First Class Honours degree. Harry will now be heading out to the Alps this winter to host a chalet. Following this, he will be beginning law school at the University of Law in Moorgate before commencing his training contract at Ashurst LLP.



Maddie Lock (2005 - 2011)

When Maddie left Duke of Kent School she moved to Cranleigh School to pursue her passion for Drama and to complete her GCSEs and A Levels. She studied English, History, Drama and Politics for A Level and obtained a place to study English and Education at Durham University. She took a gap year before starting her studies at Durham, spending three months working in the Learning Development Department at Duke of Kent School followed by six months teaching English in a school in China. This summer, she graduated from Durham with a First Class Honours degree; her dissertation focused on theatre in the Second World War with a link to the current Covid pandemic. She is planning to spend this year travelling (where possible) and working in theatre before deciding whether to pursue a Masters in either Outreach Theatre or a PGCE with a focus on Special Educational Needs.



Maddy Honey (2002 - 2014)

Maddy left Duke of Kent School to attend Godalming College where she studied Photography, English Language and Textile Design at A Level. She then went on to the University of the Creative Arts in Farnham, completing a Foundation Course in Fashion but kept finding herself drawn to a career in the film and theatre industry. Maddy gained a place at the Arts University Bournemouth, studying Makeup for Media and Performance where she completed her course finishing with a First-Class Honours Degree. Maddy is looking forward to working in theatre, television and film specialising in the creation, styling and fittings of wigs.





Parents' Association PAdoK

The year may not have finished the way we were expecting but we certainly started off in our usual stride with all the PAdoK events and traditions that everyone has come to love and expect.

Looking back to early September 2019, we were able to give a very warm welcome to new parents with a reception in the Meetings Room fuelled by coffee and pastries. This was a fantastic opportunity for new parents to meet their class reps and hear about all the clubs and activities PAdoK has to offer and gave them a flavour of the warm, inclusive environment that has become synonymous amongst Duke of Kent School parents.

At the end of September, we hosted our annual MacMillan Coffee Morning. This year not only did we have a huge amount of cake and delicious treats, we were also treated to some fantastic musical entertainment from our pupils. It was a wonderful afternoon for a very worthwhile cause and a huge thank you for all the donations from our very generous parent community. At the end of the afternoon we were left with an abundance of cake; fortunately, due to the energy and enthusiasm of one of our reps, these were sold through car windows as parents queued up to collect children at the end of the day, giving everyone an opportunity to donate and be involved.

The weather may have started to turn cold outside but in the middle of the Autumn Term we warmly welcomed parents to our first "BIG" PAdoK event of the year: a fancy dress movie themed evening. "Top Gun" was the chosen film and the Performing Arts Hall was transformed into an American themed diner, draped in lashings of red, white and blue and star-spangled banners. All our visiting parents had gone to great lengths and we were treated to an array of 80's and "Top Gun" themed costumes. This was an absolutely smashing PAdoK event, where we were able to enjoy and interact with the movie, quizzes and activities, all involving the usual amount of prizes and hilarity. A superb American Diner themed supper was provided by the School's Catering Team and after the movie a great time was had by all dancing to music provided by DJ, Brad Garrod. My congratulations and thanks are extended to PAdoK reps Sophie Malcolm and Natascha Weatherby for once again arranging such a brilliant and fun evening.

Always a traditional favourite is our Christmas shopping evening at Manns of Cranleigh. We were welcomed into the store (after hours) for an exclusive Christmas shopping event which included our friends from local schools. Manns enticed us with a discount on everything in the store and PAdoK enhanced the evening with champagne and nibbles.

The end of the Autumn Term is always brought to a beautiful close with the PAdoK Mulled Wine and Minced Pie Evening. After a warm-up by the fire and the announcement of the winners of our Christmas hamper raffle, we headed, full of festive cheer, to the Performing Arts Hall to enjoy a wonderful Christmas concert performed by our children.



With naive optimism we returned after Christmas full of enthusiasm for all our PAdoK events still to come! We started the new year supporting Mr Rye with his ever popular Jazz Evening and PAdoK reps came together once again to transform the Performing Arts Hall, this time into a dark smoky jazz club. We kept everybody refreshed with drinks and nibbles and the entertainment was provided by amazing sultry jazz music.

Unfortunately, due to lockdown the PAdoK Quiz Night and our big summer term event had to be postponed. But we still managed to keep parents connected. By the magic of Zoom, we hosted year group coffee mornings, sometimes including our Mrs Knox and Mr Macdonald. Parents have fed back this was a great way to stay in touch with both the school and each other. The Zoom coffee mornings also gave parents a chance to chat with parents they wouldn't normally come across and new friendships have been forged.

Because PAdoK is an unusually active and inclusive PTA, we also have many clubs and activities for parents to get involved with. These have proved to be very popular in the past and it is PAdoK's intention that these will carry on in some format in the future.

PAdoK would like to extend our thanks to the following reps for their help and enthusiasm; Lucy Burr, Sam Bimpson, Jessica Hogan-Smith, Claire Read, Kate Western, Bex Clark and Tracey Leonard who lead our regular clubs and a final thank you to all the reps for your help over the years with functions and events.



As I'm sure you are all aware this school year was my last as PAdoK chairlady and although I am sad that the school community was not able to be all together during the Summer Term, I am immensely proud of what we have managed to achieve over the past 8 years and have had tremendous fun achieving it. Duke of Kent School is an outstanding school and I consider it to be an honour to have been your PAdoK chairlady.

Camilla Phillips will be taking over as PAdoK chairlady next year; I know she will do an outstanding job and PAdoK will continue to grow as the most inclusive and welcoming PTA in the area.

Mrs Sarah Trotman, PAdoK Chairlady

In Our Spare Time...

Mr Allen

After gaining a degree in Geography at the University of Leicester in 2004, and completing my PGCE in 2005, I have completed an MA in Education with the University of Buckingham over the last year. For this qualification, I focused my research on evaluating the appropriate use of performance data at schools such as our own. I conducted both research and historical data analysis at the school, as well as drawing from a wide body of academic literature to complete a 15,000 word evaluative thesis. Following this period of study, I am looking forward to sharing my findings with Duke of Kent School staff and using it to improve my practice in my new role as Academic Reporting and Data Coordinator.



Mrs Douglas

I returned to university in 2016, 20 years after completing my PGCE and BA in Literature and Psychology. My interest in psychology and the impact of mental health issues, led me to study Humanistic counselling with Greenwich University, for three years as a full time degree, continuing part-time teaching at Duke of Kent School. I graduated in October 2019, having been awarded a distinction in my Foundation Degree and qualifying as a counselling therapist. I continue to volunteer for the YMCA community counselling and Cruse Bereavement Care. I am about to complete specialised training in counselling children and young people, which remains my area of primary interest and is beneficial to my continued role at Duke of Kent School.



Mr Ellarby

Over the last two years, I have been studying for a Master's degree in Educational Leadership to add to the Bachelor's degree in Secondary Mathematics education I received from the University of Brighton in 2012. I thoroughly enjoyed the course at the University of Buckingham, writing essays on: inspirational leader John F Kennedy, how to lead a pupil orientated school based on educational research and culminating in a practical dissertation about how best to ensure consistent high quality teaching in a Prep School. It was a highly practical course which taught me a lot and I look forward to using all that I have learnt to enhance the Duke of Kent School even further.



Miss Munro

Over the past three years, I have been studying for a degree in Early Childhood Studies awarded by the University of Chichester. I began a Foundation Degree in September 2017 after being inspired by the teaching at Duke of Kent School. With encouragement and support, I then progressed onto a BA (Hons) top up in 2019. These courses have developed my professional understanding and practice to support the children to reach their full potential. I focused my dissertation on 'Professional Love' and explored practitioners' perceptions of the importance of different terms used when caring for children, particularly for three and four year olds. I have shared many interesting and relevant aspects with my wonderful colleagues and I look forward to further developing my practice with the knowledge I have acquired.

Miss Lennon

In January 2019, I began studying for a qualification in Early Years and started a NCFE Cache Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce. The course was extensive and involved completing assignments, essays, research projects, presentations and practical learning activities, all of which provided me with extended knowledge in caring for children. I completed my course in July 2020 and the practical activities I undertook enabled me to plan, lead and implement a variety of play opportunities within the Pre-prep department at Duke of Kent School.

Mme Fellous

We had the pleasure of tying the knot in my home country, France, in the most beautiful setting at the Domaine de Vauluisant on Saturday 19th October. It was lovely to share this day with some of my Duke of Kent School colleagues and we would like to thank everyone for their congratulations. We are now enjoying married life.



Mr and Mrs Green

We welcomed the arrival of Jacob Micah Green, born at 9am, weighing 7lb 14oz on the 8th January 2020. It has been absolutely amazing to watch him take in and learn about the world around him; he seems to have a particular interest in eating and moving!



Mrs Nicholson

We welcomed Robyn Christine Nicholson on Thursday 2nd April, weighing 8lb 6oz. Elsie has been taking on her duties as big sister and we have all been getting used to becoming a family of four!



Mrs Vermeulen

Max Constantine Glynn Vermeulen made an entrance into the world on Tuesday 7th April weighing at 8lb 11oz, bringing us so much joy (and endless parenting tasks). We have already started teaching Max all about the cycle routes we have planned for him as he grows up.



Staff Farewells



Pablo Aguilar-Cabanes

Pablo has been an invaluable member of the Sports Department. His enthusiasm, willingness to learn and friendly nature has been apparent throughout his time teaching at Duke of Kent School. He is a very well qualified football referee who displayed good authority when officiating matches but also has a great understanding of how to adapt his style when working with different age groups. He was very well liked by the staff and pupils and will be greatly missed. We all hope that Pablo enjoys his studying for his degree at Chichester University and fulfils his ambitions; he has a hugely bright future ahead of him!

Mr Herbert



Kia Pakenham

We say an extremely fond farewell to our wonderful Chaplain, Kia Pakenham, known to the pupils as Rev Kia. Kia managed to forge an incredibly important pastoral role within the school, showing such care and empathy towards those who visited that she swiftly became an important mentor to many pupils, girls in particular. She led the services - Christmas, Easter and Harvest - with a lightness of touch, skill and humour, and the Carol Services, in particular, became a highlight of the school year. She also embraced her role as an RS teacher. Kia has become an excellent and natural teacher and her pupils, particularly those who went through the Archbishop of York scheme with her, will always remember her. Kia's warmth and natural ability to engage happily with students and colleagues alike will be greatly missed.

Mr Macdonald



Gail Turner

In only four years at Duke of Kent School, Gail demonstrated remarkable versatility, being a Form Teacher in Reception, Year 2 and also Year 5. Such broad teaching talent was coupled with a profound and gentle kindness, with which she nurtured her pupils and encouraged them to show similar care for one another. A keen artist and guitar player, Gail would often bring a lesson to life with an artistic flourish or musical moment to help captivate the children's attention and provide a rich, lively environment in which to learn. She ran a very popular Expressive Arts after-school club for Prep pupils, encouraging children to share their creativity and emotions. As a parting gift, Gail sent the School a box of bulbs, which the prep pupils planted along the Pre-prep verge last Spring, and we will think fondly of Gail - herself a keen gardener - as they come into bloom each year.

Mr Wright



Alex Win-Pe

Alex arrived at Duke of Kent School as a young Computer Science teacher. In his quiet and gentle way, he went about his business without fanfare and fuss and created a popular, efficient and successful department. Alex was a key part of the unofficial crossword club and can play almost every computer game invented and most likely defeat the pupils who foolishly challenged him! His Computer Science lessons were full of interesting knowledge and well researched facts; the GCSE results are a testament to his ability as a teacher.

I suspect Alex will be remembered equally, however, as an adopted member of the Music Department! Over the years, he has been a follow spot operator, a sound engineer, a lighting operator, a member of the stage crew, a rock band mentor, a theatre musician, an orchestral violinist, a staff choir singer, a GLive! staff member, Science teacher and, above all else, a top bloke! He will be much missed by pupils, parents and staff and we wish him all the very best in his new post at Brookwood Academy.

Mr Rye

Mary Fox

Mary retired from Duke of Kent School in December 2019. She joined the school in Autumn Term 2000 as the school librarian and worked tirelessly setting up a new and modern library.

Once here, her considerable talents were utilised elsewhere and Mary also took on the role of Marketing and Press Officer at a transformational time for the School. Mary helped get the Duke of Kent School name known locally, nationally and internationally as the School transitioned from a being a largely RAF Boarding School to a local day school. Mary was instrumental in letting everybody know we were here and very much open for business to the wider local community.

There were so many things Mary has been involved with in her 19 years working here. She assisted in the development and enrichment of everything, including helping to set up the first School website, the rebranding of the School back in 2001, launching the Nursery and extending the age range to GCSEs, countless Open Mornings and the School Review Magazine while working closely with 3 Head teachers. This was always done with the best interests of the School at heart and Mary's unfailing attention to detail.

We are truly grateful for her tremendous contribution to Duke of Kent School and wish her a long and happy retirement and lots of quality time, especially with her granddaughter, Darcie.

Mrs Hopwood





DUKE *of* KENT
SCHOOL

Duke of Kent School
Peaslake Road
Ewhurst
Surrey GU6 7NS
Tel 01483 277313