

The Review 2017



Head's Introduction

When I think back over 2016-17, there are of course moments that stand out. You will not be surprised to learn that one such was the moment when Mrs Monk slipped into assembly to signal that the Independent Schools Inspectorate were on the phone, announcing their imminent arrival with fine toothcombs. We were delighted however to get the chance to show the wider world what we already knew about our compassionate, creative, dynamic, sparky, kind, fun-loving, interesting and interested students. The fabulous achievement of 'Excellent' gradings in both areas of Educational Quality inspection (pupils' achievements and personal development), as well as our sign-off as fully compliant with all statutory and regulatory requirements, was a real endorsement of our approach here at Duke of Kent School. This was proof if it were ever needed that it is perfectly possible for a young person to have a happy and balanced childhood while still achieving potential in every aspect of academic and social development.

The moments that most stand out for me have been those that show just what a special and unique community this is. I always love to see pupils working across the age groups, as there is so much to be gained by all. It was a treat to see the faces of the Nursery light up when the GCSE Design Technology pupils turned up with the toys they had made for their coursework projects - and of course to see the pride and relief on the faces of the designers, when their toys were being successfully road-tested, to the limits. I was equally transfixed by the Prep School Ballet Club pupils dancing so thoughtfully to the assured composition for piano of Dexter B, Year 9.

As ever, sport brought tension and thrills in equal measure. We enjoyed a terrific Sports Day in which pursuit of excellence went hand-in-hand with sportsmanship; we cheered on both sides at the Girls' House Football – but most of all the fantastic fully qualified FA referee, Year 11 Pablo; we spent a glorious summer evening watching the Year 11 Cricket team beat the teachers in their final match!

The Performing Arts Hall was the setting for wonderful performances in productions from so many, though



some of my favourites were: Heath's beaming grin as an Elvis-styled Angel Gabriel in the wonderful Nativity, Rollo's amazing scarecrow in the Pre-prep dance show; the hilarious performance of Year 9 Anna and Tyla as fashion-conscious zebras with attitude. In Music I will long remember: Guy in Year 10 stepping up to play drums with 'Sound of the Sirens', when they performed for the School after judging the House Music; watching Oscar in Year 7 hold G Live spellbound with his guitar and harmonica; hearing Lexi and Jazz's haunting performance of Jazz's extraordinary song at the Original Work Evening.

Other moments that brought me great pride included watching our wonderful guest of honour, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme trustee, handing out our Duke of Edinburgh awards; seeing Martha's enthusiasm for her Macmillan Coffee Morning cake sale, and the Year 10 Charities Group committing to support Jigsaw; meeting with our first ever Childnet Digital Leaders; watching Will and Guy in Year 10 achieve their FutureLearn awards; seeing Year 8 Ben and Florence excelling in their visit to Knowle Park; dancing a jig with Mrs Ives and Year 11 Alex when he won his academic scholarship to St John's, Leatherhead, and celebrating the B in Mathematics Millie had never believed possible – but there it was in black and white, after all her hard work.

There was the pleasure and deep satisfaction of seeing Year 11 at Leavers' Dinner, celebrating together all they had achieved in their time as classmates, and looking forward to the future. Their bonds of friendship are so strong and such a credit to them. I couldn't put it better than our Head Boy and Girl, Bastien and Pippa put it: "we are such a great team, on and off the field."

And one last, rather self-indulgent memory: after months of dropping hints, finally being asked, with my father, to judge the House Bake Off. Issy's scones were a triumph!



Staff Farewells

Hannah Coxhead,

newly appointed Director of Mathematics at the Gatwick School, was only with us for two years but packed every minute of it with fun and challenge for her pupils. She took the closest possible interest in her pupils' progress and enjoyment of the subject and was immensely versatile: she took equal pleasure in helping a struggling mathematician access the curriculum and build confidence as she did in stretching high-flyers out of their comfort zone and making them really think their way to success. Members of her after school activity, a Further Mathematics study group, achieved exceptional results, many of them before they had even finished their IGCSE syllabus. Beyond the classroom, she was an inspirational co-leader of the House system, particularly relishing Bake Off, and showed her talent as a musician when playing flute in the Senior Production, 'Calamity Jane' and accompanying pupils to G Live. Her dynamic approach to teaching and learning was really appreciated by the pupils and will no doubt lead to success at Gatwick School, where we wish her every happiness.

Malika Lane

left us in July for her new role at Brentwood College where she will be Head of French and continue with her work as a senior examiner. Hired to set up the senior Modern Foreign Languages Department here at the time of the transition to Senior School, Malika brought exacting standards, enormous energy and great enthusiasm to all that she did. Her time here typifies the Duke of Kent School experience, in that she has worn many hats: not just Head of MFL but joint senior girls' coordinator, photography club leader, careers officer...

practically the first risk assessment I ever signed was for her Y11 social paint-balling trip.

As examinations officer she has undertaken the mammoth task of organising internal and external examinations - a vital role in the life of the School, and one she has carried out meticulously, with precision and amazing organisation, much of it behind the scenes.

She sets the highest possible standards for herself and for her pupils and over her time here has had the pleasure of seeing so many of them rise to the challenges she has set them. She has been exceptionally generous with her additional support for pupils, committed to providing whatever it takes to get them to their goals.

Many pupils have understandably listed French and Spanish as favourite subjects. Her stretch and challenge work has been exciting and her trips to Paris and Barcelona have been fantastic opportunities for her pupils which they will never forget.

A hugely accomplished linguist, for Malika, language teaching at Duke of Kent School has been about so much more than languages; she has been committed not just to teaching language, but also culture and communication. In my first year here, she introduced me to these words of Nelson Mandela: "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart". In that spirit, Malika, on behalf of us all: merci beaucoup! We wish Malika, Ryan and Alex, every happiness in their new adventures.

Jilly Myer,

a teaching assistant in our Pre-prep, retired this year after ten years of service. A keen and accomplished artist herself, both in visual arts and in dance, she brought great creativity to her role, encouraging the children in her care to express themselves with colour and individuality. Her warmth and kindness will be long remembered by the pupils and her colleagues and we wish her a wonderful retirement.

Cathy Wilson

As Designated Safeguarding Lead, Cathy Wilson held the key role in the School, ensuring that our practice in the vital areas of safeguarding our pupils and promoting their welfare, was carried out to the highest possible standards. In this, as in all that she did, she proved to be thorough, efficient and organised but, much more importantly, insightful, sympathetic and endlessly kind. Many Duke of Kent families have reason to know just what I mean, having had Cathy by their shoulder in the toughest of times. She has also been an absolute rock to colleagues, even under the most difficult circumstances.

The Prep School was a joy to Cathy; she saw potential in everyone, and was determined to find ways to draw it out. Under her leadership the department was full of fun, a hive of activity and a place in which kindness and courtesy were absolutely non-negotiable and good humour prevailed. Watching her teach was like attending a masterclass in engagement and behaviour management – all done with a mere raise of the eyebrows. I saw the fun for myself on the Isle of Wight Trip – I understand that every year she managed to catch someone with the joke about needing a passport for the ferry crossing!

Countless children owe their love of sport to Cathy's approach. I have reflected on it a great deal as her philosophy could seem somewhat paradoxical. Somehow this (extremely) competitive lady, who just loves to win, is also committed to 'the taking part' and to ensuring that all get their fair turn, even if they are not yet at county standard. The drive to see personal best, for the individual, and the highest level of achievement for the team, must be part of the secret of her success. Her love of tennis, an accomplished

player of national standard herself, was evident as she stretched and challenged our most able players. Girls in her netball and rounders teams knew that she would not settle for anything but their very best, and they lived up to her high expectations. What better way for the School to honour her contribution to Duke of Kent School's sporting life than the naming of our new all-weather pitch (construction of which is starting as I write), as 'Wilson's', with the apostrophe strategically placed to honour both Cathy Wilson and her late husband, Roger, our former Headmaster.

Retirement is suiting Cathy very well. It is giving her time to spend with her wonderful chihuahua trio (Annie, Bella and Minty), and her many dear friends, time to use the BBQ given to her by Prep School, no doubt, to enjoy her garden and get to midweek matinees at the theatre, not to mention the odd shopping trip to New York! We wish her all joy in the adventures to come and are deeply grateful for her service to our community.

Jane Ives

Rigorously fair, utterly dependable, tireless even on the longest days, enormous fun: who could ask for more in a Deputy Head? Jane has been a terrific friend and colleague to us all and a wonderful teacher to your children.

She brings a fierce intelligence to bear on the trickiest subject, but combines this with the most sympathetic understanding of, and care for, all in her charge, pupils and staff and headteachers alike. Visiting her class to get her insight on a knotty problem, I invariably found myself caught up in some joyful nonsense: a game of Hot Potato (ask your children), a role play with waiters serving the drinks bistro-style, complete with unconvincing moustaches all round, the tasting of revolting-smelling cheese, an interlude with a Basil Brush puppet, the whipping up of crepes or mock-sangria, putting up the Christmas decorations her mum always supplied for the classroom, arranging pen-pals with our partner school in Semur-en-Auxois. This creative variety was why her pupils always rushed to her classroom and why even the most reluctant linguist was won over.

I had the privilege of going twice on her legendary Le Touquet trips and I think I never saw Jane happier than judging the sand sculpture competition on the



deserted beach while the sun set and the children played around her (although her annual candy floss at the funfair we visited ran a close second!). At the heart of the Le Touquet trip was the chance for pupils to explore the town in small groups, trying out not just their French but their courage and loving the freedom, while Jane was somehow seemingly never more than a few metres away, enjoying a coffee, keeping a close eye on all, but revelling in the independence of the children. Her Arriba (Leavers') Courses for Year 8 pupils, when the School finished at the end of Prep, were perhaps closest to her heart, and created amazing memories after the rigours of Common Entrance. From dressing up for the theatre, to roughing it on camp, the pupils learned about themselves and about each other, with all the details masterminded by Jane.

Resident here and deeply immersed in Boarding, particularly in the days of the Foundationers (pupils who were at the School out of need, often after the death of a parent), Jane was famous for her bedtime stories and for always having an encouraging word. 'There is always one teacher you carry in your heart', a former pupil of Jane's wrote; for so many that teacher was Jane.

As Head, I always felt supported, well supported and, when necessary, well guarded by my Deputy Dawg, as she styled herself, and I know that Dr Cameron, my predecessor was equally impressed by, and grateful to, Jane.

An accomplished gymnast as a schoolgirl, she brought her sporting talents to Duke of Kent and coached successful gym teams for many years. She was 'growth

mindset' before the term existed, and if she ever came across something she couldn't do but fancied, she would go for it, putting in the effort needed for mastery. Fencing was just one of the pastimes she took up as an adult and then shared with her pupils. (Of course, Jane being Jane, the pupils achieved their straightforward fencing qualification in short order, but also spent time on location, shooting images of 'Fencing in Unusual Places' and using their foils to burst balloons attached to each other's chests.) Given a double booking for the Performing Arts Hall one day, she took the pupils to fence on Top Pitch: 'the most beautiful classroom in the country', as she put it. The latest string to her bow was taking up the ukulele, with the Dukes of Kent, though I never did get her to play at G Live.

We hope that retirement brings a bit more time for Tim and Jane to spend together relaxing. I suspect that the tandem will now get a little more use, and that there will be a fair bit of disappearing to the house in Limousin where there seems to be an endless supply of DIY projects. Her leaving gifts included money for her donkey fund from the parents so donkey-wrangling may yet be the next hobby she pursues.

I am delighted however that we do not need to say goodbye in this edition, as Jane still works with us here, part-time, on yet another area she is passionate about: teacher training. There are teachers all over the country who owe their start to her and we are fortunate to have the benefit of her expertise in the area of appraisal and teacher development, critical areas of School life. For now, at least, Basil Brush is still very much in residence.



From the Bursary

A year at the School that involves a full inspection is always a memorable one. We were delighted in the Bursary to receive a very positive report back in January from the visiting inspectors after a comprehensive analysis of the School's compliance. Over the past few years the School has consolidated its reputation regionally as an established provider of first class independent education.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to all those support staff who help keep the School running so efficiently all year round. Keith Stacey, Operations Bursar, joined the School three years ago and brought many qualities with him. His considerable help and expertise has allowed the Bursary to keep pace with the growing needs of the School throughout a period of rapid development

Jemma Davenport joined us in September 2015 with a brief to review our health services provision as we had moved from Boarding to Extended Day. She set busily to work on reviewing and improving all our policies and procedures and still found time to deal patiently and professionally with every caller at the door of the Medical Room. She worked closely with John Wilson on PSHE provision and with Dale Lodge, in providing medical support for the Duke of Edinburgh programme. We are really grateful for all her hard work and wish her well for the future.

Piotr Baginski came to us from Notre Dame School, Lingfield in the Spring of 2016 bringing with him his young family. I will always remember his enthusiasm and flair, most evident in his creative presentation of Match Teas - the tables buckling under the strain of tempting sponges and pastries. We wish him, his wife, Suzi and his son, Max, a successful return overseas.

Paul Aves left us during the summer, bringing to a close an association with the School going back as far as 2000. With his relaxed approach and good natured way, he could bring calm and order to the most exasperating of burst pipes and leaking roofs. I know I can speak for the Staff Room in saying that his reassuring presence around the site will be missed. We hope that he stays in touch, leaving us as he does to set up his own local painting and decorating business.

The Inspection singled out the 'pupils' confidence with, competence in effective use of ICT is support learning' as 'Outstanding'. Jim Young our IT Manager has been central to building the School's reputation as a pioneer adopter and established user of such technology as a major aid to learning.

I would like to record my thanks to Jo Wichman who ensures that staff and suppliers are efficiently paid, accounts are reconciled and we are collectively kept firmly on the financial straight and narrow.

There is nothing more rewarding in my job than seeing our pupils respond so positively upon their return in September to summer holiday projects undertaken in July and August. One such project this year was the complete refurbishment of the Prep School library. Mr Coote worked closely with the external design team and Bursary staff to come up with a vibrant, refreshing setting which has clearly gone down well with our younger pupils.

Chris Finill Bursar

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A Few Things We are Proud of This Year

Our excellent Inspection Report



*Austin and William J's University Future Learn successes -
firsts for Duke of Kent School pupils*



The speech Pippa and Bastien delivered on Parents Day



The outstanding performance of 100 of our pupils at G Live



Our new Junior Library



Our Year 10 Charity Day, raising funds for 'jigsaw'



Being inspired by Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson



The ambitious creations at School 'Bake Off' Competition



Our Year 11 Cricket Team beating the Staff Cricket Team



2017 Photo Competition Senior finalist: Poppy S

Meet the Deputy Heads

David Hubbard

My role as Deputy Head (Academic) at Duke of Kent School involves supporting Mrs Fremont-Barnes with the overseeing of the teaching and learning in the School. My aim is to ensure that every teacher is equipped and prepared to do their job as well as they can so that the students are achieving their very best in every subject that they study.

Prior to teaching at Duke of Kent School I spent seven adventurous years teaching in the highlands of Kenya along with my family, all of whom have plans to return to Kenya one day! The perks of this were interacting with folk from cultures different to my own, fantastic sunny weather, as well as driving my very old Land Rover on long safaris into fairly wild country where we saw many wild animals and plenty of open space. Not surprisingly I also took off on my bicycle for a few long treks which took me into some exciting places and gave me the chance to meet all sorts of local people. I also had to use my very basic Swahili to communicate if English did not suffice. On returning to the United Kingdom, I taught at Guildford High School before coming to Duke of Kent School.

I have commuted to School almost daily by bicycle and my most memorable journeys are all in winter, sliding along snow-covered or frozen country lanes in my effort to be on time! One of my most memorable times teaching Science here was when I had a class of Year 7 students all happily burning magnesium ribbon, probably around November time, to simulate sparklers...until the fire alarm sounded; we all learned that burning is a very exothermic reaction!

It was very pleasing to read in our ISI 2017 Inspection Report that the 'quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent' and 'pupils are resilient learners who persevere with challenges and respond positively to the excellent support they receive from all staff', which links very well with my current role at Duke of Kent School. This involves a great number of day to day tasks, such as ensuring that there is a teacher available to cover an absent colleague, to more long term planning tasks such as organising who is teaching what and where in



the timetable for each academic year. I also organise the schedules so that all staff are informed about when to prepare for parent meetings and when to write reports. Along with other staff members I look at the whole of the curriculum and discuss whether we need to make changes or additions to the subjects on offer so that we are preparing the students for the changing world that they will meet one day.

I also help to manage the Heads of Department so that they are then able to support each of the teachers in their departments to plan and teach good quality lessons. This is done by giving my advice, guidance and support, which could mean recommending training courses or facilitating the sharing of best practice within the School. Every day is different, challenging and on the whole hugely rewarding!

Felix Macdonald

I am Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Duke of Kent School and my main role is to oversee the general well-being of our students in the School. I spent six years as Head of the Senior School and was involved in the early stages of the School's metamorphosis from a prep school to the school we are now.

Before I arrived here, I established myself as a music teacher, holding three directors of music jobs, both in prep and senior schools, including a spell in the international school in Ibiza. I am from a musical background; my father is a university music professor, my mother a concert cellist and one of my brothers is a jazz bass player in New York, so quite naturally music is a big part of my life. My other real obsession is cricket. Although I love all sport and am a massive fan of Liverpool FC and Exeter Chiefs RFC, it is cricket that tends to get me into trouble with my family. I will be up in the middle of the night watching the Ashes in the winter, and play as much cricket as I can in the summer.

I love the emphasis of pastoral care here, and that it has equal billing with the academic is a real positive. In a nutshell, the pastoral Deputy must ensure that a child is happy and well behaved. Of course this can involve sanction and reward, but in reality the whole process of pastoral care is more subtle than this. I insist that the students understand the importance of courtesy and manners, with kindness and selflessness at the heart of how they behave, but it is as important for the staff to set the example. It was great to see this recognised in the 2017 ISI Report. The inspectors noted that the 'pupils are highly confident, articulate young people, aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and sensitive to the needs of others', and that 'pupils' excellent social skills are evident in the strength of their team work and collaboration within their peer groups and across age groups'.

I have a very good relationship with the pupils based I hope, on mutual respect and the occasional joke. I relish working with them and their parents, to help them get the best out of school life that they possibly can.









Pre-prep Review

It's been another extremely busy year in Pre-prep with members of staff planning events and opportunities for the children to make learning the most valuable experience that it can be. I have had the privilege of taking over as Head of the department from Kathryn Macdonald and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year in the role.

The aim in our Pre-prep department is to form the foundations for future education and to foster and encourage a love of learning within our pupils. The children are encouraged to explore and experiment in a variety of contexts, developing initiative and independence. Every child is introduced to essential learning skills such as focus, perseverance and a 'go for it' attitude. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and to recognise and celebrate their achievements both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to having our own lively identity, Pre-prep is well integrated and involved in the whole-school setting. This year the children have continued to form bonds with older pupils and staff from other sections of the school, broadening and developing their school experience. These have included opportunities such as Roald Dahl Day, where Year 1 pupils worked with Year 5, and Year 2 pupils served as the protagonists in stories created by Year 6. Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh participants have continued to help in the classroom on a weekly basis and Year 8s have instigated activities such as creating a play-dough zoo, as part of a project. The Year 10s charity committee planned a sponsored walk, which Pre-prep pupils took part in, raising an impressive £215. Year 11 GCSE DT pupils shared their wonderful final creations with the Nursery pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed playing with them.

Being a department of a larger school means that we also have the benefit of using the whole-school facilities and this year Pre-prep have performed on the Performing Arts stage on a number of occasions. Years 1 and 2 have continued to host an assembly, which they perform to the whole of the Prep School, each term throughout the school year. Just before Christmas, the children divided into key stages to prepare for their nativity performances. Nursery and Reception combined to present, 'Is there a baby in there?' whilst Years 1 and 2 performed 'The Lost Star'. During the Spring Term, Pre-prep hosted their annual Spring Concert, with wonderful solo, duet and group performances. In the Summer Term, Pre-prep pupils retold the story of the Wizard of Oz in an outstanding Summer Dance Show.

A themed day is organised each half term. This year we have dedicated a day's learning to: Roald Dahl, Maths, Science, Chinese New Year and for the first time we held a Disability Awareness Day. These events frequently see the pupils divide into mixed-age groups, providing the opportunity for children to interact and learn from those outside their usual peer group.

Pre-prep offers a splendid range of trips to inspire and contextualise learning for pupils, allowing them to see how their knowledge and experiences might be applied outside of school. Each class takes a curriculum-linked trip every term to a location that is relevant to the topic being explored in class. This is a valuable opportunity, as well as providing the children with memorable moments - a new fact that they have learned, the delicious packed lunch or sitting next to their friend on the bus.

Our broad activity programme is open to all Year 1 and 2 pupils and allows the children to pursue a passion or to try something new. Attending an activity with familiar staff and in an environment with which they are well-acquainted, means that they are able to safely explore potential new interests. This year the children have had the opportunity to enjoy gymnastics, football, rugby, Spanish, literacy club, music, green club, drama club and construction club.

With my appointment this year as Head of Prep, we are working towards even greater integration between the sections, to the benefit of all our young learners.

Rebecca Green Head of Prep and Pre-prep













William J

Stretch and Challenge

At Duke of Kent School we are always looking for innovative ways to develop our pupils' independent thinking and to allow them to immerse themselves in their chosen subjects. This year we have developed an affiliation with a group called FutureLearn who facilitate online University courses. FutureLearn has around 135 partners who carefully design each online course, so that pupils can study in their own time, wherever they are. Working with top universities on a certified

course has given our pupils the opportunity to challenge themselves in new and exciting areas.

Among our future learners are Austin R and William J, pictured here.

Austin was the first to complete a course with the University of Leeds on 'Anatomy' in which he was able to discover more about the human abdomen and how it works. The course helped him identify the

positions of organs within the abdomen and provided an introduction to common anatomical terminology. With help from experts in the field, the course moved on to explore the composition of the gastrointestinal tract focusing on common problems that can occur. This included advice from an abdominal surgeon explaining about the work that he does to treat and cure such problems.

Austin also undertook a course examining Europe as a cultural and political product, in which he explored perceived truths about the meaning of European identity. The course was developed by the Euroculture programme, a multi-university masters and research programme on European culture and politics. The course looked at how cultural knowledge and facts were constructed to further post-World War II integration. Speaking to Austin, it is clear that he has had the chance to wrestle with the complexities of the contemporary crises of European integration through an examination of topics such as European culture, religion, modernity, the nation state and European politics.

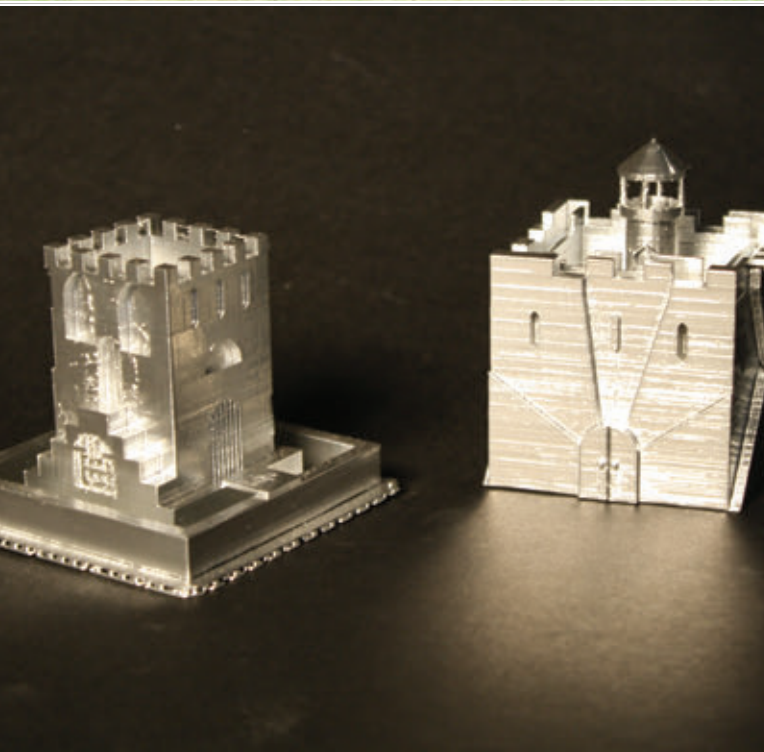
William gained certification in a course with Birmingham University called 'Good Brain: Bad Brain', which provided an introduction to the key concepts of the human brain. The course looked at what your brain is made of, how these components are organised and how they function. This information is helping neuroscientists across the globe understand the brain and how it is able to do everything from stopping you falling off your bike, to making you feel sad that your football team lost their game, to helping you learn how your brain works.

With a wide range of courses available we are encouraging more and more pupils to self-select interesting and engaging courses that will stretch them and expand the breadth and depth of their educational experiences.

As Head of Stretch and Challenge, I have been really impressed with the quality of the courses and with the perseverance of our learners.

Alex Seeley





Art and Design Technology

Review

Over the last two years we have made a conscious effort to develop closer links between the discrete subjects of Art and Design Technology. This year, having nurtured our first group of GCSE students through their exams since the creation of the Art and DT Department, the subjects feel like two sides of the same coin. GCSE students from both areas produced exciting, technical and innovative work in response to client-style briefs set by the exam board. Year 11 DT students were asked to design and build a child's toy. This resulted in one of my highlights of the year; watching the Year 11's faces as they handed their lovingly crafted toys over to the Pre-prep students for testing. Thankfully all toys were fabulously well received and proved to be almost completely childproof. In the Art Studio, GCSE students continued to push the bounds of media and expectation, exploring ideas, Media and techniques as varied as time lapse photography, melted record sculptures, the depiction of women in religious art, Cezanne's still lifes, traditional painting onto rusted metal, album covers, silk-screened eyes and Issey Miyake-style dresses, to name but a few.

Further cross curricular links were forged over the year, this time between Art and Music, through a Year 9 trip to the V&A Museum, for students considering these subjects at GCSE. As well as exploring the museum's permanent collection, both groups came together to visit the 'So You Say You Want a Revolution' exhibition. Students used the exhibition to explore the historical and political context that gave rise to the ground-breaking art and music of the 1960s, from Jimmy Hendrix's version of 'Star Spangled Banner' at Woodstock to the psychedelic posters of Hapshash. The insight they have gained from this experience will inform their work in Years 10 and 11.

Cross curricular links were extended further still in a collaborative event involving the Art, Music and English departments. 'An Evening of Original Works', held in

the Wilson Room at Ewhurst church gave aspiring photographers, writers and musicians from the Senior School an opportunity to perform in a more informal setting, outside the comforts of Duke of Kent School and to a wider audience. For many of them this will have been their first taster of what it is like to perform or exhibit in the real world.

At the start of the Autumn term Mr Usher arranged for the delivery of three 'Design Boxes' from Dyson. The boxes contained three top end vacuum cleaners and all the tools required to take them to pieces! Students from Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 set about these with unparalleled glee and, rather amazingly, were able to reassemble and use them again after their disassembly. They then put the knowledge they had gained to the test, producing presentations on Dyson's famous cyclone technology verses traditional suction vacuum cleaners. This gave them hands-on insight into material properties, product design, assembly and manufacture.

DT students have made good use of our newly acquired 3D printer and we were grateful for PADoK's contribution to this project. The 3D printer was used very effectively by Year 10 and 11 in particular, who combined 3D printing with casting, metal work and other techniques to develop their coursework designs. Years 3 and 6 also got in on the act, 3D printing miniature castle designs and chess pieces.

Our DT students were put through their problem solving paces again this year in the annual SATRO challenge. In the past we have achieved really good results in this competition, punching way above our size, taking on schools with 1000 plus students. This year was no exception; our Key Stage 3 team finished first and Key Stage 4 finished second in the regional heats with both groups progressing to the finals.



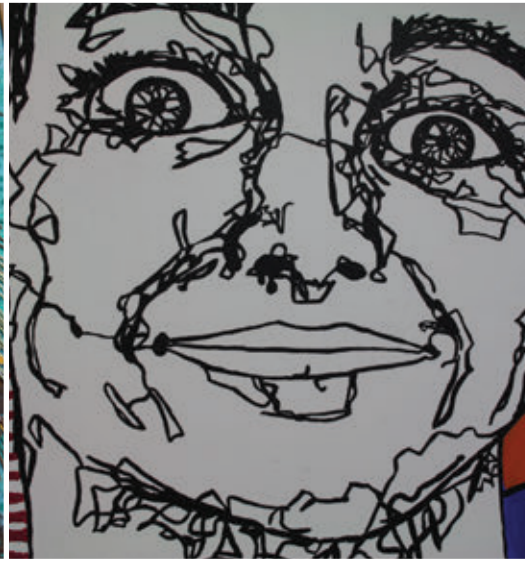
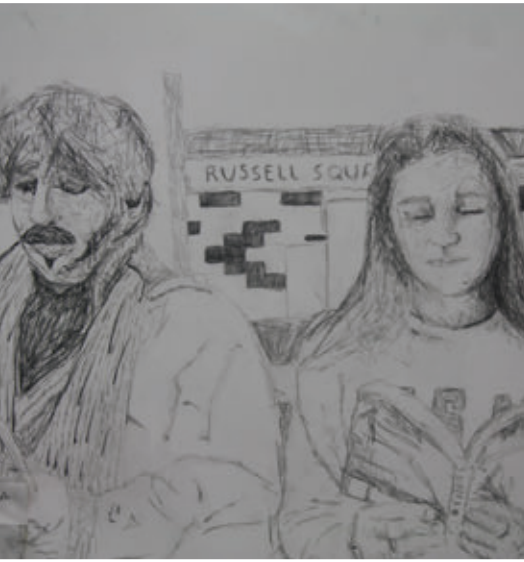
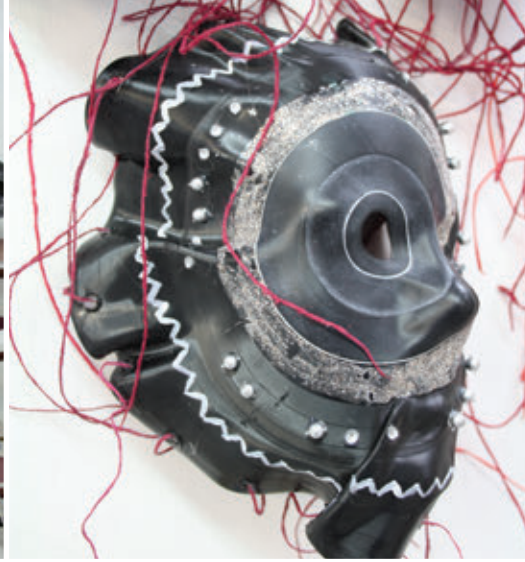
The department's links with Watts Gallery continued to strengthen through our involvement in the national 'Takeover Day', where galleries and museums open their doors to students and young people and get them involved in the behind the scenes running of the gallery. This year's students worked with the Watts Gallery marketing team to develop flyers designed to attract young people to the gallery. Later in the year we were able to take a group of students to meet the gallery's newly appointed resident art restorer, who took us through some of the finer points of her professional work. This fascinating profession is right at the interface between art and science, something that really captured the imagination of our students.

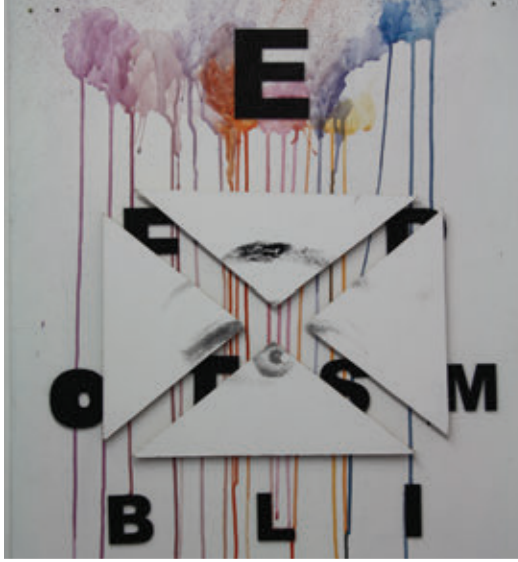
Collaboration is a really vital aspect of our pupils' skill set and, over the year, in the Art and DT Department we have put this to good use. In DT Year 6 have been competing for the coveted 'House Bridge Building Trophy', working in teams to build the strongest paper bridge. This has really put their management, team work and architectural design skills to the test. Year 9 have worked individually to design and build a motorised boat which they raced across a 5 metre stretch of water. This allowed them to explore aerodynamics, hydrodynamics and buoyancy, as well as

sail and motor technology. The winning design displayed a great deal of ingenuity in terms of problem solving, alongside excellent creative and technical skill. In Art the House Prep and Senior School photography competitions were swamped with entries students had taken in school and at home. The winning entries from both competitions were shots of students in a school setting and displayed a real sense of fun and immediacy, as well as a great eye for composition and technical ability. These were won by Sydney in Year 3, who was competing against students up to three years older than herself, and Megan in Year 8.

Looking forward to the next academic year, we have a really great base on which to continue to develop this exciting, innovative and technologically developing department. Once again we must thank PADoK for their generosity in providing the Art Studio with a state of the art printing press. This will be used by both DT and Art to explore a number of traditional printing processes such as lino, intaglio and collagraph printing, which are currently experiencing something of a renaissance.

Mike Watson Head of Art and Design





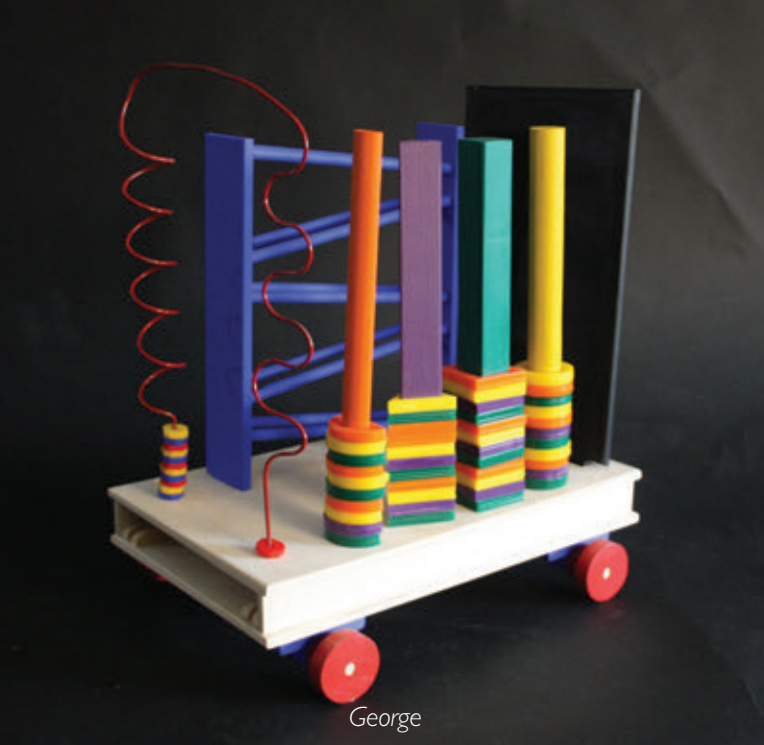


Photography Competition

Senior School winner: Megan R A



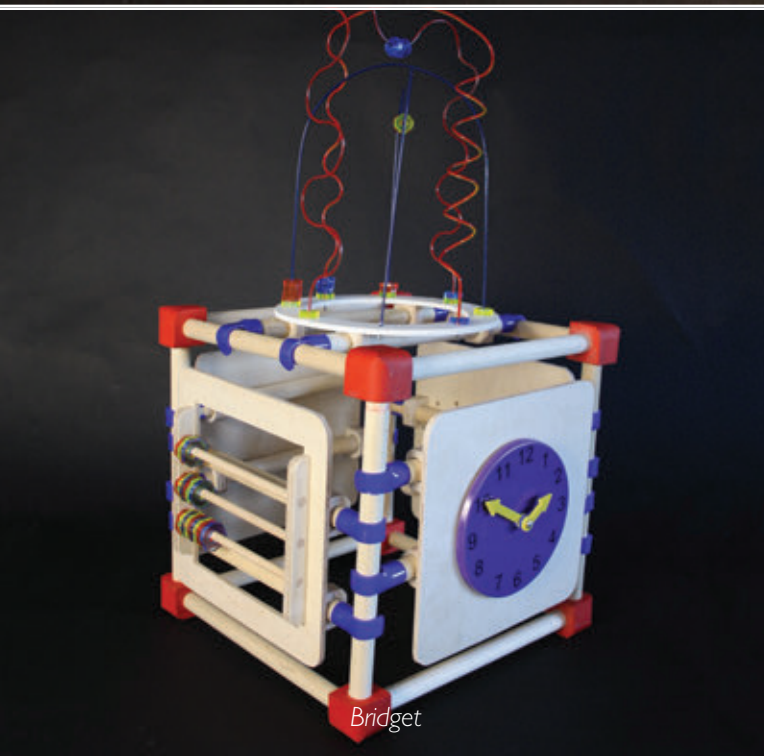




George



Lucas



Bridget



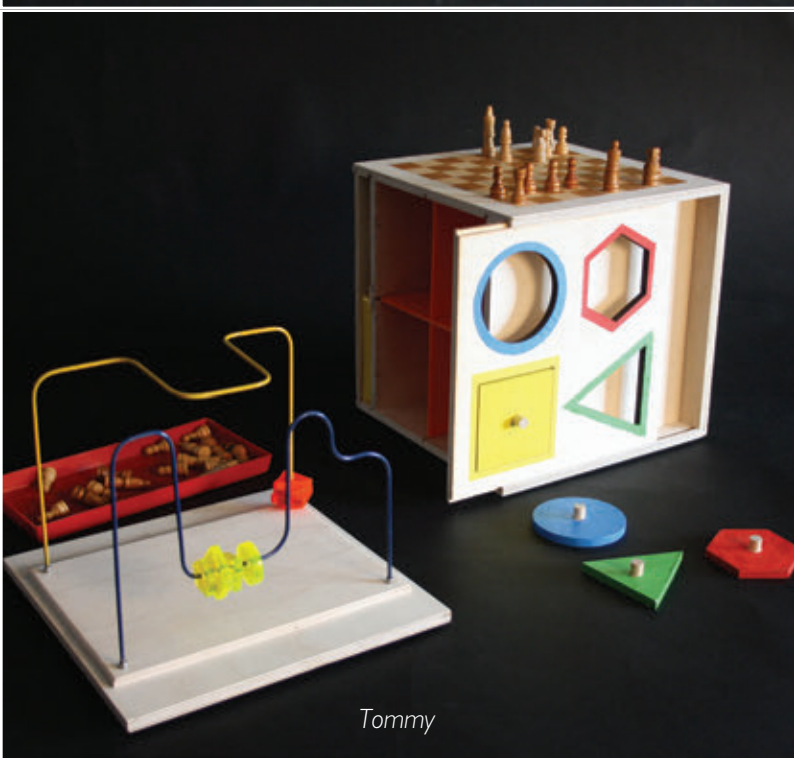
DT GCSE Projects



Marcus



Robbie



Tommy

Music Review

The Music Department continues to be a popular and vibrant area of Duke of Kent School, with a wide range of groups and opportunities on offer to all the children. This year 80% of pupils across the school have been involved in a musical activity and there are approximately 180 individual music lessons a week. A typical week also sees rehearsals for the Rock Choir, Senior Chamber Choir, Junior Chamber Choir, Prep School Choir, Senior Vocal Quartet, Ukulele Club, Ocarina Group, Rock Bands, School Orchestra, Jazz Band, Cellobabies, Junior String Club, Senior String Ensemble, Brass Ensemble and various small pupil-led ensembles. There is a busy programme of events, both internally and externally, and we have been lucky enough to have had some wonderful professionals come and entertain and work with the children. The children have been on trips to the Royal Festival Hall, the London Coliseum, Dorking Halls, G Live and Woodhouse Opera. For the parents, there is even now a Mums' Choir.

Duke of Kent School is very fortunate to be invited each year to take part in the RAF Benevolent Fund's annual Carol Service at St Clement Danes Church on the Strand (pictured right). On Sunday 11th December 2016, it was as special as always, with our choir singing beautifully, adding to the wonderful atmosphere in this magnificent church. The Wednesday evening before, we held our own school carol service in St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh with carols sung by the Junior and Senior Chamber Choirs, Years 1 and 2 and some lovely entrance carols played by the Duke of Kent School Brass Ensemble.

The annual Prep School Christmas Concert was held again in the Performing Arts Hall, on Friday 2nd December, with over 65 children performing, either as part of an ensemble or as a soloist, along with the whole Prep School singing as a choir. This event was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to perform and really

does signal the beginning of the Christmas season at Duke of Kent School.

After the busy end of the Autumn Term, some may think that the Spring Term is quieter for a Music Department, but not at Duke of Kent School. The Spring Term this year saw so much happen that a list of it all is by far the most effective way to review it. We had: a visit from the Bang On! Junkyard Percussion Duo, who performed their brilliantly inventive and fun show in an assembly and then ran workshops for the Prep School; the Singing Waiters who surprised the school at lunch with a flashmob opera performance in the dining hall and then ran a workshop for Pre-prep; up and coming acoustic folk duo The Sound of the Sirens who judged House Music, held a workshop for the Senior Chamber Choir and then performed for the School; a wonderful violin recital by the Leader of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Stephen Bryant, and a fabulous jazz evening with the Frank Walden Quartet, led by international jazz saxophonist Frank Walden. The House Music competition was again a huge success with over a hundred entries, eventually won by Armstrong; the Rotary Schools Concert at G Live was a great afternoon and evening with 100 Duke of Kent School pupils involved, and term finished with the Pre-Prep Spring Concert in the Performing Arts Hall, in which each year group sang, a few soloists performed, and then the whole of Pre-Prep sang together before enjoying some performances from older pupils.

The focus of the Summer Term is a series of small, informal lunchtime concerts that gives every pupil who is having individual instrumental lessons the chance to perform a short piece in a relaxed and unintimidating setting. These concerts happen throughout the term and are a great opportunity for parents to see their child play and also to meet their instrumental or vocal teacher.



The theme of this Summer Term was definitely 'recitals' as there were also two major school concerts. On Friday 28th April the finalists from the Spring Term's House Music competition took part in an evening concert in the Performing Arts Hall. With a full range of ages and standards on display, it was a wonderful celebration of some of the soloists in the School and a great chance for their parents to see what they have been up to. There was a very warm and generous atmosphere in the room; it was lovely to see the performers being so supportive of one another and taking genuine pleasure in each other's success. The evening ended with an impromptu jam of James Brown's 'I Feel Good' - an appropriate ending!

Friday 23rd June saw the Summer Concert was held in the Performing Arts Hall. This year the focus of the concert was school ensembles, so on stage were the School Orchestra, the Senior Jazz Band, Senior Chamber Choir, Junior Chamber Choir, The DoKarnas and the Rock Band. There was also a wonderful cameo from the Prep Ballet Club, run by MFL teacher Emily Francis, with a special piece composed for them by Dexter Browning in Year 9. It was a fabulous evening, very well attended and a great deal of fun was had by all.

Nick Rye Director of Music







Meet Tom Kaye and Laura Barnes

Duke of Kent School welcomed two new members of staff to its Music Department this year; Music Assistant Tom Kaye and his partner and singing teacher, Laura Barnes.

Tom arrived as a music graduate specialising in piano from the renowned Leeds College of Music. He quickly established himself as a fine music administrator, dealing with all the complications of the timetables for the 180 weekly music lessons, a first class rehearsal pianist and accompanist for productions, concerts, choir practices and assemblies, and a popular piano teacher within the peripatetic music team. Tom also covers the occasional class music lesson, provides theory and performance support to those pupils taking Music GCSE, and is generally an indispensable part of the team. His days are

often frantic; he may find himself assisting our Director of Music Nick Rye with choir rehearsals, playing piano for a Pre-prep assembly, driving a mini-bus (one of his favourite occupations!) or being part of a School trip to the Cutty Sark as a 'Medieval Music Consultant'! Tom can often be found practising and developing his own playing and he is currently working towards fellowship of Trinity College of Music, London – FTCL.

Laura Barnes has quickly become a hugely popular figure with the singers in the School, and teaches singing across three days. She and Tom have certainly had quite an impact on the School. Laura is herself a professional singer, specialising as a soprano, and she has performed a number of times in assemblies to the School accompanied by Tom, receiving rapturous applause each time! She brings enthusiasm and passion to her lessons along with plenty of experience and expert knowledge; her pupils often leave feeling exhausted, both physically and intellectually, and inspired to sing and practise as much as they can. She will be running the Junior Chamber Choir and the school vocal quartet next year, as well as assisting in the Learning Development Department, an area in which she also excels.



The Annual Rotary Club Combined Schools Concert at G Live in Guildford

For the last five years Duke of Kent School has been lucky enough to be part of the annual Rotary Club Combined Schools Concert at G Live in Guildford. This is a concert organised every March by the Guildford branch of the Rotary Club and involves three or four different schools each year, bringing together approximately 350 children to perform an evening of music to an audience of family and friends at this concert venue.

The concert is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to experience what it is like to perform on a professional stage, how the technical process of a large scale concert works and how to behave in such a setting. Ultimately it allows them to experience that wonderful feeling of making music in a large hall to a large audience. Each of the schools puts together a programme which lasts approximately 35 minutes and can feature anything from rock choirs to string quartets.

For the last two years, Duke of Kent School has taken one hundred children from Years 3 to 11 to the concert and it is a great showcase for the depth of talent and commitment that our Music Department nurtures. At the last concert the Rock Choir, the Jazz Band, the Junior Chamber Choir, the Senior Chamber Choir, the Ukes of Kent and the Year 9 Harmony Group performed, along with some solo performances from pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The pupils always thoroughly enjoy the whole day, which also includes a trip to a local pizza restaurant for lunch. The concert is a major focal point of the year for the Music Department and all those involved. Long may it continue!

Nick Rye Director of Music



Drama Review

Drama continues to be an important and exciting part of Duke of Kent School, both as a subject within the curriculum and as an extra-curricular activity. This year 2016 to 2017 saw another wonderful array of productions across the whole school, with all years from Nursery to Year 11 being given the opportunity to be involved in Drama in some way.

The Autumn Term saw the annual senior production, this year the musical *Just So* written by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. Directed and choreographed by our Dance teacher, Lisa Lee, and Performing Arts teacher, Sam Honey, with musical direction by our Director of Music, Nick Rye, the cast and crew performed to sell-out audiences on a Friday and Saturday evening in late November. The Performing Arts Hall was transformed into a professional theatre, and the show, based on Rudyard Kipling's *Just So* stories, featured a cast of forty-five pupils from Years 7 to 11, a live band of professional musicians, wonderful costumes and make up, and an imaginative set that saw a jungle magically appear half way through the show. The committed and focused cast 'worked their socks off', for ten weeks and created a thoroughly entertaining and successful show. All those involved put huge amounts of effort into this difficult piece and stretched themselves considerably, achieving a very high standard on the stage and most certainly learning a great deal along the way.

No autumn term would be the same without a Pre-prep nativity play and this year we had two plays for the price of one. Nursery and Reception pupils teamed up to present '*Is There a Baby in There?*' The story featured an especially vocal cockerel who foretells the birth of a very special baby. The children put in a fantastic effort to learn spoken lines, song lyrics and dances, and they delivered these with conviction and exuberance.

Years 1 and 2 combined for a performance of '*The Apprentice Star*', for which the original script was written by Director of Music Nick Rye's mum in 1988. Duke of Kent School version of this story told the adventure of four children helping a little lost star get back to its place above the stable in Bethlehem. The children and Lost Star have a wonderful time, forming new friendships and developing an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. A superb effort from the entire cast produced a funny and meaningful show.

The Spring Term featured the Year 5 and 6 pupils from the Prep School performing an original production written by Felix Macdonald (one of our Deputy Heads), '*The Boy Who Couldn't Sing*'. Directed by Felix and Year 4 teacher Ali Locke and choreographed by Dance Teacher, Lisa Lee, the performances from the whole cast were excellent and it was impressive to hear the range of accents that they had perfected; French, Spanish and American. The humorous songs were performed with great enthusiasm and accompanied by vibrant, fun and exciting dances. As Peter, the boy who couldn't sing, tried his luck with each different choir (The Elvis School of Rock and Roll, The Castanets and The Wild West Cowboys) we were treated to some wonderful jokes and plays on words, delivered with both impeccable timing and fantastic confidence. The Egyptians whisked us away to the Pyramids before Nick and the Naughty Nickers tried to lead Peter into a life of crime. Fortunately L'Inspecteur and his sidekick were on hand to rescue him and return him to his wonderful family. Finally the MC brought all the groups together for a concert where we discovered that Peter couldn't sing but he could play the piano! Well done to the cast, the choir and everyone who was involved backstage for the enormous amount of effort they put in to make it a successful evening.



The Summer Term traditionally brings the Pre-prep Dance Extravaganza to the fore, and this year it lived up to all expectations. The theme this year was *The Wizard of Oz* and with fantastically choreographed moves, again created by Dance teacher, Lisa Lee, and incredible costumes, the children re-told the story of Dorothy and her companions' famous adventure to the Emerald City, through dance. Nursery pupils showed us that the hokey cokey really is what it is all about, as part of the journey along the yellow brick road, and our Reception class made perfect Munchkins welcoming Dorothy after her flight in the terrible storm. The Year 1 girls made beautiful poppies that lulled the motley crew off to sleep and the Year 1 boys astounded us with their sensational moves to 'Ice Ice Baby' in the role of the very cool icicles! Year 2 pupils completed the cast by filling all the key roles that you would expect in this great story, which they fulfilled brilliantly.

As the term came to a close it was the turn of Years 3 and 4 from the Prep School to entertain friends and family, and entertain they did! '*Phizzwizards and Trogglehumpers*' – a showcase of drama, poetry, music and dance celebrating the works of Roald Dahl. This was a real team effort, primarily put together by Prep teachers Polly Nicholson and Chris Wright, with help from Nick Rye, Lisa Lee, Sam Honey and Ali Lock. A full Performing Arts Hall watched as Sophie and the BFG escaped from the clutches of the unfriendly giants, collected their dreams from Dream Country and witnessed them unfold as various sketches performed by the rest of the cast. All the children put in a magnificent effort preparing for their roles, songs and dances and it was a lovely way to finish the year.

Drama at Duke of Kent School is more popular than ever and we are excited that from 2017 onwards there will be Drama lessons in the curriculum for Years 6 to 9, in addition to a full calendar of productions.

Just So







The Boy Who Couldn't Sing





Our Sport in Numbers

48 *acres of grounds to maintain*



Our groundsman Oli Riches walks **1840** *miles a year on the School grounds*



88 *football matches played against other schools*



84 *'Girl of the Game' awards in netball*



29 *House sporting events*



More than **100** *match teas*



25 *rounders balls lost (forever?) in the woods*



10 *School records smashed at Sports Day and House Swimming*



122 *gum shields moulded*



51 *unnamed sports socks found at the end of the year*







Sports Dinner Speech

Hollie's Report

Sport at Duke of Kent School has been my favourite part of being at this school and I have enjoyed it all, from netball to swimming.

I have enjoyed netball the most, as I have been playing with an amazing team throughout Year 7 to year 11, with very good coaches. We have greatly progressed throughout the years, having had some very good, and some not so good matches. With thanks to Mrs Wilson, Miss Vernon, Mrs Petter and Miss Jones, our team has gone on to win all but one of our matches this year.

We started off the year thinking that we weren't going to win against King Edward's School, Witley as they are our biggest competition, but we managed to win against them every match this year.

One of my many highlights was the girls' house football match last Christmas. Armstrong and Chichester against Whittle and Hillary. Over all the score was four all, which then went to interesting penalties. I enjoyed it a lot even though, as Mr Southee and all the girls who do girls' football club know, I can't play football.

Rounders was a highlight of my summer at Duke of Kent School. This year in rounders we had a very good season, winning every game we played, such as the match we won by getting everyone out before they could even score a rounder. Some other matches had very close calls, for example our last match against St Edmunds was very tense as we had given away two very strong players, Josie and Lexi, to their team. However they still played to their best, making it a hard match to win, winning by only half a rounder. As it was our last match, it made it very emotional for the team. I am very sad to be leaving the School, mostly because I will miss the sport coaching and facilities. It's upsetting to hear that Mrs Wilson is leaving too, as she has been such a great coach, helping me improve all my sports and she has inspired me to carry on netball at my next school.

Sophie's Report

I came to Duke of Kent School when I was 8 years old. At my previous school no one played netball, but when I joined Duke of Kent School, everyone had already been learning for a year, and we went straight into matches so I had to try and learn fast!

Initially there were just six of us in my year and so we joined up with the year above, which meant I made more friends quickly. We now have nine players and our team is the strongest it has ever been, with the help of course of some extra members, Josie and Lexi, who come in to help.

Netball has been my favourite sport here at Duke of Kent School. I used not to think it was my thing but, the turning point was when I won the netballer of the year award in Year 9. I gained a lot of confidence from that and from there I joined a club outside school so that I could play as much netball as possible.

In September I'm about to go off on a new adventure, to Godalming College and I'm already signed up for netball training there. I wouldn't even be playing netball if I hadn't come to Duke of Kent School and we have such amazing coaching and facilities.

Arriving at Duke of Kent School, was like learning a new language. There were things I had never heard of such as the 'the rubber duckie gala'. For those of you who don't know what this is, it's a summer inter-house swimming gala, but these weren't regular races. For every race you always had to hold onto a rubber duck to finish without being disqualified. This was always the highlight of my year because most of the School used to come down to watch and everyone would be enthusiastically cheering their team on. The 'rubber duckie gala' has made me love swimming.

We have tried various different sports throughout the years here - netball, hockey, swimming, rounders. We tried a session of touch rugby, and we tried pop lacrosse and football too. Girls' football started at Duke of Kent School in 2012, when I was in year 7. This was a new venture for everyone, but we progressed to playing a few big matches against each other.

There is one coach who has been teaching me all kinds of sport since I came to Duke of Kent School and that is Mrs Wilson. She is the one who taught me how to play netball, so I just want to say a thank you to her, Mr Herbert and the rest of the Sports Department, for giving us such a great school experience.





Sports Day



Individual Sport

Sailing

Year 10 pupil Josie M is pictured with fellow crew member Thomas, competing in the RS Feva World Championships at Medemblik in Holland in August 2017, where they came a very credible 13th in the Silver Fleet. Josie was also competing in the Topper single handed class and is part of the Great British Sailing Team Topper Squad. Congratulations, Josie!



Swimming

Charlie T in Year 10, and three other boys from Guildford City Swimming Club won a gold medal in the men's 16 years and under medley relay final, at the 2017 British Summer Swimming Championships held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield from 25th to 30th July. As well as taking the British Junior Champions crown, the Guildford team also broke the South East of England record, and with three of the boys aged just 15 at the time, they'll be eligible to compete in the same event next year.

The Championships continue to form part of a broader Performance Pathway Strategy aimed at increasing and supporting junior talent on their journey towards senior medal-winning performance. Well done, Charlie!



Climbing

Josh B in Year 9 represented Team London and the South East at the BMC Youth Climbing Series Grand Final in April. After three preliminary rounds held in regions across the UK and Ireland, the top three competitors in each category represent their region at a final held at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena. The lead climbing walls on which Josh competed range between 25 and 30 metres in height. The main competition wall is articulated and arches forward by as much as twelve metres from the vertical. Josh was taking part in the category for boys aged 15 and under and he did very well to finish 8th overall, considering he was aged 13 at the time of the competition. He was the top finishing boy in the UK of those boys in that category aged 14 and under. Excellent work, Josh!



An Evening of Original Works

One evening in May, a group of intrepid, creative souls stepped out of the relative comfort of Duke of Kent School, to perform an evening of original musical compositions, creative writing and photography at the Wilson Rooms in the grounds of Ewhurst Church.

Billed as 'An Evening of Original Works', it certainly lived up to its name. The assembled crowd were treated to a cutting edge creative writing, a selection of photography and digital montages, as well as musical compositions ranging from classical piano to the blues and avant-garde electronic minimalism. The evening was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students to get a taste of what it is like to perform and showcase their work outside the School setting, to a more informal audience.

This really was a celebration of excellence and a great opportunity for the students to show the way in which they have developed into mature, creative beings with the support of the English, Music and Art departments.



What is Time?

Time is strange. It sneaks in through cracks in doors, through breaths in air, undulating on the ground, rushing, curling, biting, trudging, spitting, dribbling, warping, raging and flickering. Time sings. It moves. It goes away. You can't catch it; try as you might, with a flutter of fingers, in the cups of your hands, in the threads of your palms. You can't do anything to make it stop. You can't snare your fingernails in its fabric, can't dig your heels into its very matter to prevent its escape, you can't smell it, or see it, or even plead with it. You can't bargain with Time. You can't beg it to stay. It takes its prisoners without mercy, guarding long lost thoughts and memories, between pages, down the backs of sofas, under beds. It rushes into abysses, so shockingly fast it is like a slap in the face, feasting on the fleeing months. But then it bleeds into expanses, marching forever into the disapproving tut of the exam clock, or the milky blue dark of three am, as it slumbers itself to a poem.

But what is Time?

Is it the jittery heartbeat of the clock itself, the clucking of tongues, the ticking of hands? The shuffle of seconds as they pile over one another, chopped into numbers and stuck onto faces.

Or is it the looking back, back on the moments, the ones that flicker into heads when they aren't quite expected, vivid and explosive?

Or is it the rushing, raging, surging, of moving forward, of sprinting and not looking back? Of yesterday turning to last year. The blinding speed of change. When trees spring into suits of green, fade to yellow, blaze their arms to an orange flame, and strip away their fingers. When we change. When we move on. When things move too fast, without moving at all.

Is Time looking back? Or looking ahead? Or the maelstrom of memories that aren't really anything at all. Of moments.

We are made of moments.

What is Time?

Siena T Year 10



Freedom

Each person can have a different perception of freedom, for some it is everything, for others freedom is a far away concept. Some people do things to stop it and therefore do injustice to humanity. Nelson Mandela spoke his mind and for that he was persecuted, persecuted for trying to stop division of races in a country, trying to stop apartheid. Freedom can mean being away from your normal life, finding peace even through the small things. It's an important and necessary factor, even if it has to be won through struggle.

Everybody in the world should have an opportunity to live freely, but for some this isn't possible. They might be forced into an arranged marriage which has been decided upon by their parents from a young age and bullied into respecting their partner. They may be scared to leave and tied down to the bounds of confinement. Imagine being 15, a girl and already mistreated for your gender, and your father says you must marry a local man who has been previously chosen by him.

Many people are oppressed by the higher powers in the land they live in, prisoners to their own society and beliefs. A church that tells you what is right and what is wrong. What would they give to break the chains of their restrictive life and be free? Free to have fun, free to talk to others, free to live. Liberation is a perception; the truth is in your incarceration. You don't realise how much you take for granted till you see it yourself, when you see people imprisoned in society, this is a deceitful game of cat and mouse, the epitome of society's restraints.

Everybody may think they are free but all countries are ruled, we have laws on what we can and can't do and this keeps us safe. So a world with total freedom could be a dangerous notion, one we choose to overlook. Some people say your roots define you, they are unchanging, but what if they are soiled deeply within an autocracy, is it fair that these people are born into a world without freedom? They know nothing else. But to leave them, leave them stranded on an island isolated and in crisis. The one way out is risky and a game of life and death. But in the end, they're at the mercy of countries unaffected and untouched by war and bombs. Arrogant cowards that turn a blind eye from the horror. For me freedom is living in safety and being able to live the way you want to. And for me it's having a chance to speak out about what I think is wrong and right.

But what is freedom to you?

Sam G and Max T Year 9



Space

The first time you peer through the triple-reinforced plexiglass window you feel strange. It's a sight, evolutionarily speaking, you were never meant to see. Nothing intended us to be up that high. No pair of legs could be that powerful. Except, here we are. Out of our world.

The Earth beneath glistens, and is blanketed with a very thin layer of cloud, that rises and falls in dynamic patterns, sharp curves weaving through the continents. A cerulean blue haze encases the ever so slightly imperfect curve that marks the border between home and nothing, between life, and nothing, between everything and nothing.

The seven pairs of eyes staring out the windows stare and wonder. Different thoughts run rampant behind all seven.

Most astronauts do not consider themselves worthy. Some have breathing troubles. Some are just afraid of heights. Given that, when experiencing the feeling of weightlessness, every direction is up and down simultaneously, it is possible to believe oneself to be perpetually falling. Which is funny, given that being in orbit is falling, falling forever, just falling sideways.

On average half of all astronauts get 'space-sick'. It's the same thing as being car-sick; the liquid inside your ear that acts as your balance sensor is being sloshed about as if you're running, jumping or swimming, but you're not, so your senses start to argue with one another and you get sick.

Being outside the spacecraft is something else. On Earth, a spacesuit weighs more or less fifty kilograms. In space, you cannot feel any weight at all. Not that that's the focus of the astronaut upon exiting the airlock. NASA actually gives astronauts a period of time to gaze at the Earth, appreciating that the astronaut would probably not get a lot of work done in the first ten minutes or so. Even after they've got over it, any on-suit footage will show the astronaut constantly looking up from whatever they're doing, lost...

Working in that environment can also present challenges. One slip of the hand, and bye-bye screwdriver, drill, docking-port cover. And all the time the planet-shine illuminates your work area, an almost-white blue, your home reminding you that it's there, that you need it...

And in an hour and a half the light's gone. But the show is not over. The stage lights pulse one last time for the finale, the last hurrah. Light spills over hundreds of ridges, shines over millions of waves, streaks across clouds. The long shadows of the land scar the landscape, and white tops of mountains flare like lighthouses.

An orbital sunset and sunrise. And one every forty-five minutes.

Guy R Year 10





Sabbatical in Tanzania

Mike Watson's story

A couple of years ago, and completely out of the blue, an old colleague contacted my wife to let us know that she and her Kenyan husband were setting up a small charity called Heshima in Northern Tanzania. "Would you like to come out and spend some time with us helping to get things started?" We considered the request for about 30 seconds before responding with a resounding "yes". Having travelled extensively for long periods in our twenties, my wife and I have always wanted to share the kind of opportunities we experienced then with our children, Rosie and Eva. This was the perfect opportunity for us to introduce ourselves, and our children, to a different culture and become, albeit briefly, members of a very different community. By granting me a term-long sabbatical, the Head and Governors of Duke of Kent School gave me the chance to take up this once in a lifetime opportunity.

We arrived in Tanzania one day late and without any luggage, so not the best start to our adventure! Thankfully, the sight of Kilimanjaro rising from the Serengeti (yes, just like in the song) and the relaxed kindness of the Tanzanian officials, made the night spent in Nairobi Airport melt into memory. We met our friends, Steve and Alison, in arrivals and travelled the final hour of our journey by car, flying down highways that would suddenly give way to dirt tracks at a moment's notice, past the makeshift shacks that served as small shops the locals call dukas. We were blown away by the landscape, oscillating between huge stretches of open savannah and lush tropical banana trees that grew up wherever there was, or had recently been, a river. The banana trees in this area produce super sweet red bananas, which we bought from children at crossroads and which were a welcome relief after three days of aeroplane food.

Steve and Alison originally set up Heshima in Steve's native country of Kenya but sadly they were victims of the 2007-2008 Kenyan Crisis, triggered by the disputed elections in 2007 and they were forced to abandon everything and return to the UK. Unable to stay away

from Africa they eventually found jobs just south of the Kenyan border in Tanzania, bought a small piece of land, outside the rural village of Kisongo, and restarted their charity Heshima there. Their aim is to provide support for the local Maasai community, who are generally discriminated against and receive little government support. The Tanzanian and Kenyan Governments have actively encouraged the Maasai to abandon the land they have traditionally used for raising cattle. However, this proud warrior people, famed for their bravery in battle and their cattle rustling skills, are reluctant to give up their ancient way of life.

Heshima supports them in retaining their identity and, by acting as a community hub, tries to integrate their traditional practices with education on modern hygiene, alternative training and access to education. The charity has two strands; a school for 3 to 5 year olds and a textiles training and workshop for Maasai women. The children who attend the school come from some of the poorest families in the area and without Heshima they would have no access to education. The school day ends at midday so that children can return home, as many of them work alongside their parents and are essential contributors to the family's income. The textiles workshop gives local Maasai women the opportunity to develop the skills needed to earn an independent living. The area is very poor, with many families living in a single room, often having to survive on as little as a dollar a day. Most have no running water and even fewer have any proper sanitation. The school itself has no running water, electricity or even a proper road to reach it and during the rainy season the dirt track used for access, has a river running down it.

Although at first a local curiosity, we were soon made to feel incredibly welcome and a real part of this community. Some of the children there want for the most basic things, but this doesn't put a dampener on their enthusiasm for life and school in any way. They are fabulously cheerful and really took Eva and Rosie to their hearts.



The school is run by two wonderfully dedicated teachers, Constantine and Mwamvita. Constantine cycles the fifteen miles to work, resplendent in a shirt, tie and jumper, through the heat and dust of the Savannah, to arrive perfectly composed and unruffled. Mwamvita begins her teaching day the moment she boards the school bus and squeezes herself into one of the fourteen seats populated by twenty five plus children. The school bus is piloted by Zack, the site manager, who lives, with his wife and two children, in a single room behind one of the school's classrooms. The bus was donated to the school a few years ago and is shared with another local school. It is well past its best and requires regular resuscitation by the local bush mechanics. However, it is a godsend and saves the children, some as young as three, walking miles to school unaccompanied.

At the beginning we were unsure about how to get involved, but we began by painting classrooms, building storage areas and trying to provide some of life's essentials, such as water cups. Gaining confidence, we moved on to putting together basic teacher planners and introducing pupil assessment, something that seemed an exciting novelty there, but I dared not tell them how mundane it seemed to me!

When we began working with the charity, one of the first things we noticed was that many of the children were arriving at school hungry; this was clear from the number of rubbers that were being eaten while the children were in class! To help with this we set up 'Breakfast Club' on the school bus. It cost us under £1 per day to feed 20 plus children, highlighting how a small amount to us can make a big difference, when well directed. The students' focus, energy levels and behaviour notably improved.

Via a JustGiving page we raised almost £2000, allowing us to install solar power. This has led to plans to open the space to the community in the evenings, which will enable

the Maasai men to take part in training programmes and older children to have a space where they can do their homework. You often see them gathered under street lamps with their books in the evenings, as they have no electricity at home. Many people, including Duke of Kent School staff members, have given old laptops to the community which has led to the opportunity of computer training. We also kick-started a building project to expand the school, which meant that Zack and his family could move out of their room, originally intended as a storage area, into something resembling a living area.

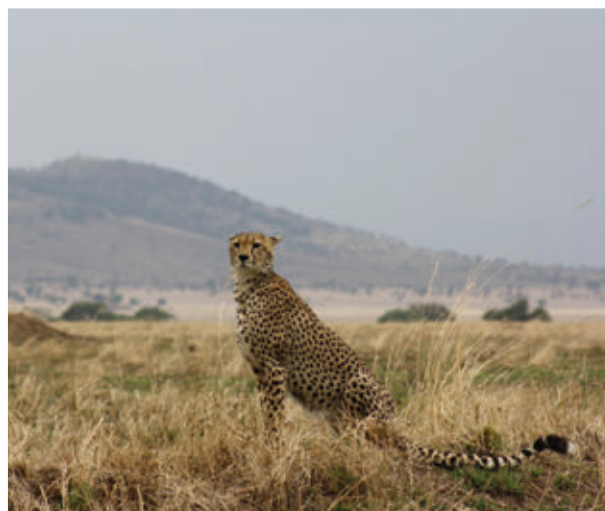
It wasn't all work, work, work. We took a break from Heshima to visit the Serengeti, Ngorogoro Crater, Oldupai Gorge and Zanzibar and explore some the stunning country, which is so wonderfully varied, both in its culture and habitats. We felt more than a pang of guilt leaving our new friends, to explore parts of their country they could not afford to access. I spoke about this with Zack and he just laughed at me; "I'll see it all eventually", he said, "You only have a few weeks. You can't come all this way and go home without seeing a lion." And see lions we did, as well as, hippos, elephants, giraffe, zebras and hyenas. In fact, so successful was our game drive that we saw four of the big five in one afternoon and got close enough to a cheetah and a leopard to send our safari driver reaching for his machete! In the evenings we watched the sun go down behind the boabab trees and camped under the stars. In the mornings we woke to the sight of elephants strolling past our tent and Marabou storks scavenging the last crumbs of our evening meal.

Perhaps the most fascinating place we visited and the one that gave me the biggest sense of the significance of this country was Oldupai Gorge. This small area of land has the earliest evidence of bipedal man ever discovered; the footprints of a man, woman and a child made, in volcanic ash 500,000 years ago. The layers of the gorge and the fossils it holds form a document of the evolution of man



over the last half a million years ending in the Maasai who live on and around the gorge. This is the very origin of human life, a truly awe-inspiring thought. However, it is the modern Tanzanians who left the biggest impression on us. Their warmth, sense of community and willingness to share the little they had with us was truly humbling. They needed so much, asked for so little and gave everything they could. We miss them terribly.

Returning to the UK on New Year's Eve was quite a shock. If you had asked me, before I left, what I would bring back to Duke of Kent School, I would probably have spoken about beautiful fabrics and carvings, ideas for art projects and a few words of Swahili. What I actually came back with was something far deeper and fundamentally more important. I developed a sense of cultural perspective, a proper understanding of what diversity means and the importance of understanding difference and seeking out common ground. I watched my children play with some of the poorest children I have ever met, blind to the cultural differences that I, despite being fairly well travelled, was struggling to understand. The world has never been so interconnected and, over our children's lifetimes, will only become more so. Looking at recent events it is fairly clear that, in some cases, this interconnectedness is serving to highlight our differences, leading to fear, suspicion and far worse. It is here that education plays a vital role. Our aim as educators at Duke of Kent School is to develop a whole human being; part of this, in our globally interconnected world, comes through exposure to difference and being given the opportunity to find that we all share a commonality; even a common ancestor in Oldupai Gorge, deep in the Tanzanian Serengeti. I have returned more committed than ever to the belief that in this day and age, a truly global education is the only way we can prepare our children for the modern world.





Nominations for **Best Trips** are ...

CERN, Switzerland

Little Street, Frimley

The Olympic Velodrome

Pulborough Brooks

Watts Gallery Takeover Day

Arundel Castle

London Coliseum

Madame Tussauds

The Old Vic

Kew Gardens

Imperial War Museum, London

Drusillas Park

Geneva

Royal Festival Hall

Heathrow Air Traffic Control Centre

Painshill Park

Swanage

National Theatre

Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden

Osmington Bay

Leavers' Trip to Sorrento





Visit to CERN

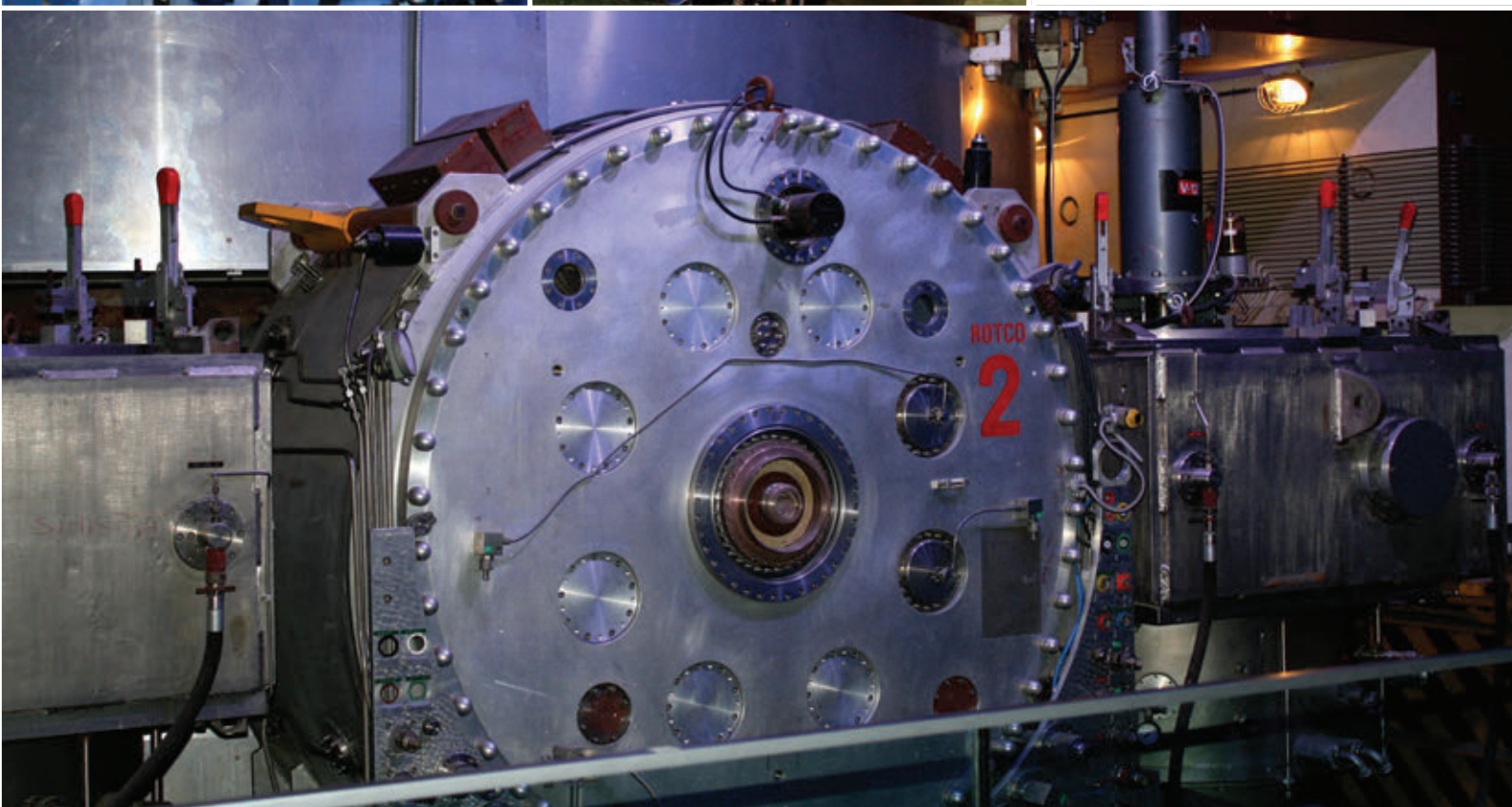
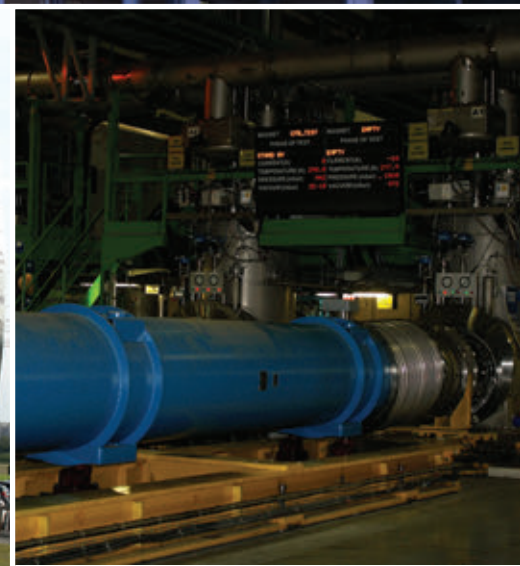
In September, sixteen surprisingly lively Year 10 students and three teachers arrived at Gatwick Airport at 6.30am, ready for their trip to CERN, near Geneva. At CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – the fundamental particles. The particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light and the process gives the physicists clues about how the particles interact, and provides insights into the fundamental laws of nature. The instruments used at CERN are purpose-built particle accelerators and detectors. Accelerators boost beams of particles to high energies before the beams are made to collide with each other or with stationary targets and detectors observe and record the results of these collisions. Founded in 1954, the CERN laboratory sits astride the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva. It was one of Europe's first joint ventures and it now has twenty-two member states.

Following a quick one hour and fifteen minute flight, we landed in Geneva and hopped on a bus which took us straight to CERN. On arrival, we were met by a very impressive steel sculpture that was shaped like a giant ribbon and had etched in it the great discoveries in physics throughout the ages. We were also fortunate enough to be there at the same time as the architect, Gayle Hermick, who designed it, which was very humbling.

After lunch we were given a short presentation on the work that goes on at the organisation and then we were given a tour around two of the CERN sites, which involved crossing over to France. So we managed to fit two countries into our day trip! Some mindboggling information and equipment was explained and shown to us, giving us a much greater understanding of how they have tried to recreate the Big Bang and all the work and astounding knowledge that is required. I would go into further detail but I advise you to have a chat with Guy R or Will J, who both posed some fantastic question to the professors.

We finished the day with a walk along the beautiful shores of Lake Geneva before a customary dinner of meat, which was accompanied by traditional music. The frustration of a delayed flight home was eased by the consumption of sugary treats and good company. The students' behaviour was exemplary throughout the day and they really made us proud to be accompanying them. We are most grateful to Mr Kettle for setting up this inspiring trip.

Ellen Taylor Teacher of Science



Challenge Yourself Event

At Duke of Kent School, challenge is at the heart of our approach to academic and personal development. We celebrated this in our 'Challenge Yourself' event which proved to be very popular in the wider community and attracted more than 350 visitors to the School. The various events on offer to children and their parents were aimed at encouraging participants to learn the value of qualities such as persistence, resilience and enthusiasm when faced with many of the difficult challenges we often encounter during our lives.

Taking advantage of the School's extensive grounds, a mini triathlon event was offered, giving children in Years 7 to 11 the opportunity of pushing themselves to their limit, with a course covering a 135m indoor snake swim, a 2 km bike ride, followed by a 600m run. As there was a mixture of ages and abilities taking part, it was more a race against the clock and themselves, than against others. Early rain was followed by warm sunshine, which meant near perfect weather conditions for the bravely fought race. A red cycling jersey was handed out to Fynn for his resilience after he fell from his bike, got back on and then persevered to reach the end. The participants were all given a triathlon medal, a cycling bidon (bottle) and a beanie hat.

Also taking place in the School grounds was a climbing wall event. This was made possible with a 24 foot high mobile rock climbing wall, featuring an automatic belay system which allowed up to four climbers to climb simultaneously in complete safety. Forest School was very busy with twenty-five children under seven and their parents taking part in leaf puzzles, den building and rope bridge making. They also had the opportunity to explore the far reaches of our wooded site.

In addition to this we had a range of visiting speakers and workshops running throughout the School building, ranging from an opportunity to play a musical instrument, to drawing classes in the Art Department.

Sally Gardner, the award winning novelist, gave two very

inspirational talks to packed audiences about overcoming barriers. Her novel *Maggot Moon* won both the Costa Children's Book Prize and the Carnegie Medal in 2013. She took us on a whirlwind tour of her stormy early life, spoke of her experiences at school, her dyslexia and how she overcame it. She described how she always had stories in her head and eventually someone had enough faith in her to persuade her to record them, reminding us of the importance of never giving up on your dreams, however far out of reach they may seem.

Two workshops presented by Edward Watson from Inner Drive, a mental skills company, with the titles 'Communicating better' and 'Understanding the teenage brain' proved to be very popular. He used a range of interactive activities in order to show how we can communicate with each other more effectively and provided us with some insights into the mercurial machinations of the 'Teenage Brain'. Richard Hunt from Saltwater Creations provided a range of real life storytelling workshops, based on his own experience of overcoming adversity and disability.

The Performing Arts Hall and practice rooms were vibrant. Here a range of music teachers were available all day, offering taster sessions for all ages on musical instruments of choice: Hannah Blunden on strings; Laura Barnes on woodwind; Adam Martin, a guitarist in the West End musical *Jersey Boys*, on guitar; Tom Kaye on keyboard, and Nick Rye, our Director of Music, brought in a selection of drum kits for participants to try. In the Art Department, two of our teachers, Chris Wright and Gail Turner, who are also professional artists, worked very hard all day, teaching adults and children drawing techniques with the emphasis on observational skills.

The photos give an idea of what a busy and enjoyable day of challenges our pupils and visitors enjoyed. Thanks to Miss Vernon and Mrs Hopwood for coordinating a great event.



People who have inspired us

Tanni Grey-Thompson

At Parents Day the School was honoured and delighted to welcome as our special guest and speaker, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

It is impossible to cram and distil all her achievements into this small space, but here are just some of her remarkable exploits and accolades:

- Sixteen Paralympic medals between Seoul (1988) and Athens (2004) of which eleven were gold medals.
- Eight medal placings at the London Marathon including six wins.
- Via an MBE and OBE Baroness Tanni became a DBE (Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in 2005.
- Although she doesn't have quite as many degrees as a protractor, twenty seven honorary doctorates is a dizzying collection by anyone's standards!
- In March 2010 she became a Life Peer, sitting as a crossbencher in the House of Lords. As a working peer, Tanni uses her experience and knowledge during debates in the House, and she has spoken on a range of issues including Disability Rights, Welfare Reform and, of course, Sport.

Tanni spoke to us about the challenges of being born with spina bifida and how she refused to be defined or restricted by this. Her parents were both supportive in these crucial formative years and initial challenges included what many of us take completely for granted – securing a place in a mainstream school.

Discovering a talent for wheelchair racing by her early teens, Tanni talked about a quote from her grandfather which has inspired her throughout her life. Regardless of the type of challenge she faced,



he always used to tell her that she should 'Aim high even if you hit a cabbage'. Although not a well-known saying, he was keen to find a way to tell her that she should always have a goal and a dream, and that the only realistic chance of achieving it would be to work hard. It clearly worked and her message of determination and application, resonated not only with the pupils but with all those present in Ness Hall.

Tanni's busy and successful life is perhaps best illustrated and explained by her appearance on Desert Island Discs. Asked what luxury she would take with her, she chose five juggling balls!

Chris Finill

Stephen Bryant, international concert violinist and leader of the BBC Concert Orchestra gave a recital at Duke of Kent School

On Friday 27th January, Duke of Kent School presented the first of a series of music recitals; an evening of violin and piano music with Stephen Bryant, leader of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Stephen is local to the School and a keen supporter of music in education, managing to divide his time between leading a world class orchestra, a busy recital diary, and outreach work at inner city schools.

With Stephen was his accompanist Caroline Jaya-Ratnam, herself a highly accomplished soloist who performs regularly for BBC Radio 3, at the Proms and with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

The duo gave a captivating and inspiring performance, playing an eclectic mix of classic and modern works by composers such as Grieg, Schubert, Adams and Rubbra. The audience was treated to a masterclass in violin and piano playing of the highest calibre, with Stephen's wonderful tone and virtuosic violin playing on full display, and Caroline's sensitive and lyrical playing making our school baby-grand piano, an instrument generously donated to the school by PADOK, the parents' association, sing like a Steinway!

After the recital had finished, the pair were kind enough to answer questions from the audience and gave a fascinating insight into the life of a concert musician, along with some amusing stories of some of the stranger things that have happened to them when playing. It was certainly a night to remember.



Simon Greenhill's operatic singing waiters

At 12.10pm, Monday 6th March lunch seemed to be running as smoothly as usual, with both children and members of staff enjoying the lovely food on offer and catching up with weekend news. The only thing that seemed perhaps a little unusual was the addition of a new dinner lady and a serious looking chef observing the proceedings. At 12.15pm however, everything changed. The serious looking chef rang the bell and demanded silence, music began playing from somewhere and before the Prep School knew what was happening, this 'chef' was singing 'O Sole Mio' to the children and teachers! It turned out he was in disguise and was actually an opera singer giving a surprise performance. Once he had finished and received a wonderful reception, the new dinner lady told him off and decided it was her turn! She sang 'I Could Have Danced All Night', spinning around the dining room, and ending up with a rather surprised Rian P in Year 4 being waltzed off his feet. Just when the school thought it was all over a 'teacher' got up and joined in as well! All three of the singers then joined together to give a final rendition of 'Nessun Dorma' to a stunned and excited Prep School. With the children then sworn to secrecy as they left, the Senior School came in for their lunch and it all happened again, with a very game Henry S in Year 10 dancing with the 'dinner lady' this time! It was a wonderful opportunity for all the children to hear and experience opera at close quarters, and in a surprising location, helping to make them aware of the power and the beauty of these great arias, and music in general.

Nick Rye Director of Music





House Bake Off

Competition

Issy's Winning Scone Recipe

Year 10 pupil Issy adapted an American scone recipe for her winning Bake Off entry. She particularly likes this recipe as it produces quite large scones, with a rich fluffy texture from using the cream. Her tip is to be sure they are not over-cooked – they should be well-risen and golden in colour, and they are best served with clotted cream, raspberry jam and fresh raspberries.

Ingredients

300g plain flour
55g granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
75g unsalted butter, chilled
120ml double cream
1 large egg
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
100g currants or raisins (optional)
1 egg, mixed with 1 teaspoon water for glaze (optional)

Preheat oven to 220C or 425F.

Lightly butter a baking sheet. In a large bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Cut the butter into 1/2-inch cubes and distribute them over the flour mixture. With a pastry blender or two knives used scissors fashion, cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

In a small bowl, stir together the cream, egg, and vanilla.

Add the cream mixture to the flour mixture and stir until combined.

Stir in the currants/raisins (optional). With lightly floured hands, pat the dough into a 1/2-inch thickness on a lightly floured cutting board.

Using a floured 2 1/2-inch-diameter round biscuit cutter or a glass, cut out rounds from the dough and place them on the prepared baking sheet. Gather the scraps together and repeat until all the dough is used.

Lightly brush the tops of the scones with the egg mixture, if desired.

Bake for 13-15 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Remove the baking sheet to a wire rack and cool for 5 minutes. Using a spatula, transfer the scones to the wire rack to cool.

Serve warm or cool completely and store in an airtight container.

Makes about 14 scones.



Tension? Absolutely. Utensils? Aplenty. A huge white tent with bunting aflutter? Not quite, but this year's Duke of Kent School Bake Off final still had enough of the ingredients needed to rival its BBC counterpart. The five finalists served up a variety of scones roundly praised by the judges as 'so professional they wouldn't have been out of place in a National Trust tea room' - surely the truest mark of scone quality. In the Prep School section, Ella S and Fleur S's inventive chocolate-chip scones just edged it for Armstrong, ahead of Henry C's delicious raisin-filled bake. For the Seniors, Issy's scone recipe clinched first place for Hillary, with the judges congratulating Alice S for her juicy blueberry scones. From House heats, to semi-finals and the final itself, the quality of baking proved so high this year it caused our judges all manner of difficulty.

It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved representing their houses; some of them experienced and expert bakers, and others relative novices. Thanks go to all the staff and parents who have supported and prepared children throughout. It has been particularly heartening to watch students help their younger peers, encouraging rivals in the heat of competition and consoling each other when results have, inevitably, disappointed. Bake-Off may be leaving the BBC, but it is definitely here to stay at Duke of Kent School!

Chris Wright and Hannah Coxhead

Duke of Edinburgh Award

volunteering at Sayers Croft Field Centre in Ewhurst

Service is at the heart of our Senior School and we are really proud of the varied contribution our pupils make to projects at School and in their home communities.

The photos show a group of intrepid Year 9 students who, along with Harry H and Jago G from Year 10, have been visiting Sayers Croft Field Centre every Thursday evening during the term in order to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Volunteering section. Pictured are Sam R, Sammy L, Jude L, Callum H, Andi L, Max T, Adam G, with the "human hedge" revealed as Sam G. Un-pictured is Mr Usher who has regularly accompanied the boys to Sayers Croft and joined in their 'strategic gardening'! The students have been constructive (for example, building fences) and constructively destructive(!) by removing old structures and, in particular, via 'bramble bashing' - or, in other words, some epic weeding of triffid-sized unwanted barbed vegetation. They have been an outstanding group who have worked brilliantly and effectively in ALL weather conditions - and very well done to every single one of them. Thanks also to Helen from the dining room staff who has provided hearty late teas to appease appetites!

Dale Lodge





A Focus on our Pastoral Work

The pastoral team at Duke of Kent School works cohesively to ensure the needs of the students are met, day in and day out. From Pre-prep up to Seniors, the team, along with the whole school staff, focus on enhancing the students' happiness and development when things are going right and particularly when things aren't going to plan.

As Head of Safeguarding, having a strong team leading the pastoral care of the students fills me with both confidence and reassurance that all of the pastoral needs of the students are not only being met, but exceeded.

On the pages that follow, you will meet some of the members of the pastoral team and read about how they fulfil their roles.

Tom Southee





Pastoral care

E-Safety at Duke of Kent School

Over the past five years, e-safety has become a steadily increasing focus at Duke of Kent School and its wider community. Developments in technologies are exciting and can make life and communicating easier, but the developments also create problems and dangers for those who are not old or wise enough to know how to use them properly – children and teenagers.

Our philosophy is to educate both parents and students about steps that can be taken in order to live a safe life online. We aim to be proactive in providing tips and solutions in order to reduce risks and ensure that the internet is a safe place for children and teenagers.

Steps that have been taken to help educate students, staff and parents include:

Talks and forums for parents

I have run and hosted several talks for parents across the age ranges of the School. These have ranged from workshops with Pre-prep parents, to educative 'Tips and Hints' sessions with Senior parents.

Staff Training

All teaching staff have completed online safety training which was created in association with the NSPCC. The Head and I have also completed the CEOP Ambassador Course, the nationally recognised standard for e-safety.

Assemblies, PSHE, VLE and Outside Speakers for Students

Students have had a range of experiences to help them understand how to live in the online world. They have regular assemblies and updates on online safety as well as visiting speakers, including Eagle Radio, who have visited for the past four years to deliver their 'Online Laws and

Ethics' talk. The whole of the senior school have received this talk. The Prep School has a unit in their creative curriculum, which has a focus on using the internet safely.

Safer Internet Day

We have recognised this for the last three years and have been official supporters. We recognise the day with various talks, forums and workshops across the age range of the school.

Bulletin Tips

This year there has been an e-safety tip in the online weekly bulletin. We ensure that the tip is relevant to recent trends or an interesting piece of research appropriate to our setting.

E-Safety Committee

The committee is made up of students, parents and teachers and meets once a term. We discuss recent online trends and discuss the best ways to get information to students and parents.

Finally, our Childnet Leaders

This year we signed up to train a group of Year 7 to Year 9 students to become Childnet Leaders. They have completed an eight-week online course which takes them through the issues online and how they might deal with them. Once the course is complete they have to create resources and present information to others to achieve badges. So far the group have created guides on using social media, read e-safety themed stories to Pre-prep, written letters to local MPs and are in the process of creating videos for parents and students on subjects such as security settings on Apple products and safely setting up a YouTube channel.

Tom Southee Head of Safeguarding and Digital Strategy

Alison Colvile – School Counsellor

My role at Duke of Kent School is to work closely with the pastoral team, offering support for staff, students and parents. I am an accredited member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists and this means that I am an experienced counsellor working with children, adolescents and adults. I am also a supervisor, which means I mentor and guide other counsellors within the profession.

At the School I see children who have been referred to me for all sorts of reasons. A typical working week across all the schools in my entire clinical practice, might include counselling children who are bereaved, angry, presenting with high levels of anxiety, low mood, risky behaviours, self-harm, gender, sexuality, bullying and family issues.

Counselling offers a skilled way of helping young people focus on their concerns, explore specific problems, cope with crises, and work through feelings of conflict and improve relationships with others. I offer the chance to talk, but I also use different media including drawing, art, play and CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy).

My aim at all times is to support a child's well-being, and working with their best interests at heart, to help them get the best out of and enjoy their time at school. For anyone wishing to get in touch, I can be contacted via the School Office.

Alison Colvile Reg.MBACP(Accred)



The Medical Room

The Medical Room at Duke of Kent School is a busy, buzzing and friendly environment. We have an open door policy for students, who are welcomed into our room throughout our opening hours. No two days are the same, and we can look after students with anything from anxiety, to tummy aches, cut knees, to broken limbs and concussion, and many more ailments besides – there is never a dull moment! As well as managing first aid episodes, we also provide on-going care for children with long term conditions, who have an Independent Health Care Plan written when they join the School, which is regularly updated.

In addition to providing first aid, we also administer prescribed medication, organise staff training, provide first aid supplies for school trips and matches, organise school immunisations, provide teaching as part of the PSHE programme, including sex and relationships education, and contribute to the Health & Safety Committee and Safeguarding of children. Duke of Kent School Nurses are happy to collaborate closely with parents throughout the duration of their children's time at school to ensure all their healthcare needs are met while they are in our care.

With 300 students to care for, ranging from 3 to 16 years of age, the Registered School Nurses perform a fundamental role within the excellent pastoral care team, and a key aspect of our work is to nurture our pupils. We are always impressed at how polite and respectful the children are when they come in to see us, and it is a real privilege to be part of the team the students turn to in times of need.

Chloe Sarjant Lead Nurse





Learning Development

The Learning Development Department endeavours to ensure that every child reaches their potential, whether through the Stretch and Challenge programme run by Alex Seeley, or through Learning Support. Our teaching rooms are based in the centre of the top teaching corridor, making us very accessible to pupils and staff alike. We regularly have pupils dropping in for 'catch ups' or emergency requests, and the rooms are hubs of activity at any time of the day.

Our very dedicated team has an incredible level of expertise between them, with qualifications in Specific Learning Difficulties, SENCo awards and unusually for a school of this size, our very own Occupational Therapist, Tracey Meredith. This means that we are able to offer support in the more traditional areas of literacy, numeracy and study skills as well as being able to assist pupils who have motor and planning difficulties. In addition, the team maintains very close links with Lisa Harris and Marlene Caplan, the Speech and Language Therapist and Educational Psychologist who regularly visit the school. With the level of expertise we offer, we are able to tailor programmes of work individually, to help support pupils. If one style of learning doesn't work, we will trial another, and the team is constantly changing their approach and

brainstorming new ideas to try to ensure that each pupil maximises their ability.

This year for instance, in addition to the 1:1 support we have offered in previous years, we also introduced some new enterprises, including a Spelling and Handwriting group for the Prep School, as well as an 'Introduction to Touch Typing' course for selected Year 7 pupils.

The main aim of Learning Development lessons is to ensure that each pupil makes progress and we are very proud of many of the results that we helped our pupils achieve this year. These include some incredible GCSE grades for our Year 11 pupils, which would never have been predicted when they were in Year 7, and the huge progress of many of the current Year 6's since joining in Year 3.

However Learning Development lessons are about so much more than just academic progress. They help increase pupil confidence, teach independence, help pupils embrace their difficulties and encourage them to push themselves to the limit. They empower pupils, teach them respect, empathy, patience, self-discipline, and more often than not, teach the enormous benefits of hard work.

Caroline Instone Head of Learning Development



Parents' Association PAdoK

Our Parents' Association or PAdoK, continues with its objective of connecting parents through social events, the mums' netball group and the parents' choir. Year Reps work hard to build connections within each year group and as a whole team we put on at least one event per term for both staff and parents. We started the year with our first Macmillan Coffee Morning. Previous parents and pupils joined many of us for a lovely, sunny morning of eating cake while raising over £500 for this important cause.

In October we held a Magic Night. This was a chance to eat fish and chips while being amazed by Griffin and Jones, hot from the Edinburgh Festival, and enjoy their sleight of hand and witty banter. In November, Manns of Cranleigh kindly invited us for a private Christmas shopping evening. We extended the invitation to Peaslake and Ewhurst Schools which made a very jolly evening for everyone. Fuelled by prosecco and canapés, we managed several hours of intense shopping. The following event was December's Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Evening, with the drawing of PAdoK's Christmas raffle of generously donated goodies for the many, impressive prize hampers. Suitably warmed up and feeling very festive, we then enjoyed the Prep School Christmas Concert.

In early March our now annual Krypton Factor event took place. Colourful teams competed to show off their powers of observation, tower building skills, gin tasting abilities and animal impressions. In true Krypton Factor style, the final obstacle course round was closely matched and hard fought.

Our Arabian Nights Charity Ball at Burrows Lea Country House followed in May. This biennial event is our chance to dress up and dance, and as always, we had a fabulous turnout with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. We started in Burrows Lea's beautiful rose garden, listening to former pupils Hannah McAuley and Charlotte Vinall performing,

followed by Duke of Kent School Singers (the mums) – the singing was a magical start to the evening. We then moved into the beautifully decorated marquee for delicious, Arabian themed food. Dave Bimpson did a great job as our auctioneer, selling off the prizes generously donated by parents, local businesses and friends of the School. We raised a total of £5,750 for the Dusty Yak Foundation, a charity which supports orphans in Nepal. The final event of the year was June's Charity Netball Tournament, which fell on probably the hottest day of the year. More than 50 mums from six schools came together for a morning of netball fun, raising £200 for Starfish Malawi.

Throughout the year the Second Hand Uniform Shop, brilliantly managed by Yasmin Wilkinson, has been open to help kit out our children. Not only does it save all its customers time and money, but also it raises considerable funds for PAdoK.

In total this year, PAdoK has raised almost £12,000 and created many memorable events. Half of this money has funded equipment for Forest School and the Triathlon Club and new tents for Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. We've also purchased a new printing press for the Art Department, chunky wooden construction blocks for Pre-prep and a new LED lighting system for the Performing Arts Hall. The PAdoK team has done this with great dedication, energy and good cheer. I'm sure you will join me in thanking them all.

Harriet, PAdoK Chair

Neighbourhood Links

Set in 50 acres of grounds and woodland and surrounded by the Surrey Hills, you could be forgiven for thinking that Duke of Kent School is a rather isolated establishment. On the contrary; the road to the School, our phone lines and the new fibre broadband cable have never been so busy with traffic of one sort and another, ferrying visitors and students virtual and otherwise in and out of the School.

This interconnectedness between educational establishments and the local and wider community is something that was first championed by, among others, the philosopher, psychologist and educational reformer John Dewey (1859-1952). Dewey rallied against the then dominant notion of education purely as a place to gain content knowledge. He made the case for education to also be seen as a place to learn how to live. He believed that the purpose of education should not revolve purely around the acquisition of a pre-determined set of skills, but rather the realisation of one's full potential and the ability to use those skills for the greater good. To this end he believed that educational establishments and their communities were interdependent and inextricably linked in their ability to educate.

At Duke of Kent School, in line with our aims and ethos, we believe that the links we form with our local community are vital to the growth and development of our students, not just academically, but also as morally and socially aware human beings. By giving students the opportunity to understand their education in the context of their local community, they begin to recognise that learning, society and community are threads in the same tapestry. We look to the local community for positive role models, to develop a sense of pride in the local area, give students a sense of place as an integral part of a community, ensure that they understand their responsibilities within that community and, perhaps most importantly, realise how much can be learned

from their community. The work we do with and in our local community really matures our students' social, moral and spiritual development and grounds this in everyday experience.

This is exemplified in the links we have developed with local charity Jigsaw Trust. Jigsaw is dedicated to helping young people with severe autism and their families. A group of Year 10 students visited Jigsaw earlier in the year and were so inspired by what they saw, that they set about fundraising with unparalleled enthusiasm. While visiting Jigsaw they spent time with some of the Sixth Form students who mentioned their interest in photography and so they have arranged for a joint photography project between our two schools. They organised school assemblies to ensure the School understood what Jigsaw is doing in their community. This then led to our Learning Development Department and our new teachers being offered free training by the educational psychologists working at Jigsaw. This highly successful link has benefited both schools immeasurably.

A good understanding of the local surroundings and environment is an essential part of being an effective member of a community. To this end students from across different subjects and areas of the School have had the opportunity to investigate the Tillingbourne River and Cranleigh Village through Geography projects. Pre-prep have visited Wakehurst Place, been pond dipping in Pulborough Brooks, enjoyed a day at Sayers Croft and visited Cranleigh Library. Others have investigated their environment through Art with photography and drawing trips to The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Gardens and The Hurtwood, as well as spending time at Watts Gallery researching and responding to the work of local Victorian artist G.W. Watts. Students from the History Department have looked into local historical events as well as the famous Battle of Hastings and Arundel Castle.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award gives students an intimate understanding of their environment as they navigate their way across the Sussex countryside for two days, with nothing more to guide them than a map and a compass. The volunteering section of the Award also gives students the opportunity to contribute to the local community. This year many of them spent time volunteering at Sayers Croft, clearing bracken and preparing areas for visitors. The Archbishop of York Award, which Year 8 pupils were involved with through the RS Department, also gave students the opportunity to give something back to the community. As part of this award students spent an afternoon at Knowle House Nursing Home, sharing homemade cakes and tea with the residents and entertaining them with a sing-along, board games and a variety of art activities.

Our local community is home to a great deal of talented and inspirational people. Many of these have visited Duke of Kent School to share their experiences and insights, acting as outstanding role models for our students. These have included local authors Kevin Sutton and Robert Rigby, adventurers and wildlife artists Olly and Suzi, and local musical percussion duo 'Bang On' as well as the host of local talent that have passed through our doors to judge the annual House Music contest. Speakers from local institutions; have included the local arm of the British Legion who gave expert advice on student models of WWI trenches, members of Cranleigh History Society, and speakers from Sussex University.

As a community we often work and interact with each other in shared spaces. Duke of Kent School is regularly used by the local community, especially local sports clubs as well as our parent body through PADoK who, among other events, invite guest teams to take part in fiercely contested netball matches. As well as hosting other schools for tournaments and matches, the PE Department travels the length and



breadth of the county taking part in a bewildering number of sporting fixtures. Across the subject range, students share the spaces and resources of other schools through events like the 'Maths Feast' at George Abbot School, the 'Lancing Science Challenge' and science shows at Glebelands School. Other local schools are often invited to Duke of Kent School and this year we hosted a charity evening to raise money for Ewhurst School. Parents from both schools were invited to a film showing and Q&A session with wildlife film maker Mateo Willis. Our link with Ewhurst Church has given us the opportunity to showcase our students' work in a space outside the comfort of the school environment, in their annexe The Wilson Room. This has given Art, Music and English students the opportunity to show and perform in public as they did at Guildford's G live in a musical event organised by the local Rotary Club.

We are really pleased that all the work the school has put into developing our community links has been recognised by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in their recent inspection of Duke of Kent School. They noted that "awareness and respect for others extends beyond the school and pupils engage in the wider community, in activities as varied as clearing bracken in an overgrown wildlife park and visiting residents in a local care home."

The impact and importance of these interactions and events cannot be underestimated. They often form the highlights of students' years here and help to make Duke of Kent School the exciting and inspirational place it is. It also allows students to apply the learning they do in school to real life situations.

Mike Watson

Archbishop of York Award

The Young Leaders Award is a unique active citizenship programme which empowers young people to make a difference in their local community, whilst being given the opportunity of developing their leadership skills. As part of their RS studies, our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Award and were asked for their feedback, some of which you can read below.

Tim Vallance-Webb

What has been the highlight of the Archbishop of York Award for you?

Working with Pre-prep - it was really fun to talk to the younger children and learn what they enjoyed. Some of them surprised me with how good they were at modelling. *Blue R*

My highlight of the year was helping teach Years 3 and 4 their games lesson when they did rounders. It was amazing to see them having so much fun and improving their skills. *Jasmine B*

The highlight of the Award for me this year has been learning about some activists and their moral rights and how these principles helped them throughout their lives. *Oscar B-A*

We are really pleased that all the work the School has put into developing our community links has been recognised by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in their recent inspection of Duke of Kent School: "awareness and respect for others extends beyond the school and pupils engage in the wider community, in activities as varied as clearing bracken in an overgrown wildlife park and visiting residents in a local care home." *James H*

My highlight of the Archbishop of York Award is doing my road clear up day where I cut back hedges and cleared up litter. I really felt I made a difference to my community by helping people see road markings and signs, but also helped make my road look cleaner and tidier. *Rueben D*



Salima LEA

building work update

You may recall in Mrs Fremont-Barnes' 2016 Parents' Day speech, her mentioning being thrilled at receiving a photograph of a pile of bricks. Well, these bricks have been put to good use and, thanks to the generosity and support of pupils and parents at Duke of Kent School, Salima LEA (our partner school in Malawi) has been able to build a new teaching block on their site.

By the end of the Autumn Term 2015, through events such as a sponsored swim on Malawi Day, a Comedy Night hosted by PADoK and the Prep School Christmas Fayre and mufti day contributions, we were able to raise a grand total of £4586.41. All of this money went straight to Salima LEA to enable a new teaching building to be erected. During our visit in October 2015, Mr Green and I saw a great number of classes being taught outside which throughout the rainy season results in the school having no choice but to cancel lessons and send children home. Whilst it has been a relatively slow process, I am pleased to report that the building is now almost complete, with just the floor needing to be laid and painting done. Thanks again to all the pupils, parents and staff at Duke of Kent School for your support. Your contributions will make a massive difference to the pupils and staff at Salima LEA.

In June we heard from Margaret and Emmanuel of Starfish Malawi who together with Holly Nicholls from Starfish UK, had visited Salima LEA Primary School. They

met with Sayfred, the link coordinator, who was very excited about the upcoming visit from members of staff from Duke of Kent School. (October 2017).

The school block is going well and is almost complete, but some more work needs to be done on the floors and guttering. Sayfred said that everyone is very much looking forward to using the three classrooms when the work is finished. The Starfish team also found out from Sayfred that since visiting Duke of Kent School and with the last connecting classrooms grant, he has been able to establish a student council at Salima LEA, which has been very successful. The student council discuss issues that are facing students and then they communicate these issues to the school administrators. They were very impressed with their student council and together with Sayfred they will be putting together a short report about it.

They also discussed the school garden which Matt and I worked on when we visited. Although the irrigation kit is currently dismantled, the pupils have used it to produce several harvests, which they have sold to help fund the school. When the weather becomes hotter they will be using it again to grow another harvest.

Sayfred, the staff and the children at Salima LEA send their greetings to everyone at Duke of Kent School.

Rebecca Green







RSPB Cairngorms Young Nature Presenter 2016

We are very proud of Alex B in Year 10 who entered the RSPB Cairngorms Young Nature Presenter competition and after a great deal of hard work, he won. This is what he has to say:

'This year I entered the Cairngorms Young Nature Presenter competition. For this competition, I had to create a ninety second documentary about a chosen species of wildlife. I chose to do mine on a family of cemetery foxes that I filmed and then studied. I was shortlisted from all the entrants and then I was into the voting stage. I received a huge amount of support from the School, from my family and from all around the world and I was fortunate enough to win by a small proportion of votes. So I am the Cairngorms Young Presenter 2016 and I can't thank people enough for the sheer volume of support that I received.'

Alex's prize was for him and his family to spend five nights at a fabulous private steading in Glen Feshie, in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, courtesy of Speyside Wildlife, who have been running all-inclusive wildlife watching holidays in this special place for twenty five years. One of the days was spent with none other

than BBC nature presenter Iolo Williams, picking up tips and making a short film about Cairngorms nature.

More details about the trip in April can be read in Alex's blog on his website – www.alexswildlifeblog.wordpress.com – but in the meantime here are some extracts:

'As we pulled into the station our wildlife guide Duncan Macdonald, cheerfully waved to us from the platform. We arrived at the steading, which was a very welcoming place, with spacious and comfortable lounges, and windows overlooking the mountains. This was followed by a delicious supper with Duncan, cooked by Sharon Cairns their talented chef.'

The following day we were going to meet up with Iolo Williams, an inspirational Welsh naturalist and wildlife TV presenter from BBC Springwatch; James Shooter, a great wildlife photographer and cameraman; and Stuart Benn, who is the communications officer and conservation project manager for RSPB Scotland, and is a hugely experienced ornithologist. Iolo, Stuart and James are fantastic people all of whom I have a huge amount of respect for.'

'We met up with lolo, James and Stuart the first morning. lolo showed my family and me how the pole trap works, which is used by some gamekeepers who illegally trap birds of prey. The trap is mounted on top of a fence post, which is one of the favourite places for birds of prey to perch on, so when they do land it will spring shut onto the bird's leg. It is then left hanging on the side of the post as the trap is attached to a chain. This is a large problem as many birds of prey like hen harriers and various other raptors are going missing and therefore becoming massively endangered.'

'We drove along to Glen Feshie, and arrived at a black grouse lekking site at roughly 10.15am. We didn't expect to see them there as the black grouse usually only lek early in the morning but there were nine males lekking! Some walkers disturbed them and they took off into the larch trees where they feed on the newly emerging buds. We carried on our journey deep into the heart of Glen Feshie where we set about scanning the mountain tops for any sign of Golden Eagles. A couple of buzzards mewed overhead but then a golden eagle sailed over a distant crag. With the scopes trained on it, we were able to see it clearly as it circled high above the mountain in the distance. We also had some very good views of a peregrine that was perched on an outcrop of rock silhouetted against the dark sky. It was clear through the scope although unfortunately the distance was too great

for me to get a photo.'

'I did a piece to camera about Goldeneye that nest in Loch Insh woods, in tree holes or manmade nest boxes that have been put up to help them. Goldeneye I think are splendid birds with the majority of them in the Highlands in summer. Whilst filming, a red throated diver flew across the water behind us, calling as it did so.'

'My trip to the Cairngorms has been invaluable; I have learned so much about the vast amount of wildlife that the Cairngorms holds and the endangered species that it treasures, such as capercaillie and pine marten. I feel very fortunate to have met fantastic conservationists and presenters like Stuart and lolo who have both done a huge amount for conservation. Duncan was such an amazing guide and made the trip very special. I would like to thank the whole of the Speyside Wildlife team for such an unforgettable holiday. I loved presenting Cairngorms Nature 2016 and I strongly recommend that you enter for Cairngorms Young Nature Presenter 2017 and who knows, you may be the winner!'

Alex B Year 10



Connor and Andy's Charity Bike Ride to Land's End

Year 10 pupil Connor was critically ill in July 2016 when an MRI contrast dye attacked his respiratory system, putting his lungs and kidneys in a critical condition. His only hope of survival was to be ventilated and transferred to Southampton Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. Thankfully he recovered due to the care and specialist attention he received there.

Over 900 children are treated each year in this 14-bed specialist unit, but Connor could not believe how much the specialist unit relied on charitable donations to function properly, so he hatched a plan to give something back to the unit. He decided to raise money by riding his bike from Duke of Kent School to Land's End. Ambitious to say the least, as Connor had very little road cycling experience and had certainly never taken on a challenge like this. He needed some help and asked a school friend who had the experience and expertise required. Without a moment of hesitation Andy McN agreed to ride with Connor, but it got better when David (Andy's dad) said he would also ride with the pair. The trio rode the 300 miles starting on 29th May-half term week.

After much logistical preparation, route planning, accommodation bookings, ride support and worryingly little ride training, the small peloton set off, with the following itinerary:

Monday: Duke of Kent School to Christchurch, Dorset

Tuesday: Christchurch to Honiton, Devon

Wednesday: Rest day

Thursday: Honiton to Camelford, Cornwall

Friday: Camelford to Land's End



The route, devised by Andy, took the team through some stunning countryside. Keeping away from main roads for much of the route required some serious hill climbing over 1000 feet every day – and crossing Dartmoor, the team climbed over 1600 feet, which was a truly heroic effort. With perfect weather conditions, progress was better than expected, with the three riders making the most of dry road descents. They epitomised teamwork, providing constant encouragement to each other and building a rapport that kept spirits high when legs and behinds were feeling sore.

Crossing the finish line at Lands End gave Connor, Andy and David a true sense of achievement. Each doubted their ability to complete the challenge, none had previously covered more than 60 miles in a single day and yet they achieved 300 in four days. This just goes to show what you can do if you put your mind to it – keep focused and remain determined. “We’ll never forget this week”, they said.

The event has so far raised £2,280 towards two new beds for the unit and a new specialist ambulance, all of which are desperately needed.

Congratulations, Connor and Andy!



Challenge

Adam goes Coast to Coast

During the summer holidays, Year 10 pupil Adam N and his father challenged themselves to complete the National Coastal Network, Coast to Coast bike ride in just three days, crossing England from west to east. They cycled the 225 km route from Whitehaven to the finish point at Tynemouth Pier, and as tradition dictates, started with the back wheel in the Irish Sea and finished with the front wheel in the North Sea. The trail took them along a number of cycle tracks and minor roads through the Cumbrian Lake District, where the weather was so bad they couldn't see a single lake, across the Pennines where the views were brilliant, into Northumberland and then along the last leg through County Durham, finishing at Tynemouth.

They found riding through the Pennines challenging, where they twice reached an altitude of over 2,000 feet, but they were rewarded with some fantastic sights, a history lesson in coal and iron mining, full English breakfasts and delicious pub food. Best of all, however, were the fish and chips at the end of the ride. Well done, Adam!



Trampolining

This year was Year 11 pupil Charlotte's first year of competing in trampolining at national level. The competitions started with the British championships in Bath, where she managed to achieve 13th place out of 74 competitors for her age group. Later in the year she competed in a competition group called National League. National League consists of four competitions over the course of each year, which is graded by a point system. Despite having missed two of these competitions due to clashes with GCSE exams, she managed to gain enough points from a 7th place and a 13th place (out of 97 competitors) to gain 12th place over all for her age group in the UK. These successes meant she was granted a place in the national finals at the Olympic velodrome, which she will be attending in December.

Congratulations, Charlotte!





Aida

In March Year 11 pupils Ava H, Erica K and Hollie B were very fortunate to have the opportunity of performing in the touring production of Giuseppe Verdi's wonderful opera *Aida* at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking, directed by Ellen Kent. In this production the splendour of Egypt is set against the grandeur of the Coliseum of Rome, influenced by the ancient Greek dramas of Euripides and symbolising the powerful religious hold of the priests of Egypt. It is a tragic story of war, jealousy and revenge.

The French soprano Olga Perrier and the international soprano Alyona Kistenyova shared the role of Aida. Ava and Hollie were dancing in the ballet corps and Erica was a member of the chorus. The girls have also performed for this professional production in Guildford and Richmond and have loved every minute of it, learning a huge amount from the experience.



RAF Air Cadet Achievements

Robbie R in Year 11 represented his squadron at the Wing Parade at Brooklands, Surrey on Saturday 24th September 2016, where he won the Solo Bugle prize for the whole Surrey Wing of the RAF Air Cadets. The Solo Bugle prize is awarded after a cadet performs two bugle calls in front of their Wing Staff. The two calls consist of one piece chosen by the cadet and one chosen by the staff, ordinarily 'The Last Post', famous for its use in World War I. With much help from Mr Nash, Robbie's trumpet teacher, Robbie was able to learn five new pieces in less than a week, on an instrument he's never played formally before.





Parents Day Speech

Head Boy, Bastien and Head Girl, Pippa's Speech

B: We want to begin by welcoming everyone to Parents Day 2017. I can't believe that we're up here in front of you all today and that our final year at Duke of Kent School is over. I only joined three years ago, but that time has flown by and I can only presume that's because I've had so much fun. Our entire time in Year 11 has been consumed with the need to write this speech, and in typical student fashion we left it until the very last minute - Monday in fact.

P: We were unsure of what to talk about and our biggest worry was that no one would laugh. So please, even if it's not funny, give us a little chuckle for good measure. We have had so many amazing memories from our time at Duke of Kent School and we both really struggled to pick the ones that have summed up our time here. I know I speak for both of us when I say that we are so proud and grateful to have had such an amazing and supportive year group. Every single one of them has led to the outcome of what we think has been a very successful journey at the Duke of Kent School and I don't know how we would have survived without them. We are such a great team, both on and off the field.

B: Sport this year has definitely been a highlight for a lot of us in Year 11. It started with an unbeaten run in our football season with Mr Wilson. To start the season his mentality was definitely 'we're here to take part'. He wasn't really sure what to expect of our team, but after an impressive 5-0 win over Box Hill in our first game he quickly changed, becoming ruthless, determined to win every game which eventually we managed, scoring around 20 goals and only conceding four of our seven games. We had some great moments with Mr Wilson over the season, but one I will always remember vividly is our team-talk at half time in our second game against Box Hill towards the end of the season. It was 1-1 at half time and he was supposed to say, "when you get into the box take a shot". However, Mr Wilson has a tendency to... mix up his words. I can't repeat what he actually said but most you can probably figure it out. We then ended the year with a cricket game against



the staff team: they didn't stand a chance. The staff set an impressive total of 130 runs but that wasn't going to bother us. It all started well but after the first wicket fell, things went from bad to worse. We thought we'd lose, but, surprise to us all, Nick and Mikey managed to turn the game around and by the last over, we only needed 14 runs to win. Mr Southee was sure they had the game in the bag but with 4 runs needed off the last ball to draw the game, the staff were feeling the pressure. Lucas, somehow coming back in after being out, hit a 6 off the last ball and the staff had lost. We are the first year to beat the staff and we're not going to let them forget it!

P: One person I will certainly never forget is Mrs Wilson. I know I'm speaking on behalf of all the girls in Year 11, as well as probably the whole School, when I say that she has made sport enjoyable for everyone. People such as Mia, who came to Duke of Kent School only a year ago, having never played sports such as netball or rounders, and is now, I would say, one of the best rounders players in our team. One moment I will never forget, was the day before I left to go on my travelling extravaganza and she took our netball team to McDonalds for an ice cream. There we all were, in our blue netball skorts and t-shirts, queuing for Oreo and Crunchie McFlurry's. Everyone was grinning from ear to ear and we all sang 'Party in the USA' as loudly as we could on the bus journey home. Even though she knew I was coming back, she still wanted to buy us all a treat and I was unbelievably touched by this small gesture of kindness.

B: It's kind of ironic that when I arrived in Year 9 Pippa, you left that exact same year.

P: Well you know I couldn't stand your acon haircut and the only reason I came back was because you changed it.

B: As well as sport, music has been a huge part of my school life and Mr Rye has encouraged me to take part in everything that goes on, from the plays like *Just So* and *Calamity Jane*, to my music lessons each week. All I can say is that I've enjoyed every moment of it. My performance as the Rhino in *Just So* will never ever be forgotten and I know for certain that I will never be allowed to forget it! Mr Rye has been such an inspirational teacher over the years and I will miss my music lessons with him. One thing I always found incredible about Mr Rye is his patience. In the three years he's taught me, I've only ever seen him give two debits – which is quite a feat – to Pablo and Daniel of all people for playing chess in a lesson. Mr Rye has admitted to me since that he was in fits of laughter inside.

P: Another enjoyable memory was our trip to Geneva, only four months ago. We went to many exciting museums and attractions, but unfortunately for all the students we had to walk everywhere. Mrs Lane stuck true to her traditions and spent the entire week in her six inch heels. Her smile never left her beaming face, even when we got lost down the wrong alleyway and had to consult Google Maps to right ourselves. We ended up at Laser Quest and I must say I have never seen so many grinning boys as they waited to shoot Mr Kettle. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity after all.

B: We wanted to make today particularly memorable for one particular person, and since we have been given the chance to recommend debits this year, there is one pupil in our year who has never been awarded one. So, we have the honour of presenting Hamish with his very first and very last debit!

B: Because of all these amazing memories it must be said that we will miss Duke of Kent School with all our hearts. Those of us lucky enough to be a part of the School know that it is a true family and that the School has a genuine heart. We are all welcomed into school life, allowing us to relax and be part of a great community.

P: Everyone in this room has the backing of everyone else. It is so rare to find such a special and unique place like this and we are both so grateful to have been a part of it. I can say from the bottom of my heart that I will miss every

person in this school. I'll miss coming in and seeing Mrs Rowe-Britton every morning.

B: I'll miss G Live and St Clement Danes

P: I'll miss talking to Pippa and Kim in the lunch hall as we queued up waiting to be served

B: I'll also miss Mr Kettle's cheese jokes. We now have a little surprise for all of our teachers. As a result of a certain poem written about us by Mr Wilson and Mr Macdonald, we'd like to challenge you with a poem of our own.

P: So here's our coda to you.

P: We have Mr Seeley our debater

B: And Mrs Cabanes our translator

Mr Usher's printer

Mr Kettle the sprinter

Mr Win-Pe's computer

Mr Southee the goal shooter

Miss Petter makes you run along

Mr Young fixes what's wrong

Mrs Wilson marvels with her racquet

Mrs F-B loves a good jacket

Mr Rye's always drumming

Mrs Coackley's always summing

Mr Wilson loves plantation

Mrs Lacroix loves multiplication

Mr Watson and his brush

Mrs Lane's always in a rush

Miss Coxhead's making charts

Miss Taylor's dissecting hearts

Mr Green's hockey stick

The nurses when you get sick

The office ladies pick up the phones

Mr Hubbard knows all the bones

Mrs Southee loves her books

And Mr Herbert's got all the looks

B: And that's the end of our silly old rhyme.

P: Finally, in true Head Boy and Head Girl fashion, and on behalf of our year group, we would like to do a three cheers for all the staff at Duke of Kent School who have all worked so hard to make our journey incredible.

Farewell to Jane and Cathy

A few words about my time at Duke of Kent School

I have been asked to write a few words about my time at Duke of Kent School - I could probably write a book! As pupils will have noticed, since I 'retired' in December I keep popping up, ostensibly to contribute to the Teacher Training programme at the School, but really just to see friends, enjoy a good lunch and call in at Ukulele Club.

I first made that glorious trip up the School drive in the summer of 1983. Since then it's been my Surrey home and I know I will never really leave. During my time here, I have worked under three wonderful Heads, learned my craft with talented and generous colleagues and seen the transformation of the School from a prestigious RAF Boarding Prep School to a highly successful 'Nursery to GCSE' Day School. I was amazed and honoured to be appointed Deputy Head in 2000 and my mum was particularly gleeful thinking she would finally get me to wear a suit! One of the more unusual responsibilities of this role was to train new teachers in the ringing of the outdoor bell! I was given 'The Freedom of the Bell Tower' as one of my leaving presents and will continue to enjoy the superb view of School life from up there.

As I write, planning is under way for our next Open Day event, called 'Happiness Matters.' It occurs to me that this has always been a central tenet of Duke of Kent School and perhaps one reason I have stayed so long. If children are happy, they thrive and they learn. For me this has meant having fun with teaching languages, and not always following the Scheme of Work, throwing myself into all manner of extra-curricular activities and supporting the School's excellent pastoral care, which has been an area of strength in every Inspection we have undergone.

In my final week, I inflicted a half-hour assembly of photos and nostalgic anecdotes upon the Senior School. It showed three decades of happy Duke of Kent School pupils and their teacher (at moments sporting a 1980s perm), who was lucky enough to share their growing-up. The 'Arriba Course' and the trips to Le Touquet and Preseli, along with an outrageous number of helicopter flights leave me with particularly great memories and any school which allows its Deputy Head to spend a whole day dressed as Star Trek's Spock has to be a special place. 'Live long and prosper' everyone and see you up the Bell Tower.

Jane Ives



Happy Memories of Duke of Kent School

As I reflect on my twenty seven years and two terms, I have such happy memories of the School - the teaching, the matches, the events, the trips, and most of all the staff and children who were, and are, at the School. I arrived in 1990 after ten years of teaching in a girls' school with pupils aged from 4 to 18. Moving to Duke of Kent School, a co-ed boarding prep school with children from Years 4 to 8, seemed very brave! The biggest change was teaching on Saturday mornings, and I put the children to bed on Wednesday nights, starting with the Year 4 at 7pm and finishing with the Year 8 at 9.00pm. During the last half hour, as the children were getting to sleep, members of staff sat in darkness. However one memorable Wednesday evening, the girls were awake and I fell asleep! I loved all the slightly strange names which had evolved at the school – 'Slider Bank', 'Glider Bank' and 'Marble Alley'. I was amazed that the children had 'Games' every day except Thursdays, when they had this rather strange afternoon of lessons called 'Hobbies'.

Through the years I saw so many changes; the building of Ness Hall - at the Opening Ceremony the Duke of Kent toured the school and we all had to be ready in our areas for his arrival. A pupil scurried ahead to warn us that he was on his way. Soon after I arrived Year 3 was added to the School, their classroom was the Prep School cloakroom which has also served as a library in its time. This was swiftly followed by the introduction of Pre-prep in what is now the Meetings Room. I had one quite challenging Reception class for half an hour every Thursday and I remember once taking them on to McRobert, and they all decided to go and hide in the bushes - I thought I was going to lose them all! Perhaps the biggest change was moving up the age range to Year 11 and I do feel very proud to have been involved with all the changes.

Over the years I have taught funny, talented, hardworking and sometimes challenging pupils and I have worked with some fantastic people with whom I share such happy memories, including Sports Days, swimming galas and trips to the Isle of Wight and many more. When I first arrived most of the children were 'Forces Boarders' and a number of the pupils were 'Foundationers' many of whose fathers had been either killed or invalided out of the RAF. It was a great privilege to be helping those families.

I will miss all the staff, pupils, the teaching and being part of such a 'family', past and present. But I won't miss the dark November mornings, report writing, telling the pupils it is not freezing cold in the middle of January when our hands are going blue. I have had a fantastic time leading and teaching in the Prep School and teaching PE. The School has changed and evolved but it remains the wonderful place I first drove up to all those years ago - my first drive along Peaslake Road seemed to go on forever. I have a special memory of my first view of the school, way before the time of Hogwarts, and even now if I suddenly spy the School on the hill, it makes me smile. Duke of Kent School will always have a very special place in my heart.

Cathy Wilson



And in their **spare time**



Becky Green (née Coady)

Our Head of Prep and Pre-prep, Becky Coady, married our Head of Activities and PE teacher, Matt Green, on 15th July 2017.



Sammie Plumridge (née Robson)

Our Deputy Nursery Manager, Sammie Robson, married Lee Plumridge on 29th October 2016.



Caroline Nicholson

Caroline Nicholson and her husband Andrew are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, Elsie Amanda, born on 17th August 2017 at 4.48pm, weighing 8lbs 14oz.



Tim Vallance-Webb

Chloe Faith was born to our Physics and RE teacher, Tim Vallance-Webb, and his wife, Georgie, on 1st December 2016.



Jilly Meyer and Lisa Lee

Former dancer and Pre-prep assistant, Jilly Myer, and Lisa Lee, the School's dance teacher, took part in Dame Vera Lynn's 100th birthday celebration at the London Palladium on Saturday 18th March. Jilly was invited to dance in the performance and Lisa assisted with the choreography at the event.



Lisa Walpole

Congratulations to Lisa Walpole who graduated from the Open University on 31st July 2017 with a BA (Hons) in Childhood and Youth Studies. She completed her studies in three years, whilst working full time at the School and is now training as a teacher in our Pre-prep.



Chris Finill

On Friday 28th October 2016, Sport Godalming held its annual awards ceremony where they recognised the sporting achievements of local athletes and volunteers. Our Bursar Chris Finill was nominated for Sports Personality of the Year Award and he won!

Chris was also presented with his Guinness World Record certificate at the Guinness offices in London on 5th May. The official citation reads: *'The most consecutive editions of the same World Marathon Majors marathon completed in under three hours is 33 and was achieved by Chris Finill (UK) at the London Marathon from 29 March 1981 to 21 April 2013. Chris Finill is a runner for Harrow Athletic Club, his fastest time was 2:28:27 in 1985 and his slowest time was 2:58:35 in 2013.'* Congratulations, Chris!

Year 11 Leavers' Dinner







GCSE Results Day

We have celebrated another superb set of results this year and are delighted to announce that 100% of our pupils achieved the benchmark of 5 GCSE passes including IGCSE English Language and Mathematics. Highlights this year include a great crop of results at A* and A grades: in Mathematics (76%), Spanish (71%), Design and Technology (67%) and English Literature (61%). As ever, while we are thrilled to see these stellar performances, we remain committed to an inclusive approach to education and are equally delighted to see effort rewarded at all levels, with some very hard won C grades also celebrated! As well as the Year 11 results, we saw top grades for all five of our Further Maths candidates and one Year 9 pupil, Max T, in German.

This year group has always had a sparkle about it and the students have held on to a sense of fun amid the serious business of study. They have relished being challenged without being under pressure. It has been wonderful to see them growing into young people of effort and purpose. They have worked and played hard here, contributing in every area of school life - including sport, charity work, creative and performing arts and leadership - with real enthusiasm and energy. Their achievements have been supported with tremendous professionalism by their teachers, working in close partnership with our parents.

Pleasing as these results are, they only tell a small part of the story of the Class of 2017. They have not only put a great deal of work into their academic endeavours but also into creating and nurturing their friendships, which have meant a great deal to them here and will, I trust, continue to do so in the years to come.

They leave us ready for adventures ahead, equipped to make a difference, and always keen to make the world around them a better place for others. We are so proud of their hard work and all that it has enabled them to achieve!

Judith Fremont-Barnes, Head





DUKE *of* KENT
SCHOOL

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