

The Review 2019



DUKE *of* KENT
SCHOOL

Head's Introduction

As I read through the pages of this year's Review, I am awash with memories of such a happy and productive year which has quite simply flown by. I would like to begin with a heartfelt thank you for embracing my family and me into the Duke of Kent School community. We have such happy memories of our very first week here, in January, in the middle of winter. Right from the start, we couldn't ignore the sense that this School truly is a magical place. That sense of magic weaves through the corridors and grounds every single day.

The memories of my first week are still vivid: enjoying hot chocolate with Pre-prep around the campfire in Forest School, listening to the Prep School pupils giving talks about special areas of interest, an assembly by Mrs Green on kindness, a theatre trip to see Macbeth with Year 9, a discussion with our Head Boy, Toby and Head Girl, Anna on their plans for the year, watching my first Duke of Kent School hockey match and attending a choir rehearsal. Wonderful! These memories will last a lifetime.

I wonder what memories our pupils will have of the year. Will it be the phenomenal production of "Made in Dagenham", the day trip to France, dressing up for Book Week, the team building activities at Sayers Croft, representing the School for the first time in a match, participating in a Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition or making a new friend, receiving an award for great work or being elected to the School Council? I hope that, as they leaf through this publication, they take time to reflect on the year and feel proud of what they have achieved.

As I have visited lessons throughout the year, I have been struck by the exceptional knowledge of our pupils and the way our teachers use their insight to develop students' learning. The focus on attitude to learning and teaching each child at their point of challenge is evident in every classroom. Whether creating squirrel picnic tables in the woods or a



lesson on how soil erosion and rain fall is affected by deforestation. Student engagement, enjoyment and application are visibly evident.

We are delighted for the outgoing Year 11 cohort that their hard work and approach to study was so successfully demonstrated in their GCSE results. So many personal victories shine out and we are proud to have sent a fine group of young people onto the next stage of their education.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Felix Macdonald for his leadership during the first term of 2018/19 as Interim Head. I know the pupils and staff benefitted hugely from his warm and wise leadership during a time of change. He was extremely well supported by Mr Tom Southee and Mr John Wilson and indeed the whole staff. The handover was seamless and enabled me to gain a good footing very quickly.

I hope that you will all enjoy this record of the year and reflect upon and celebrate the success and achievements of our community. It is proof of the incredible learning that has taken place for every pupil, be they 3 or 16, this past year. It is a privilege and inspiration to have been part of their journey.

Sue Knox
Head



Staff Farewells

Tillie Williams

We say a warm farewell to Tillie Williams who has been at the School for five years. She had a lovely manner with both pupils and colleagues; her humour and easy going nature were contagious. Her main role was to support one individual which she did with unfailing commitment and extraordinary dedication. She also supported pupils throughout the age range both in the classroom and on an individual basis, including giving Study Skills sessions to Senior pupils and assisting a day a week in Nursery. She will be much missed by the year groups she worked with, but also by staff; she was an invaluable resource in the staffroom where her top tips on holiday destinations or crossword clues made many a coffee break entertaining.

Thank you Tillie for being so dedicated and for bringing a sense of joy and humour to all you did. We wish you luck in all your future endeavours and please know that you are welcome to come back at any time and drink out of one of the many mugs you have donated to the staffroom.

Caroline Instone Head of Learning Development





Megan Godfrey

Megan Godfrey joined the staff team at Duke of Kent School for the 2018-19 academic year. She was a student at the School two years prior to this, when she found out about the Sports Assistant role and she was very keen to come back and see school life from a different perspective! Megan fitted in wonderfully straight away and helped the PE Department with great organisation, enthusiasm and kindness throughout the year. The pupils responded brilliantly to Miss Godfrey's teaching and she managed to steer the girls' sports teams to many victories! We thank Megan very much for her wonderful contribution to the PE Department and to the wider school community. We wish her the best of luck as she starts her new chapter at Oxford Brookes University studying Events Management.

Josie Vickers Head of Girls' Games



Rory Burwood

Rory started at Duke of Kent School in September 2016. He began as a graduate assistant in the PE Department and went on to successfully complete his IPGCE. His commitment to the PE Department was exceptional in his time at the School. He showed an ability to teach a whole range of sports and was a very helpful and caring teacher. We are all sad to see Rory leave but we wish him all the very best in his new post at Frensham Heights School.

Graham Herbert Director of Sport



From the Bursary

It is a great pleasure to have been asked to contribute to the Review magazine this year, and in doing so, I thought I would reflect on the fantastic work of members of our Operations Team, whose enormous contribution ensures that the School functions efficiently and effectively, all year round.

As I am writing, the School is bathed in late summer sunshine and the grounds look immaculate, with sports pitches cut and rolled, and the culmination of the Grounds Team's hard work throughout the whole year. A splash of yellow at the front entrance to welcome visitors, as well as the School community, only endorses that horticulture is thriving in the Surrey Hills.

Scanning the plate in front of me, containing an egg and mayo sandwich, surreptitiously acquired from the Meetings Room ahead of match teas, I am reminded of our excellent catering staff and the meals they prepare and serve throughout the day, as well as for hospitality events. During the summer holidays we welcomed new Chef Manager, Rob Hanvey, who has replaced Jason Taylor-Bowers, and we wish them both every success in their new roles. Following the pupil food survey, which provided valuable insights into our pupils' food preferences, I have already tasked Rob to review the menu choices.

There was great excitement from parents and pupils when the refurbished changing rooms were revealed at the beginning of the 2019 Autumn Term. This project was conceived two weeks before the start of the summer holidays and completed within eight weeks. Internally the refurbishments included new walls, ceilings, floors, heating, benching, lockers, doors and re-decoration and externally, new lighting, fascia/soffits and cladding. Mrs Knox

teased the School community with a number of tweets to communicate our progress along the way, and on completion one parent was heard to say "Well what are we going to complain about now?" This was a fantastic outcome to a project that was brilliantly managed by the Contractors and our Facilities Team.

The School is also very fortunate to have dedicated and hardworking staff in Human Resources and Compliance, IT, nursing, cleaning and minibus driving. In total over thirty staff work in the Operations function.

During the year I was delighted to meet with pupils from the Sustainability Committee and we discussed how the School could reduce its carbon footprint. The first initiative we implemented was to dispense with purchasing plastic water bottles, with pupils bringing in their own refillable water containers. This has reduced our plastic waste by 3000 bottles each year and I hope is just the start of further initiatives.

When I joined the School five years ago as Assistant to Chris Finill our Finance Bursar, he told me that "no two days are the same" and this sums up the nature of working in Operations, and indeed the enjoyment of the role. Managing and working within a team so varied in tasks and skill sets, requires very good advice. I always refer to my bible, written by Texas Bix Bender entitled 'Don't Squat With Your Spurs on – a Cowboy's Guide to Life', in which one of my favourite quotes is 'If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there'. There is no 'I' in team and trust me, I have checked with the English department...

Keith Stacey Operations Bursar

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A Few of This Year's Outstanding Moments...

Winning the 2018 ISA award for Excellence in the Performing Arts



World Book Day costumes and senior school pupils applauding and creating a passage way for prep school pupils to walk through



Winning the PGL Netball Tournament



The whole school flash mob performance of our School Song at Parents Day



GCSE Results



Prep School Disco



GLive and the Senior Chamber Choir's performance of Ola Gjeilo's Ubi Caratas



Tanzania Project selection day, with beautiful presentations displaying understanding, empathy and excitement, which made choosing the successful candidates incredibly difficult



Evening of Original Works



U11 boys winning the regional 5-a-side football finals and making it through to the national finals at England's training camp at St George's Park, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire



Whole School Assembly given by Oxford University students, Simon from Colombia and Tsyon from Ethiopia



Seeing Prep and Pre-prep pupils work side-by-side to create characters and storylines on Literacy Day



Gardening Activity Group's first tomatoes



Waste Assembly by the Prep School Council



Wind in the Willows



Reception pupils releasing butterflies into the wild and seeing them soaring into a clear blue sky



Peaslake Remembrance event



Hands on History



Made in Dagenham



Senior School Review

The Senior School continues to thrive as an exciting and evolving body, with new events appearing alongside our more established celebrations. These are not a homogenous bunch of students and with that in mind we are continually trying to diversify, expanding the range of opportunities we provide so as to hopefully find the activity that sparks a lifetime interest in the individual. We have pianists, poets, guitarists, trombonists, national award winning athletes, cyclists, netballers, singers, actors, political analysts.... a whole host of interests and talents so vast that we have to continually evolve our provision so as to ensure we are catering appropriately for all.

Our School Council has continued to flourish and provides a necessary mouthpiece for the students. A number of changes have been implemented based upon feedback from student council representatives, such as the purchase of indoor table tennis tables, increasing music and drama provision and changing the usage of some indoor spaces. They have also led a campaign to reduce wastage in the dining room,

meeting with the catering team to agree common goals, and played a prominent role in the design of the newly improved changing rooms.

The Prefect Team has gone from strength to strength; ably led by our Head Boy Toby H and Head Girl Anna D. As well as acting as positive role models to the School they have led assemblies, supported the Games Department at Sports Day, played a prominent role in the Charities Committee, chaired School Council meetings and organised a rolling rota of support in the Pre-prep Department. This last task has been particularly well supported by volunteers from years 9 to 11 and reinforces the integration of different year groups, something we feel is vitally important in establishing our school as one community rather than a hierarchy of different groups.

We also have a number of people who have raised small fortunes for charitable causes close to their hearts. Martha M once again held her annual Macmillan bake sale, ably supported by the baking skills of

many of her year group and their parents. The Year 10 Charity Committee hosted an annual fundraiser involving a number of teachers being soaked to the bone by suspiciously large sponges. The School also supported a senior pupil to go to Mexico, to assist with a house building project during the Easter holidays, and continues to encourage a wide range of other personal charitable ventures within the school community.

It has not only been a busy year within the school walls but also beyond our boundaries with countless enriching trips. Highlights included the outstanding performances of the Key Stage Three and Four teams at the SATRO Problem Solving Competition and the Year 9 Enterprise Day at Notre Dame School where students joined forces to compete in a variety of business themed challenges. We have also welcomed a number of guest speakers to the School with regular career assemblies from those working in a wide range of settings. Our Languages Day has continued to grow with dressing up and themed activities, such as flamenco dancing workshops, allowing the students a chance to experience some of the cultural differences discussed. We were also lucky to welcome a visiting German teacher, Frau Mack, to join us for a week and allow the children to find out a little more about how schooling in Germany differed from our own. World Book Day continued to be a huge success with many students and staff passionately presenting reasons for their favourite books.

Trips to the Design Museum in London, the Booth Museum in Brighton, the Hendon Air Museum and the Houses of Parliament have looked to inspire pupils to consider what their role may be in the future. Students also got the chance to look into a variety of jobs at the Sandown National Apprenticeship Show as well as visiting universities and sixth form colleges as they choose their paths beyond Duke of Kent School.

Within the History department students have created WWI exhibits to support the Peaslake Remembers Event in November (recognising the Great War

centennial) as well as welcoming the 'Hands On History' team who provided a wonderful interactive display of weaponry through time. In Geography a residential trip to the Jurassic Coast allowed students to collect relevant GCSE data whilst experiencing one of the most stunning areas of the British coastline. The Duke of Edinburgh Award has seen more participants than ever before and a variety of weather events have added to the challenge! The English Department has been visiting a plethora of stage shows in a range of theatres, taking in the Globe, the Piccadilly and the Mayflower, to name but three.

Outside the classroom the ever popular ballet activity has competed in various competitions with growing success. The trail running club held its inaugural 'three peaks challenge' Event, scaling the three highest peaks in the Surrey Hills in Holmbury Hill, Leith Hill and Pitch Hill. Other activities such as dungeons and dragons club and the mountain biking club continue to thrive as students look to get involved in the wide range of activities on offer.

These are just a snapshot of the many memories the year has produced. We are hugely proud of the Senior School students and their achievements this year but are nonetheless continually looking at how we can further stimulate their interest and support their learning with more trips and upcoming events. We look forward to another busy year!

John Wilson Head of Senior School



The Role of the Senior Form Tutor

Being a form tutor can be one of the most fulfilling, as well as the most frustrating, aspects of a Senior School teacher's remit. On some days you only see your tutees for fifteen minutes. In that time you will give out letters that offer once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, debate precisely what 'knee length' really means, make eye contact with the girl who recently lost her family dog, check that ties are appropriately adjusted, assess reports, take in sponsor money, remind the latecomers that you need to see them at break and complete the register, before hurriedly chasing them out the door.

The role of the form tutor is hugely important and one that is not underestimated at Duke of Kent School. They are the first to greet students in the morning, the first to wish them well, first to receive crucial news regarding changes to personal circumstances and they set the tone for the rest of the day. The primary responsibility as form tutor is to build positive relationships and to model behaviour that promotes our core values of Honesty, Kindness, Effort, Respect and Responsibility. Form tutors are in a privileged position, nurturing students through a hugely eventful stage in their lives, as well as watching them blossom into fine young people. They are aware of friendship patterns, family structures, leisure interests, contents of student records, social development, problems at home and school, and relationships with other students and staff.

The form tutor is central in both caring for students and, crucially, monitoring their progress academically and socially; encouraging involvement, commitment, and high standards of work and behaviour. They have access to records of sanctions and rewards given to their tutees and look to retain an open dialogue, celebrating the stars and commendations whilst discussing how to avoid future debits or stripes. They monitor and review their students' progress across the curriculum using all the data provided and step in to assist when needed. They also try to help.

Critically they also act as a conduit of information, providing a link between other teachers and home as well as between their tutees and subject teachers. They will regularly bring vital information to the staff morning briefing regarding their tutees and their wellbeing, whilst also looking to keep parents fully involved regarding academic progress and any behavioural concerns. This flow of information is crucial in ensuring the child is at the centre of our thinking, so that they can be treated as an individual and have their needs as such met.

The form tutor also delivers Personal, Social and Health Education to the class and is therefore a hugely important influence in their learning of life skills and many of the most important aspects of a young person's education. It is undoubtedly a stressful job at times but also a privileged and rewarding one which allows a true insight into a student's personality and interests.

John Wilson Head of Senior School





Enterprise Day

In March, we joined forces once again with Notre Dame School in Cobham, for our annual Year 9 Enterprise Day. The students, looking very smart in their business clothes, worked in groups with the girls from Notre Dame, as part of an activity based learning event provided by Bright Futures Experience.

The presenters from Bright Futures led them in a variety of business themed challenges. The pupils quickly got to know their fellow team members and integrated well into their new roles. One task involved designing and making a roller coaster ride, during which some very imaginative ideas evolved and some great team work went into producing a variety of successful rides. Another activity involved a fast paced business game aimed at developing their enterprising and entrepreneurial skills. At the end of the afternoon each team presented a pitch for their roller coaster rides, with Mrs Knox acting as a guest judge.

Emma Coackley Head of Mathematics





Water Sports Day for Year 7 Pupils

On a very hot and sunny, penultimate day of the Summer Term, Year 7 pupils travelled to Mercers Country Park near Redhill to take part in a water sports activity day.

'We took part in five activities across the day. One of our favourites was the sailing. Charlie already knew how to sail but it was a first time for Will. We sailed Picos, which was a good sized boat to sail. We also tried our hand at kayaking which was arguably our favourite thing. We played some games and the instructors were good fun. We then had the choice to do either paddle boarding or windsurfing. Charlie chose windsurfing because he had never done it before. He fell in loads! Will did paddle boarding which he also found a challenge but really fun! After lunch we bought some ice-creams, which helped cool us all down. The grand finale in the afternoon was building rafts and sailing them. Some were more successful than others! Overall it was a really good day and everyone enjoyed it.'

Charlie N and Will P Year 7

Outstanding Work

Freedom

Freedom is the rhythm of speech,
The freedom to teach each other to preach and outreach,
To speak up when in a minority breach,
Oppression is just a norm to un-teach,
A practice to be bleached,
Practiced by leeches seeking to breach the peace between ethnic communities,
Forcing them into poverty rottenly in all of their entirety
To be free is to see the sea of detainees in shackles,
Locked up in a reality castle having to tussle,
With sweat and muscle against the oppressive hustle of the oppressive buckle,
Locking up opinions made by a free mind blind to the signs of a twisted order,
A hoarder of freedom is the first name of suppression,
A succession to the repression of humanitarian progression,
True freedom is not to be free,
But to understand the crumbling debris of freedom of speech,
To be pursued is to experience pursuit,
The pursuit of your own cultural roots,
An everyday fight in life for a spot in the light
'Till as one race we win the struggle,
Push back the rubble,
And rid us of this blight,
This dark night,
Despite the lack of right,
True freedom will not yet bear true sight to its bright,
And heavenly light.

Oscar B. Year 10

The Moor

The life of the moor continues as autumn becomes winter, and winter, in turn, becomes Spring. Silence holds the moorland in a gentle embrace.

Secluded springs gush with water, feeding the surging streams and cascading rivulets with new life - the veins of the moor, flooding vitality into a dead winter landscape. Spring decorates the crumbling stone walls with garlands of bluebells and snowdrops, the tangled thickets of gorse, erupting with yellow flowers, adorn the barren moors with gold.

Untroubled by humanity, the moor lives as it always has done, the one road connecting it with the outside world weathered by the pounding winter rain and gradually becoming overgrown with creeping vegetation.

Occasionally, the peace is disturbed by the low rumblings of a tractor. A farmer will graze some cattle there, or come to check on their crops. Once they leave, silence once again wraps the moor in its gentle embrace, the sweet scent of spring floating lightly on the air.

Only one man lives here now, a relic of the moor's once animated community. Cancer has taken a toll on his body, and he is content to spend the rest of his days here, where he has always lived, the home of his parents and grandparents, relying on the charity of friends and acquaintances to drive him to his hospital appointments, to church and to the shops.

He had a dog, his only companion, the only source of vivacity in his lonesome life. Cancer got hold of him too, but he was not as lucky.

Sometimes he thinks he hears a familiar bark, and turns with joy expecting to see his old friend. All he sees is the rugged heathland, coloured with the bright tones of Spring, and he hears only the gentle breeze sweeping through the thick branches of ancient pine trees.

He likes to feed the birds now; they help him pass the time alone.

Alone. Until silence wraps him too in its gentle embrace.

James F. Year 10





Prep School

Endeavour Award

An exciting rebrand occurred in the Prep School this year and this was the introduction of the Endeavour Award.

The creative curriculum has made way for a new and pioneering initiative which will allow all pupils in Years 4, 5, and 6 to accrue nine badges. They have two attempts at each badge throughout their time in the Prep School, and their efforts during these attempts culminate in a 'Prep School Medal' (bronze, silver or gold) being awarded in Year 6.

The nine badges pupils are aiming to achieve are:

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

Each component (badge) manifests as a half term project within the classroom; pupils are able to explore and develop life skills which encourage them to broaden their understanding of the world around them and, importantly, themselves. The breadth of badges they tackle ensures a wide range of topics, disciplines, issues and influences can be covered, depending on how they interpret the brief. Whatever the badge, children can develop their ideas and projects in their own way, making every outcome unique.

We take pride in the fact that the Award has been created with the School's reflective ethos at its heart. It will continue to foster both an autonomous and collaborative approach in each child; they must be prepared to research, create and present on their own as well as share the workload and successes of their peers.

At the beginning of the year, each pupil was given a passport which they will keep, and use to record their journey through the Endeavour Award. The passport will include their reflections and the colour (signifying their efforts) which they have been awarded for each project. This aspect of the Award has proved popular with the pupils, and is an extremely valuable part of the reflection process at the end of each half term.

In this preliminary year, the pupils have already proved themselves enthusiastic and committed to each badge: Year 5 thrived in the organisation of the Prep School Disco as part of their 'Community Service Badge'; Year 6 created activities, such as Easter-egg

hunts and football drills for Pre-prep; one group even cleaned some school minibuses (much to the delight of our drivers!); Year 4 rose to the challenge of learning new, or developing existing skills, ranging from origami and calligraphy, to learning Welsh and Norwegian for their 'Skill Development' badge. One of the highlights of the course this year was the fantastically successful Prep School Christmas Fayre. Pupils explored their entrepreneurial endeavour as they were given a £10 budget to design and execute a stall or fayre game, to raise as much money as possible for our chosen charities.

The Award advocates child-led learning and autonomy, but it also, crucially, places a large emphasis on collaboration. Group projects have demonstrated that pupils are constantly developing vital communicative skills: listening, negotiating and compromising. The learning environments which the children have created are extremely positive and encourage them to support each other, even when undertaking an individual project.

To model the importance of the collaborative and dynamic spirit of the Endeavour Award, we as members of staff, have been working in partnership with the pupils to continue to develop this subject in its infancy. Pupils have had the opportunity to give their honest feedback in surveys at the end of every half term; their valued contributions are helping to shape the Award's development. Most recently, the pupils have been making suggestions for the requirements to reach a 'gold' standard.

The launch of the Endeavour Award has been extremely successful, so much so that we have been short-listed for an Independent Schools Award in the category of 'Prep School Award for Academic Excellence and Innovation'. We look forward to the evolution and development of our Endeavour Award in upcoming years. Many thanks must go to the dedicated pupils and staff for all the hard work, patience and enthusiasm which has led to the creation and establishment of a truly unique subject.

"The new Endeavour Award has afforded children an opportunity to decide what they want to learn about; it's been fantastic to see them use that greater freedom to explore their personal interests, passions, skills and curiosities." Mr Wright, Year 6 Teacher.

"I have enjoyed that we have the freedom to make our own decisions and work with different people" Isabelle, Year 4.

"It felt good to be allowed to make our own decisions and having responsibility and freedom" Annabelle, Year 4.

"The freedom to have my own opinion and guide my own learning has helped my confidence and given me a lot to feel proud of." Ella, Year 6.

"I think Endeavour Award helps you become better at something you wanted to and it lets you have your own freedom and lets you grow as your own person" Jack, Year 4.

"It has made me more aware of the world" Chester, Year 4.

"It's given me better ideas on how to get round challenges" Henry, Year 5.

"Endeavour Award has helped me improve my planning and how I work as part of a group" Rufus, Year 6.

Rebecca Green Head of Prep and Pre-prep

Creative Writing

The children in Prep School have, as ever, displayed wondrous imagination and creativity in their writing this year.

As part of their Spring half-term holiday work, Levi L in Year 3 entered the BBC Radio 2 '500 Words' story writing competition and his entry which made it through to the second round of judging. Well done, Levi! Below is an excerpt from his story, **The Angel's Holiday**

' "I've been standing on this hill for 20 years! There's a big world out there but I haven't seen anything apart from fields, traffic jams and the same animals day after day." It was obvious that the Angel of the North was very unhappy and dreaming of adventure. She heard visitors talking about a magical place, "apparently there's another statue called Liberty even more colossal than me." Angel needed a break and a friend! "If I'm quick I can get there and back before visitors arrive tomorrow! Everybody thinks that statues can't move, but I can." She decided to make the difficult journey to New York. Night finally arrived and no one was around. It was a good time to leave and she could disappear quietly. She stretched and creaked as she pulled both legs from the concrete. Just as she took the first step she saw a glowing light in the pitch black. It was the Watchman. She froze in an awkward position with one knee up in the air. "That's not in the correct place, hmm, I must've got it wrong, because the Angel can't move" said the old man as he dawdled off into the night. She started walking slowly, then ran down the hill, up the construction ramp and rose up majestically. The moon was shining brightly in the night sky, it was incredible. She flew until she reached a bright city with thousands of street lamps. She tried to avoid huge skyscrapers by dipping her wings right and left. "What are these huge blocks, they're bigger than me." In the countryside, she saw different trees where birds nested. Owls stared at her and hooted. She passed rivers with fish jumping out of the water. On she went happily enjoying these wonderful sights.'

Below are excerpts from two more of our pupils' entries:

Christmas for Some, by Ozzie H (Year 6)

'The walls of the courtyard were normally dull and weary, yet the lights from the joyous stalls shone brightly everywhere around. The sweet smell could pull anyone in from a mile away, it was heaven itself. The cold night air was as black as coal. The horses on the merry-go-round looked lifeless yet they were jam-packed with colour and beckoned children in. Slowly, snowflakes started to fall. The symmetrical, majestic discs fell like tiny parachutes. Silently, the old man watched the fair in full swing. His hair was as white as the snow, his beard was a waterfall, long and swishing and his eyes were sapphires in a sea of darkness. He was bright with optimism, but battered and bruised with all of the events of the past he had lived through. He was an owl, watching everyone, but never being watched. He was alone.'

Nightmare Night, by Pippa S (Year 6)

'Thunder crashed as it echoed around the valley. Rain rattled on the window as the storm thrashed outside. Tabitha lay in her bed, looking out of the window, watching as the wind howled around the old building. Was there something else out there? It certainly felt eerie tonight. The clock on her bedside table said 3am and she'd hardly slept a wink. As she watched, a monstrous figure appeared within the winds – a swirling mass of arms and legs.'

On Literacy Day, in February, 126 children, 21 members of staff and one inspiring author came together in the most wonderfully collaborative fashion. First of all, Pre-prep pupils created countless hordes of skulduggery monsters and an equally strong throng of shiny brave heroes to repel them. Prep pupils subsequently set about bringing these character creations to life with some extraordinary settings and plots, culminating in 22 stories that most certainly



have to be read, but quite possibly can't be believed. All of the final four shortlisted stories amused and entertained the judges hugely, but **Heeser and the Purple Mountains**, written by Kai G (Y6), Henry C (Y5) and Rose S (Y4), was crowned the eventual winner for Chichester.

'Our story begins in a normal town. Close by in a cosy home sat Heeser, his hair as blue as the sapphire sea. He thought to himself: with my power of healing and slick blue hair, I'm undefeatable, take me on if you dare. Meanwhile, in the mountains, so tall and steep, looking down on the ocean, dark, dangerous and deep, was Syrena, waiting patiently. Waiting for who, though?

I should have mentioned by now that Heeser is a perfectly normal person or to some extent at least. What I'm trying to say is he owns a dog who he has an immense love for. So, inevitably, it was his duty to walk her. As he left his cosy home, like he would on an average day, a scaly hand reached out. He tried to keep it at bay but it effortlessly lifted him and he was carried over rolling hills, through minor settlements, past shimmering seas until, finally, they reached the purple mountains. They were greeted by the tall, the vicious, the twelve-eyed monster Syrena. Heeser

found himself in a lightless cavern, full of anger and hopelessness.

"I know something that nobody else knows" squeaked a voice. "The monster Syrena and his accomplices have one weakness." Heeser waited patiently. "Broccoli." Heeser punched the air in triumph. As luck would have it, broccoli was Heeser's favourite food, coincidentally, when he had left home for his dog walk he had gone prepared with a picnic – of broccoli salad!

That night, as Heeser was paraded into the grand dining cavern, he saw rows upon rows of the great monsters, all eating hungrily. History was waiting to be written; the famous caverns of the purple mountains had never been escaped before, but the moment Heeser threw the veg up into the air, in a trice the monsters fled.

After a long, rainy journey over rolling hills, through minor settlements and past shimmering seas, Heeser arrived back in the comfort of his home. He opened his bedroom door, flopped down with his dog, and lay still as a log, and very soon they were both dreaming great dreams.'

Chris Wright Deputy Head of Prep and Pre-prep

Year 6 Final Assembly

As is customary, Year 6 pupils bade farewell to the Prep School during the last week of the Summer Term, with a final assembly which was both inspiring and reflective. They recounted some of their most cherished memories and achievements, and spoke warmly of their teachers to whom they presented awards. They also demonstrated sensitivity towards each other in affectionately recognising the contribution of their peers. To send them on their way up to Senior School, their teachers shared some words of wisdom in the form of Rudyard Kipling's well-known poem 'If', which Mr Wright had adapted with something of a Duke of Kent School twist:

Rebecca Green Head of Prep and Pre-prep



Year 6 'If' (abridged version)

If you can keep your head, when all around are losing theirs
At swimming galas, G-Live and those crazy Christmas Fayres,
If you can get through double Maths and English on a Thursday,
And not be too embittered that it's happened on your Birthday.

If you know when your music lesson's timetabled each week,
To save your music teacher endless games of 'hide 'n' seek',
If you remember that you have your spelling test on Fridays,
But there won't be one next week, because you're making pie for Pi Day.

If you can learn your lesson from mistakes you'll surely make,
Like running down the link, or trying to sneak a second cake,
If you now know that teachers can spot unwashed hands from miles,
Not from dirt on fingers but from sideways looks and smiles.

If you can make it four years without losing gloves or wellies,
In the deadly depths, the greedy guts of clothes-filled cloakroom bellies,
If you still have your coat and waterproofs in school post-May,
Because, as rumour has it, there ARE rainy summer days.

If you can hold doors open, allowing others past,
Knowing that you'll get there, even if you're not so fast,
If you can hold your head up high, proud to do your best,
Aware your teachers value you beyond your scores in tests.

If you can find it in your heart to say you're sorry first,
To show a friend you care enough to stop things getting worse.
If you have lent an empathetic ear to hear them griping,
Of bake-off woes, dodgy doughs and less than perfect piping.

If you can navigate the choppy seas of Year 6 prep,
And always have your iPad charged – that slippery Next Step,
If you can stand for Council rep and not be voted in,
Then support those who succeeded and the next year stand again.

If you can climb your Next Steps, three by three by three,
Don't twang rulers, check your work, change quicker for PE,
If you embrace your challenges, help others embrace theirs,
You'll step forward with each other, not up steps, but flights of stairs.

If you can do all this, then you're a perfect Prep School child,
Without a fault, you're blemish free, ahead in guts and guile,
But I'm afraid we don't believe you, for perfection can't be reached,
Regardless of the perfect way you've-been brung up or taught.

Instead we think that if you have a go, try hard, aim high,
That if you strive to reach your goals, the limit is the sky,
For you'll turn out better people - just like we've all done,
And along the way you'll make great friends and hopefully have fun.

Art Room Philosophy

Key to the success of the Art Department at Duke of Kent School, is our reflection of the innovation found in the breadth and depth of contemporary fine art practice; breadth, in the disciplines and processes used by contemporary fine artists, and depth in the fusion and cross-fertilisation of visual forms and traditions from around the world and across the centuries.

The Art Department integrates this with the School's Growth Mindset approach. We encourage independent learning to foster the belief that, through hard work and application, all students can enjoy and progress in the Arts.

This ethos runs through an Art curriculum that forms a continuum of experience for students from Year 3 to Year 11 to build on technical ability, establish contextual, cultural and historical understanding, and cultivate an individualised creative process. This is achieved through a project based approach that echoes the GCSE and A level examination criteria. Discussion and understanding are also key aspects, and Art lessons are regularly given over to Philosophy for Children. These student-led philosophical enquiries use artwork as a starting point. Recent enquiries have included 'is photography truth?', 'was Da Vinci right to hide his designs?' and 'what is beauty?'

The Department space runs as a studio rather than a traditional classroom, becoming at once a photography studio, printmaking workshop, digital suite, sculpture studio and photographic darkroom. This studio space shifts and changes to meet the needs of the students and their projects, and leads to a cross-fertilisation of ideas. For example, this year a GCSE student drew influence from Year 4 wire work projects and one Year 9 group asked to explore Pop Art after seeing a Year 10 final piece. In this innovative, creative space traditional printing, painting and sculptural work complement non-traditional approaches, such as wire sculpture, mixed media printmaking, digital image manipulation, outdoor

sculpture, textiles and costume. We see drawing as a key process in Fine Art but steer students away from a narrow understanding of this important tool, often taking a non-traditional approach, using techniques such as water painting, blind drawing, subtractive processes, expressive mark making, single line work, 3 dimensional life work and collaborative drawing.

It is incredibly important to us that students understand that Art can be made and appreciated beyond the walls of the Art Studio. As students journey out of the Studio they immediately come across the 'Doodle Board'. This black boarded wall is an opportunity for students to draw and express themselves visually. It is a community space in which self-expression and respect for others go hand in hand, as students share wall space and ideas. Moving into the School, students' artwork adorns the walls. Work from across the age and ability range is represented, and hard work and progress are celebrated alongside excellence of outcome. Outside in the School's ample, rural grounds, ceramic sculptures adorn the wild flower borders, among them 'Giant Coil Pot Stalagmites' and 'Grotesques' based on Da Vinci's series of drawings of the same name. The outdoor space that we have, offers a wealth of opportunity for artistic exploration and over the last year has been used for photography, landscape watercolour painting, printmaking, cyanotype printing and organic form drawings, used to create repeat pattern wallpapers, to name but a few.

So inspiring is our setting that it often forms the starting point for our annual Artist in Residence. Last year's visitors, collaborative environmental artists Olli&Suzie, used the immediate surroundings to work with students from across the school. Using a variety of media and experimental drawing processes, they joined students in responding to the environment, working intuitively and often collaboratively on large scale pieces. They have built on a wealth of talents



of those who have taken up this post over the last few years, including Olympic Flame and London Bus designers from Heatherwick Studios, realist portrait artist Maureen Domoney and human rights photographer Giles Dooley.

Giles Dooley's appointment marked the starting point of the Department's investment in photography and digital art. His project took students into the local community spending time with the residents of a local nursing home. Here they recorded the residents' memories and experiences with photography and reflective writing. The project culminated in the production of a book, 'Tea and Biscuits', and an exhibition of the students' work, alongside Giles at Cranleigh Arts Centre. From this auspicious starting point, photography has grown to become a key tool in the Department, not just as an outcome in itself, but as a way to develop ideas and support an innovative, fine art process. At GCSE this year, photography has been developed towards painting, installation, sculpture and silkscreen printing. It is also used in a similar way through the KS2 and KS3 curricula, with good examples, the Year 4 photographic response to Karl Blossfeldt's work and Year 6's digital exploration on the theme, 'Elements of Art'.

Just as the Giles Dooley residency brought students into the local community we continue to use the local area as an innovative resource. Recent community projects have included in situ clay sketches of the local high street and sound sculptures based on the bustle of the local market place. We recognise that the people and organisations that make up our local community are also a great inspiration. To this end we have visited the studios of local watercolourist Alexander Creswell, recently commissioned by Prince Charles to record the royal wedding, and Maureen Domoney, whose portraiture draws on the characters of the local community. In the upcoming academic year students will be working with local willow artist, Judith Needham, who sources her materials from the local area and intends to augment these with organic

materials harvested from our immediate woodland setting.

Beyond the Art curriculum students from Year 3 upwards are encouraged to explore their own areas of artistic interest. The Department has an open door policy where students can work on their own projects with the support of staff. Perhaps the most diverse example this year was the construction of a giant origami tank complete with spray painted stencil markings. In addition, we are hosts to a number of clubs run by teachers whose professional life may not bring them to the Art Studio, but whose interests and passions do. This has resulted in clubs as diverse as 'Wildlife Photography', 'Silkscreen Printing', 'Mural Painting', 'Guitar Building', 'Film Making', 'Textiles' and 'Drawing'. Competitions abound and are a tool we use well to draw students into the Department. This includes the annual 'Photographer of the Year' competition as well as popup competitions such as this years 'Design a Monster', 'Make an African Mask' and 'Illustrate the Jabberwocky' competitions.

The Department also looks for innovative ways to approach trips and visits. The aim here is to encourage active engagement rather than a passive approach to viewing art. These include our Brighton photography walk, a postcard from the Tate Modern where students posted their visual responses back to the School, a day of drawing at the Booth Museum, and rubber band sketchbooks made in response to work in The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden. Many of the innovations outlined above are spontaneous moments, existing fleetingly in the creative space the Department facilitates. Others are recorded for posterity and can be found on our departmental website. However, our approach is perhaps best summed up in a recent quote from a GCSE Art student, talking with friends as she entered the Art Studio, '...you never know what's going to happen when you come in here.'

Michael Watson Head of Art and Design



GCSE Art

Anna D

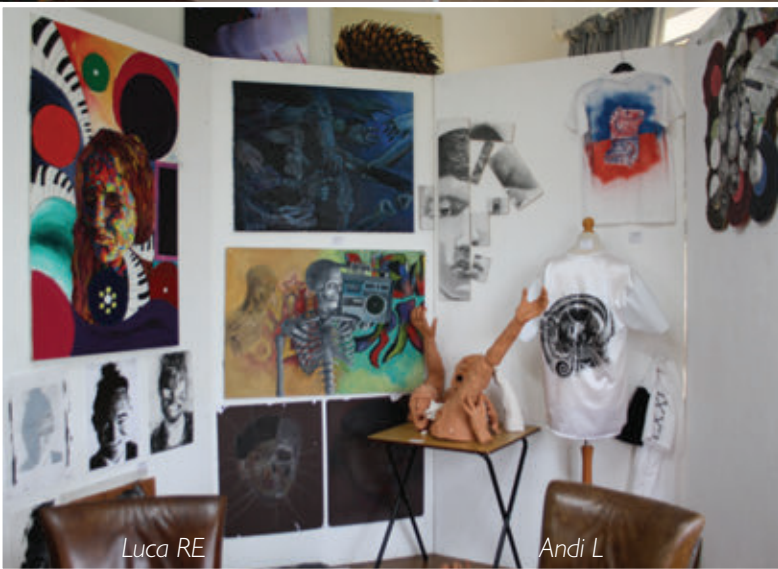
Lucy W

Ava H



Ava H

Luca RE



Luca RE

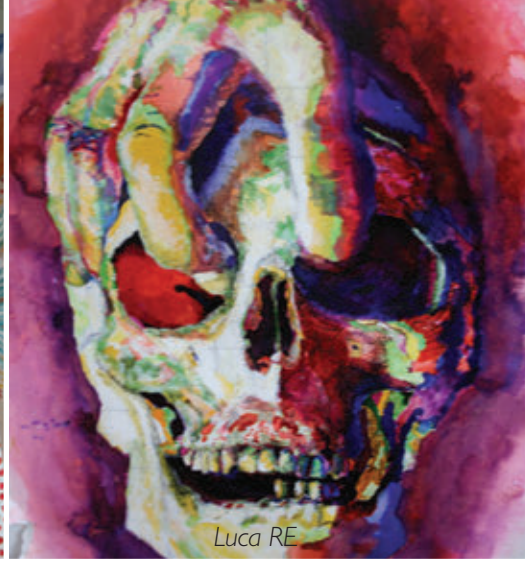
Andi L



Max T



Caitlin P



Luca RE



Ava H



Ava H



Willow C



Willow C



Andi L



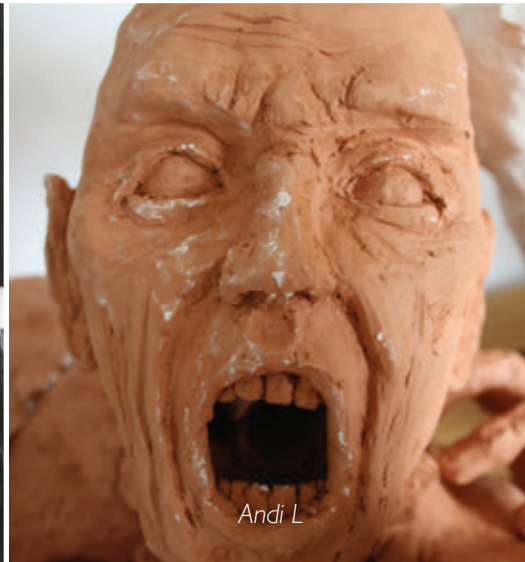
Anna D



Caitlin P



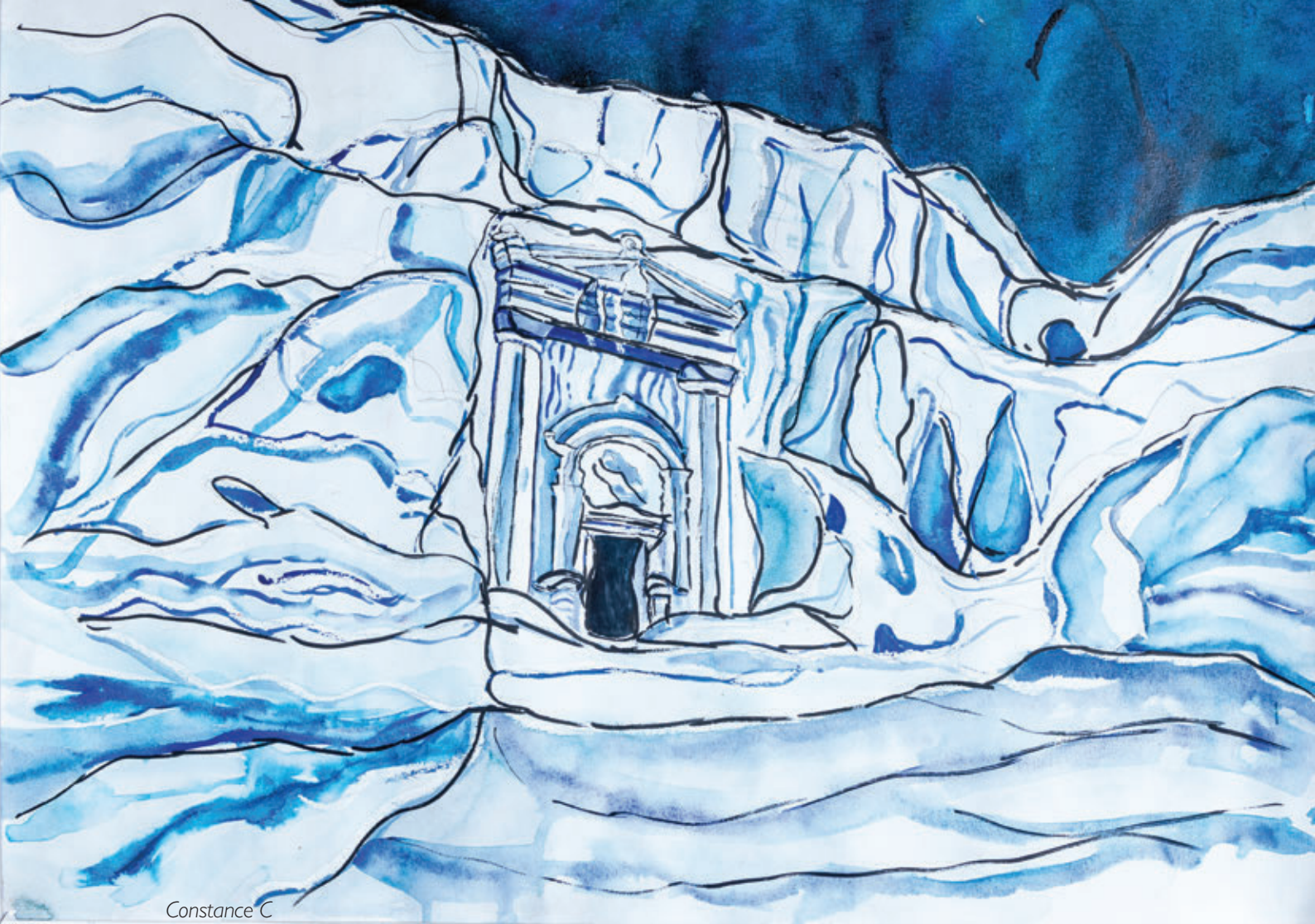
Caitlin P



Andi L



Luca RE



Photography Trip to Brighton

It is almost 200 years since Joseph Nicéphore Niépce took the world's First Photograph from an upstairs window in his house in the Burgundy region of France. In that moment the world changed forever. Time was frozen, only to melt, almost at once in the development of the moving image. This sibling of photography has dwarfed its older brother, a modern storyteller that we invite into our living rooms every evening, from Hollywood to Bollywood. However, the humble still photograph continues to hold a silent power. It has led us to question the great institutions of Western art, raising, as John Berger postulated in his seminal book on modern art; new 'Ways of Seeing'. Broadening our horizons, encouraging us to look to other cultures for a new way of representing the world, its power is no more exemplified than when it has been used to capture the grisly reality of war. Here, photography arguably has done more than any man to re-frame our perceptions of and understanding of war. One need only glance at the reportage of the Vietnam War to understand its impact.

Despite being able to freeze a moment, as Peter Wollen observed in this 1984 thesis 'Fire and Ice', this medium has never stood still. Technologically it has changed and developed over the last 100 years more than any other artistic media; so advanced now that we all casually toss this magical tool into our back pockets and the bottoms of our purses. But do we truly understand its power?

It is important that our students understand this photography as literate consumers and effective producers. This has never been more important than now. We live in a world where the photographic image is more pervasive than ever and increases in sophistication almost daily. Last year's photographic exploration of Brighton, by a handful of students who have demonstrated an interest in photography, set out to do just that. Students considered how to document this varied city, from its beach front to the iconic Laines, taking in the detail of the 'Chocky Wocky Do Da' window to seagulls fighting over chips on the old piers! They considered effective composition, angles and framing techniques and were introduced to Cartier-Bresson's candid street photography style.

The results are a collection of highly personalised, responsive photographs, which reflect our students' observations of this eclectic, diverse city. Rounded off with fish and chips on the beach this was a truly inspirational, reflective and productive day.

Michael Watson Head of Art and Design



Design and Technology

The Year 11 Design and Technology students were a well-focused and enthusiastic group, and they had a particularly successful year, with each of them achieving 1-2 grades above their upper challenge target grades.

For their final piece of assessed coursework, the basic context was “Going Places” with three themes: Going Travelling, Going to a Festival and Going to the Zoo. Each theme had two contextual challenges and students had to select one of these 6 challenges to explore. They needed to investigate, design and build a prototype and produce an accompanying portfolio, illustrated with photos taken during the development of the project. They had to bear in mind the needs and wants of the user, as well as the requirements for the design. Although each student worked on their own individual project, they relied greatly on teamwork within the group to discuss ideas and find solutions to any problems they were encountering. They mind-mapped and researched potential ideas, before identifying a set of criteria which would satisfy the brief and test what the client wanted. Feedback was received from potential users of the finished products, who included parents, friends and anyone else they could find.

The students then technically developed their design through drawing, modelling and testing. Testing included checking proportions, scale and strength to see if it would stand up to the forces that would be applied to it. The final design included technical drawings and cutting lists that they followed to manufacture their working prototype. Each student had to demonstrate a range of skills, processes and techniques during the course of the project. These included traditional hand skills, joining techniques, use of CAD/CAM, 3D printing, thermo-forming, finishing techniques and, most importantly, team work. Our students excelled in all of this, producing technically challenging and innovative designs.

Going Travelling challenges were concerned with storage needs or with comfort of passengers. Solutions included a tool box that doubled up as a ramp or set of steps; a storage container that became shelving when unpacked and a travel bag with wheels that converted into a backpack. Another travel backpack contained a cool box.

Going to a Festival challenges were concerned with marketing or with improving the experience of people attending the festival. Solutions included a travel container that held bottles of wine, glasses, plates, cutlery, food and an umbrella; a collapsible bass guitar and a chair that rolled up into a duffel bag.

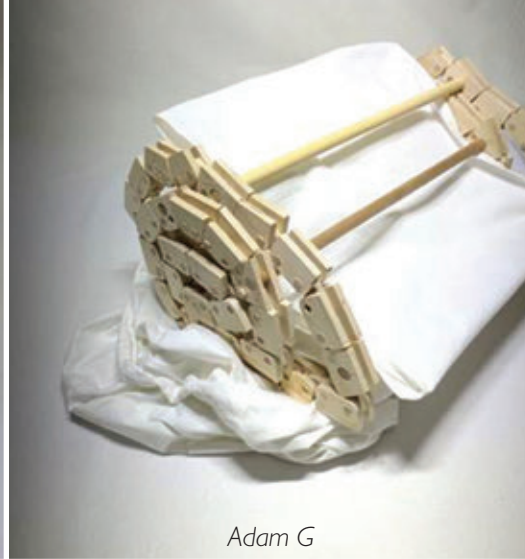
Going to the Zoo challenges were concerned with recycling waste or with educating young children about endangered animals and our solutions included a toy set of fit-together wild animals and an interactive kiosk with a world map jigsaw and animals that had to be located in their environment and when turned over displayed information about them.

Through this varied and exciting range of projects, the full range of our equipment was put to good use and the results were outstanding. The travel container was laminated using flexi-plywood around a complex curve. The bass guitar was in part 3D printed. The wild animals each came in three different body parts that could be joined using loose dove-tail joints and were each enclosed in promotional packaging. CAD/CAM was used extensively in most projects such as in directing a laser cutter to produce the plywood pieces and laminated information on the jigsaw map and animals. Thermoforming was used to produce the cool box in the travel backpack.

Michael Usher Head of Design and Technology



Dominic A



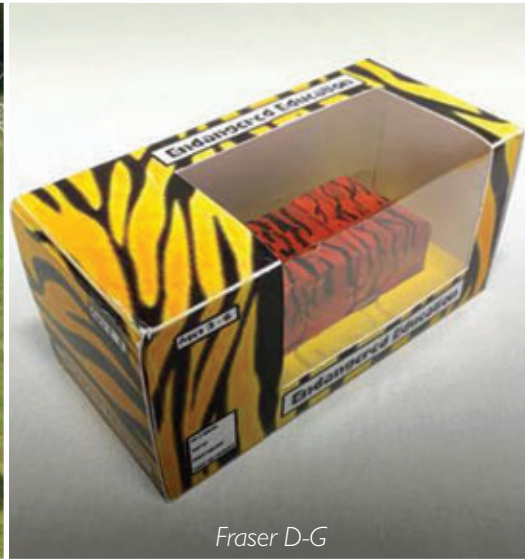
Adam G



Tom G-B



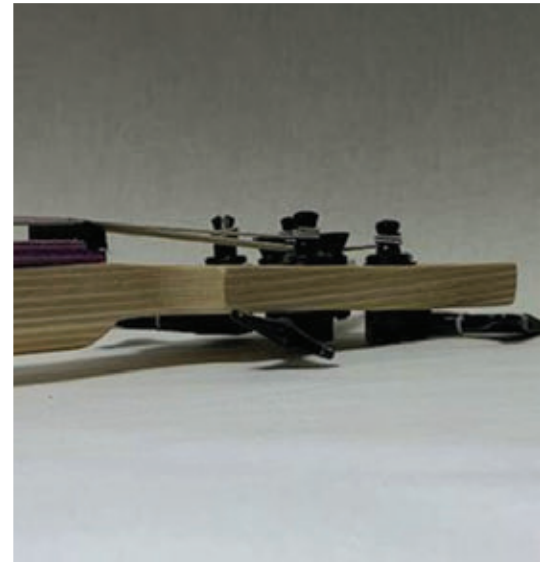
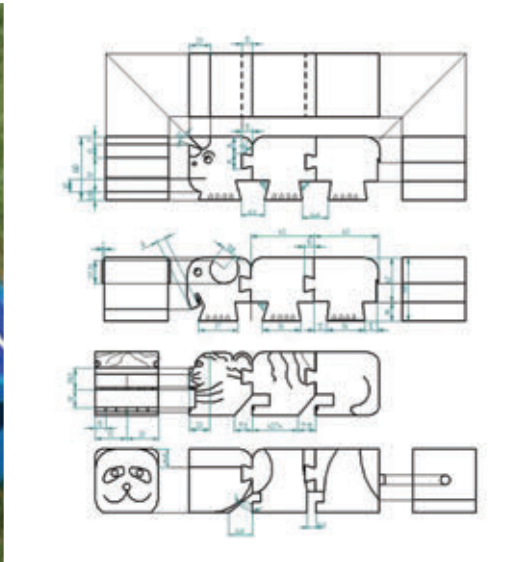
Tom W



Fraser D-G



Callum H

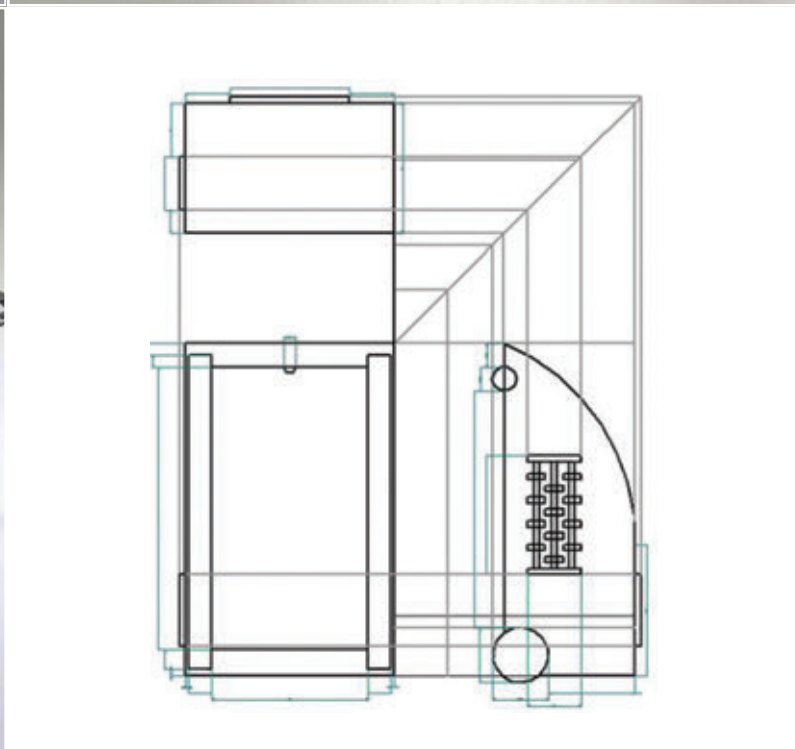




Max T



Ben C

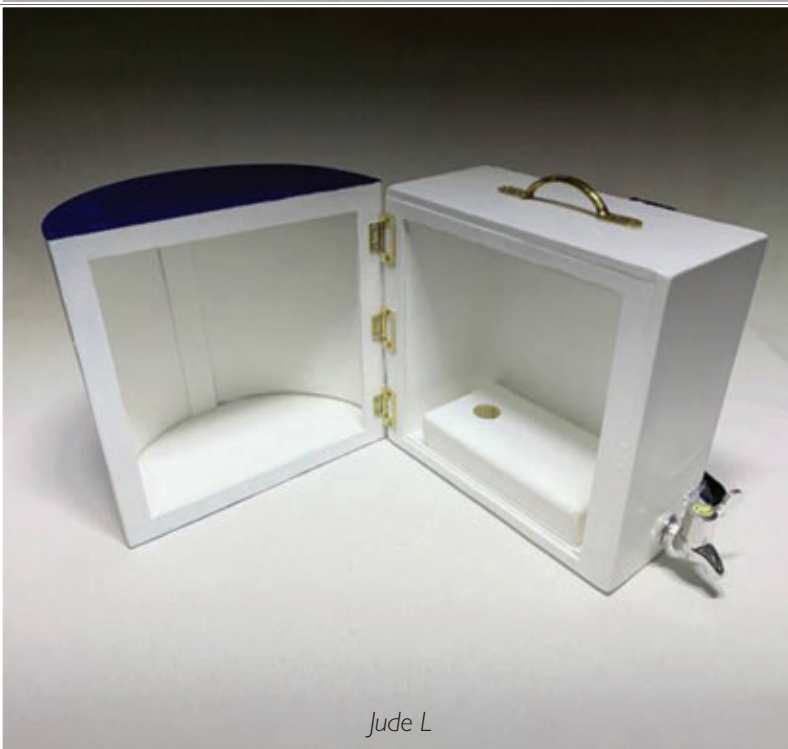


Seb T-A

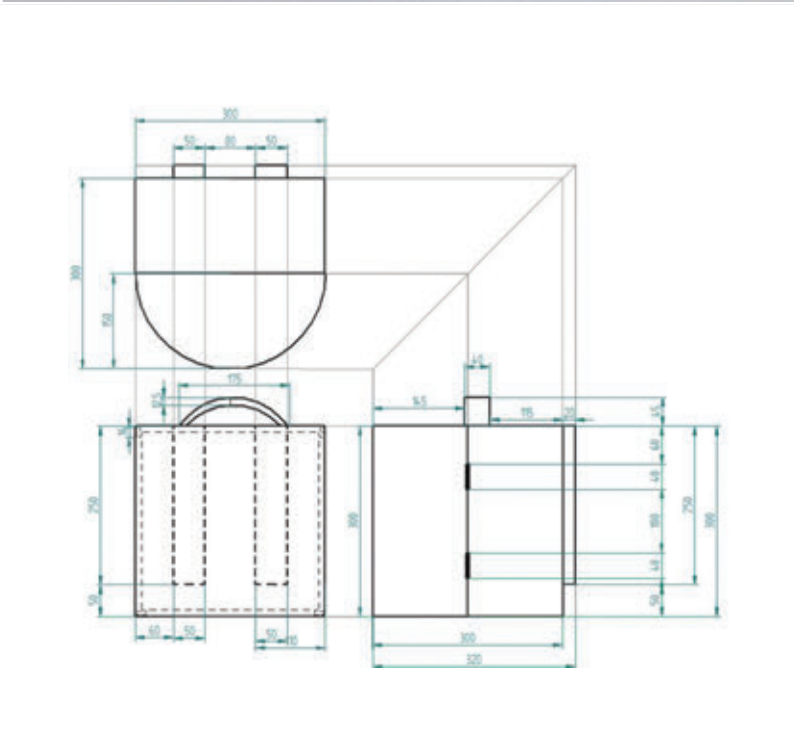




Sammy L



Jude L



Andi L







Performing Arts Review

The Performing Arts Department continues to thrive and grow within the School, creating numerous opportunities for pupils from all age groups to grow and challenge themselves, whether it is through music, drama or dance. Performing Arts continues to be taught throughout the School in some format from Nursery to Year 11, and Music and Drama are popular choices at GCSE, with 25% of the cohort choosing either subject as an option. There are over two hundred and twenty instrumental lessons a week, with LAMDA lessons taking off in a big way, and we have had great success in instrumental, LAMDA and ballet exams. This year 80% of the School has been involved in the department, whether acting, singing or dancing on stage, working the lighting and sound desk, or playing an instrument. There have also been over thirty different performance opportunities.

Music

The Music Department continues to play a vital and vibrant part in the lives of our pupils. Music as a subject is part of the curriculum from Nursery through to Year 11; this year we had a record number of Music GCSE pupils with a quarter of the year taking it as an option. We had a 100% pass rate in the music exams with over 50% receiving a distinction. There are weekly rehearsals for the Rock Choir, Senior Choir, Junior Chamber Choir, Prep School Choir, Senior Chamber Ensemble, Big Band, Ukulele Club, School Orchestra, Jazz Band, Cellobabies, String Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Bluegrass Band, Year 2 Violins and various pupil led ensembles. Technology plays an important part in and out of the classroom and the School recording studio has now been put into great effect, producing two school CDs. 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 work with and entertain the children. Pupils have been on trips to GLive, Dorking Halls, The Southbank Centre and The

Royal Opera House and there have been more than twenty five musical performances throughout the year, from informal lunchtime recitals through to the Senior Choir singing in London.

Autumn Term

The focus of the Autumn Term is of course Christmas and preparation for this started straight away, with auditions for the Senior Choir being held in week one. The choir is very much the backbone of the Department and is now the largest it has ever been. Once again we were invited to sing for the RAF Benevolent Fund's Carol Service in the historic St. Clement Danes Church on the Strand and the choir acquitted themselves beautifully in this stunning building. The Wednesday before this, we held our own Carol Service in St. Nicolas Church in Cranleigh, which featured wonderful singing from the Junior Choir, Senior Choir and the Year 2 Choir along with atmospheric entry carols played by the Brass Ensemble. The annual Prep School Christmas Concert was held again in the Performing Arts Hall, with over 65 children performing. This event was a wonderful opportunity for the junior pupils to perform and signalled the beginning of Christmas at Duke of Kent School. The spirit of Christmas was also reflected with a Christmas song writing competition for the Prep and Senior School, which was won by Kora W. in Year 8.

Spring Term

The Spring Term always sees a flurry of activity crammed into a short term. The House Music competition is a highlight and this year was no exception. The judges were sisters, Amy and Ruby Langley who are professional cello and violin players respectively. At the time of the competition, they were touring with the ELO band, but were excited to come and judge this wonderful whole school competition. Amy and Ruby began the day with a performance to the Prep School and then worked with the GCSE





Music pupils, answering questions about the industry and providing an illuminating insight into the work of a session musician.

There were concerts galore and a particular treat was the wonderful Evening of Acoustic Music held in our Performing Arts Hall on 7th September, when some of our Senior musicians performed alongside some of London's most in demand singers (Sumudu, Eileen Hunter and Gary O'Brien) treating the audience to a night of classy and inspirational performances from both pros and pupils.

Also on form were the Pre-prep pupils, once again wowing the audience at their annual Spring Concert, with an eclectic mix of styles and eras. The set list included Year 2's wonderful rendition of 'Ob La Di Ob La Da', Year 1's sunny version of 'Three Little Birds' and Reception and Nursery's exasperated exploration of 'Where Do All the Lost Socks Go?!' Add to this our annual trip to GLive with I I I pupils (see separate write up), a delightful concert for the various school ensembles and a trip to see the musical 'Wicked' for our GCSE Music pupils and it was quite the term!

Summer Term

The Summer Term does not see a decrease in the activity in the department. Performances include the House Music Finalists' Concert - a chance for parents to come and see the concert that is performed to the School in the Spring Term; an Evening of Original Work by Duke of Kent School pupils, held off site in The Wilson Rooms in Ewhurst - this is an event that

features pupils' original musical compositions, poetry and art; the Year I I Leavers' Concert - a moving and wonderful exhibition of the extensive musical talent in the current year I I, and the Summer Concert - this year held in the PA Hall with a focus on providing some of the unsung talent with a performance platform.

Another vital and popular element of the Summer Term is the programme of lunchtime recitals. These are small, informal concerts for the pupils of each visiting instrumental teacher which are held either in the PA Hall or the Music classroom. These recitals provide a relaxed, safe and informal performance opportunity for every child who learns an instrument, whatever their age or standard and also give parents the chance to come and meet their child's instrumental teacher. They are also a symbol of what music education means within our educational setting. There is no denying that an innate musicality is more apparent in some than others, but music education is about so much more than talent. It is about creating an atmosphere in which children can grow, not only as musicians but as people, by showing them what they can achieve if they put in practice and effort. Music lessons teach children so much more than how to play an instrument or sing; they teach children how to be creative, how to express emotions, how to take positive risks, how to learn from mistakes, self-discipline, self-confidence, self-esteem, empathy, trust, patience, hard-work, resilience, respect, teamwork, processing skills, literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, motor skills and most of all how to have fun!

Nick Rye Director of Music and Performing Arts

ISA 2018

Award Winners

The year got off to a wonderful start when the School was named as the winner of the ISA (Independent Schools Association) Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Performing Arts.

With a membership of over five hundred schools the ISA provides professional support to its head teachers and staff, while pupils enjoy an extensive programme of local and national sporting, arts and cultural events. The ISA Awards board commented on the School's inclusive approach to performance mixed with the pursuit of excellence, and the provision across all age ranges of an engaging, diverse and innovative programme. It was fabulous recognition of the hard work put in by all involved.





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

The annual Rotary Combined Schools Concert at the GLive venue in Guildford continues to be a highlight of the year for the Music Department. This year 111 pupils took part (over a third of the school) and, as always, acquitted themselves with discipline, focus and patience. The concert is a celebration of what music can and should be; an inclusive and powerful art form that educates, entertains and is fun! The opportunity for all the pupils involved to experience the thrill of playing in a professional venue, working alongside a professional crew and feeling the glow coming off stage after trying their hardest is wonderful and one that will provide lifelong memories. As one Year 6 pupil said shortly afterwards, *'It is one of the things I am most proud of this year... the audience was huge, so it was pretty scary, but it felt great to be performing songs we had practised so many times with friends. And the applause at the end was amazing!'*

The performances by our pupils were fabulous, with each group or soloist most definitely rising to the occasion and receiving rapturous applause from not just our loyal parents but the whole audience. Special mention should not be made of anyone; it should be made of everyone! We were extremely proud of all the children that took part: The Rock Choir and band, The Jazz Band, The Junior Chamber Choir, The Senior Chamber Choir, The Ukes of Kent, The Year 11 Harmony Group, The Bluegrass Boys, the Choral Chamber Ensemble and our very own dance teacher Lisa Lee who stage managed the whole event.







LAMDA

The introduction of LAMDA lessons for Senior pupils has been a huge success. These performing arts exams, taken as solo or duologue, have proved to be a popular option for many pupils and our two LAMDA teachers, Mrs Honey and Miss Raye, have brought a wealth of experience to these sessions. LAMDA provides not only qualifications but also teaches self-confidence, concentration, public speaking skills, analytical skills and much more. The two showcase evenings in the Summer Term were a great opportunity for parents to see the excellent work their children put in all year and the subsequent exam results were a celebration of the hard work put in by both teachers and pupils, with fifteen distinctions, nine merits and two passes.

Ballet

2018-19 was an exciting year for ballet in the School, due in no small part to the wonderful results from our first ever ISTD Grade 1 Ballet exams! Five girls and one boy from the Prep School danced their way to distinctions and merits in the Summer Term and Miss Francis' ballet club is growing in numbers term by term.



Drama Review

Drama continues to be an important and exciting part of the School, both as a subject within the curriculum, taught from Year 3 to GCSE, and as a hugely popular extra-curricular activity. 2018-19 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. There has been a full and busy calendar of productions across all three sections of the School and an impressive 80% of the pupils have been involved in productions in one way or another, either on the stage, behind the scenes or in the lighting and sound box.

The Autumn Term saw the annual Senior Production; this year the gritty musical 'Made in Dagenham', written by Richard Thomas and David Arnold. Directed and choreographed by our Dance teacher Lisa Lee and Drama teacher Sam Honey and with musical direction by our Director of Music Nick Rye, the Performing Arts Hall was transformed into the 1968 Ford Car Plant in Dagenham, Essex and the cast and crew performed three sell out shows in late November. With over fifty children from Years 7 to 11 involved, this was our most ambitious production to date, with complicated scene changes, huge chorus numbers and lots of solos and small ensemble numbers - all learned and rehearsed in 10 weeks. To quote our Chairman of Governors Richard Brocksom 'the memory of the production will live long into the future'.

No Autumn Term would be the same without a Pre-prep Nativity and this year we were treated to the story 'Shine Star, Shine', the tale of the Big Star who needs to show the way to the stable where a special baby has been born. The pupils performed their parts brilliantly, with wonderful speaking, singing and dancing. They also looked the part, with fantastic costumes and make-up, ranging from smartly-dressed narrators to sheep and camels, and everything in between. As always, the pupils worked very hard in the run up to the show, learning lines, lyrics and routines and the whole school community was hugely proud of the effort and concentration they showed.

The Spring Term featured the Prep School production

of 'The Wind in the Willows'. With a cast of sixty-one children, this was a wonderfully ambitious show that set a high bar for the children to aim for and, without question, they reached it. Both nights saw full houses and received a hugely enthusiastic response from the audiences. Visually it was a treat, with a revolving stage, real trees and even a real life boat! The children were professional and mature beyond their years, showing wonderful characterisation, diction and acting throughout. The production was an excellent example of how well the staff work as a team at school, with input from Mr Macdonald, Mrs Kerr, Mrs Nicholson, Miss Nott, Mrs Locke and Lisa Lee, but most credit must go to Mrs Honey who adapted, designed and directed the show.

The Summer Term traditionally brings the Pre-prep Dance Extravaganza to the fore, and this year it lived up to all expectation. The theme was 'Peter Pan' and with fantastically choreographed moves created by teacher Lisa Lee, and incredible costumes, the children re-told the story of Wendy, Peter, Tinkerbell and friends. Without doubt this annual show is a huge favourite for many and the standard our pupils achieve is exceptional. It is a perfect example of the unique ability that the performing arts have to challenge and inspire every single pupil to reach unexpected and new heights.

Our final production of the year was the Year 8 and 9 adaptation of 'Grimm's Fairy Tales'. A cast of thirty brought the dark and hilarious world of the Brothers Grimm to life, in 'the round' with the audience sat on three sides of the performance space, and wonderful costumes, scenery and lighting adding to the spectacle. Directed and designed by Mrs Honey and with choreography by Lisa Lee, the audience met Hansel and Gretel, The Musicians of Bremen, Ashputtel (Cinderella), Red Cap (Little Red Riding Hood), Snow White and the bizarre donkey (don't ask!) from The Magic Table. This was a real challenge for the children, with difficult lines to learn, strange characters to inhabit and even trees on wheels to negotiate, but, as always, our pupils rose to it and pulled off another wonderful performance.

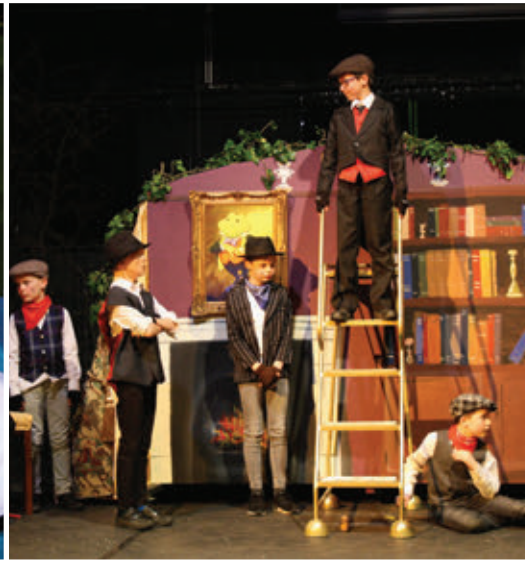
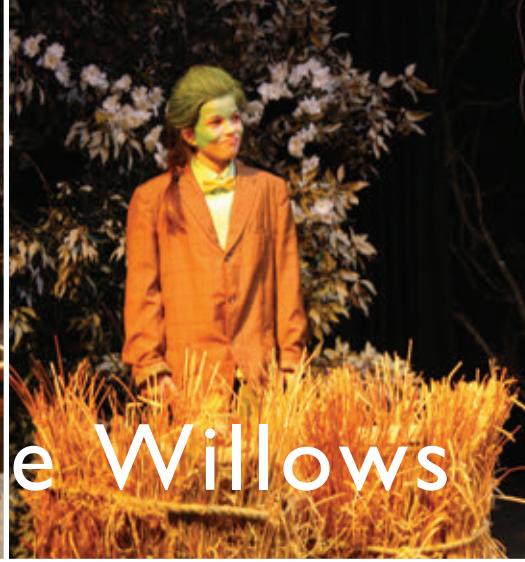
Nick Rye *Director of Music and Performing Arts*



Made in Dagenham









Pre-prep Nativity



Peter Pan



Sporting Highlights

Autumn Term

Autumn Term consisted of a variety of netball matches and also regular use of the Wilsons' Pitch in order to prepare for hockey matches in the Spring Term. Some memorable highlights include an U14 netball match v. Frensham Heights quite early in the term. The U14 girls played an incredible game of very high quality netball and came through to win 19-13. The U16 team had an equally good win against Box Hill as they displayed great teamwork and communication skills to win 19-14. In addition, the U12s were on great form when playing netball against St Edmund's, adding another win for Duke of Kent School. The younger pupils also worked extremely hard in their games lessons. They managed to put their skills into practise when playing Frensham Heights in November with the U9s winning their netball match, 5-2!

Josie Vickers Teacher of Physical Education

Duke of Kent School football teams gained many wins in all age groups. The U9 and U11 boys played exceptionally well, only losing one match in the term. The Senior boys showed great determination and spirit with the U12 boys, particularly, playing some excellent football.

The House Cross Country event was a highlight of the Autumn Term. The races were placed on different days depending on the age group. All races were fabulously supported by parents and the new addition of music seemed to create a relaxed and enjoyable environment. The routes varied for each year group with the oldest pupils in the school running up to the woods towards Peaslake and the youngest pupils completing laps of MacRobert and New Ground. The pupils tried their best to earn points for their house by finishing the race and running as fast as possible. The



Sports Showcase allowed pupils the opportunity to take part in a number of events. A particular highlight was a coaching session by Team GB Hockey star Sam Ward. Sam started with a senior session on the Wilsons' Pitch where he showed the pupils a different way of beating a defender and shooting at goal. They then played a match alongside Sam before he finished off with a drag flicking demonstration. The Prep School session started off with the children playing noughts and crosses whilst dribbling a hockey ball, before moving on to developing their passing skills. They finished off with a mini game alongside the GB international. This was a fabulous opportunity for all the keen hockey players to take part in and one I'm sure they will never forget.

Graham Herbert Director of Sport

Spring Term

During Spring Term, the rain and snow tried to stop play on multiple Wednesday afternoons but there were still some great results! The U14/15 girls played the first ever hockey match on our Wilsons' Pitch and won their game 5-2 - what a brilliant way to start the season! Alongside the hockey matches, there was more netball success with the U14, U15 & U16 teams winning at Box Hill. The U13A team played some brilliant netball at the Copthorne tournament and lost out on 2nd place by just 1 goal! The Prep School enjoyed some football matches during the Spring Term with the U11 and U10 girls playing indoor football against Belmont. The teams came away with a win and some great enthusiasm for the game! Later in the term, the U11 and U9 teams played at the annual Longacre football tournament and got multiple wins at the group stages whilst showing some great determination!

JV



The Spring Term saw Duke of Kent School host their first ever hockey tournament using the Wilson's Pitch. We were joined by a few other local schools and it was great to see the improvement in skills on the artificial surface over the year. This is a fantastic way to showcase the skills they have been practising in lessons.

Duke of Kent School senior pupils were given an excellent talk from World Cup winning rugby star Jason Robinson OBE. Pupils were given an intriguing insight into how Jason had overcome challenges in his early life to become the amazing rugby player we saw in so many high profile matches.

This term also saw the U16s DoK Dunkers Basketball team play their first ever basketball matches against St. Edmunds. The boys celebrated wins in both tight matches, with all round outstanding performance, especially for their first ever games.

GH

Summer Term

Summer Term started with rounders matches galore! The U13 and U14 teams managed to remain unbeaten in rounders throughout the entire term, in particular playing some great games against St Edmund's, Belmont and Shoreham College. Every single girl from Year 3 up to Year 11 was involved in rounders and cricket games this term including some thrilling house matches! The U11 and U10 teams displayed their striking ability when scoring over fourteen rounders in matches v. St Edmund's. The next day, the U9 and U8 teams travelled to St Edmund's and won both their games by just half a rounder! The girls worked very hard to learn the rules and techniques in cricket and reacted extremely positively to the idea of introducing a new sport into the curriculum. More impressively, the girls managed to put their newly learned skills in a match situation when playing pairs cricket against other schools with



wins for all the girls from Year 7 to Year 10! What a fantastic term!

JV

The cricket teams played some amazing cricket in the summer when the weather allowed! All age groups played with determination and skill showing improvement to their techniques and tactical understanding as the term progressed. The U11 team were particularly strong with a number of players who have successfully made the Surrey Cricket Squad. Their excellent performance at Shoreham College allowed them to finish the season unbeaten. The U8/9 team played some super matches with a particular highlight being two wins and a draw at Ripley Court. The players bowled with accuracy and struck the ball with great timing and power when battling. The U15 boys played their first match of the season at Blackheath CC. Although we narrowly lost the game against Boxhill, this match highlighted that Duke of Kent School has some very talented cricketers. Sam I. played some wonderful shots in an excellent innings.

GH

Sporting Alumni

Tristan Moses

Tristan joined Duke of Kent School in 2005, after being awarded a Sports Scholarship. He played his first football match for the School against Chilworth in our U7 team, where he demonstrated what a talented boy he was. Tristan was born in Cape Town in 1997 and his family moved back to South Africa in 2007. During his two years at the School, Tristan showed exceptional talent in football, rugby, cricket and athletics. He still holds some of the School sprint records.

More recently in South Africa, Tristan has started his professional footballing career. He has recently moved from Kaizer Chiefs FC to Mamelodi Sundown FC where he plays as a left sided central defender. As a Nike professional athlete, Tristan has been named as Africa Face of Nike, Mercurial 360 Superfly boots.



ISA Sporting Achievements

ISA Sailing Regatta

The ISA Sailing Regatta was held in September at Datchet Sailing Club, Queen Mother Reservoir and Ben P, Year 10, was asked to represent Duke of Kent School in his Laser 4.7. After a very impressive day's sailing, Ben managed an incredible 3rd place!

ISA Girls Football Festival

The girls' football festival took place in October at LVS Ascot. Duke of Kent School entered an U13 and an U15 team. This was the second consecutive year that we had attended this event and both the girls and the staff were looking forward to it immensely. Both teams took part in a good warm up and practised their skills with help from Arsenal FC coaches! The U15 team played well throughout the tournament and managed to earn a place in the trophy final with a third place finish in their group. This took the U15 girls into the trophy competition where they played fantastically winning this section of the festival on penalties! Ellis M stepped up in goal and managed to save every single penalty whilst Laura S scored to give Duke of Kent School the victory. The U13 girls played exceptionally throughout the day securing a place in the main cup competition after a very successful group stage. This gave them a chance to play in the semifinals. Although the U13 team was not quite strong enough to get through to the final, they showed just how far the girls have improved as footballers in the short time they have been playing the game. We look forward to future successes in this excellent competition.

U11 5-a-side London South Champions

The U11 boys travelled to Rosemead to take place in their first ISA competition. This was a talented group of boys who were very excited at the chance to play in such a large tournament. The team, consisting of Conrad C, Toby T(c), Luca H, Jack B, George P, Rufus B and Casper C, played extremely well all day long. Winning 6 of their 7 group matches they went in to the semifinals with the knowledge that they had already qualified for the National Finals at St George's Park in May. A very strong semifinal performance put Duke of Kent School through to the final where they played Rosemead. The final was a very tightly contested game although Duke of Kent School played some excellent football and created



more chances. A second half goal from Jack B gave us the win and topped off what was a fantastic day.

U11 National Finals at St George's Park

The U11 football team made the early start to travel to the ISA 5-A-Side national finals, following a victorious campaign at the ISA London-South qualifiers. The finals were held at St. George's Park, the national centre for English Football in Burton upon Trent. The facilities were amazing and the boys enjoyed seeing the men's and women's first-team training pitch and the incredible indoor arena, in which the matches were played. The boys looked quite at home in their professional surroundings and did incredibly well to win 5 of their games, drawing 2 and losing only 3 over the course of the day. After an unbeaten run in the bowl competition the team made it to the final, losing narrowly 0-1 after playing some great attacking football. Overall, Duke of Kent School finished as bowl runners-up, a fantastic achievement, considering they played teams from all over the country.

ISA Swimming

Four Duke of Kent swimmers, Nick E, Fred V, Aoife W and Maddie I, travelled to Beckenham in the Autumn Term, to compete in the ISA regional swimming gala. All swimmers performed exceptionally well. Nick E won his 200m Individual Medley which gave him the chance to swim at the Olympic Pool in the National Finals.

ISA Cross Country

The Senior event took place in Shoreham during the Spring Term. Duke of Kent School runners from Years 7 to 10 took part and ran fantastically well. Those who finished in the top ten qualified for the National Finals in Rugby. Duke of Kent School won two silver medals (Tom H in Year 7 and Minnie C in Year 10). These two runners qualified for the final alongside Ellis M, Tom S and Alex S.

The Junior event took place at Oakhyrst Grange School with over 300 runners competing for a chance to represent London South at the National Finals. With so many runners, the races were split into two for each age group; each race was timed and the top ten runners with the best time qualified for the ISA National Finals. The U9 boys ran first and pushed themselves to their limit showing great determination and willpower. This team consisted of Jude B, Chester S, Charlie L, Monty L, Miles C and Sam R. Our strongest finish in this

race was Jude B who finished third and 7th fastest in the U9 category. The U11 girls ran next in a very fast race and although both Ava W and Rose S produced excellent performances they were not quite quick enough to qualify this year. The U11 boys started with Jack B, Rufus B and Luca H in the first race. These boys showed outstanding stamina, team work and speed. Jack B got to the first turn and hill in front with Rufus and Luca on his tail. After the first lap of three, Rufus was leading, Jack was in second and Luca third! These boys were pushed all the way by a strong field but kept working together to produce a brilliant result with Rufus winning, Jack taking second and Luca third. William R, Jasper B and Casper C ran in the second race and produced very good performances to help the U11 boys win their age group.

The National Finals took place at Rugby School on the first weekend of the Easter holidays. Unfortunately, the date of the finals clashed with the netball tour and family holidays so not all who qualified for the finals were able to take part. Luca H and Rufus B ran in the U11 age group, Alex S in the U12 age group and Matty S in the U15s. The standard was very high and all of the Duke of Kent School runners produced fine performances although the flat course suited some runners more than others. The last race for Duke of Kent School saw Matty S put in an amazing run to win the race by some distance.

ISA Athletics

The London South regional events for Seniors and Juniors took place at the Blackheath Athletics Club in Bromley. The Duke of Kent School athletes performed exceptionally well in both events with Tom G-B, Matty S, Fleur B, Tom H and Rufus B qualifying for the National Finals in Birmingham. The Alexander Stadium, host of many international meetings, is a great venue for these athletes to showcase their talents. Tom H ran first and achieved a very respectable 7th place in the 1500m. Rufus B finished 6th in his Long Jump against some excellent athletes. Fleur B was so close to a medal, coming an excellent 4th in the Year 10/11 Long Jump. Matty S showed what a talented athlete he is with a fabulous display of track running to win gold in the Year 10/11 1500m and Tom G-B won Silver in Long Jump with his championship record of 6.12m only overtaken by 2 cm on the last jump from the London West athlete. Tom then moved quickly across the stadium to compete and win an incredible gold medal in the 100m sprint. This was a fabulous day and all the athletes performed amazingly well.



Netball Tour

On the final day of Spring term, fifteen of our Year 9 and 10 girls made the journey to Liddington in Wiltshire for our first ever Senior Netball Tour. It was a glorious day and everyone was in high spirits. Miss Vernon took on the role of playing DJ and took requests all the way to PGL! On arrival, the girls settled in, had dinner and then got straight into some activities involving various challenges and team building exercises!

On Saturday morning, the Year 9s headed off for a morning of activities including high ropes, zip wire, trapeze and much more whilst the Year 10s started their first rounds of the tournament. The Year 10 team consisted of Sophie D, Minnie C, Blue R, Fleur B, Jasmine B, Issy P and Ellis M. They played four games on Saturday morning and scored an average of 14 goals in each 16 minute game! The team worked fantastically together and managed to secure four extremely well deserved wins. After lunch the Year 10s headed off for their activities, starting with archery and then onto the high ropes. They also came over to the netball courts during the afternoon to cheer on the Year 9s as they started their tournament campaign. The Year 9 team consisted of Millie L, Martha M, Poppy S, Daisy M, Alice S, Laura S, Milly B and Bella R-B. The Year 9s also had four games on their first day and they came up against some well-matched competition but dug deep and managed to win all four matches too! The girls finished Saturday feeling very positive and soon got involved in a variety of activities including a more relaxed film option in preparation for another big day of netball.

On Sunday the nerves started to show but after some reassurance and discussion about tactics and pace of play, the girls got back into a positive mind-set, and they were ready for the last two games of the tournament which would determine their place in Semi Finals. The wins kept coming and both Duke of Kent School teams managed to win their Semi Finals, with Year 9 winning 8-4 and Year 10 winning 10-4. Finals here we come!

The Year 9 Final was a fierce but exciting match. The match was very fast paced and with lots of turnovers from both teams. Duke of Kent School just missed out on the win in a very close game with a final score of 7-5. The Year 9 performance was fantastic and they worked so hard as a team, every single player drove for each ball and worked tirelessly throughout the two days. The Year 10s were up next with an equally exhilarating final, their opponents came out strong and quickly took the lead at half time but after a team talk Duke of Kent School changed their tactics very slightly and it seemed to click for each player. Suddenly Minnie C and Sophie D were on fire and they didn't miss a shot! The girls managed to come back within the last minute to win by just 1 goal. What an incredible result!

Huge congratulations to all the girls for their superb efforts throughout the weekend. Aside from the fantastic standard of netball that was played, the girls' attitude and behaviour was exceptional and every pupil was a great asset to Duke of Kent School. PGL Netball Tour was a huge success and we are already excited to return in the future to try and regain the title!

Josie Vickers and Emma Vernon





Pre-prep Sports Day





Prep and Senior Sports Day



Personal, Social and Health Education - **PHSE**

Personal, Social and Health Education is delivered to the pupils by their form tutor, who has a hugely important influence in their learning of life skills and many of the most important aspects of a young person's education. It is undoubtedly a stressful job at times, but also a privileged and rewarding one, which allows a true insight into a student's personality and interests.

In the Prep School and in Pre-prep, we continued to work on Keeping Healthy, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. We approached this learning through a whole array of activities, from using picture books, role play and beebots in the younger years to virtual tours of parliament and debates on law and order in our upper years. Lessons on puberty have been supported by our school nurses and have been underpinned by the overriding ethos of healthy relationships. In addition to our timetabled PSHE lessons, the Prep School children enjoyed nominating their friends in the Values Box in the Prep Corridor. These accolades are then shared in our Thursday morning Talks and Debates meetings and subsequently displayed on the Values Board for all to see and admire. During Lent we focused on these in even greater depth as we took on the challenge of '40 Acts of Kindness'. Several members of staff have also completed training as Mental Health first aiders and have shared their learning during subsequent staff meetings so that we are all sufficiently equipped to help children foster a greater understanding of well-being and resilience to challenge.

The Senior School also continued to follow the topics focused on the Wider World, Keeping Healthy and Relationships. The addition of a new scheme of work on Online Safety created a good deal of conversation and debate in the Thursday morning PSHE lessons. Students considered how the online world does not always reflect reality. They were able to empathise with others and offer help and advice to those who might be struggling online and students devised strategies of how to boost their self-esteem and considered 'how to be happy'. The Year 7 and 8 pupils were given guidance on what cyber bullying is and how to recognise actions that crossed the line. The lessons also gave staff and pupils the chance to offer advice on how to prevent cyber bullying.

Polly Nicholson and Graham Herbert

Mental Health

Mental health has in recent years and quite rightly, become an important part of everyday life. It has begun to gain parity alongside physical health and as a result of excellent initiatives and awareness campaigns, many training programmes have been introduced. One that really struck me was the BBC's 'A Royal Teamtalk: Tackling Mental Health.' The reason it was so pertinent was because of the focus on men and them opening up with the struggles some of them are having. We all have mental health, but at times it is not as healthy as we want it to be, and sitting down and talking over what is going on and seeking help is the first step to improving.

As part of my role as Head of Safeguarding at the School, I have worked with students who have needed help for various reasons, many relating to their mental health. I wanted to be able to do more to help and ensure that they could find the help they needed, so I signed up to become a Youth MHFA (Mental Health First Aid) instructor. The training lasted seven days (spread out over a term) and consisted of presenting a topic associated with mental health and delivering a section of the course. To be able to qualify, I needed to deliver two courses and receive positive feedback from all delegates.

During the training I delivered a presentation looking at the rates of suicide in teenagers in relation to social media interactions. I have a passion for ensuring that online safety information is delivered to the school community and it was interesting to look at wider global trends and case studies.

After completing the training and delivering the two qualification deliveries of the course (including to the Pastoral Team at Duke of Kent School), I am now a fully qualified Youth MHFA instructor. The aim is to develop the qualification so that as well as being able to deliver the Two Day course, I can deliver the One Day course to the teaching staff at Duke of Kent School and the Half Day to parents and the wider staff. I am also looking for opportunities to deliver the training externally so that many more are aware of the signs of poor mental health and what they can do to support others.

Tom Southee Head of Safeguarding and Digital Strategy



MHFA England

Preparing for Exams

How to best prepare students for their GCSE exams is an ongoing challenge. How can we make sure they work hard enough? How can we make sure they don't work too hard? How do we protect their mental health, whilst ensuring they do their best? When will they peak? Will they ever peak!? Constant monitoring and hand-holding may see them through this exam period, but will it give them the tools to succeed in future exams? Our approach to taking the GCSE exams is reviewed constantly and the only truly successful method is to personalise this for each student. The motivation, support and advice needed to get the best out of each individual will differ hugely and therefore our methods have to be flexible. Of course we want all students to achieve their optimum, but we also want them to do this in a sustainable and healthy way.

At Duke of Kent School we are always striving to find that happy medium between pressure and wellbeing. We all need pressure to perform, but too much and our performance will suffer. Good exam results are only part of what we are hoping to produce. Motivated, independent young thinkers with the confidence to attempt new challenges and the resilience to accept and learn from failings are what we strive to develop here. With this in mind I would like to suggest a few sure-fire winning tactics for all pupils:

Effective revision

Revision is unique to everyone, but it's important to explore where your studying techniques could improve. Passive reading is highly ineffective for most students. Students need to regularly test their knowledge, review what they have read and actively engage with the information. Make sure that you are fully aware of the marking criteria, the style of the exam and the length. Past papers are invaluable, as is the ability to mark them yourself and identify the good and bad parts of an answer.

Concentration

It is impossible to study effectively for five hours flat. Break your study up into manageable chunks, perhaps of around twenty minutes, and alternate easy and difficult topics, and interesting and dull topics. Take regular short breaks but keep these short: Popping downstairs to eat a biscuit is great, but watching 'one' episode of your favourite Netflix series is not.

Stress Management

A prolonged exposure to high levels of stress is likely to lead to illness and burnout. However, you can take control of your stress levels through the exam period by remembering to consider your own well-being. Eat a balanced diet and exercise regularly. I run when I feel anxious and although this may not work for everyone maybe it will work for you. Make sure you are sleeping for between 8-9 hours a night. If you're ill, rest. It is always better to sacrifice 2-3 days of study as opposed to struggling through an entire week only to feel worse by the end of it. Consider what helps you relax. Don't revise within an hour of your bedtime. Keep to a routine. If you feel things are getting on top of you, talk to someone; we are all here to help.

Organisation

Planning is a key for success and good revision always begins with good organisation. Find a workspace and make it your own. Separate this from your relaxing space and clear away clutter and distractions. Know when and what you are going to study. Plan your time wisely and stick to your plan. Set goals. Reward yourself. Do not get drawn into spending hours on one topic/subject and forsake all others.

John Wilson Head of Senior School



Battlefields Trip

Very early on the last Friday before the October half term, forty-one Year 10 and 11 students left School to visit some of the battlefields of northern France. This trip was linked to a GCSE History module on 'Warfare through time' and served to expose pupils to the shocking, yet compelling and moving, nature of warfare from the Hundred Years War and the First World War.

Our first two stops were at the Normandy battlefields of Crécy and Agincourt, fought in 1346 and 1415 respectively. Both battles resulted in thousands of French mounted knights, encumbered by heavy and restrictive armour, attempting to charge English men-at-arms and archers. These poorly led and impetuous knights, were furious at being attacked by their perceived social inferiors, and had thought that they would literally ride over their English (and Welsh) enemies, but were instead slaughtered by arrows shot by archers trained in using bows since childhood, and superbly led within Edward III's or Henry V's armies. Our pupils also had the opportunity to fire smaller versions of bows and crossbows, while Fraser D-G and James C, demonstrated periodic costume to great effect. Fred V, wearing a 'bascinet' helmet did his best to fend off Blue R and Ben P who attempted to defeat his armour with cardboard tubes!

The following day saw us visiting the notorious WWI Somme battlefield, synonymous with the suffering of 1916. The battle, which lasted from July to November, also seriously weakened the German Army but this was not at all the case on the first day, 1st July. Our first stop followed the progress of the 'Accrington Pals' battalion who attempted to capture the fortified village of Serre. Despite the hopes placed in a week-long bombardment of German positions, they were defeated by German defences, which included unbroken barbed wire (remnants of which we found), machine guns fired by soldiers who had survived in deep dugouts, and untouched artillery. Students retraced the exact steps of the attacking troops, right

up to the cemeteries, marking the limit of their advance and where many of those soldiers were laid to rest. During lunch, Archie L was fully dressed up as a WWI soldier, complete with puttees and a heavy, itchy woollen uniform. Other pupils demonstrated different forms of headgear, with the irony that a soldier's metal helmet in 1415 was effectively re-invented for his successors exactly 500 years later.

Our next visit was to the Hawthorn crater, caused by the explosion from a mine which took seven months to lay and which caused a 40ft deep and 300ft wide depression. The explosion was famously captured on film by Geoffrey Malins for the highly successful officially approved film 'The Battle of the Somme'. From there, we went on to Beaumont Hamel, to see where the attacking Newfoundland Regiment was shattered by German defences. Today there are deserted villages in Newfoundland, as a legacy of those losses.

Our final visit was to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, where a number of our students (including Ben C, Adam McN, Nick E, James F, Ben P and Matty S), with direct links to known fallen forbears in WWI, laid a remembrance wreath. Ben P also managed to locate the names of two of his ancestors, who were brothers, on the Memorial, who were killed within two weeks of one another.

Our grateful thanks go to our guides from Anglia Tours, Ashley Clark and Tim Saunders, for their intense re-telling of these periods of history, and to Mr Seeley, Madame Fellous and Miss Anand for helping manage the trip. Back at School, Mr Taylor-Bowers, Mrs Wichman and Mrs Sarjant managed superbly the food, costs and medical supplies where necessary. Most of all, well done to the pupils who contributed, and behaved, excellently given the challenging circumstances, including the early starts, of such a visit. Do ask them what their highlights were!!

Dale Lodge Teacher of Humanities



World Book Day

Walking through the corridors of Duke of Kent School on Thursday 7th March 2019 was like dropping down the rabbit hole and encountering a plethora of individuals of all shapes and sizes. The Prep School and staff had completely embraced the idea of dressing up for World Book Day and compiled a wonderful array of costumes. There was a Hungry Caterpillar; Paddington; several Harry Potters; Worst Witches and numerous Walliams and Dahl inspired characters.

The Prep pupils (and staff!) were asked to dress up as a character which had been on a particular journey; their own journey of the day started with an amazing parade at the top of South Bank. The Pre-prep and Prep pupils strolled, danced and paraded through a tunnel of Seniors, accompanied by much cheering and clapping. The morning assembly was focused around the idea of 'excuses not to read' – common comments which we hear as English teachers. However, the highlight of the assembly must go to Mrs Knox with her 'carpet bag' and Mr Seeley's capturing of Mrs Knox's whale!

This was followed by several activities, including a house quiz and the making of Reading Journeys. These depicted their personal development in their reading from the age of three to the present. The pupils had the opportunity to experiment with creative and innovative ways of displaying this journey. Some wonderful designs that were produced included a train, a moving bookcase and even a barn.

There was no rest from the theme, even at lunch, where the amazing catering staff had cooked up some delicious delicacies from the ever favourite 'Roald Dahl Revolting Recipe Book', Snozzcumbers and Frobscottle being a particular favourite! The day culminated in Year 7 and Year 9 pupils reading and listening to the Prep School pupils' favourite books. It was a wonderful, magical day and one that was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

As part of the day, we also held the House Readathon Competition for Year 5 to Year 8. The pupils had four weeks to read as many books as they could get their hands on, but the winner was Daisy N who read the most and is now the proud owner of her very own Kindle!

World Book Day was a special day for everyone. A massive thank you goes to Miss Anand, Mrs Punter, Mr Wright and Mrs Green for organising such a superb, fun day and an extra thank you to the Catering Team for an exciting book themed lunch. We can't wait for World Book Day 2020!

Priya Anand Head of English





Easter Bonnet Parade

This year, rather than our annual Egg Rolling competition, Pre-prep pupils took part in an Easter bonnet parade. The pupils worked incredibly hard at home on their creations and we had an eclectic and wonderful variety of hats brought into School for our Easter celebration.

We began on Top Pitch, with each class parading their hats to the other Pre-prep pupils, before heading along the two main corridors of the teaching block to show our wares to the Prep and Senior pupils. All of this was accompanied with rapturous applause!

Whilst all hats on display were highly commended, we did have a 'winner' from each year group, who were recognised for their outstanding imagination, creativity



and effort. In Nursery, Henry H was our winner, for Reception Eva W, in Year 1 Rupert L and in Year 2 William T.

Many congratulations to all who participated. It was a bright, colourful and beautiful celebration to finish our Spring Term.

Rebecca Green

School Visitors

Oxford University Student Visitors

Early in May and in partnership with Oxford University, we were delighted to welcome Simon Quintero Corzo and Tsyon Gizaw from Colombia and Ethiopia respectively. Simon and Tsyon arrived in the UK in March, having been invited onto a 9-month post-graduate course at the university's pioneering Wildlife Conservation Research Unit. As part of their stay, they were offered the opportunity to experience a day in the life of an English school and pupils in almost every year group greatly benefitted from having the chance to meet them and question them in lessons. To name only a few of the subjects covered, perspectives on language, conservation, education, equality, resilience, art and music were exchanged. From introducing themselves at a fantastically informative morning School Assembly, right through to scaling Pitch Hill as part of our Forest Skills afterschool club, Simon and Tsyon shared their expertise and passion most generously with our pupils, and we are very grateful to them both. They too remarked on the warmth of welcome they received throughout the day and how impressed they were with the politeness and respect shown by our pupils.

Chris Wright

Visiting German teacher, Frau Mack

Thank you very much for hosting me in June. My stay was absolutely great and I would love to stay and teach here because of the nice surroundings, super students and very supportive colleagues. However, I miss my family and am looking forward to going home to my village, Althutte. Thank you so much to the families who welcomed me so warmly into their homes.

I have really liked the way the children have such excellent relationships with their teachers and how much they want to impress them. The students really enjoyed my German lessons and welcomed me so nicely. I was greeted in the corridors with Guten Tag and Aufwiedersehen. I also loved the way the children worked seriously and then shared a nice laugh with their teachers.

Danke schön and Aufwiedersehen

Ina Mack





Duke of Edinburgh Award News

Our Year 10 pupils have surpassed themselves this year by completing a record number of Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards. Over half of these Year 10 pupils (23 in total) also embarked on the Silver Award, which is more than four times the number of any preceding Year 11 group.

To achieve these awards, the pupils undertook a plethora of volunteering experiences, as well as skills and physical activities, many of which were within the extra-curricular opportunities available at School, for example Maths and DT Club, assisting Pre-Prep pupils, music and performing arts, and helping the teaching staff run after-school activities. Outside of School, they have volunteered at Barnados, competed at athletics events, including Park Runs, and performed in plays and dance shows.

The first-ever Duke of Kent School Year 10 Silver Award practice and qualification expeditions took place in the very wet Surrey Hills and very dry South Downs, respectively, supported by Mr Wyllie and Mr Lodge. They trekked to campsites at Small Dole, near Henfield and Washington, near Pulborough, enjoying the company of cows, cooking marshmallows and successfully forming a human pyramid.

Throughout the entire expedition the students represented the School superbly, demonstrating good manners, great attitudes, exceptional teamwork and unfaltering positive attitudes. The students took the expedition in their stride, had lots of fun, made many memories along the way and we are very proud of their outstanding efforts and resilience over the three days.

Dale Lodge DofE Awards Manager



The Arthur Rodgers Travel Award and Links With Malawi

Over the last few years we have developed an international link with, Salima LEA, our partner school in Malawi. This link has been strengthened through a number of teacher exchanges and shared student projects. In addition, our students and teachers have worked hard to raise money for the school to support the rebuilding of onsite teachers' houses. These are in such disrepair that they can no longer keep out the annual rains.

Last year we awarded Kate G and Scarlet M, from the graduating class of 2016, the Arthur Rodgers Travel Award. This bursary is designed to support Duke of Kent School alumni to use travel as an educational and horizon broadening experience. They used the award to travel around Malawi, and while there spent time working with Salima LEA. Kate and Scarlet visited the Prep School to talk to pupils about their time in Malawi, the people they met and their experiences working in Salima LEA. They showed photographs

and films they have made of their trip, recounting their adventures and stories, capturing beautifully the warmth and kindness of the Malawian people, as well as the complex challenges facing the countries' students and educators.

Mike Watson





Letters from Salima LEA in Malawi

The Prep School continue to keep the link with Salima LEA alive and buzzing through classroom activities and fundraising initiatives. Most recently Year 2 pupils embarked on a letter writing project explaining life at Duke of Kent School to their African peers.

Here are some of the replies they received:



Thank you very much for your letter

Dear John,

My name is Zebra. I live in Salima district, which is in Malawi. I live with my family which is my mum, dad and my four sisters. Their names are Ellyud, Hassadah, Sindiswa and Edith.

Sometimes I go to Lilongwe for my holiday. When I go to Lilongwe I eat different food at Simama hotel such as chips 'n' chicken, rice with beans and spaghetti. I get there by bus. And our house has five rooms and also I like the surroundings in Malawi such as lakes and mountains.

And the animals in Malawi are different from England. In Malawi we have the animals such as goat and zebra. And also I like also drawings. I hope you will receive this letter.

Yours faithfully
Zebra

Dear Friend

My name is Moya and I live out ten years old. I live at Salima and my house is next to Salima LBA School. I would like to tell you about Malawi and my life here. In Malawi I like going to school so that I can fulfill my dreams. When I grow up I want to be a scientist. Here in Malawi we have pets. Common pets are peacocks, donkeys, cows and birds while the pets which are not common are goats, sheep and ducks.

In our family there are three people: me, mum and dad. And also my cousins. I love them so much. I always play with them. And I also share things with them and I always teach them and I also help them to do their homework.

Yours friend,

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your letter. My name is Wammy. We live near the Kamuzus Road Market. In our country we grow some plants. Some of them are: maize, tomatoes and beans and also grow fruit like oranges, grapes, lime and guava along the Lake Shire. We have three boys and two sisters. In our class we learn like English, Mathematics, Science and technology and agriculture. In our country we dance like Chikali, Gule Wankwanku and Chitolela. And also we near the Lake Malawi. In Lake Malawi we fish fish like Chambo and Mpasa. Lastly this is all I wanted to tell you more about our country and please to you keep it up.

Your Faithfully
Wammy Saleem

Thank you very much

Dear Patrick,

My name is Patrick. I am thirteen years old. I live with my family: two brothers and one sister. The name of brother is Ben and brother and one sister called Ruth.

In Malawi we learn mathematics, agriculture, English, agriculture, science, life skills, social and religious education.

In subject which we use in life English and mathematics.

In Malawi we grow crops like maize, tobacco, cotton, tea, groundnuts and cassava. My house there are four rooms: dining room, and one sitting room.

On Christmas we go to Lake Malawi and there we joined at the lake. We playing netball and football and many more.

I will be happy to read my letter.

This is all I wanted to tell you.

Your friend,
Patrick

Dear my Friend

My name is Asiyatu. I am in standard 8. I live at Mapit village. I like play netball and cooking anything. I dislike Sweet Potatoes and drinking cocoa. My mother is a teacher while father is businessman. My young brother one in standard 6, young sister one in standard 3.

In Malawi we learn English, mathematics, agriculture education, science, life skills, Chikwaka, social and expressive arts. Subject which I like most English and mathematics. On Christmas we go to Lake Malawi near the Livingstonia beach at Salima to celebrate.

In Malawi we farm most of our crops like maize, groundnuts and cassava. We keep cattle, goats and cows.

After classes we go home we eat nsima and potatoes before lunch.

Thank you very much for your letter. I will be very happy.

Yours faithfully

Asiyatu S. Mbeke

Number Phone

0999 662 773

Salima Primary School,
P.O. Box 109, Salima

October 4, 2018

Dear Eddie, I am very happy to read your letter and know you and your school. My name is Damiano. I live in Bwanali village in Salima district in Central region of Malawi. My school name is Salima L.E.A. Primary School. Our school is the largest school in Salima district with over three thousand learners. The school has two sections, one section teaches learners who are sighted and the other section teaches learners who are visually impaired. Some of these learners are of low vision, while others are totally blind. This section is called Salima resource centre for the blind. I am happy to inform you that I am a blind boy as you can see that my letter is written in braille. The school has boarding facilities for the learners who are

People Who Have Inspired Us

Bianca Nobilo

As this year's guest speaker, the School was delighted to welcome CNN journalist Bianca Nobilo to Parents Day. Bianca graduated with a first class honours degree in History from the University of Warwick in 2012, and followed this with an MA in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics in 2013. Her career began as a defence and security analyst at an engineering company, followed by becoming a writer and producer for CNN as the Parliament Adviser and Press Officer in the Houses of Parliament. She now works as a correspondent for CNN Today and CNN Newsroom, based at their London desk.

As an introduction to her talk, she described how she was immediately struck by the very special family atmosphere at the School, with its strong sense of cohesion, common purpose and community. Aiming mainly at the younger and smaller members of the audience, she explained how her own career had benefitted from not listening.....to those people who said something could not be done or achieved. By taking only the positives away from the comments of others, Bianca found she was able to motivate herself and truly focus on what she wanted to achieve in both her personal life and in her career.

Quoting the Stanford commencement speech of Steve Jobs in 2005, she encouraged the audience to regard the opportunities that presented themselves along the way in life as scattered dots. Over time and by trusting one's instinct, destiny or karma, these dots would eventually join up, ultimately making sense and contributing to one's life goals.

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future."



Bianca went on to say that when things do go wrong, as they inevitably will from time to time, to demonstrate resilience. Nothing would be accomplished without this, as well as vigour and determination. Finally and perhaps most profoundly, she suggested that we should strive for significance in all we do, rather than the narrower, more obvious goal of success. In this way we would be more likely to achieve real meaning in our lives.

Chris Finill

Jason Robinson

Just before the Easter holidays, Duke of Kent School senior pupils were given an excellent talk by World Cup winning rugby star Jason Robinson OBE. Pupils listened to how Jason had overcome challenges in his early life to become the amazing rugby player we saw in so many high profile matches. He answered some excellent questions from the girls and boys and then gave a fabulous training session for twenty of our Year 10 and 11 rugby players. His demonstrations were excellent to witness and the players thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon. Thank you to Fuzion 100 who helped to make this event possible.

Graham Herbert





Lifeguards

RNLI

DUKE OF KENT
100th

BE SAFE HAVE FUN

If you are in and around the water
ALWAYS REMEMBER TO:

- 1 STOP AND THINK
- 2 STAY TOGETHER
- 3 FLOAT
- 4 CALL 999 OR 112



FIND MORE FUN
AND SAFETY TIPS AT
RNLI.org

RNLI
Lifeboats

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

Design Museum London

Harry Potter World

Chemistry Festival at Brighton University

Leavers' trip to Sorrento

The French and Belgian Battlefields

RNLI Lifeboat Station at Littlehampton

Hendon Air Museum

Houses of Parliament

Reception trip to the Hundred Acre Wood

Netball Tour to PGL Liddington

Ballet Club trip to Northern Ballet's
performance of the Nutcracker

The Globe Theatre

Butser Ancient Farm

RSPB Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve

Isle of Wight

Kew Gardens

Arundel Castle

Netball at The Copper Box

Windsor Castle





Sports Showcase

Open Morning

The main theme of our October Open Morning was Sport, which enabled us to demonstrate and showcase the considerable breadth of the sports facilities we have here at Duke of Kent School. For the duration of the morning, Pre-prep pupils enjoyed the space in the Sports Hall where ball ponds were available, as well as, for the more adventurous little ones, an enormous inflatable farmyard. Netball skills were honed on the courts at the front of the School by our Year 9 pupils, supervised by PE teacher Miss Vickers, and on the front pitch, children and the occasional adult, took great delight in 'shooting for goal' in a speed cage. This proved to be a very popular game, which became increasingly competitive as the morning progressed.

On our all-weather pitch Wilsons', we were very fortunate to have England Hockey player Sam Ward visiting us and coaching the children. Charlie B in Year 8 was one of the lucky participants and he said 'it was really wonderful meeting Sam and he taught us lots of cool hockey stuff! Sam spent the morning imparting his considerable hockey knowledge and signing autographs. Starting with a senior session, he showed the pupils a different way of beating a defender and shooting at goal. They then played a match alongside Sam before he finished off with a drag flicking demonstration. The Prep School session began with the children playing noughts and crosses whilst dribbling a hockey ball. They then moved on to developing their passing skills, before finishing off with a mini game alongside Sam.

In the Meetings Room, our Finance Bursar Chris Finill proudly displayed his complete collection of 38 London Marathon medals, which he has been awarded for every event from 1981 to 2018. He also shared his wealth of knowledge about his lifetime of running and representing Great Britain.

During the morning, as well as our current pupils and parents, we welcomed over 50 visiting families, for tours of the School. As always, our pupils were

outstanding at guiding visitors around the School and answering questions about their experiences as pupils. Judging by feedback received, they seem to have given visitors a real insight into the School. One of the visitors commented that 'it was the interaction between the pupils and the members of staff that was so relaxed, yet respectful, and which made a really positive impression'.

Mrs Knox, Head elect, joined us for the morning and spoke to over 100 parents and children in the Performing Arts Hall. Anna D, Head Girl, and Toby H, Head Boy, spoke from the heart about their time at Duke of Kent School - they have been here for 16 years between them, so have quite some knowledge to draw on. Mrs Knox spoke about her experience of Duke of Kent School so far and talked about her passion for education 'Children need to be challenged as individuals and we want to instil in all of our pupils the ability to do their very best in all sorts of environments'. We are very much looking forward to Mrs Knox joining us in January.

A special thank you to Jason and the catering team for the amazing array of cakes and refreshments served in the Dining Hall throughout the morning and to our PADoK representatives for imparting their knowledge to prospective parents, about being a parent at Duke of Kent School.





Parents' Association PAdoK

The Autumn Term is always a busy one for PAdoK ladies, welcoming new parents and helping them to find their feet in our school community. The new parents' coffee morning on the first day of term was the perfect opportunity for them to meet form teachers and to hear what the children would be doing over the coming year.

The first PAdoK event of the year was Bingo, Bangers and Beer, with the dining hall being transformed into a kitsch seaside bingo hall, complete with sparkly slash curtains and a mountain of super prizes. Who knew Bingo could be so much fun? This was an absolutely fabulous PAdoK event, accompanied by a superb sausage supper, courtesy of our school catering team. Congratulations and thanks are extended to PAdoK reps Sophie Malcolm and Natascha Weatherby for arranging such an enjoyable evening.

The Christmas season began with an exclusive shopping evening at Manns department store in Cranleigh, where Duke of Kent School parents enjoyed a glass of wine, a chat with friends and a little Christmas retail therapy. For festive traditions in a Christmas card setting, the annual mulled wine and mince pie evening never fails to disappoint. The ingredients are simple; a roaring fire in Old Hall, the aroma of mulled wine and the taste of delicious mince pies. Due to generous donations from Duke of Kent School parents, we were able to raffle eleven Christmas hampers for charity. After the raffle, made our way to the Performing Arts Hall where Prep School children and PAdoK Singers delighted us with a Christmas concert.

The Spring Term always appears a little quieter for the PAdoK ladies, but following the success of their performance at the Christmas concert, the PAdoK singers continued to meet on Thursday mornings and rehearse for their next performance. Another regular event on the first Friday of each month is the PAdoK walking group and although the Pitch Hill route is usually the same, the company, chatter and scenery is always changing. For this Spring term we introduced the PAdoK Book Club, which meets once or twice a term. The inaugural meeting was held around the fire in Old Hall and over a glass of wine and nibbles, we discussed our chosen book.

As we approached the end of the Spring Term, the PAdoK Charity Ball tickets went on sale and by the

Easter holidays, a record number of tickets had already been sold. The Charity Ball is the main event of the year for PAdoK, so as the Summer Term began, it was all systems go for the PAdoK ladies. Hosted at the impressive Denbies Vineyard in Dorking, arriving guests were greeted with a champagne reception surrounded by vines in the beautifully themed open-air courtyard. After moving into the conservatory for a three-course dinner, we were treated to a surprise singing performance from the chef and head waiter. Confusion followed but awe at their amazing voices soon led to the realisation that they were of course professional singers in disguise. What a fabulous start to the evening. Guy Packenham once again led us through the hugely successful charity auction and the evening concluded with dancing to Mr Rye's band, The Accidentals. Massive thanks and appreciation must be extended to PAdoK rep Debs Rudge for expertly putting together the PAdoK Ball - it was a truly fantastic and memorable evening.

A personal highlight of the year for me is always the Mums' Netball inter-school tournament and as the school year came to a close, Duke of Kent School hosted the tournament, for the sixth consecutive year. We were joined by five teams from schools in the surrounding area and were once again blessed with beautiful weather. After a couple of hours of points scoring matches, fuelled by fruit, tea and cake provided by the PAdoK reps, Eagle House from Berkshire were crowned this year's winners. Mums' netball continues on a Wednesday morning and all ability and experience is welcome. We will be holding another tournament at the end of next school year.

This year, through events and functions I am very proud to announce that PAdoK has raised a record breaking £12,600 for local and national charities. PAdoK will continue to be hard at work bringing you many exciting events for the coming year with, of course, some old PAdoK favourites. I do hope to see you at some or all of them.

Thank you to all the PAdoK Reps for their hard work throughout the year and for the crucial help they give to Duke of Kent School parents. Thanks also to PAdoK reps Lucy Burr, Sam Bimpson, Claire Reed and Jessica Hogan-Smith, who lead our regular clubs, and to Mr Rye and Miss Vernon for their support.

Sarah Trotman PAdoK Chairlady



Drone Photos

The School is extremely grateful for the generous PADoK donation that has enabled us to purchase a very versatile DJI Mavic camera drone. Mr Wyllie has taken on the role of 'pilot' and has mastered using the drone for a range of activities. As well as using it to film our extensive grounds and to capture special events, we are also investigating the many different ways in which it could be used across the curriculum:

Maths/Physics - estimating and measuring heights, speed, distance travelled and time taken.

PE - filming sports days and matches from different angles.

PSHE - debate the ethics of using drones for filming.

Geography/History - local studies can be enhanced with drone footage.

Science - measuring tools could be attached to the drone to measure air pressure, wind speed and temperature for Science lessons.

Computer Science - the DJI Mavic provides opportunities for scratch coding. Introducing coding

through the use of the drone brings an element of fun and can help engage children with a computer language that could help them have a real impact in the future.

It is fantastic that PADoK have enabled us to explore the fresh possibilities that are offered by such innovative technology. The rising trend of drone usage cannot be ignored and although government legislation has tightened the laws around the use of drones, there has also been recent acknowledgement from the Department for Education that drones are here to stay and in fact have many significant educational merits.

From cinematography to medicine it looks like drones are set to enrich our lives as we move into the future. In an increasingly busy world, the possibility that drones could take aerial routes to deliver time critical packages (from blood to pizza) is one which could be life changing and offers us just one reason why it is fantastic that Duke of Kent School is now able to offer the opportunity to use one educationally.

Alex Seeley



Neighbourhood Links

As more and more Duke of Kent School buses head into the Surrey Hills each morning to collect bleary eyed children, ready for another day at school, it is increasingly apparent that our 'neighbourhood' is expanding. Our community has grown outwards over the last decade, from a small boarding village, where students were happy exploring the immediate woodland, into the towns and villages of Surrey. Our buses now cover a radius of over 12 miles across 6 routes, every morning. Our neighbourhood and consequently our community is broadening and diversifying, reflecting perhaps, our interconnected, globalised world.

The word community has its origins in the Latin 'communis', meaning common or commonality. In its origins and essence a community is a group brought into closer harmony by the common ground they share. This meaning is increasingly lost in its modern, often politicised usage. Community has come to describe a homogenous group defined by what brings it together, but also what separates its members from other groups. This conception is based on difference and isolationism; borders and tribalism over openness and understanding. If we return to its Latin origins, community is not that which separates, but that which brings us together. If we consider the idea that, no matter our politics, morality, religion or nationality, there is more we have in common with others than separates us, we are able to form a more positive, progressive conception of community. One that seeks commonality, seeing past that which divides to find value in shared points of meeting, in short to generate and widen our community and not hide inside it.

In response to our increasingly globalised world, at once bigger and, paradoxically, increasingly fragmented, Duke of Kent School finds value and opportunity in seeking out community. This approach leads us to welcome others and recognise that we can become part of a far wider and more complex network of

communities than we may immediately think. Looking back through the activities and events over the last year I am struck by how much we have, quite unconsciously at times, embraced this idea of a search for commonality. Acts as simple as inviting people from the local area to an evening of jazz allows music lovers came together, The Archbishop of York Award allowed young and old to interact through visits to The Old Rectory nursing home where common ground was found through sharing stories and humour, and the Aspiring Medics Workshop at Farlington that allowed like-minded students to share knowledge, interest and ambitions.

As educators we have reached out into the wider world to find learning opportunities for our students, encouraging them to see the educational value in the people and places around us and appreciate the ways in which these can enrich their own understanding. These interactions have been as varied and disparate as firemen visiting the Prep School, Geography field trips across the Surrey Hills, battle re-enactments at local historical sites and photographic explorations of nearby towns.

One of the things that binds us as a broad community is our common history. As communities we have a collective memory that forms this history and, through our students it is our responsibility to see that this memory is maintained. During our involvement in 'Peaslake Remembers', organised by the British Legion to commemorate World War I, we encouraged our students to recognise the role the local community played at this difficult time in our history. One particularly poignant moment that resonated across the decades, was our student's re-enactment of the 1918 Suffragette March. Our girls in particular quickly drew comparisons with the continuing fight for equality in our own time, making parallels with the Me Too movement and Greta Thunberg's protests. The event was also an opportunity to work alongside



their peers from other local schools with whom they performed songs, poetry and dramatic pieces, all based on changing attitudes to war. Two different schools brought together in a common exploration of a subject that impacts us all.

Many of the events, visits and interactions we encourage, support and reflect our school values of respect, honesty, effort, kindness and responsibility. None did this more so than Year 8 during their involvement with self-styled eco-rebels Pier2Pier in a clean-up or local beaches. This demonstrated their commitment to the local environment and recognition of their own responsibility for maintaining it, as well as the fun you can have while making a positive contribution! This idea of responsibility and 'giving back' runs thread like through many of the interactions we have with our local community. This attitude is exemplified in our charity days, the volunteering our D of E participants do, the community service that Year 6 take on through The Endeavour Award and numerous public performances such as The Gingerbread Man, performed by Year 1 to the residents of Ashleigh



House Care Home. I am reliably informed that there was not a dry eye in the house.

This ethos of altruism, responsibility and effort in these areas is not just educational but empowering. Our students begin to realise that through their actions, large and small, they can make a difference to the world around them and indeed they have a responsibility to do so.

Mike Watson

Celebrating Some Personal Achievements

Alex G organised a raffle at one of his St John's Ambulance meetings and raised £150 towards his Tanzania trip with the School, which is taking place in October 2019. Alex is very involved with St Johns Ambulance and has been on duty at several major events, including the London Marathon, The Guildford County Show and Shere Hill Climb.

Minnie C has been busy setting up the School's Sustainability Committee and is working towards improving the School's carbon footprint.

Kora W and **Zoe L** are working hard on raising awareness of cleaning up our oceans.

Ben P During the Easter holidays. Ben went with Urban Saints Guildford, a Christian youth group, to Tijuana in Mexico, where they helped with building a community centre which will provide an important meeting place and focus for town residents.

Martha M runs Macmillan bake sales every year.

Esme P, Ella S and **Rose S**, organised a bake sale for the Prep School to raise funds for Cancer Research.

Charlie C starred in the 2018 RSPCA festive video, 'A little kindness', which aims to inspire young people to show kindness at Christmas.



Pippa S who won bronze medal in the Hand Drills for ages 10 to 12 years Orange/Green belts at the Matt Fiddes MMA British National Championships in Swindon in November 2018.

Jack B won the London and South East regional squash championship in the UIIs category.

Thomas H, Calum M, Charlie N, Harley B, Oscar H, Josh W-D and Arthur H, took part in a night walk to raise money for Dimbleby Cancer Care.

Dan D recorded a new personal best recently, with a height of 4.10 metres in pole vault, whilst competing in a Crawley open athletics meeting.

Jasmine B won a bronze medal in javelin and bronze in the 4 x 100m relay at the Sussex Athletics Championships.

Jasmine K played in the US Kids European Golf Championships in East Lothian, Scotland in May and finished 25th.





Parents Day

It was our first Parents Day at Duke of Kent School. Naturally, my wife (Mrs Knox) wanted to make a good impression and she spent a lot of time tweaking her speech. As you can imagine, I got to listen to it a few times before the day! The choice of speaker was also important to her as she wanted someone who could connect with the children as well as the parents and so the choice of Bianca Nobilo, a rising star in political journalism, was a good one. Bianca spoke eloquently from the heart about the barriers that she had faced and overcome and I am sure she was an inspiration to all of the youngsters and parents.

Following the prize giving presentations celebrating the accomplishments of the students, we got to the heart stopping moment of the children's (and teachers') song, brilliantly orchestrated by Nick Rye and the Music Department. I know that something like this takes a lot of putting together but, equally, I know that on the day, a little bit of magic helps. That magic became abundantly apparent when I looked around and saw the faces of the children and their parents. It was truly emotional and a great coming together of our community.

Tea, cakes, more cakes, picnics, ice creams, bouncy castles, glasses of bubbly and sunshine followed. Bliss!

Well done Mrs Knox. What are you going to do next year?

Tim Knox







And in their **spare time**



Chris Finill

This was Chris's 39th London Marathon and this year he managed to get around without breaking his arm in four places, finishing in 2.59.46. He is pictured with his daughter Jo, who ran her third London Marathon, finishing in 3.56.

Chris's wife Julia and our Registrar, Jane Hopwood, were giving out medals at the end of the race.



Rob Ellarby

Our Deputy Head of Prep and Pre-prep Rob Ellarby, married Elizabeth Johns at Fair Oaks Farm near Steyning in West Sussex on 25th May 2019.



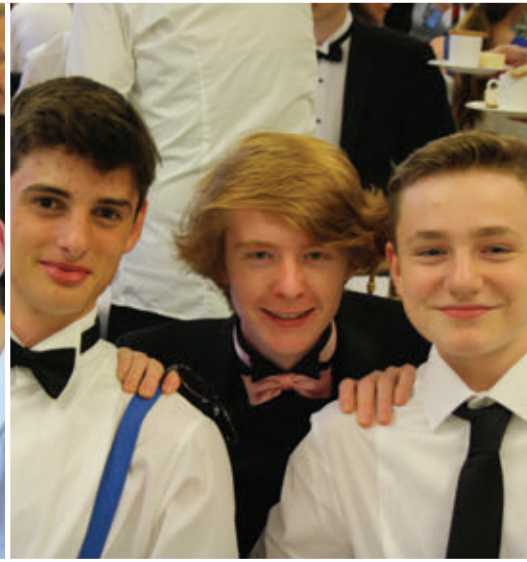
The adventures of Sydney, the School cat



Year 11 Leavers' Dinner









GCSE Results Day

In August, the class of 2019 celebrated a wonderful set of GCSE and IGCSE results. Late summer is always a particularly nervous time for Year 11 pupils, and their parents and teachers, as we wait impatiently for results day to arrive. As has been the consistent theme since we moved up the age range, we need not have worried. With all the characteristic dynamism and purpose that we have observed in recent years, this wonderful year group once again transcended expectations in a wide range of areas. As a consequence, both parents and teachers alike were extremely proud of their achievements.

As a non-selective school, our focus at results time is to analyse the 'value added' that we can bring to our pupils. It was extremely pleasing to see that, on average, we are able to affect an increase on pupils' GCSE predictions, based on National Standardised Tests (CAT 4), by just over one grade per subject. By challenging every pupil to be the best that they can be, we enable pupils to realise their potential and embark confidently on the next stage of their academic journey.

Some highlights include:

- 100% achieved the benchmark of 5 GCSE passes with Maths and English.

- 51% of all Grades 7/8/9
- 58% Maths Grades 7/8/9
- 63% achieved Grade 8 or above in one or more subjects

It is important, though, to remember that this wonderful group of young people gave us so much more than an excellent set of GCSE results. They were a unique collection of individuals, each with a distinctive story, who brought such a wide range of talents to the School that they excelled not just academically, but also in every facet of extra-curricular life at Duke of Kent School.

By making the most of every opportunity offered to them, they revealed what a remarkable group they were. Their inventiveness, enthusiasm, kindness and persistence bestow upon us a durable legacy that can serve as an inspiration to those who follow in their footsteps.

Alex Seeley Director of Teaching and Learning



DUKE *of* KENT
SCHOOL

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