

The Review 2021/22



DUKE *of* KENT
SCHOOL

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Head's Introduction

What a simply wonderful year. A year that has been almost back to normal! I am transported back in time as I flick through these pages and remember so many highlights from the year. I can picture myself as a captivated audience member watching magical shows and performances, cheering at the sidelines during House matches and swimming galas, discussing changes with the School Council and the Sustainability Committees and enjoying class assemblies and debates. I am reading with Pre-prep pupils, running Movie Club, dressing up as the Mad Hatter for World Book Day, creating our magical Forum Garden and watching Science experiments in our brand new Science Labs.

This year, we focused our efforts on a number of projects in the third year of our Strategic Development Plan. Homework was a focus which had us considering quality versus quantity as well as its true purpose. We listened to the pupils, parents and staff and a raft of recommendations were actioned in September. The pupils were incredibly sensible in their understanding of the need for homework but the importance of getting the balance right.

Another project that continues next year is the review of our curriculum to ensure that what we are teaching and what the children are learning equips them with the right knowledge, skills and personal qualities to thrive. We want to prepare the pupils for great futures. Next year, we will be inviting the whole Duke of Kent School community to share their dreams for the future as we develop our plan for the next 5 years. Behind every successful venture is our remarkable, close-knit, Duke of Kent School family. When I'm asked what sets us apart well, that's my answer. You can feel our heartbeat the moment you turn up the School drive. Just like when we recently welcomed parents to join our working party to help build the new Forum Garden. By mid-morning, so many families had arrived that we ran out of seeds, plants, compost and jobs to do. And the parents and children just kept coming. That is our School spirit.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Felix Macdonald. After 12 years' tenure which has included



teaching Music, Latin, RS, History and English and coaching Cricket, Rugby and Football our Deputy Head, Mr Macdonald, has closed this chapter of wise counsel, warm leadership and a brilliant sense of fun. He has been an integral part of Duke of Kent School, has added so much to its heart and soul and will be hugely missed. We wish both him and Kathryn, as well as their children Max and Scarlett, the greatest success and happiness for the future.

Finally, I would like to sincerely applaud our Year 11 pupils. They have coped admirably in the face of change and risen to the challenges set before them. It was such a pleasure to be able to host a farewell dinner for them as we celebrated all they have achieved and wished them well for the future. They are most deserving of the wonderful set of GCSE results received in August. These reflect their tremendous effort and the wonderful teachers who guided them skillfully through the learning process. I wish them great joy in the adventures of life. Finally, a huge thank you to all of the fabulous Duke of Kent School staff and our incredibly supportive Board of Governors who go that extra mile every single day to ensure that each child thrives at our School.

Do enjoy this snapshot of a truly special year.

Mrs Knox
Head



A message from the Chair of Governors

It is hard to believe we have come to the end of another academic year having experienced such enormous challenges on every level since Covid struck in March 2020. As a School, we continue to adapt and react to everything that is thrown at us. As you well know, all of our wonderfully dedicated staff at Duke of Kent School have done just that and gone the extra mile to provide top quality teaching whether it be online, or with reduced class sizes due to ongoing sporadic outbursts of Covid.

It's great to see and feel the buzz of School life again and to witness all activities, sport, music, drama and educational trips being enjoyed to the full – and indeed exams have actually been sat in person! I can wholeheartedly say that I and my fellow Governors have really enjoyed being back at School to watch the many various activities, such as the Senior musical, 'Moby Dick, A Whale of a Tale', performances at GLive, the Summer Concert and Sports Day, to name just a few. We also had the unexpected pleasure of judging the Pre-prep costumes during their Space Day on one of our visits. Probably the hardest task of the year as so much effort had been put into creating such inventive outfits!

PADoK and the Class Reps are such an important part of School life, promoting social events to bring our community together as well as raising funds for School projects and worthy causes. One cannot underestimate how much hard work goes on behind the scenes in organising sell-out events such as the James Bond evening and Quiz nights. We all very much appreciate the tireless work and donations they make to the School throughout every year!

The teaching at Duke of Kent School continues to provide an incredibly high degree of support and nurturing to pupils, irrespective of their age and or ability, which is producing ever improving results throughout the School. The last couple of years have thrown out more challenges than ever; particularly with the pandemic and the need for Remote Learning. The speed at which the School has come back to life and is positively thriving again, is a credit to the work carried out by the incredible staff.

Being the Head of a School is no easy task at the best of times. Throw in a challenge such as Covid, where there



are no textbooks to guide you, and an avalanche of rules and regulations constantly changing and evolving in front of you, it certainly doesn't make School management any easier. Our Head, Mrs Knox, has responded magnificently to everything thrown at her and it has been a real pleasure to see her thrive and develop.

There will be more in depth articles of thanks elsewhere in this Review however, I wanted to say how indebted we are to two departing members of staff. Mr Chris Finill, the School's Bursar, who retired in December 2021 after 24 years of outstanding service to the School. I would like to thank him for his support and advice during his tenure. And of course, Mr Felix Macdonald. After 14 years at the Duke of Kent School, Mr Macdonald is leaving to pursue other activities. He has been a tremendous support to the Heads he has worked with and to myself and my fellow Governors.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank you, the parents, for your continuing support of the School particularly in these very trying times. I believe that despite all the current uncertainty out there, the future is still very bright for Duke of Kent School.

Mr Brocksom
Chair of Governors

News from the Bursary

There is no doubt that this academic year provided a number of challenges for the School which impacted upon the day to day operational activities.

We began the year with Covid protocols being eased in September and after a short spell of normality, we had a spike in cases in November 2021 and the School had to re-introduce measures for a period of two weeks. However, education continued uninterrupted throughout the year; with Remote Learning for those pupils in isolation and towards the end of the academic year, School life was back to normal as we all began to learn to live with Covid.

In January, I was asked by Mrs Knox to become the School Bursar, merging my role as Operations Bursar with the role of Finance Bursar following Chris Finill's retirement at the end of December. As a consequence, there was a restructuring of operations staff and Rachel Harris became Deputy Bursar and Nick Tearle was newly appointed as Finance Manager to work alongside Jo Wichman, Assistant Finance Bursar. There were also a number of other operational staff movements during the year involving staff in grounds, maintenance and catering. In particular, our former Head of Grounds, Oli Riches, moved to pastures new, working in the grounds of a stately home in East Sussex where he has traded pupils for sheep! We welcomed Curtis Ford at the start of the Spring Term as the new Head of Grounds and he has made an excellent start.

The refurbishment of the Science Laboratories was a major project undertaken by the School and on improving the fabric of the School with new flooring and re-decoration and this will continue into the new academic year. New fencing was also installed in and around Pre-prep as well as around the new Forum Garden which has lifted the aesthetics of both areas. The installation of a new internet fibre cable was completed in December (which is ten times faster than the current fibre line) and this additional line will vastly enhance the current IT network. Andy Charlton (Network Manager) is currently working on a further



fast fibre connection which is totally underground to replace the old line and with the two new fast connections in place, the School's IT provision should be secure for some years to come.

Like many other Independent Schools, we will face further challenges as inflation continues to rise, placing financial pressure on School budgets and parent finances. However, having seen the resilience demonstrated by our School community over the course of the last three difficult years, I have no doubt that together, we will meet these challenges head on and ensure that the School continues to succeed.

Mr Stacey
School Bursar

Outstanding GCSE results for Duke of Kent School Pupils

We at Duke of Kent School could not be prouder of the Year 11 cohort, 2022!

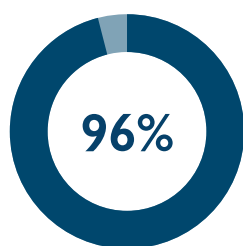
Hard work, collective endeavour and a positive spirit mark them out, after what has been a challenging time for young people. The outstanding GCSE results reflect their very best efforts and the support of our whole School community.

Our Year 11s achieved an overall GCSE pass rate of 96%, with a commendable 80% of our pupils gaining a at least one grade 7 or above. Indeed, over half of all the grades awarded were a grade 7, 8 or 9. The cohort average across all subjects was a grade 7, with grade 9 making up 14% of the total. This is a truly fantastic achievement for our pupils and has enabled each one of them entry to their first choice school or college.

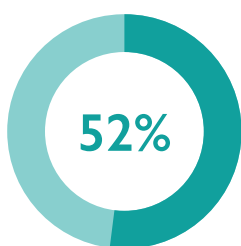
The whole Duke of Kent School community is delighted for our pupils, who although will be leaving us this year, are always welcome. Their achievements speak loudly, but we will also remember them for being kind, resilient and for their witty sense of humour. They leave us with a raft of memories and battles overcome during some challenging times. Congratulations, Class of 2022!

Mr Allen

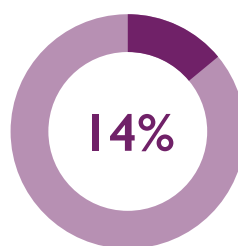
Head of Pupil Progress and Head of Geography



**96% overall
GCSE pass rate**



**52% of grades achieved
were 7 or above**



**14% of grades achieved
were 9**



**Average grade 7
in English, Maths
and Science**



**43 Grade 9s
achieved**



**Cohort average
level 7**



ISA Sporting Events

Being a member of the Independent School Association enables us to take part in a huge range of ISA sporting events. There are London South Regional Qualifiers in which pupils attempt to win a place to a National Competition and represent ISA London South. There are also National competitions which do not require pupils to qualify for and London South Regional Events. We have competed in many of these competitions this year and the pupils have performed brilliantly and to the best of their ability. They should be extremely proud of their performances and achievements.

Girls' Football

In October 2021, Duke of Kent School's U13 and U15 girls football teams travelled to LVS Ascot to play in the ISA National Football Festival. The U13s had some close matches and scored multiple goals, including 6 goals from Niamh A! The U13s went through to the Plate Competition semi-finals after some strong performances but just lost, 2-1, in a very close game. Meanwhile, the U15s came up against some extremely strong opposition in all 4 of their group matches. They showed great determination and worked well as a team but didn't manage to progress to the latter stages of the tournament. It was a great day of football, well done to all of the girls involved.

Cross Country

In February, Duke of Kent School hosted the Senior London South Cross Country Regional Qualifier. Schools from London, Sussex and Kent entered this event in an attempt to qualify for the National Finals at Worksop College in March. Duke of Kent School Senior team runners showed fantastic resilience, technique and stamina on the day with seventeen runners in total from six races making the finals in March. Congratulations to all the runners who took part. Medalists were Clara H-S, Oliver C, Niamh A, Emily B, Rufus B and Alex S.

The Junior Regional event took place at Radnor House. The Duke of Kent School runners competed superbly well but were not quite strong enough to gain a place at the Nationals. Due to other commitments and injuries, the Duke of Kent School team at the Nationals





was depleted but the runners who were able to make the long journey and take part performed amazingly. First up were the Year 7 boys; Ollie C, Felix C and Sam R, they ran 2.7km and did a fantastic job! The next race was the 3k race for Years 8 and 9 girls. Emily B and Jess I both ran a great race, particularly as Jess was running up an age group! Finally, it was time for Rufus B and Will R to run their slightly longer 3.8km race including an extra lap. The boys were in a highly competitive field of runners and finished within a couple of places of each other in the top 20. Well done boys!

Boys' Football

The U11 boys played to the very best of their ability in the Regional Tournament and were up against some strong teams. They played with great determination and a constant smile on their faces. The U14 and U16 teams travelled to Nottingham for the National 6 a-side tournament. The U16 team played well and were disappointed not to qualify for the knockout stages. The U14 team conceded a last minute goal, in their final game, to unfortunately knock them off of top spot in their group. They progressed well in the knockout stages but were beaten in a penalty shootout in the semi-final of the Bowl competition.

Netball

In March 2022, Duke of Kent School's U16 netball team took part in the ISA National Netball Tournament, held at Nottingham University. It was a fantastic event with high quality netball on show across 4 indoor netball courts. The U16s lost their first two matches against tough opposition but won their next

two matches in their group. These results put them through to the Bowl Competition. The team played some outstanding netball with Izzy B, the captain, leading the team with confidence. The girls won their next two matches and received gold medals as winners of the Bowl Competition. A fantastic result and well done to the girls in Years 9, 10 and 11 who took part in the tournament.

Athletics

Both the Senior and Junior London South Regional Athletics Qualifiers were held either side of the May half term at Bromley Athletics Club. Duke of Kent School pupils showed great technique, speed and stamina in these events. We had five gold medal winners and seven athletes winning a chance to compete in Manchester at the National Finals. These were Jess I (1500m), Rose S (1500m), Hugo S (High Jump and 200m), Harry L (800m), Rufus B (800m), Tom H (200m and 800m) and Will R (1500m). The Junior event was extremely competitive and many Duke of Kent School athletes were very close to qualifying for the Nationals. Arthur S did win his Long jump and therefore would represent London South at the Manchester Stadium. Jess I, Tom H, Arthur S, Will R, Rufus B and Harry L all travelled to Manchester and performed superbly on the day against schools from all over England. No medals were won but this was an incredible event and an experience that the Duke of Kent School athletes will not forget.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In the Summer Term we marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a wonderful day of celebration full of singing, eating, dancing and games! With a backdrop of bunting and the Union Jack fluttering in the wind, the perfect weather ensured we had a delightful day. Pupils and staff, wearing glittery crowns and red, white and blue assembled on the bank as we began the very special day with an assembly hearing all about the Queen's remarkable 70-year reign. Mrs Honey, our Head of Drama, recited parts of the speech the Princess gave on her 21st birthday: *"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong"* followed by many interesting facts shared about the Queen and her exceptional reign.

We stood and sang the National Anthem acknowledging and celebrating a woman who had demonstrated steadfast service and commitment to her country. Pre-prep then delighted the whole School with wonderful maypole dancing weaving artfully around the maypole in time to traditional music. We then gathered into the shape of the number 70 on Front Pitch.

For lunch pupils and staff gathered in their forms to enjoy delicious picnic hampers on gingham squares crammed full of sandwiches, sausage rolls, miniature quiches, scones, Victoria sponge cake and strawberries and cream. It was a glorious sight full of colour, joy and celebration.

Traditional party games in Houses then ensued followed by a tug of war which was a real highlight. The staff versus pupil competition was won only by a small margin by the staff! This wonderful day would not be complete without a refreshing ice cream for everyone up on Top Pitch.

Holroyd Howe, our catering company, had gifted two fruit trees to the School as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative encouraging people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". A crab apple and a wild pear tree were planted in the grounds and we will certainly enjoy watching these grow. Both trees are loved by bees and birds and will be a lovely addition to our School.

Each child was also given a special inscribed wooden token of the day to keep in a special place at home. All pupils and staff entered into the spirit of this joyous day which will be remembered for many, many years to come.

Mrs Knox
Head







The Forum Garden

On a sunny, warm June morning, Duke of Kent School was transported into a hive of industry. The construction of the Forum Garden was in full flow. Our daughter (Mrs Knox!) had invited us to participate in this wonderful project. The idea being to create a teaching and talking space within the School grounds where teachers, parents and pupils could come together to plant, nourish and grow flowers and vegetables and share conversation.

But first came the carefully thought out preparation under the wonderful guidance of a Pre-prep parent, Gemma Burr. Armed with wheelbarrows and spades, six huge bags of compost were transported to the previously constructed raised beds. The children had enormous fun with their mini wheelbarrows and spades. One little girl announced that she was carrying "chocolate ice cream". A bit of wishful thinking perhaps. A flat packed greenhouse was gradually taking shape with parents (thank you to Mr and Mrs Muldoon!). Meanwhile the group building the gabion bench, brilliantly designed by Tim Cocking, for the Senior School pupils became a veritable "chain gang" with the heavy lifting of rocks and stones. Another little girl asked if she could keep one of the prettier stones and take it home.

The atmosphere was so positive, friendly and productive. Arched frames were constructed and the base of a solar water fountain established, tomatoes and green beans were planted and everything was very well watered. Some lighter moments came with everyone enjoying a coffee break with croissants and chocolate biscuits. On a personal level for us, it was wonderful seeing a community working so harmoniously on such a worthwhile project. The knowledge, expertise and incredible hard work will be appreciated by many for years to come. We felt so proud to be part of this wonderfully warm community for a very special morning. Thank you Duke of Kent School.

Mr & Mrs Jackson
(also known as Mrs Knox's parents)













Food and Nutrition

Great food is at the very heart of the Catering Department at Duke of Kent School. We strive every day to 'WOW' pupils with new ideas and interesting meals whilst keeping the traditional touches.

The Catering Department work extremely hard to make sure we have a wide and wonderful choice of food to choose from, whether it's for breakfast, lunch, dinner, match teas or snack at break times. Over the last year we have been delighted to be getting back to normality and enjoying discussions about new concepts and ideas with the pupils. Through hearing our pupil voice at School Council meetings, we continually make changes to our dishes such as meat choices for roasts, a bigger fruit selection at snack and adding more spice (but not too much!) to curries etc. We have also recently started to use vegetables grown here in the School Forum Garden by the pupils, parents and staff in our dishes.

Another part of life here at Duke of Kent School has been the wonderful return of our parents and all the functions that come with it. These have included the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic, Parents' Day, PADoK Evenings and so many more! To see everyone catching up after the last two years has been brilliant. It has also been great to get not only the pupils' feedback but yours as well. This is what drives our choices and decisions as we strive to continually evolve to be varied, authentic, exciting, innovative and most importantly delicious!

Our Commitment to you:

-  95% of all dishes across the menu are freshly prepared.
-  We buy 100% of our meat and 90% of our fruit and vegetables from UK sources.
-  Our eggs come from RSPCA Freedom Farm Assured sources only and are certified with the Red Lion Quality Mark.
-  All our milk is produced from Red Tractor accredited farms.
-  All our fresh bakery products are made on-site or by local bakers close to the School.
-  No fish on the IUCN Threatened Species red list are used within our menus and our suppliers are prohibited from sourcing "At Risk" fish.

Here's to another wonderful year and great food at Duke of Kent School.

Mr Hanvey
Catering Manager

Pre-prep Review

Glorious sunshine accompanied our return to School as the 21/22 academic year got underway! Pupils returned to School with their signature smiles and ready-to-get-started attitudes. Class topics were initiated with trips to the Weald and Downland Museum, Lewes Castle and Brighton Sealife Centre for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 respectively. As the Autumn Term came to an end, Pre-prep pupils delighted their audience of parents with the Christmas show, Honky Tonky Donkey. With joyous singing, enchanting dance moves and the help of our Year 2 narrators, pupils shared the previously unheard perspective of the musical donkey who accompanied Mary and Joseph on their special journey.

As the Spring Term began, pupils looked beyond our own New Year traditions and learnt about significant festivals and events for many Asian cultures. Nursery and Reception pupils came off timetable to celebrate the Lunar New Year and enjoyed exploring the meaning and history of this celebration as well as some of the associated traditions. A wonderful painted tiger was created, some cultural clothes tried on and pupils also got to taste some food from these different cultures and festivals. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 participated in sessions focused on the Japanese festival, Setsubun. In Japan, it's customary on this day to eat your age in soybeans, plus one extra for good measure! Doing this is said to bring good will and luck into your life. The Japanese also practise 'Mamemaki' which is the ritual of throwing soybeans at depictions of monsters whilst chanting, "Monsters out! Happiness in!". Needless to say, pupils loved painting their own pictures of monsters and throwing handfuls of beans at their creations whilst chanting the special phrase!

The Spring Term also saw Year 2 host their first class assembly of the year. They retold the story of Giraffes Can't Dance, with excellent rhyme and some epic dance moves! Year 2 further honed their inventiveness and performance skills during the term with a workshop from creative storyteller Danyah Miller. Danyah introduced games that encouraged

pupils to think of creative adjectives, start sentences in a variety of ways, and develop characters by pulling items from a bag. It was wonderful to see pupils using their imagination and creativity to enter into stories and bring them to life.

Our Easter bonnet parade was a fantastic way to finish the Spring Term, with many vibrant and imaginative creations on show. Unfortunately, illness and absence amongst the pupils led us to postpone our Spring Concert until just after the Easter holidays. Pupils returned from their break ready and raring to go and performed a variety of songs including Down in the Jungle, Bare Necessities, Si Si Si and It's All About You with great enthusiasm and gusto. These class songs appeared alongside various solos, duets and group pieces that had been enthusiastically practised at home, in Music lessons, 1:1 peripatetic sessions and lunch time clubs. A huge thank you to the numerous staff from the Performing Arts Department who helped the pupils prepare for this endearing showcase.

Later in the term, our Sports Day excitingly saw the return of a parents race, which featured a regal theme to go alongside this year's Jubilee Celebrations. Competitors' names were picked out of a hat and contestants put on an elegant hat and gloves before placing a marmalade sandwich in their handbag and walking their corgi to the finish line. With extra points on offer for commitment to the role and finesse, we were able to see the origins of our pupils' brilliant acting skills - as well as competitive natures!

To finish the academic year, in the final week of term, pupils enjoyed a visit to Hobbledown Farm. Here they handled and marvelled at some intriguing insects and explored the grounds; undoubtedly, however, the pupils would have to name their highlight as the adventure playground, which was a real hit! Finally, on our last day of term, Year 2 hosted a Celebration of Learning assembly for their parents. They received a certificate each, as well as awarding one to Miss Able, Mrs Richmond and Mrs 'Sammie' Plumbridge. Year 2



rounded off the celebrations with a rendition of Bruno Mars' 'Count on Me', leaving many of the parents with tears in their eyes.

Whilst we enjoy many recurring annual events synonymous with Pre-prep, such as Mother's Day parties, Father's Day Forest School party, the Christmas Show, Spring Concert and Summer Dance Show (which this year was Alice in Wonderland), we are also always looking for new and exciting opportunities for pupils. A most notable example this year, and a very popular addition to our Pre-prep activities programme, has been STEAM club. Each week, Miss Walpole presents pupils with a new and exciting challenge, for which they need to utilise communication, team building and critical thinking skills. This year pupils have built towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows, made their own bubble wands, created stain glass windows, made sherbert and managed to fit themselves through a piece of A5 paper! Due to the undeniable popularity of the club, we look forward to seeing what challenges they encounter and manage next year.

Another highlight of the year has to be the relationships we've continued to build within and beyond our School community. Throughout the year,

we have enjoyed welcoming pupils from other local infant schools to events we have hosted. Pupils from Scott-Broadwood School have joined us for Forest School sessions, Peaslake School accompanied us to enjoy the string quartet, String Fever, and Glenesk came and joined us for a wonderful Storytelling workshop with Danyah Miller. It has been fantastic to meet new people and share these wonderful experiences with others from our local area. Equally, within our own School community, we love to spend time, socialise and learn from pupils in the Prep and Senior sections. A special thanks, in particular, must go to Maddie I, Natasha B and Izzy P in Year 10 for all the time they have spent in Pre-prep reading with the children this year.

Mrs Green
Head of Prep and Pre-prep





Minibeasts in Reception

Every year, Reception study minibeasts as an interesting and relevant summer topic, they engage in pond dipping and minibeast hunts as well as lots of research and investigations.

We look at each minibeast in turn and discover their life cycle, where they live, what they eat and their habitats. We even keep our own caterpillars in the classroom and watch as they transform into chrysalides and then into butterflies. It's always such a joyous occasion when we are able to release them into the blue summer sky and then we keep a keen look out for our butterflies as we move around the School.

It was on such a day that we headed onto the South Terrace and into the woods near Pre-prep to go 'hunting' and soon spotted an array of different minibeasts. The lovely flower bed provided a plethora of varieties of flying insects, including more bees than we could count! We noted that the bees particularly enjoyed the purple headed flowers and watched them doing their 'waggle dance'. It was not just the flower bed that provided great specimens as we discovered many tiny red spiders scurrying across the steps up to the Dining Room. We spotted Clouded yellow and Meadow brown butterflies flitting amongst the flowers and over the wild grasses but not our own butterflies that had perhaps gone further afield to explore. Later, we found a colony of ladybirds on the sports field that appeared very happy munching on aphids on a bed of nettles and we even saw a magnificent dragonfly on our way back up the hill. We kept tally charts of all the minibeasts we had seen and discussed our findings when we got back into School. Everyone chose a minibeast to do research on and we made a super book to show how much we have learnt!

Mrs Henry
Head of EYFS and Reception Teacher



Honky Tonky Donkey

It was such a delight for the Pre-prep pupils to be able to perform in front of a live audience and for many of them this was their first time. HonkyTonky Donkey was a retelling of the traditional nativity story with a twist as HonkyTonky Donkey sought inspiration for a new song as he helped Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem. Along the route they encountered some fearsome Roman soldiers and overworked shepherds trying to keep their sheep in check on the hillsides. Once at their destination HonkyTonky Donkey was instrumental in persuading the reluctant and grumpy innkeeper to give them use of the stable through some magnificent singing and dancing from various farm animals (including a solo from a piglet!) and local villagers. A host of delightful angels added sparkle to the scene and finally some extremely wise men visited to add gravitas to the occasion.

The Year 2 narrators did a splendid job, telling the story as the scenes unfolded, culminating in a joyous celebration with the whole cast singing a song entitled

'Spectacular'. The whole production was amazing, well done to everyone involved!

Mrs Henry
Head of EYFS and Reception Teacher







Pre-prep Spring Concert

The Pre-prep Spring Concert was without a doubt a huge highlight of the Pre-prep calendar. As always pupils did a remarkable job of being in the spotlight and performing with great courage and enthusiasm. Throughout the concert, pupils showcased a variety of instruments and skills that they had been rehearsing in music lessons, 1:1 peripatetic sessions and lunch time clubs.

To begin, Nursery, in their animal masks performed 'Down in the Jungle' with accompanying actions. 'Cello babies' then took to the stage to perform 'ABC Zoo'. Next, our Year 2 violinists joined the Cello babies to perform a 'jig', before playing a pizzicato piece, without their bows. Joey S, Year 2, performed an eerie guitar piece called 'Spooky' before Reception sang to us about the Bare Necessities. Daniel L, Year 1, performed 'EGBG's on the guitar, he did this with great courage and had even managed to keep it a secret from his parents. Year 2 followed with their rendition of 'All About You' by McFly. Tombi W did an amazing rendition on the air guitar playing in the class song, then he performed Song 2 by Blur on the drums. Year 1 sang a beautiful African song of welcome, named 'Si Si Si' before the entire department stood up to give a final rendition of Mr Fizz, a song which was written by past Duke of Kent School pupils.

It was so lovely for the children to finally be able to perform, the atmosphere was fantastic and the children, as always, successfully applied themselves and gave a spectacular performance.

Miss Walpole

Year 1 Teacher



Pre-prep

Summer Dance Show

During the Summer Term, Pre-prep pupils transformed into various characters including bunnies, flamingos, playing cards and a caterpillar! Accompanied by a mouse, March Hare, White Rabbit, Cheshire cat, Mad Hatter, Queen of Hearts and Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum - to name but a few - pupils retold the story of Alice in Wonderland through the medium of dance. With a rocking backing track, the audience were transported through the key events: a drink me bottle, eat me cupcake, crazy tea party, rose painting and flamingo croquet with a hedgehog, as Alice ventured through this new land!

Each year group performed their own number in the show with many transition scenes seeing pupils weaving joyfully in and out of each other's company - a welcome sight post Covid. The many weeks of rehearsals before the big day led to the children feeling confident and prepared; each and every one of them knew, with timely precision, when to 'exit stage left' and similarly, when they were due to return for their next scene. Despite pupils feeling understandably nervous about performing in front of such a large audience, they showed true resilience and a fantastic 'growth mindset' throughout the entire process.

Our sincerest thanks to Lisa Lee for her unerring enthusiasm, wonderful positivity and endless talent, to pull such an enjoyable masterpiece together. It was no surprise the closing scene was met with whoops and cheers from a very impressed audience! Well done, Pre-prep, you were absolutely incredible and should be very proud of your unwavering efforts and brilliant moves!

Mrs Salley
Year 2 Teacher



Prep School Review

Not only was the sun shining but the opportunity to welcome pupils and parents back into School without bubbles or restrictions was the perfect way to start our new academic year. Following disruption to our previous Summer Term residential plans, we kicked off the Autumn Term with a social evening for Year 3 and camping events for Years 4, 5 and 6. These provided a perfect opportunity to explore (or reacquaint themselves with) our beautiful grounds, build new relationships with peers and staff and strengthen existing friendships. Many challenges - such as staying away from home, involving ourselves in activities and talking to someone new - were overcome and a great time was had by all! There were social opportunities for parents too, including the reinstatement of our Information Evenings to start the term. We had missed you all and were delighted to see you back in the School corridors and classrooms!

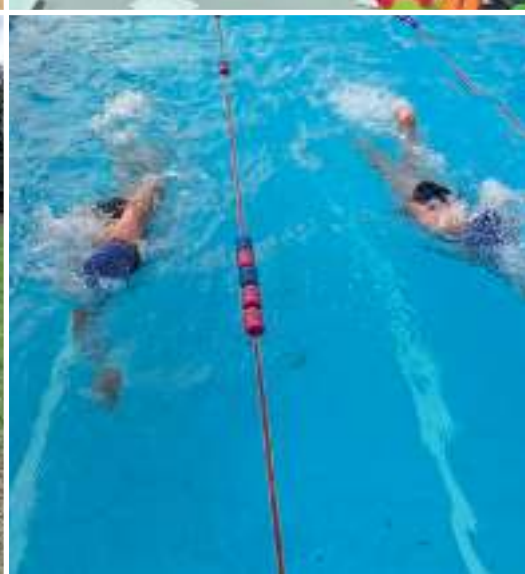
As always, our programme of trips soon got underway with Year 4 visiting the Hannah Peschar Sculpture Gardens in Ockley, seeking inspiration for both their English and Art work. Year 5 visited Winchester Science Centre and Year 6 headed down to Kent for the re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings!

The Autumn Term also saw important assemblies on Switch off Fortnight, Show Racism the Red Card, Anti-bullying and Harvest Festival, in addition to our beloved class assemblies. Nutritionist, Olivia Rogers, also joined us from our School Catering Company, Holroyd Howe, to present an assembly and workshops about the importance of a balanced diet. The term culminated with all our favourite events, including Year 3 decorating the Christmas tree, Christmas Jumper Day, Form parties and, of course, the Prep School Christmas Fayre. This year, due to some returning restrictions, the Fayre was held in the Prep School classrooms. Pre-prep pupils were able to come and visit, and the event was live streamed for parents through our social media platforms. Huge congratulations to all the pupils who prepared arts, crafts and games during their Forest School and Endeavour lessons; they were thoroughly enjoyed!

As we returned for the Spring Term, Year 6 pupils assisted Mrs Knox in hosting a Lunar Assembly for the whole School. They had pre-recorded a dramatic piece, which retold the story of how the Chinese Zodiac was established and huddled together to give a wonderful performance as a dragon. The same week also saw Prep School pupils take part in our inaugural Public Speaking Day. Pupils spent the day off timetable participating in a variety of activities to help hone and develop the techniques associated with this important skill. The ability of spoken words to influence, persuade and change the world as we know it continues to astound me and was a message we were keen to convey to the pupils throughout this special day. Congratulations to Patrick W who, following the afternoon's House competition, was voted as the winner by our panel of impressed judges.

Later in the term, Year 6 pupils demonstrated remarkable responsibility and kindness as they accompanied our Reception and Year 1 pupils to Winchester Science Centre. The Year 6 pupils responsibly guided the younger pupils around the exhibits, reading signs





and information for them and discussing all the wonderful things to see. As always, the planetarium was an absolute highlight as staff and pupils explored our galaxy and beyond! Year 3 pupils celebrated the arrival of Spring at Kew Gardens for their termly trip and Years 4 and 5 ventured to Milestones to learn more about the focus of their History and Topic lessons: the Victorians and Post World War II Britain respectively.

The Spring Term also saw us welcome author Kerry Gibb, who introduced her book, 'It's A Kid's Life', and spoke about her inspiration behind such tales: her four sons! The Performing Arts Hall also saw four male relatives convene during the term as part of a string quartet. String Fever impressed pupils with an array of classical and modern tunes as well as explanations of their backstory and instruments. Prep School also listened, enthralled, to the fantastic storyteller, Danyah Miller, who guided us into the world of Gormless Nesbitt as he searched for Mama Money and Lord Luck in a morning's assembly.

As we progressed through the Summer Term, Year 5 pupils used Endeavour lessons to prepare wonderfully 'British' games for the whole School to enjoy as part of our Jubilee celebrations. Following our delicious picnic lunch, a hat toss, throw the tea bag in the teacup, mini golf around popular London sights and egg and spoon race kept the Prep and Senior pupils busy on a glorious afternoon, followed by ice creams and a tug of war competition! Year 4 pupils similarly used their Endeavour lessons to prepare games and activities to be enjoyed by pupils in Years 4 and 5 during their upcoming residential trip to the Isle of Wight. A scavenger hunt, sandcastle building competition, quiz and crab football all made an appearance, to name but a few.

The Summer Term hosted more fantastic class assemblies including: Year 6's The Day the Crayons Quit, Year 5's reminder on conflict resolution and the power of compromise; Year 4's Britain had Talent and Year 3's assembly saw the Romans vote to take over our School! As the term drew to a close, we were delighted to once again be able to enjoy key events such as Familiarisation Day, residential trips to the Isle of Wight and PGL and day trips to Hever Castle and Saddlescombe Farm. The ability to provide these opportunities for pupils uninhibited was fantastic, and we hope they took away skills for future life and lots of happy memories.

A huge thank you to the many volunteers who put themselves forward for our Pupil Voice committees during the year. Representatives on the School Council, Sustainability and Charity committees have continued to influence and shape how our School operates based on their experiences and we're incredibly proud of the respect and sense of responsibility they have shown in their endeavours. Equally, it has been wonderful to see so many pupils involve themselves in the lunchtime clubs on offer this year: Art, French, German, Chamber Choir and Ukuleles of Kent have all been popular options, extending the pupils' learning and experiences beyond the classroom curriculum.

Mrs Green

Head of Prep and Pre-prep

World Ocean Day

World Ocean Day was on Wednesday 8th June and the Prep School enjoyed a morning carousel of different activities. The theme for this year was Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean. The focus was on working together to support our oceans. We need to create a new balance where we no longer just take from the ocean but instead we try to restore its vibrancy and bring new life to it.

To start the morning, we had an assembly led by Year 6 who had been working hard in their Endeavour lessons to write and perform their own play scripts. We enjoyed two different plays, both of which had a very clear moral lesson linked to World Ocean Day. Both groups produced wonderful performances; well-acted, humorous and thoughtful - it was clear that they had made an excellent effort to do their best.

For the remainder of the morning the pupils worked in their Houses, moving between the four very different activities. They enjoyed an Art activity based on the short film "A Whale's Tale". "Under the sea a whale tries to help the smaller creatures who are struggling with plastic waste. On land a young boy seeks help to clear the sea in his area. But neither can succeed on their own...". This is a very thought provoking film and gives the pupils an opportunity to think about the consequences of our actions and to work creatively to make a powerful display. We were very excited to see their very impressive whale on display in the Prep corridor.

There was also a story writing activity where each House (and in fact Year 6 and Year 7!) contributed to creating a magnificently moving story about life in the ocean. Here are some examples of the wonderful ideas and language that they used;

"Far below, an abyss - black as the night sky - sank down into the inky depths." and "Behind it, gathered a horde of nervous sardines forming into a giant thunder cloud." The very last line sums up the thought that kept running through our minds during the day; "Will we ever have truly clean and healthy oceans again?"

The last two activities were linked to both Science and PSHE and pupils had to think about the reality of what is happening in our oceans. In the first one pupils were introduced to the words "biodiversity" and "ecosystem" and learnt that there are many many different types of coral but that they can be very easily damaged. They explored different food chains and discussed what would happen if part of a food chain was damaged by pollution. They then had the opportunity to create their own healthy ocean ecosystem.

Finally, the pupils had to think about whether the pollution of our oceans can be reversed. They had to create their own polluted ocean using different materials, such as food colouring to represent chemicals and washing up liquid to represent acid rain. As they added each material to their ocean they observed what the consequences were to their (sponge) fish. Having polluted their beautifully clean oceans the pupils then had to think about how they could clean them up again. They all concluded that it would be much better for our world if we could stop adding more and more pollutants to our oceans.

Mrs Lock

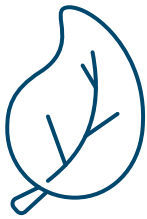
Prep School Teacher



Favourite Memories

in Prep School

What a busy year it was in the Prep School last year, with so many memories made! All the pupils wanted to share their highlights, but here is what some of the pupils said when asked about their favourite memory.

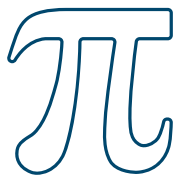
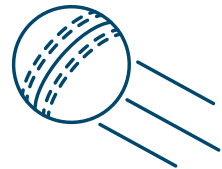


I've really enjoyed being able to carry on with Forest School in Year 3. During our free time, we made woodland music and a sweet shop. I also enjoyed watching the forest change during each season.

Herb M, Year 3

My favourite thing this year was getting involved with all of the sports matches but in particular, cricket.

Fin C, Year 3



I really enjoyed the Maths Pi day activities where we worked with children from the other year groups to solve problems.

Eva W, Year 3

My favourite memory from this year was reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. We finished it just in time but throughout the story, it felt like we were part of it.

Jasmine W, Year 4



Our trip to the Milestones Museum was definitely a highlight of my year. It felt so real as if we were Victorians walking in the street. I have also really enjoyed the roller disco activity on a Friday after School!

Freddie G, Year 4

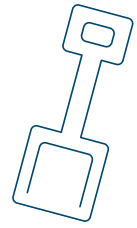
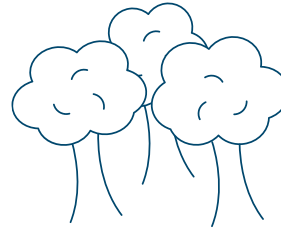
There are lots of things I have enjoyed this year like entering the House Bake Off competition, Sports Day, pretending to be in a Victorian school at Milestones Museum and the water maze at Hever Castle.

Rebekah, Year 4





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I really enjoyed creating a game for the Christmas Fayre during my Endeavour lessons. We created a coconut shy style game and called it Santa Smash Down. Everyone seemed to enjoy playing the game, especially the Pre-Prep children who were very good at it!

Rommy B, Year 5

My favourite memory from this year was definitely the castles game we played as part of our revision. There is always so much tension and drama and of course, it's a lot of fun!

Thibaut J, Year 5

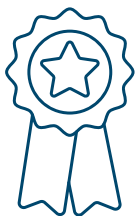
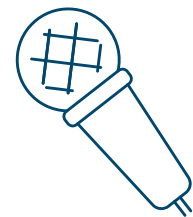


Our trip to the Isle of Wight was definitely a highlight of my year. We visited the beach and had a sandcastle competition but the best part was the ice cream. I went for 4 scoops!

Grace M, Year 5

I really enjoyed the Prep School Public Speaking Day. We thought about all of the elements that have to come together and performed in front of our House. My House chose me to go through and I was so surprised when I won the competition.

Patrick W, Year 6



There are lots of things I have enjoyed and will remember from this year but PGL was definitely a highlight. We had so much fun and I was able to conquer my fears as well!

Isla W, Year 6

As well as our trip to PGL, I also really enjoyed meeting author Marcus Sedgwick live from his writing study in the French Alps.

Tansy-Bela T, Year 6



Mrs Gritton
Year 3 Teacher

Six Degrees of Separation

When we began rehearsals for the Prep School Production of "Six Degrees of Separation" way back in September after a two-year hiatus, we did so with some trepidation. In March 2020 we had come within a week of performing "The Tree of Time", after six months of rehearsals, to be stopped in our tracks by the national lockdown; a heartbreaking experience for all those pupils who had worked so hard on their performances. It almost seemed too much to hope that this year pupils would finally be able to perform in front of a live audience.

We quickly decided that our cast of twenty-four pupils would perform all of the songs without the support of the choir this year. From the very first rehearsal we realised how dedicated, enthusiastic, confident and determined they were; they sang so beautifully that it was obvious that they could carry the songs on their own. They worked tirelessly to learn their lines and to immerse themselves in their characters. They were a joy to work with because they really wanted to make their performances the best they could, but also because they were so full of enthusiasm and excitement about being able to perform.

As we approached the first night's performance the levels of excitement were sky high; the pupils were nervous but couldn't wait to show the audience what they were capable of and my goodness me, what an unbelievable job they did! It was glorious to see their absolute joy when they performed; they were confident, word perfect and their comic timing was wonderful. Performing in front of a large audience is something that would intimidate many of us and for the majority of our cast this was their very first time of doing so. Did it intimidate them? No! They relished the opportunity, soaked up the response from the audience and used it to enhance their performances- what an incredible job they did.

Here are some of the reviews from their peers;

"I really liked all the songs and it was really funny"

"I loved all of the jokes and I think my favourite one was "Jimmy Choo".

"I enjoyed the songs, I think they were energetic and fun."

"My favourite character was the silly maths teacher because she said, "I even know some of my 4's, then held up 3 fingers!"

And from a pupil taking part in his first ever production;

"It has been a moment in my time at Duke of Kent School that I know I will never forget. I enjoyed seeing the scenery and the songs slowly come together. It was really exciting seeing everyone's acting progress over time..... From my perspective the Prep School Production was a huge success!"



I agree wholeheartedly! Congratulations to all the pupils who were involved, it was a superb way to restart our Prep School Productions and I think will inspire many other pupils to want to take part next year. Thank you to the whole creative team of Mr Macdonald, Lisa Lee, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Gritton and Mrs Lock, with the assistance of Mr Rye and Mrs Kerr who worked so hard to give the pupils the chance to showcase their talents and who I have to say thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to be involved in a production again.

I couldn't sign off this review without a tribute to the wonderful Mr Macdonald. I have had the privilege of working with him on (I think) eight of his own shows and enjoyed many many years of his "jokes" - who could forget Mrs Bacon having a "pig of a morning". It has been an absolute joy to be involved in so many different shows - who could forget "The Builders", "The Coin", "The Guardians of Destiny", "The Pavilion" to name just some of them. Every year we would discuss the characters or scenes we thought would be the most fun and I only had to mention that I had always wanted to do a scene which had (for example) Henry VIII and his wives in and he would create one! How unbelievably fortunate we have been to have someone so talented that he not only creates his own scripts, but writes all the music and lyrics to each song. It is a truly amazing experience to watch him sit down at the piano and create a wonderful song in a very short period of time. Many, many pupils have had such enjoyment from singing those songs and performing his scripts; memories which they will cherish forever.

It is truly an understatement to say that he will be hugely missed; the end of an era for Macdonald productions.

Mrs Lock
Prep School Teacher





Senior School Review

This has been the School year where we have gratefully embraced a return to relative normality. With Covid restrictions lifting, pupils have grabbed opportunities with both hands, taking advantage of a fantastic range of possibilities with a 'can-do' attitude. Their endeavour and positivity has been a huge asset and resulted in a high level of achievement across the board.

We are constantly reviewing our practices to make certain that pupils get a voice at Duke of Kent School, being involved in the decision-making alongside staff and ensuring the School is the best it can be for their peers, parents and teachers alike. This year we have seen Year 9 excel in a peer mentoring role, assisting Year 7 to learn the ropes and feel a part of the community, whilst the Sustainability Committee continued to be actively involved, playing a part in creating a new Forum Garden and reducing electricity and food waste. The School Council has been reviewing the Homework Policy and the Rewards and Sanctions Policy, leading to new, updated versions of both being developed. They have also arranged for basketball hoops to be installed on the School site, met the Catering Department to discuss the School snack provision and designed the new School hoodie, amongst other things! The Charity Committee meanwhile have raised over £3000 for Access Adventures and Red Cross Ukraine, with events including plant sales, bake sales and face painting. A new pupil-led Friday lunchtime Faith and Reflection Group has also begun whilst the inaugural Senior House Debating Competition, organised by the pupils themselves, was a roaring success. The Prefect body has also continued to play a prevalent role in day-to-day School life, organising team-building events for the new starters, running a weekly tuck shop for Years 9 to 11 and helping to ensure the smooth running of daily events.

Opportunities outside the classroom have been plentiful, with trips to the Sculpture Park in Farnham, Hampton Court Palace, Booth Museum, University of Sussex, the Mayflower Theatre and the Apollo Theatre, to name but a few. The School once again hosted a hugely successful ISA London South Regional Cross-Country competition whilst the U16 girls achieved success in the ISA National Netball Tournament and

many personal triumphs were celebrated across a range of sports. The Computer Science Department hosted its first Coding Skills Day whilst our KS4 team found success in the Regional SATRO Competition and a number of pupils excelled in the UKMT National Maths Challenge. The Performing Arts Department has continued to be extremely busy with highlights including an outstanding performance at GLive in Guildford as well as a magnificent production of Moby Dick that had audiences in raptures.

Assemblies have continued to be enriching and diverse, with guest speakers ranging from Izzy Petter, the 2022 Olympic Hockey Bronze Medal winner to Farakh Jamal from the Crawley Islamic Centre, who spoke to the pupils about the Muslim Festival of Eid and the fasting period of Ramadan. Topics as varied as LGBTQ+ History, Mental Health Awareness, Child Poverty, Show Racism the Red Card, Anti-Bullying and Science Week have all been covered.

A special mention must go to our departing Year 11 cohort who conducted themselves with dignity, determination and focus throughout the GCSE exam series. Every pupil achieved the grades they needed to move forward, preparing thoroughly and engaging with the process maturely. Indeed, it is testament to their resolve and maturity, that during such a daunting process not a single exam was missed, not a single pupil arrived late and they gave themselves the best opportunity to excel. This speaks volumes about their character and will undoubtedly stand them in good stead as they move on to their next academic setting, taking on future challenges with a similar purpose and confidence.

Mr Wilson
Head of Senior School







Geography Field Trip

This year's annual Geography residential field-trip was a huge success. Bathed in glorious spring sunshine, 33 intrepid Year 10 pupils set about collecting data in the field! Our first stop was Southampton city centre, where the pupils conducted surveys, completed Environmental Quality Assessments, and a traffic count. The objective was to answer the inquiry question: Is Southampton a Sustainable City? They were very brave, each collecting at least 3 survey results (and quite a few rejections!) giving us over 100 survey responses. We then set off to the New Forest for lunch and some improvised ball games. From here, we ventured to our Youth Hostel in Lulworth Cove to drop off our bags before embarking on a picturesque walk along the South West Coastal path taking in the cove itself, Lulworth Crumple and a well-earned ice-cream.

The following day, we set off for Studland Bay to witness the sand dunes, assessing their credibility as a coastal defence measure. From here we took up the coastal path once again and walked south for 2 hours, with the ocean to our left and the anticipation of Swanage ahead! What we didn't anticipate was approximately 100m of what could only be described as a fly-storm! Hatching season had commenced and we were inundated with small black flies on our clothes, our hair, and if we were really lucky, in our mouths too! There were screams, there was panic! Thankfully however, we made it, and soon enough began our descent onto Swanage beach. Here, the pupils took measurements and made assessments to answer the question: Are the Beach Management Strategies in Swanage Effective? Great work was completed by all.

A fish and chip lunch, some free time and then back on the minibuses to head for home. Congratulations to all of the pupils for their efforts and good spirits. A special thank you also to Mr Wilson, Mrs Punter and Miss Vickers for supporting the trip and giving up their own time to attend.

Mr Allen

Head of Geography and Head of Pupil Progress





A Year of Sensational Science

What a year we've had in Science! With two brand new, purpose built labs to enjoy, a host of practicals both old and new have been taking place and pupils have enjoyed learning and experimenting in the new environments. The team are all delighted with the teaching opportunities the new labs offer.

These labs were officially opened during a wonderful celebration involving Year 11 pupils, the Science Department and those involved in the implementation of the project. A member of our Duke of Kent School alumni, James Harrison, who was Deputy Head Boy in 2013-14 and is now a fully qualified Doctor, spoke about his experiences learning Science at GCSE and how this inspired his pathway into medicine before cutting the ribbon and declaring the labs open. Many thanks to all involved in the design and construction of our labs.

To complement our new labs, we took the opportunity to re-name them and chose three scientists who we believe are inspiring role models for our pupils due to their significant achievements in Science despite facing individual challenges. Our Biology Lab is named after DNA and virus pioneer Rosalind Franklin, our Physics Lab is named after NASA's first black, female engineer Mary Jackson and our Chemistry Lab is named after the self-educated Michael Faraday.

October brought Biology Week during which we celebrated the amazing world of Bioscience. This year, thanks to Mrs Vermeulen, we marked the event with a visit from Meducators, who arrived with stethoscopes, skeletons, enthusiasm and a lot of practical experience and advice for our Year 10 pupils. A Biology Art Attack project produced some outstanding creations from Years 7 and 8. Examples include a beautiful cell cake from Mercy M, an intricate clay model of a cell from Declan E, a thriving terrarium from Quentin J (all Year 7) and an informative model explaining the brain and digestive system of a Belted Galloway from Anna S (Year 8).

In Autumn Term, our Science Club pupils across the Senior School designed and carried out their own Science project investigating fruit juice, bath bombs and jewellery. Several pupils collated their work to submit for an external CREST

award, a nationally recognised award promoting pupil-led work in STEM subjects.

Thanks to the hard work of our Science Technician Mrs Shaw, we were lucky enough to be able to take part in The Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench Competition. Oscar H (Year 11), Natasha B (Year 10), Helena K and Eva L (Year 9) all conducted challenging practicals and interpreted their results as well as sitting a challenging online test. Our results were entered into the regional final and whilst we did not achieve a place in the national final this year, the team learnt a lot from the process.

We were also able to run Top of the Bench as a House Competition during Science Week. Well done to all the teams representing their house, in particular Peregrine who were the overall winners.

Science Week offered the opportunity to have a little bit of fire at our assembly with a whoosh bottle and burning money without damaging it! Mr Kulczyk shared his passion for marine biology with the School as we dissected mackerel, herring, scallops and baby squid. Dissecting whole organisms provided the opportunity to see how multiple organs connect and work together, whilst dissecting different species enabled the students to see evolutionary differences in reproductive organs and mobilisation. For me, one of the most fascinating experiences was using a microscope to view fish scales to age a plaice. With rainbow flames, methane bubbles and Mr Wyllie's speaker making lessons, Science Week delivered a lot of learning and fun.

Year 6 were invited to our new labs to create a rainbow in a test tube requiring care and precision to achieve a beautiful result. They also dissected eyes with Mrs Lwambo demonstrating their early potential as Scientists as they carefully used scalpels and scissors to find the vitreous humour and retina.

We have packed in a lot this year and myself and the Science Department look forward to finding even more exciting ways to engage the pupils in Science next year.

Mrs Tattan-Robb
Head of Science

Year 11 Leavers

On Monday 4th of July, the Year 11s and their proud parents gathered to celebrate their time here at Duke of Kent School. And what a dazzling evening it was!

The pupils stepped out of their cars like Hollywood movie stars on their way to a Royal Gala. Their ball gowns and black ties looked fabulous. Here we had before us an array of splendid young adults unrecognisable from the mere children who arrived with us many years ago. They have had an interesting, rollercoaster of a ride in the past few years but their independent and collective resourcefulness, courage and spirit has seen them through and this was a fitting celebration.

The evening kicked off with the now established and cherished tradition of the Leavers' Concert, orchestrated with such charisma by the incomparable Mr Rye. There was passion and poignancy in all the solo performances and a real sense that singing and playing in front of their contemporaries was not nerve racking, was not embarrassing, nor a chore. The pupils performed with such engaging confidence that it felt like a collective, broader experience that the whole year was part of. This was reflected in the warmth of the reception. The group song, sung with gusto and humour, brought the concert to a rousing end.

Dinner was a sophisticated and civilised affair. Sensational food and service was provided by our Catering Manager, Rob Hanvey and his amazing team, many of whom had known these pupils since they were very small indeed, and the Dining Room looked exquisite thanks in the main to Jane Hopwood. The atmosphere was wonderful. There were leaving gifts handed out and farewell speeches by Mrs Knox and Mr Wilson, and there was the usual poem by Mr Macdonald. The headliner in this instance, was Charlie B who made an impromptu and heartwarming speech of thanks on behalf of the year group; a touching moment.

For many of us it was difficult to say goodbye at the end of the evening. The staff, parents and pupils form all sorts of exceptional bonds and have so many shared experiences at a very important time of these young people's lives. Saying farewell to them was both sad and moving. We wish them all the best of luck as they move onto their next place of education.

Mr Macdonald
Deputy Head







House Debating Competition

Throughout the whole of the first term, all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 were taught, during their English Skills lessons, the art of public speaking and debating. They worked on how to use their body language, the importance of maintaining eye contact and how to use language to engage your listener. This culminated in a preliminary round of competitions, where each pupil, within a group of three (proposer, opposer and chairperson) delivered a debate on a topic of their choice. The quality of the debates that were delivered in this round were exceptional. Each and every pupil took an incredibly mature and thoughtful approach to the topics that they debated. From this, the House teams were chosen, which was an extremely difficult task as all that were involved were outstandingly impressive!

The inaugural House Debating Competition at Duke of Kent School was held on Friday 11th February 2022 - a whole two years after the initial planning!

Having had plenty of contact and meetings both face-to-face and virtual with the Head of the Rotary Club of Cranleigh, Andrew Kolmar, he voiced that he was extremely keen to be a judge for the day, together with his colleague Joan Connelly. So, along with Miss Francis and Miss Anand, we welcomed Andrew and Joan as the judges of the competition. At the beginning of each debate, each speaker from each House was invited to stand at the lectern to deliver their part of their presentation. There was a range of topical and controversial issues covered in the debates including: 'Are single-sex schools better than mixed sex schools?' and 'Are footballers paid too much?'. Each House from each year group delivered their pitches using reasoning and evidence to articulate their arguments; it was amazing to see each team deliver their topics with such passion, enthusiasm and confidence, especially considering this was the first time many had participated in such a competition. The audience did a wonderful job of listening attentively, with some groups using subtle hints of humour to win over the judges and Mrs Knox! It was then the deliberation...

Finally, the waiting was over and it was time for the winners to be revealed. The ones that impressed the most and won the competition for their House were:

Year 7

Buzzard - Will B, Monty L, Jonny J - Should pupils be allowed to wear their own clothes?

Year 8

Kestrel - Saoirse W, Daisy R, Josh W-D - Are books better than films?

Year 9

Hawk - Kai G, Pippa S, Oscar D-K - Is the portrayal of teenagers in the media justified?

Huge congratulations go to all those who were involved. We are all looking forward to what you debate next year and hearing what issues move you.

Mrs Punter
English Teacher

Year 7 Charity Stalls

In the Spring Term, Year 7 learnt all about the art of persuasion. It is a popular unit of work amongst our Year 7 pupils as they have the chance to be innovative and reflective about how charitable they are by participating in some random acts of kindness of their own.

With a focus on the work of well-known charities such as RSPCA and Cancer Research, they utilised persuasive language to gain public trust and increase donations. They listened to speeches held at United Nations Conferences, such as Emma Watson's speech on gender equality (as part of her 'HeforShe' initiative) and Leonardo DiCaprio's 2014 speech on climate change. In teams, they identified a cause they wished to support and presented a persuasive proposal to a "board of directors" to convince them that their cause was worth a hefty £15,000 - just for fun!

As it turns out, our Year 7 pupils are a pretty fantastic bunch, keen and passionate about change in the world. Their ideas for a new charity ranged from dyslexia to orangutans, mental health and wellbeing, to polar bears and pandas. Over the course of the term, using their knowledge of persuasive language and techniques, they designed and created a printed advert, a leaflet and a television advertisement to promote their charity to others. The project concluded with a special afternoon dedicated to showcasing a culmination of all their work in the Performing Arts Hall. All of the teachers including Mrs Knox, stopped by to see their stalls in action. The pupils were excited as visitors circulated their stalls, keen to receive the most sign-ups for their charity. Year 7 then formed an audience for each group to present their charity to the judging panel, the Duke of Kent School Senior Charity Committee.

This year, the winning team was Chester S, George C, Iona H, Ben K and Annabel B for their 'Dyslexia' charity. The Charity Committee was delighted to award them a massive £15,000 cheque and Easter eggs - the winners were quick to bank their cheque!

Thank you to all those who supported the event. A special thank you must also go to Mrs Punter and Mr Wright for supporting this topic (and helping clean up at the end!).

Miss Anand
Head of English



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Every year is a busy year in terms of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, but this has been another special one as we have transitioned back to the 'old normal' after the challenges of the pandemic. We also marked the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh himself, who famously began the whole scheme back in 1956, with a special assembly. Virtually everyone in Years 9 to 11 have been engaged in the Bronze DofE programme while many in Year 10 and a handful from the (Covid-affected) Year 11 started their Silver 'journeys'.

Pupils who undertook their volunteering at Duke of Kent School attended Peer Mentoring, DofE Club, helped Pre-prep, assisted the Charity Committee or helped support after School clubs. Others helped elderly neighbours, just one example being Tom H (Year 10) who excelled in completely renovating a garden and also providing a friendly face! Riding (horse or bike), gymnastics, dancing, golf, team sports and swimming were just a few of the activities taken by participants for their Physical section. Emily B (Year 11) emerged as an excellent clay pigeon shooter, a skill she has enjoyed mastering! Many have completed their Skills section as musicians and performing artists, most of whom subsequently perform at School within the Performing Arts Department as part of LAMDA under Miss Raye's wonderful supervision. One exception was Molly G (Year 11) who subsequently has a deserved reputation in her village as an ace baker!

Then of course there are the expeditions. These Year 9s summarised their practice expedition better than I can:

Ozzie H (Year 9): The day started out with a first aid course by Mrs Sarjant, Matron. She first explained in detail all of the possible dangers of our impending walk. She listed hazards such as loose cows, open roads, and so on along with their solutions.

Bobby F (Year 9): DofE was a learning curve for all of us. A way to relax after our stressful exams, however, reaching a quarter of the way through we made a BIG mistake. Though this didn't knock us down, we kept

our spirits high and sang all the way.

Johnny McM (Year 9): We chanted YMCA with the whole of the Surrey Hills surrounding us. There were some misdirection statements that led us... well, in a huge circle. "Does anyone actually know where Winterfold cottage is based?" The views we experienced up there were heavenly, just surrounded by wildlife, friends and an overall sense of peace. It just doesn't get any better than that.

In July, the Silver group travelled to Ditchling Beacon in the South Downs to begin a 3 day walking expedition to be assessed by Mr Wyllie and myself. The 6 groups, mainly Year 10's but also four Year 11's (Aoife W, Celine C, Zoe L and Hannah S) walked west towards the first campsite at Small Dole. Those groups who failed to turn off the South Downs Way ended up climbing to the highest point near 'Devil's Dyke', but at least they enjoyed an extra view! We survived the first night despite the attention of geese, seagulls, and a cross (albeit tethered) goat, and set off for Washington Camp on the second day. This site had a natural plunge pool which was much enjoyed by the first groups to arrive, as well as space to play cricket, American football, sing and play the guitar, and cook marshmallows! Luke I (Year 10) turned out to be something of a master chef, cooking for several others.

The final day's walk began in persistent rain which at least negated any risk of sunburn. Imogen C's group were particularly impressed by an e-bike rider who mentioned 'it can't be that bad' as they laboured uphill. This concluded at Wepham (near Arundel). An honorary mention goes to Alex S (Year 10) for his overall leadership but also to every single pupil involved, you all worked so hard and this is a momentous achievement and myself and Mr Wyllie are already looking forward to next year!

Mr Lodge

DofE Manager and Head of History and Religious Studies



Performing Arts Review

The Performing Arts Department returned to School in the hope that the year would bring some normality; and we did indeed manage to have some audiences and live performances. There were however still some Covid related implications that affected us as the year unfolded and again the pupils showed admirable resilience and adaptability. In spite of this it has been a record year, with more pupils involved in Performing Arts than ever before, GCSE Drama and Music results averaging a Grade 7 and a packed calendar of performances.

Music

Autumn Term

The focus of this term was a combination of the Senior School Musical and Christmas. It was fabulous to work towards a Christmas that promised to be a little more normal. Our Carol Service in the beautiful St. Nicolas Church in Cranleigh could once again have an audience, albeit a slightly reduced one, and the Performing Arts Hall was alive again with the wonderful sound of cheering and applause at the Prep School Christmas Concert. Add to this the joyful Pre-prep Nativity, which put a smile on everyone's faces, and it was almost business as usual in the Performing Arts Department!

Spring Term

Spring promised to be even busier than Christmas. A packed programme of events involving the entire School from Nursery to Year 11, promised plenty of opportunities for parents to come and watch, which still felt like something of a novelty, even in the Spring Term. The highlight was perhaps the combined schools concert held at GLive. Covid was however still an issue and the House Song element of House Music was sadly cancelled. Nevertheless, the solo and ensemble competition went ahead as normal and it was superb that over 100 pupils entered, leading to a tightly contested finals day. We were delighted to welcome up and coming pop star Nathan Gurd to judge the finals; he was a huge hit with the pupils, giving a talk on cyber-bullying, performing brilliantly and really throwing himself into the spirit of the day. As we approached the end of



term and the Pre-prep Spring Concert the decision was made to postpone it to the Summer Term so we could welcome an audience with no restrictions. At the end of term, pupils from Years 9 to 11 Senior Choir headed off to Liverpool for the twice rescheduled choir tour.

Summer Term

The Summer Term got off to a flying start. We welcomed friend of the School and top session saxophonist Frank Walden and his jazz quintet back to School, and the Performing Arts Hall was transformed into a jazz club for the evening, enabling Mr Rye to live out his fantasy of being a jazz club owner and the audience of parents enjoying some high quality live music. Our lunchtime concerts resumed and plenty of pupils from beginners to advanced received valuable performance experience in a relaxed and informal setting through these recitals. The rescheduled Pre-prep Spring Concert took place and the Performing Arts Hall was full of colour and good vibes for this always entertaining event at which every single Pre-prep pupil sang a song with their class. Finally, the Summer Concert was held outside in the Top Car Park with 300 parents in attendance and 100 pupils involved, as well as the PADoK Parents Choir, who performed for the first time in three years. Highlights of the concert were many but the Boomwhackers on the roof must be a stand out moment! It was a wonderful ending to a packed year of Music that once again brought so much joy to so many pupils, parents and staff.



Drama

As mentioned above the focus of the Autumn Term was the Senior School Musical, which involved over 80 pupils both front and backstage and was a highlight of the year for many.

The Spring Term brought the first Prep School production since 2019 and it felt very special for pupils from Years 3 to 6 to be given the opportunity to perform in a musical play. This year saw another Mr Macdonald classic - 'Six Degrees of Separation' - a study of the interconnectedness of us all and how we must remember that we are part of the same human race. It was also full of the usual jokes and wonderful tunes and the cast did themselves proud.

The Summer Term saw our first 'live' House Drama competition take place. The finals were held in the Performing Arts Hall where the twelve finalists from the Prep and Senior School performed in front of their parents and the guest judge, Juliette Cheveley. Juliette is a professional actor and stunt performer, and has doubled for many leading actresses including Emma Thompson, Sandra Bullock, Sharon Stone and Cate Blanchett. She is also a voice-over artist and presenter in the TV, film and media industries. It was a lovely event and a great success.

Later in the term Year 2 got in on the act and excitedly participated in a drama workshop centred around The Great Fire of London. Tanya from the Freshwater Theatre Company took them back in time to 1666 where they were able to relive the catastrophic events of The Great Fire from the safety of the Prep School Library!

Towards the end of term pupils from Years 8 and 9 performed 'A Monster Calls', based on the novel by Patrick Ness. The cast and crew were wonderful and performed with emotional honesty and a real commitment to tell the moving and powerful story as truthfully as possible. It was a fitting end to a busy and successful year in the Drama Department.

Dance

Dance remains a popular and growing activity at School. Pre-prep Dance, Senior and Prep Ballet Clubs and Senior Modern Dance Club all operate weekly and are well attended. In the Autumn Term the Ballet Club acquitted themselves well at the ISA Dance competition and the Modern Dance club performed at the Christmas Concert, Spring Ensemble and Summer Concert, to rapturous applause. The highlight of the year however must be the Pre-prep Summer Dance Show. This year the theme was Alice in Wonderland and it was amazing to have a Performing Arts Hall full of parents and grand-parents all enjoying the wonderful performance put on by the enthusiastic and focused pupils. Dance Teacher, Lisa Lee, once again created an entertaining and colourful production that saw every single Pre-prep pupil giving their all on stage, with wonderful costumes and brilliant music. It was a glorious ending to the year.

Mr Rye

Director of Music and Performing Arts

Moby Dick

A Whale of a Tale

The Senior Musical is a highlight of the School year for many. It is an opportunity for pupils from Years 7 to 11 to work together on a shared project that is creative, fun, inspiring and hugely challenging. This year, it was all those things and more. Due to last year's enforced break from a whole School musical, it meant that over half of this year's huge cast of seventy would never have done anything like this before. Add to that the excitement of there being a production at all and the pressure was on!

The piece chosen was 'Moby Dick - A Whale of a Tale' - a madcap and hilarious musical about a School putting on its own version of the famous American novel (imagine St. Trinian's doing Moby Dick!). Our young cast got into it straight away, approaching the rehearsals with commitment and working hard to learn the songs and dances, directed and choreographed by our inspirational dance teacher Lisa Lee. The performances were scheduled for the end of November and, as the curtain went down, to say we were proud of the pupils is an understatement. As a Performing Arts Department we were bursting with pride and joy at how our huge cast pulled off another triumph, against the odds, with the spectre of Covid looming over the production and the worry that it might not even happen at all a real possibility.

It was a joy to listen to the audience laughing so much at the cheesy and hilarious jokes, to feel the energy from our young cast as they performed with spirit and commitment, and to have a live show once more being performed to a sell-out crowd. The power of the Performing Arts in times of adversity is exceptional and this was truly one of those times where the whole team rose as one to the challenge. The cast and crew are to be congratulated on a wonderful achievement which will no doubt remain in all our memories for years to come.

Mr Rye

Director of Music and Performing Arts







A Monster Calls

Every Summer Term, pupils from Years 8 and 9 put on a straight play, giving them an opportunity to immerse themselves fully in the acting process, from audition to performance. This also allows every pupil to put into practice everything they learn in Drama and, for those that have them, LAMDA lessons. While in the past, the Summer Term plays have always had a serious theme to them, this year we headed down a new path. 'A Monster Calls' is based on the piercing novel by Patrick Ness. In the play thirteen-year-old Cara and her mum have managed just fine since her dad moved. But now her mum is sick and not getting any better. Her grandmother won't stop interfering and the kids at school won't look her in the eye.

Then, one night, Cara is woken by something at her window. A monster has come walking. It's come to tell Cara tales from when it walked before. And when it's finished, Cara must tell her own story and face her deepest fears. As a piece of drama 'A Monster Calls' offers a dazzling insight into love, life and healing and provides an opportunity for the cast to explore reality in all its brutal beautiful forms.

The cast and crew were wonderful and performed with emotional honesty and a real commitment to tell the story as truthfully as possible, using multi-role and ensemble techniques. This maturity had a real impact on the audience who were enthralled, engaged and emotionally drained by the end of the performances! Perhaps what impressed us most was the cast's real unity as an ensemble; they worked beautifully together to create the wonderful physical theatre scenes, while showing real bravery in how they communicated the grief, anger, selfishness and frustration of the characters they portrayed. They, and the brilliant crew, were all utterly delightful throughout the entire process.

Huge thanks are due to Mrs Honey for her inspirational direction and design, Lisa Lee for her wonderful staging of the physical theatre scenes, and Mrs Punter for her brilliant feedback and direction.

Mr Rye

Director of Music and Performing Arts





A Review In Quotes

“ Amazing cast, amazing crew, super fun!

Tabi S-B, Year 8 ”

“ A Monster Calls was such a fun and unique experience- it wasn't like any other show I've been in, and it was amazing watching the whole thing come to life and eventually seeing the final product. I loved it!

Ariane L, Year 9 ”

“ I really enjoyed it and I feel like everyone got to show a different side of their acting and it brought us closer together!

Daisy N, Year 8 ”

“ A monster calls was an amazing production, stressful but amazing. It was a brilliant opportunity for us as a cast to improve our acting skills, performing a much deeper and emotional piece than what we would usually do, thank you to Mrs Honey, Mr Rye, Lisa and Mrs Punter for bringing this incredible story to life

Kai G, Year 9 ”

“ I am always proud of the pupils when they perform but this was something special. To watch them investing in such emotional content with maturity and commitment made me and pretty much the whole audience rather teary every night. The whole thing was a triumph!

Mr Rye ”

“ A Monster Calls is one of the most fantastic shows that I have ever been a part of. It's like nothing I have even done before, the emotional journey that it takes you on, even the cast was balling at the end.

Daisy R, Year 8 ”

“ A Monster Calls was amazing, everyone was really involved and it was so much fun, the story was great and it was really fun to be in!

Jess I, Year 8 ”

“ It was an incredibly moving experience to be a part of!

Lucy M, Year 7 ”

“ A Monster Calls was a riveting and hard-hitting performance. There was an intimacy and tension between the actors and their audience. When the performance finished there was a momentary breath of silence, in which you could have heard a pin drop, before the rapturous applause and the lights were lifted to reveal not a dry eye in the house. The cast and stage crew should all feel incredibly proud of such a beautiful delivery and moving portrayal of the story.

Mrs Nicholson ”

“ I really liked participating in the monster calls production, even though I was helping backstage I was always included and it was so much fun!

Maggie B, Year 8 ”

“ I loved having the experience of doing a serious play and had so much fun doing it. Me and my mum were also in bits.

Josie B, Year 9 ”

“ It had made me so much more confident and able to express myself now

Josh E, Year 9 ”

“ A Monster Calls has made me more of a confident actor and was beautiful experience, on and off the stage

Alex F, Year 9 ”

“ Mrs Honey deserves a raise

Oscar D-K, Year 9 ”

“ 'Monster Calls' was probably one of the most emotive and powerful plays that I have seen our pupils perform. I was exceptionally proud of the way that they tackled very mature and sensitive issues with such commitment. It was a privilege to watch such a strong and impressive performance.

Mrs Punter ”



The Combined Schools Concert at GLive

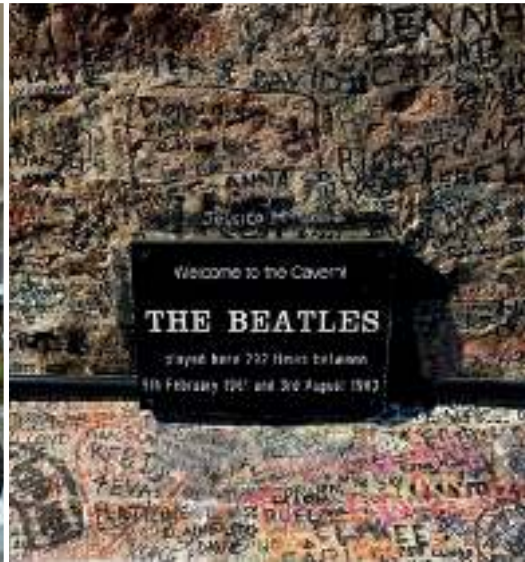
After two years it was a joy to be back at the GLive venue in Guildford to perform in the Rotary Club Combined Schools Concert. This event is organised annually by the Rotary Club of Guildford District and involves four local schools. Each School is given half an hour performance time and then we all come together for a mass finale full of solos, medleys and dancing. The day was the usual combination of hectic rehearsals, then hopping over the road for pizza at Zizzi's, followed by hair, make up, outfit changes, a lot of excitement, and then their incredible performances!

Our pupils stepped up and rose to the occasion as only they can. Every single one of the ninety pupils involved from Years 3 to Year 11 shone and performed with enthusiasm and commitment and it was a moment to be proud of, reflecting everything we do at here at Duke of Kent School. It can be a challenging experience, especially for some of the younger pupils, to get on a large stage, in a professional venue, in front of an audience of a thousand, with only one run through beforehand, but it always amazes me how resilient and focused our pupils are when they need to be, performing with a lack of fear and a sense of joy that can be inspiring for all of us!

In our programme we managed to pack in a wonderfully entertaining and eclectic mix of songs, involving the Senior Chamber Choir's body percussive 'Bring Me Little Water, Sylvie', the Prep School Choir's joyful 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious', the newly formed Junkyard Percussion Club, the Ukes of Kent's fabulous 'Country Roads', the Year 11 Vocal Group's moving rendition of 'I'll Cover You', the DoK Big Band's swinging 'Groovin' Hard', Ozzie's Octet and their cool cover of 'Best Friend' and soloist Maddie I's incredible version of 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road'. A huge thank you to the many staff who assisted and most importantly to the pupils who behaved and acquitted themselves brilliantly throughout a very long day.

Mr Rye

Director of Music and Performing Arts



The Liverpool Choir Trip

On the last day of the Spring Term, our Years 9 to 11 Senior Choir set off on the long awaited, Covid delayed, much rescheduled choir tour to Liverpool. A tour three years in the making, the pupils and staff were desperately excited and hugely keen to get on the coach, head up North and sing four concerts, make a video and take in a jam packed programme of excursions.

The performance schedule featured performances in the enormous Anglican Liverpool Cathedral (the biggest Anglican cathedral in the world) the beautiful and ancient Chester Cathedral, busking on the steps of St George's Hall, performing in the outdoor performance space in the huge One Shopping Centre and making a music video on the stunning Crosby Beach. Add to that a busy programme of excursions, museum visits and evening activities (who will forget the talent show!!) and it promised to be a trip to remember.

And a trip to remember it was! From start to finish the pupils displayed enthusiasm, resilience and a willingness to engage and get stuck into whatever it was we were doing. They were fun, keen and professional when they needed to be and it was without question a highlight of the year for many, both pupils and staff. The team spirit and the mutual respect displayed between teachers and pupils brought a lovely atmosphere to the tour and the singing from the choir was top notch, making all their hard work worth it.

It is almost impossible to think of only one stand out moment, but if there had to be one then the spontaneous performance on stage in the renowned Cavern Club in Mathew Street, just down the road from our accommodation, must be right at the top of the list.

A huge thank you must go to the School staff on the trip for being fabulous, to the parents who came all the way to Liverpool to watch some of the performances and of course to the brilliant children for their commitment and effort.

Mr Rye

Director of Music and Performing Arts

History

Outside of the Classroom

One of the most fulfilling ways to enjoy History is to 'go there'. Go where? The answers are all around us. Our Prep-prep, Prep and Senior School visit the exact places where real stories happen throughout every academic year to enrich their knowledge of the past and have some fun too!

Our local areas of Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and London are all steeped in the past, and have helped shape our past, present and future. Sites visited by Duke of Kent School pupils have ranged from the anti-tank obstacles of 1940 (150 concrete pyramids next to Guildford Leisure Centre); Hever Castle, home to Anne Boleyn and Anne of Cleves respectively (both famously members of Henry VIII's 'Six') and Hampton Court, forever associated with Henry himself and infamous for his eating, conspiring and the 'real tennis' courts beloved by the Tudor and Stuart monarchs (and also from where the unfortunate Anne Boleyn was arrested and sent to the Tower).

Another local castle thrilled Year 1 as they visited Lewes Castle while Pre-prep and Prep School pupils have also been to the Weald and Downland Museum, Butser Ancient Roman Farm, Wakehurst Place with Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, Victoria and Albert's Osborne House, and the Shipwreck Museum on the Isle of Wight. A trip to Milestones Museum at Basingstoke enhanced their learning of the Victorians, and also home life during WWII. Most spectacularly, Year 6 witnessed the re-enactment of William of Normandy's 1066 Battle of Hasting's defeat of Harold Godwinson at Hastings itself.

Senior School visits have included a trip to the National Army Museum in London where the weapons and clothing of 17th century Civil War soldiers were worn and shared by Year 8 pupils most enthusiastically! Year 7 saw Waverley Abbey, 'dissolved' by Henry VIII nearly 500 years ago. Year 9 paraded at Albury cricket pitch where General Montgomery addressed 10,000 Canadian soldiers just before D Day in 1944, and Year 10 enjoyed a trip to Whitechapel, East London, to complement their GCSE learning about crime and punishment in the late 19th century, which included the haunts of the notorious Jack the Ripper.

Duke of Kent School itself re-enacts its own Hastings battles, while we also hosted a Virtual Reality WWI event in the Meetings Room. None of this should deflect from the wonderful research and learning of all the pupils in their actual classrooms, at home, or when exploring places themselves. They (and we) are creating our own history every day and we should all enjoy being part of that ourselves!

Mr Lodge

Head of History and Religious Studies





World Book Day

Duke of Kent School celebrated its annual World Book Day festivities on Thursday 3rd March 2022. It was a wonderful day as all staff and pupils embraced dressing up as their favourite literary characters to mark the 25th anniversary of this charitable event. There was excitement as Mrs Knox ('The Mad Hatter'), and Mr Macdonald ('Bill Sykes' from Oliver Twist) welcomed pupils into their own 'Hogwarts'. The day started with the usual parade of costumes with the Seniors assembling across the top bank with the Pre-prep and Prep pupils dancing their way through a tunnel of clapping and cheering. Mrs Tattan-Robb as 'Severus Snape' and Mr Seeley as 'Greg Heffley' from the 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' were amongst some of the staff interspersed in the celebrations.

All of the children donated £1 for the International Book Aid Charity; this is a charity we chose to support because it provides books to those children who are less fortunate. Thank you to all those who donated; the School managed to raise a total of £233.10!

Miss Anand (Queen of Hearts) led the assembly by reminding the pupils about the day's purpose - reading! Mrs Punter (Alice) and Mrs Southee (The White Rabbit) took to the floor to discuss their love for children's literature, particularly Alice in Wonderland. Mrs Punter even brought her first edition of Lewis Carroll's story collection to show us all. Mr Wright's incredible rendition of 'Albus Dumdledore' sharing some of his wise (and humorous!) wisdom was also a delightful touch...

Senior School pupils took part in some shared reading activities with the Prep School. A particular highlight of the day was the Year 9 'Becoming an Author' project led by Miss Anand, Mrs Punter and Mr Boden. In their English Skills and Computer Science lessons last half term, the pupils were asked to create their own children's book, using 'plot mountains' to devise their plot, characters, settings and themes. In Computer Science, they used a specialised 'Storyjumper' app to create their book in a digital format by customising their settings, characters and page designs. Each book also had a QR code which the pupils could scan with their Chromebooks so the book could convert into an audiobook. It was a brilliant experience for the children to become their own "published authors". Hearing Year 9 read their stories to the Pre-prep pupils was both heartening and endearing; the Pre-prep staff were also so complimentary about both the books and how engaging and animated the Year 9 pupils were with the Pre-prep pupils. A special congratulation to Year 9 for all their efforts on this project.

A special mention and thanks must go to Mrs Punter, Mrs Southee, and Mr Wright for helping to organise the assembly and a special thank you to Mr Wright and Mrs Green for helping manage the morning parade.

In the words of Lewis Carroll: "we're all mad here!".

Miss Anand
Head of English





School Charity Committee

The great American poet and Civil Rights activist Maya Angelou (1928-2014) once said, "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." When we consider that she grew up just a generation removed from legalised slavery, amidst the era of American segregation and Jim Crow, the generosity, hope and positivity of spirit embodied in this statement is incredible. She noticed something often overlooked when we consider charitable work and giving. She recognised that the benefits of charity extend well beyond the recipient, to grow and benefit the life and community of the giver. Whether you give time or money, share your home with a displaced Ukrainian, or just check in with a friend who feels down, your actions resonate outward into your community and inwardly, as Angelou put it, to "the soul".

It is clear that the Duke of Kent School Charity Committee has come to the same realisation as Angelou. Over the year their events and fundraising activities have given the whole school the opportunity to engage in philanthropic efforts locally and further afield. They have done this with excitement and positivity, bearing smiles that clearly demonstrate the positive effect their efforts are having on them. For the last two years the School has supported Access Adventures through what has been a particularly difficult period for the charitable sector. I am very happy to tell you that, while many other organisations floundered, Access Adventures have emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever. As we move on to supporting a different charity in the new academic year, I am sure the whole community will join me in wishing Access Adventures every success for what the Committee are sure will be an incredible future. Access Adventures have been a great inspiration to us, and we thank them for all the work they have done with the School.

Over the year the Committee have dedicated much of their time to raising awareness, and, as such, have been an educating force in the School. They have given context to our donations, developing our understanding of the people Access Adventures support and the work they

do to help them. This developed a real sense of empathy among our community and encouraged some of us to get involved further, and even to seek support from Access Adventures for themselves and their families.

Awareness raising days have been seized upon by the Committee as a further opportunity to educate the School community. They used events around Children in Need particularly well as an opportunity to highlight child poverty in the UK, using this to drawing attention to Marcus Rashford's successful campaign to force a Government U-turn and offer free school meals to low income families over the year.

The Committee has also been dynamic and responsive, in reacting to world events. This was evident in the way they continued their work through the disruptions of the pandemic. However, this ability to respond quickly and decisively was particularly clear following the escalation of the war in Ukraine last February. They began with a rapidly prepared assembly that went beyond an explanation of political events to inform us about the human plight of displaced Ukrainians. At a time when we all felt quite helpless, the Committee gave us an opportunity to make a difference, by educating us about some of the charities working on the ground in Ukraine. As a community we voted to support British Red Cross Ukraine, and with characteristic efficiency the Committee organised a series of events including face painting and mufti days.

Over the year we raised well over £3000 for Access Adventures, British Red Cross, Children in Need and Comic Relief. The Committee also inspired and supported, among others, the English and Music Departments to raise over £2000 between them for Book Aid International and Guildford Challengers. This has been a hugely successful year for the Charity Committee. Their efforts, and those of the School community, have made a real difference to all the charities we have supported. But, as Maya Angelou so rightly pointed out, our own "souls" have benefitted too.

Mr Watson

Head of Art and Design and Community Links



Community Links

One of the first lessons we learn at School is how to share. Walking through the Duke of Kent School Nursery the refrain, 'share nicely!', is often heard. Pupils, new to playing and learning in groups, squabble over toys to which they lay an equal claim. Teachers patiently encourage them to recognise the value of what they have and the benefits of allowing others to make use of it. It is a very human desire to hoard and keep, it takes a greater understanding of society and community to appreciate the advantages that come from sharing. Soon, the young sharers in Nursery have a community of friends with whom to explore their pooled resources and enjoy the benefits and learning experiences that come through social interaction.

This quick and easy lesson is fairly universal and one that children across the world pick up quickly. As adults it becomes a simple moral concept that we carry with us. At Duke of Kent School we recognise that we are, at times, in a position of having more than others. Our astro, pool and extensive grounds are material testament to this. However, beyond the material, our excellent GCSE grades and 'value added' scores (that far outstrip the national average) point to an excellent teaching body and cohesive departmental teams with the pupil at their centre. Arguably more important still, the wellbeing surveys our pupils have recently undertaken paint a picture of a happy, well rounded community of learners who look forward to coming to School each morning.

Having so much, it is important, as our Nursery pupils so often point out, that we share what we have with those around us. This is particularly prescient as funding to state schools falls, food banks spring up in our locale and people across our wider community face coming difficulties. Over the last year we have endeavoured more than ever to live up to this ideal so ably demonstrated by the youngest among us.

Recognising the lack of specialist Computer Science teachers in many Schools, but the clear interest in the subject among young people, Mr Boden and

Mr Southee invited several local primary schools to attend a 'Coding Challenge'. Pupils pitted their technological wits against one another, shared coding tips, and worked towards IT based solutions to real world problems. We are increasingly told that A.I. is the future. As the demands and opportunities of the 21st century hurtle towards us, it is clearly in safe hands if this band of digital leaders is any indication.

Girls' interest and participation in football has exploded with the Lioness's convincing victory in Euro '22. Following their success, the team wrote to Downing Street saying, "the reality is we are inspiring young girls to play football, only for many to end up going to School and not being able to play". At Duke of Kent School this is clearly not the case and the PE Department have championed football amongst our girls for a number of years. Last year we invited girls' teams from across the area to make use of our astro for a morning of training sessions culminating in a Girls' Football Festival. What was intended as a one off event is now cemented in our calendar.

Many schools find it logistically difficult and costly to leave the classroom. At Duke of Kent School we are lucky to have access to a fleet of minibuses which gives us the opportunity to find educational experiences beyond the School grounds. On recent trips the Art Department has offered places to local schools who would otherwise be unable to access these opportunities. This has resulted in additional pupils joining us for photography workshops, drawing days out and visits to local sculpture gardens and artists' studios. Pupils have shared ideas, observations and ways of working that have broadened their horizons well beyond the classroom.

There is no hiding the breadth and variety of Duke of Kent School's Performing Arts output, and if there is one thing that should be shared with others, it is music. This year we were visited by String Fever, a renowned quartet who have performed regularly for royalty and celebs. They entertained Duke of Kent School pupils and an additional 20 young music lovers

from around the area, performing a wonderfully varied repertoire ranging from Tchaikovsky to Queen via Star Wars and Led Zeppelin, inspiring and entertaining every single pupil.

These outreach programmes have been of fabulous benefit to children outside of Duke of Kent School who may not have had access to the resources, time and expertise that we are able to provide our pupils. But in sharing and building relationships beyond the school, our pupils have also gained from the experiences, expertise and social interactions they have been exposed to. They have picked up coding tips, strengthened their competitive footballing skills, grown their musical knowledge and developing a wider understanding of Art and Design. These initiatives have highlighted the strengths of our school to a wider audience, raising our profile in the community and attracting an ever growing number of students to our roll. As we expand this programme over the coming years we should remember the words of Charlotte Bronte, herself an educator before achieving fame as an author; "happiness quite unshared can scarcely be called happiness; it has no taste."

Mr Watson

Head of Art and Design and Community Links



Sports Day

This was the first Sports Day in two years that supporters were able to attend and cheer on the athletes; it was amazing to witness and inspiring for all of the Duke of Kent School pupils. There were three events that took place over two days. First of these events was the Pre-prep Sports Day. The weather was fantastic and a fine crowd enjoyed the fun packed programme. Sports Leaders from Year 9 helped pupils from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2; these Senior pupils showed great encouragement to the young athletes and helped create a fantastic atmosphere. Traditional events such as throwing, sprinting and log jumping took place as well as the fantastic obstacle races and not forgetting the Parents' Race which consisted of each competitor dressing up as the Queen and packing a marmalade sandwich into a handbag before crossing the line; a very enjoyable sight!

The Prep School Sports Day took place after lunch on the same day. Sports Leaders from Years 7 and 8 again helped with the running of the day and were superbly supportive to all of the Prep School athletes. The sun was shining and the pupils were excited if not a little nervous for both the Prep and Senior School Sports Days. It was amazing to see so many pupils competing to the very best of their ability to gain points for their House. Parents supported the pupils brilliantly throughout the afternoon and the encouragement that the athletes received truly inspired them to produce some incredible performances. There were many close finishes and some wonderful moments of sportsmanship. The Prep School results from Thursday were carried forward to the Senior School event on Friday. It was therefore only fitting that the Prep School were able to watch the thrilling Senior School relays and be in the crowd for the overall presentation. Congratulations to all who took part and particularly well done to Ruby W, Arthur H, Abi W and Tom H who won the Best Athlete of the Day trophies.

The House scores were close throughout; congratulations to Buzzard who finished as the 2022 champions! Well done to all who took part!

1st	Buzzard	427
2nd	Hawk	411
3rd	Peregrine	379
4th	Kestrel	354

Mr Herbert

Director of Sport











Inspirational Sports Stars

visit Duke of Kent School

Throughout the year, the pupils at Duke of Kent School have enjoyed various visits from professional sportsmen and women. It has been wonderfully inspirational for the pupils to meet athletes across a variety of sports including cricket, swimming, netball and hockey.

Pupils ranging from Year 3 to 10 were given the opportunity to take part in some cricket masterclass sessions with Fi Morris, a professional cricketer, and part of the Southern Brave women's team who made it to the final of the Hundred Competition. The afternoon began with an optional session for Prep School at lunch time with over 20 pupils taking part and sharing their cricket stories with Fi! Throughout the rest of the afternoon, around 20 pupils in each year group took part in some bowling, batting and fielding drills and benefited from some encouragement and top tips from Fi. Excitingly, some of the pupils had the chance to bat against Fi's spin bowling too!

We also had a past Duke of Kent School pupil, Fiona Cranswick visit. Fiona competed in the Invictus Games in Orlando and won 4 medals for swimming. She had an incredible story to share and inspired our pupils that anything really is possible during an exceptional assembly. A variety of our Sport Scholars and Stretch and Challenge pupils had a chance to ask Fiona any questions in a small Q&A session after her assembly. The pupils asked some brilliant questions and discovered the highs and lows of being a professional athlete!

In that same term we also welcomed AJ, a professional netball player and part of the Surrey Storm team. AJ ran a variety of netball masterclasses for all girls in Years 5 to 11 whilst the rest of the school community had the chance to meet her during their lunch time. AJ shared her knowledge and experience with the pupils, including information about her training schedule and matches with Surrey Storm Superleague side.

AJ also represented England in the Indoor Netball World Championships where she played a slightly altered version of netball commonly referred to as 'nets'. The sessions focused on changing direction and driving towards the ball to receive. All the girls worked extremely hard in their lessons and enjoyed showing AJ what they could do during match play!

We finished the year with a double whammy, we welcomed two international hockey players, Izzy Petter and James Mazarelo. Izzy Petter ran some hockey workshops with our pupils in Prep and Senior School and despite some very heavy rain throughout the afternoon, over 100 pupils were involved in her hockey sessions. The pupils were lucky enough to hold Izzy's bronze Olympic medal and asked some brilliant questions about her experience at the Tokyo Olympic Games! James Mazarelo, a goalkeeper for England, kindly gave out medals at our annual U13 and U11 Hockey Tournament held on the Wilsons' Pitch in March. He also did a masterclass 1-1 session with our 1st team hockey team goalkeeper, Ben W, as part of his GCSE practical assessment.

A huge thank you to all of the incredible athletes who gave up their time to come into our school over the past year. We are really looking forward to continuing to inspire our pupils with more visitors organised for next year!

Miss Vickers
Head of Girls' Games





Parents' Day

Behind every great woman is a man in a white suit carrying her handbag. But I don't mind because I get a great seat. Parents' Day for the School is an important day, everything has got to run right, more or less on time, and of course it helps if the sun shines. It's a day when the School gets to show off its fabulous pupils.

We had four main speeches and each of them talked about the community within Duke of Kent School. Being relative newcomers to the School and having endured two years of Covid, masks, vaccinations, social distancing and we have come out the other end and from my perspective it's been wonderful meeting everybody seemingly for the first time. And yes, I concur with the speakers, there is a fabulous sense of community.

We had speeches from the Chair of Governors, Mr. Richard Brocksom, who has always been there for Sue, as I call her, during the last couple of years. Sue, aka Mrs. Knox, who puts her heart and soul into the School but never forgets that I'm only two paces behind. We won't forget Dr Suzie Imber, our guest speaker, whose over-achievements contradict her humble presence. And lastly our two exiting Heads' of School, Kora W and Casper C, two names for the future, I think.

And now the prizes, accolades, smiles, validation and clapping and more clapping. Sue and I have three grown up children of our own and we know how important it is to recognise youngsters' achievements. I really enjoy this part of the day watching the way the youngsters walk up to the podium and shake hands trying to juggle a cup and a few books and look grown up. Then they turn round and beam with pride. Sitting at the front I didn't get to see those children whose achievements weren't awarded but just like Dr Suzie Imber, I never won anything either. So, a message to them, keep trying and hopefully we will see you on the podium soon. And Mr. Rye. The sun was shining in the sky, and every parent had a tear in their eye. You did it again, and certainly ended the ceremony on a high. Again, from my perspective, I love the Nick Rye show and watching you orchestrate the whole School with a big smile on your face. Hats off to the band and Harley B for his guitar solo.

Getting out of the hall is always fun. I try to be graceful but my lane swapping M25 mindset gets the better of me. Then I re-find Mrs Knox and we stroll up the hill for the leavers' canapés and drinks. In a way, the whole ceremony is about these guys and from our vantage point at the back of the house, we have a magnificent vista. These pupils have all done well and now it's time for new horizons. We all wish them well.

A sense of relief that Covid was over, came in the form of bouncy castles, drinks, pizzas, and marmalade sandwiches. Yes! Who can forget Paddington? But boy, it must have been hot in that suit. You know when a party has gone well when people don't want to go home, and the fact that the cricket pitch was full until late afternoon was a good sign.

Tim Knox

Bag Man and Mrs Knox's Husband





Parents' Association PAdoK

Donations to the School by PAdoK 2021/22

Buddy Bench £360

Wellbeing Space - £1,000 towards cost (in planning for 2022/2023)

Forum Garden - £2000

Ballet Club Barre - £335

STEAM Club - Electronic vehicles £700

Drama blocks - £800

Senior Prom - £500

Pi Day prizes - £153

We donated £500 to Cranleigh Food Bank

The School Charity Committee raised £211.50

We raised £200 for Ewhurst and Peaslake Infant Schools

A Review of PAdoK Events This Year

In the Autumn term we held *The Big Night Out*, billed as one big party to bring everyone together after a year with no events. We had live music provided by The Accidentals, the band Mr Rye plays in, who were fabulous as always. They entertained us with great songs and everyone danced the night away. Guest of honour was Mrs Sarah Trotman, who was Chair of PAdoK for many years. Sarah finished her time at the School in 2020 and therefore we hadn't had the opportunity to thank her properly or give her the send-off she so richly deserved. It was a great night and so lovely to see the parents enjoying a PAdoK event again after such a long time.

The Christmas Hamper Raffle is another annual favourite and the PAdoK team, with the help of all of the generous donations from parents, made up nineteen beautiful hampers. For the second year running we sold a record-breaking number of tickets and this enabled us to again donate funds to two local schools and the Cranleigh Food Bank.

EcoKids is a charity collection service that ensures that nothing they receive ends up in landfill. We arranged a collection for the Autumn Term and ended up giving EcoKids 143 bags, so thank you to all of you who used this service. We hope to be able to do another date next year.

In February we held a *Macmillan Tea Party*. The room was full of delicious cakes which were provided by pupils from the Charity Committee, PAdoK Reps and parents. Lots of parents and grandparents came to enjoy a cup of tea and cake with us and we raised over £400 for Macmillan, a charity so deserving of support.

The PAdoK Quiz Night also made a triumphant comeback after a long break. This event was well supported with lots of competitive teams. It was a really fun evening so thank you to all those who organised it and took part and an extra big thank you to Mr Seeley for being the Quiz Master.





Bond Night – Casino Royale Rather than have a charity ball this year, the PAdoK committee decided to put on an evening of glamour and entertainment in June. Old Hall and the Meetings Room were transformed into a Bond themed casino and disco by an event company. There was magic, canapes with a drink on arrival with a late supper. Everyone dressed up, we had glamour, characters (some of which were unforgettable), lots of fun playing the gaming tables and some great dance moves. Thank you to all those who came and made it such a memorable evening.

PAdoK Clubs and Uniform Shop

Second-hand Uniform Shop has continued to be a valuable resource for the parents of the Duke of Kent School. Over the summer we had a booking system for the two days the shop opened in August.

Duke of Kent School Singers was re-launched in September with lots of new singers joining. Mr Rye generously gives his time each week and makes every session informative and fun. In the summer term we worked on "Fix You" by Coldplay and performed it at the Summer Concert. Thanks go to Mrs Burr, who co-founded the club with Mr Rye.

PAdoK Walks. We meet every other week and it's a lovely way to meet parents from different year groups, get some fresh air whilst chatting and letting the dogs run around together.

Running Technique Club is a new club for PAdoK and has proved popular. Mrs Rowe is a physiotherapist and introduced the club for those wanting to learn to run with technique training.

PAdoK Book Club has been really enjoyable this year. We have read a number of interesting books followed by a get together to discuss the book. These initially took place on Zoom but by the summer we were able to meet in person at the Hurtwood Inn. Mrs Newman always has an interesting set of questions for the readers and we get the chance to talk about the book and hear what others thought too. Books we have read this year: Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell, The Christmas Pig by J K Rowling, The Promise by Damon Galgut and Again, Rachel by Marian Keyes. Thanks go to Mrs Newman for continuing to run our book club so efficiently.

As PAdoK Chair I would like to thank Mrs Knox, Mrs Monk, Mrs Hopwood and Mrs Woolgar for their ongoing support and all they do for PAdoK throughout the year. My thanks must go to our superb Secretary, Mrs Read, our efficient Treasurer, Mrs Smith and Mrs Westen for running the Second-hand Uniform Shop. Thank you to the PAdoK committee and the teams who managed events and clubs throughout the year. Finally, farewell and thanks to Mrs Westen and Mrs Burr who have given so much to PAdoK over the years, we appreciate everything you have done and hope you come and visit us at an event next year. Lastly, a huge thank you to the parents who support the events we put on.

We are looking forward to next year already.

Mrs Phillips
PAdoK Chairlady

Celebrating Some Pupil Achievements



Natasha B (Year 10) First Aid Responder

Congratulations to Natasha B in Year 10 who joined St. John's Ambulance in January and has gone on to gain her Level One First Aid Qualification. For this qualification, Natasha had to learn a variety of skills and live saving first aid for common life events such as severe bleeding, CPR, breaks, bandaging techniques and much more. She has also learnt to identify signs and symptoms and developed communication skills with casualties. We look forward to hearing how she gets on as she moves on to the next level of training. Well done Natasha.



Tom H (Year 10) Rising Rugby Star

After a very successful Rugby season at Dorking Rugby Club, Tom was selected to join the Harlequins Youth Academy and the National Rugby 7's Development Programme. Tom should be exceptionally proud that he has been selected to join both programmes for the 2022-2023 season. We wish him every success as he continues to develop his rugby career.



Jasmine K (Year 10) What a Swinging Success

In the Summer Term, Jasmine travelled up to College Pines in Worsop to represent Duke of Kent School at the ISA Golf Competition. The competition was set in a stunning course designed by David Snell who toured in the 1960s. In this tournament, Jasmine came fifth in the individual Stableford and made birdies on the 3rd, 8th and 16th hole.

Jasmine then travelled to Warwickshire to compete in the ISGA HG Trophy, a big competition for schools, coming from all over the country. Jasmine started well and was level par after three holes and made a few birdies despite the course being quite difficult and needing to plan a lot of the shots in advance. On the 17th hole, Jasmine played a nice shot onto the green and holed a long putt. Overall Jasmine scored 10 over par, 82. In this competition Jasmine came in the top 20 which was a huge achievement as there were teams from all over the country. Jasmine has more competitions coming up next year and we look forward to hearing how she performs!



Charlie N (Year 10) Race Around the Island

Charlie N competed in the Round the Island Race in June. He was part of a crew of four with his Dad, Aunt and Uncle. Charlie and his crew set off on Saturday morning at 7.30am for race day heading towards Cowes, The Isle of Wight. The team were put into groups or classes depending on boat size. Their route took them anticlockwise around the island with the first leg a long stretch into the wind towards the Needles! The conditions were very testing with strong winds of 30+ knots and some pretty fearsome waves. The downward wind leg on the South of the island was a bit more relaxing, but it still needed full concentration to trim sails and outmanoeuvre their competitors.

The crew finished at 7.15pm on Saturday evening, so a sailing time of 9 hours and 45 minutes! They were exhausted, but thrilled to finish and there were lots of hugs and high fives! This was an incredible achievement and we are so proud of Charlie and his crew, well done!



Rufus B, Luca H and Toby T (Year 9) Football Champions

Congratulations to Rufus B, Luca H and Toby T in Year 9 who won their Division 1, Surrey Youth Football League Cup Final this year! The boys have played for Albury Football Club for years and this year made it to the coveted final against Chesham Rovers. The match was hard fought with the final score ending 3-1. Well done boys and to your whole team, we hope you can hold onto the title next season!



Jack B (Year 9) Double Squash Smash

Jack has been an active squash player for a number of years and on Sunday 12th June he played in both the C and D events at the Surrey Sports Park Graded Open Squash Tournament. In his first tournament in over 2 years Jack was top seed in the D event and second bottom seed in the C but managed to win both events in the same day winning all of his 7 matches (including back to back finals) without dropping a game. Jack faced a number of adult league players from different counties during the day managing to come out on top! Well done Jack, this is a brilliant achievement and we are sure there will be more to come!



Violetta P (Year 9) There's just no stopping her!

Violetta has had a really successful year with her swimming, through Autumn she also helped Guildford City qualify for the National Arena League club championships. Guildford qualified for the final in Cardiff, (this is for top 10 Clubs only). She raced 100m butterfly in that competition and won her race with a new personal best. This spring she won 3 Gold medals at the Surrey County Championships and also raced at the South East Regionals winning a Gold in the U16 Medley Relay, two Silvers and a Bronze medal.

All these races meant she qualified for the British Championships in Sheffield. She raced in the 50m butterfly and got a new personal best. Violetta also qualified for the British Summer age-group Championships competing in the 50m, 100m and 200m butterfly. Finally, Violetta also qualified for the English National Championships for the 50m backstroke.

Violetta has managed to keep up with vigorous training through a pandemic and a very busy School life and we are so proud of what she has achieved and will achieve in the future. We wish her the best of luck as she heads to the Netherlands and hope she continues to keep us updated! Well done Violetta!



Sam S (Year 9) Chess Champion

As a member of Horsham Chess Club, Sam S was invited to play in Guildford Chess Club's 125 Board Simultaneous Display against International Master Andrew Martin. The event in September took place in Guildford High Street with Chess Masters being challenged by local pupils with a passion for chess. Sam played two tough games against Andrew Martin and did extremely well to counter some aggressive play. He was highly commended in his first game through his deployment of the hypermodern King's Indian defence, followed by a Benoni-style challenge to white's pawn centre. In both games Sam acquitted himself well, with the apprentice causing the master to scratch his head on a number of occasions. In the end Andrew was simply too good, but this was a wonderful opportunity and many useful tactics were gleaned in the process. Well done Sam!



Harris H-H (Year 7) Supporting the Ukraine Crisis

After hearing Mr Lodge speak about the situation in Ukraine he felt the need to help in some way. Harris got together with his neighbours' children and organised a cake sale in front of his house to raise money for Ukrainian refugees. Since Harris held his bake sale, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux, presented the Little Bakers with a Citizenship Award and certificates at his estate in Loseley Park on Surrey Day in May, in recognition of their efforts. This was broadcast live on BBC Surrey. To date, the Little Bakers (a collective of Surrey based children) have raised over £3500 for families in Ukraine.



Auberon P (Year 6) Taking Kayaking by Storm

Auberon has been kayaking once a week at Wey Kayak Club. Auberon has competed in 3 races - two at the Wey Kayak Club and one at The Royal Canoe Club on the Thames. For the Wey races he won both under 10 categories; one was a 5km race and the other was a sprint regatta. He was presented with his medal by Liam Heath, Britain's most decorated kayaking Olympian who has 5 medals- a Gold, 2 Silvers and 2 Bronze medals over 3 Olympic Games. At the Royal Canoe Club race Auberon came 2nd in his division (U12 category, as they don't have U10 in that series of races.) He also got promoted to the B division.

These are brilliant achievements in such a short space of time and we wish Auberon the best of luck as he progresses with what seems to be a very natural talent!



Thibaut J (Year 5) Skiing to Success

Thibaut J in Year 5 took up skiing in 2021 and has been put through his paces learning how to master his sport of choice. He entered his first competition in June this year at the British Schools Indoor Open Championship and finished 7th out of 33 U12 boys, placing Duke of Kent School 5th out of 15 schools competing. This was his first ever competition and he did brilliantly, it's definitely just the start of a promising skiing career! Well done Thibaut.



Ruby W (Year 4) Stage Debut

Ruby W auditioned at the PPA Academy, Guildford for a role in their Summer production of Annie. During the audition she had to sing multiple solos in front of other adults and peers. Ruby did so with so much skill, grace and composure that she was given the lead role, "Annie". The academy was so impressed with her that they have asked her to join their Musical Theatre Academy. Ruby did a fantastic job and her stage presence was superb. We are all immensely proud of her and can't wait to see what show she stars in next!

Alumni Achievements



Tom Cannon (1998 - 2004)

Tom attended Duke of Kent School from 1998-2004. After this he attended Reigate Grammar School for secondary School and then went onto Godalming College for A Levels but only sat his AS Level exams after being offered an opportunity to pursue his racing career. Tom started working as a stable lad in racing yards before gradually getting rides and experience in races and point to points as an amateur. It didn't happen overnight and he worked hard to get more rides in professional races and eventually make it his career and profession. Tom has ridden in two Grand Nationals and numerous Cheltenham festivals. His best tally for winners has been 52 which he has achieved twice previously as well as this season. Tom is currently stable jockey for Alan King and rode Edwardstone (his horse) to win the Arkle. As well as riding Lion Share for Chris Gordon and Toby Lawes. Tom feels lucky that he liked jumping horses and galloping them flat out when growing up and has managed to make a living out of it!



James Harrison (2009 - 2014)

After leaving the Duke of Kent School in 2014, James completed his A Levels at Godalming College before attending the University of Southampton to read Medicine. During his time at University, James was involved in a number of societies including president of the Medics Cricket Team and leading the organisation of the National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition 2021. James also completed an additional year studying receptor expression of endothelial cells to obtain an Integrated Masters in Medical Sciences. James graduated in 2022 and returned to Surrey to start as a Junior Doctor in Frimley Park Hospital. He is currently working in the Respiratory Department.



Bridget Coombs (2010 – 2017)

Upon leaving Duke of Kent School, Bridget attended St Andrews Catholic School, where she studied Psychology, Business, Photography and Sociology. Following her A levels, she went on to the University of Nottingham where she read Criminology. During her time at Nottingham, Bridget became a research assistant working with the University's Rights Lab, helping them publish articles concerning human vulnerability to modern slavery. She has recently graduated from Nottingham with a first-class honours degree and plans to take a gap year travelling around South East Asia for four months and inter-railing in Europe for three months. On return, she hopes to deploy her new skills and further her interests by looking for work in charitable organisations in the wider justice system.



James Fulcher (2017 - 2020)

James, a young man of infinite charm and Head Boy at Duke of Kent School in 2019/20, arrived from Lanesborough Prep School in Year 9, and immediately made an impact. It was clear that he was academically strong from the off, matched by his extraordinary endeavour and attitude to his work. He was also heavily involved in the music department playing the clarinet - recently he has achieved a distinction in Grade 8 - and he sang beautifully in the choir. It was no surprise that he was offered scholarships left, right and centre when he left here, such was the demand for his talents. He chose Winchester College as his destination where he has excelled. He won the Queen's award for Latin translation, a fiendishly difficult public schools competition, and to cap it all, he has been awarded a place at Oriel College, Oxford to read Classics. We send many congratulations and wish him the best of luck as he embarks on his studies at Oxford.

Bear Williams (2010 - 2014)

After 3 years of playing rugby at Duke of Kent School, Mr Herbert saw Bear's passion and potential for the sport and put him forward for a Harlequins Academy place age 12 where he thrived. Bear won a rugby scholarship to Cranleigh School age 13 where he also played 7s. After leaving Cranleigh, Bear was invited to play for Rosslyn Park and following a successful season he went to New Zealand to play rugby in his gap year. He played for the Prems at Maris St Pats RFC and planned to trial for Wellington U19s. Sadly Bear had to return to the UK in March 2020 due to the pandemic stopping rugby and travel. Bear continued to train back home in lockdown and on his 20th birthday was offered a trial for the Cornish Pirates.

After 3 months Bear received his first professional contract and was selected to join Cornish Pirates in the Championship where he also plays on loan for Redruth. In his first year with the Pirates he started at Number 7 against Premiership team Worcester Warriors playing a full 80 minutes and won his second cap v. Doncaster Knights to get the win in the Championship Cup!

Bear continues his journey to play the best rugby he can, full of highs and lows, disappointments, injuries and long recovery times but in May 2022 Bear signed his second year contract as Number 7 open side flanker at the Cornish Pirates. We couldn't be prouder of Bear and hope to continue celebrating his achievements with the whole Duke of Kent School community!



Staff Farewells

Felix Macdonald

My Duke of Kent School experience started a long time ago, it seems. Dr Cameron came to me out of the blue and asked if I would like to be the new Head of Seniors just as the Prep School was extending to GCSEs. He thought I might be a good fit for the School and I think he was right! Subsequently, I have enjoyed many roles here, starting with leading the Seniors, then Deputy Head Pastoral, Deputy Head and also interim Head. I have sat on the Board of Governors, and the Finance Committee, have served under three different Heads and have been witness to a very important stage of the School's development and evolution. I feel that at times the School was my whole life; my wife and I both worked here; both my children were at School here, and we lived in The Lodge.

In the classroom, I have taught RS, History, Music and English. I have enjoyed working with Pre-prep clubs and with the Prep School musicals. I have been allowed to teach games of all types to all age groups and I have loved the variety of interactions with the pupils. I have been lucky to lead the Year 11 trip to Pompeii and Vesuvius for many years, have been on a French exchange, on Battlefields trips, and on all sorts of other trips around the country; castles, lakes, Houses of Parliament, Roman ruins, museums, football grounds, gardens, cinemas, and theatres.

I have had a wonderful and varied time working here and I can only say thank you! Firstly, thank you to the children who have made teaching such an entertaining, meaningful, enriching and positive experience for me. Thank you to all of their parents for unrelenting support, kindness, generosity, and friendship throughout the years.

Thank you to the Heads, particularly Mrs Knox, who have shown so much faith in me over the years, and given me such amazing support. And thank you to my colleagues. All the staff in the School from the kitchen ladies to the teaching staff. I have been unbelievably



fortunate to work with such an amazing, engaging, intelligent, warm, professional group of people. I have so many happy and vivid memories of our shared experiences and feel lucky that I have formed lifelong friendships. Thank you everyone and see you soon.



Chris Finill

Chris joined Duke of Kent School in 1997 when Roger Wilson was Head. Chris was instrumental, with the Senior Leadership Team, in masterminding the School's successful move to offering GCSEs. Chris's financial acumen and deep-rooted care for the School has ensured Duke of Kent School has continued to flourish.

As many will know, Chris is an Ever Present having competed in every single London Marathon since its inception. His running resilience in terms of endurance, longevity and extraordinary commitment is demonstrated by his completion of the 2018 London Marathon... despite having fallen and broken his shoulder at around mile 3 he continued to run, in a sling, still completing the 26.2 miles in under 4 hours.

Chris also developed excellent relationships with both parents and staff. He would always offer a helping hand to people wherever possible, no matter how minor the issue, be it a financial problem or possibly some running advice!

We shall miss him greatly and wish him well in his retirement.

Mrs Knox
Head



Rob Ellarby

Rob Ellarby arrived at Duke of Kent School in September 2017, having spent the previous few years enjoying teaching pupils up to A Level in Dubai. Employed as a Maths teacher but also Year 6 Form teacher, this was his first foray into Prep School life - little did he know he would soon closely encounter pupils even younger than Key Stage 2! Throughout his time at Duke of Kent School, Rob taught Maths to pupils from Years 1 to 9, both in class and on a one to one basis. This breadth of experience enabled him to observe and understand the journey that pupils take through each section of our School.

Alongside being Prep School Maths Co-ordinator, Rob also taught PSHE and became Deputy Head of Prep and Pre-prep (Academic) in September 2018. His passion for Continued Professional Development coupled with his kind, affable and approachable nature meant that he was a beacon of warmth and knowledge in the staffroom, where he shall be sorely missed. We wish Rob the best of luck as he takes on his new role as Head of Maths at Brighton College: Nursery, Pre-Prep & Prep School.

Mrs Green
Head of Prep and Pre-prep



Lauren Martin

Lauren has been a wonderful member of the Sports department during her one year placement at Duke of Kent School. She always came into School with a smile on her face and the pupils really enjoyed her lessons. Lauren helped in a variety of areas of the school, contributing brilliantly to the Pre-prep, Prep and Senior departments, on the sports fields and within the classroom. Lauren's Friday evening hockey club was hugely popular and she was an inspiration to the pupils when demonstrating her hockey skills!

Lauren was extremely well liked by staff and pupils alike and will be greatly missed. We all wish Lauren the best of luck with the final year of her degree at Loughborough University.

Miss Vickers
Head of Girls' Games



Natalie Lennon

Miss Natalie Lennon (or more fondly known as 'Miss Lemon') started her career at Duke of Kent School in November 2017 as a member of the catering team. An assistant in the kitchen, Miss Lennon loved interacting with the Pre-prep pupils at lunchtime, helping to serve and clear their lunch items. With a natural affinity for interacting with young children, she soon wished to spend more time with them and began her journey to work with pupils in the classroom. From December 2018 Miss Lennon worked very hard, alongside other studies, to gain her Level 3 Education in Early Years qualification.

We shall greatly miss her fantastic sense of humour and infectious laugh, as well as her love for gingerbread men and all things yellow! We wish her the best of luck as she continues her career working alongside children.

Mrs Green
Head of Prep and Pre-prep

In Our Spare Time...

Mr and Mrs Allen

Aoife Rose Allen was born at home on 6th November. My brilliantly brave wife, Alice, was incredible and the birth could not have gone smoother. Aoife is feeding well, piling on the pounds and is as bonnie as can be! We are both really enjoying the adventure into parenthood together.



Miss Barnes and Mr Kaye

September 2021 ushered in not only a new School year but another member of the School community. Imogen Cecily Rose Kaye was born on the 19th September at 8:15pm, weighing in at a nice and neat 6lb 15oz. Having Immy has changed a great deal in the Kaye-Barnes household. Never has there been so little sleep and so much laundry! Becoming a parent has been like nothing else, and Laura and I are very happy indeed.



Mr Ford

I married my amazing new wife on Monday 20th June this year. We had a wonderful ceremony at Long Furlong Barn in West Sussex surrounded by all of our closest friends and family, on a beautiful clear day. We would like to thank everyone for their well wishes and we are looking forward to our lives together.



Mrs Henry and Miss Martin

Miss Martin and Mrs Henry both completed the Brighton Marathon in 4:24 and 4:29 respectively on Sunday 12th September! It was Miss Martin's first marathon and she was running for the British Heart Foundation, raising over £3,100 and for Mrs Henry, this was her sixth marathon and her second time running the Brighton Marathon.



Mr Kaye

The Summer holidays of 2022 will always be remembered as the time I finally got my pilot's licence. Having taken lessons for 14 months with Redhill Aviation in a trusty little Cessna 152, I passed nine theory exams, a radio exam and my final skills test in G-BOYL, amusingly nicknamed 'Susan' (see picture); I now hold a private pilot's licence. The academic year 2022-23 has seen me tackle additional theory exams, after which I will be working towards my commercial pilot's licence.



Mr Lodge

As a member of the Army Reserve I helped provide security for participants, volunteers and the public during the Commonwealth Games. I was attached to an infantry company of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) along with several other Reserves from all around the country. My usual responsibility was to guide a small team who briefed spectators at the entry points, while we also searched and scanned their bags and persons, just like you would experience at airport security gates. I personally met Ghanaian boxers, Sri Lankan cheerleaders, and some wonderful colleagues including a female Army Air Corps Sgt who looks after Apache helicopters, a military author (Dan Mills), and an ex-Olympic athlete, the swimmer Roland Lee. It was an honour to be involved in such a fantastic sporting event.



Mrs Salley (Miss Able)

During the Summer holidays, I married my lovely now-husband, Ollie. It was the most remarkable day full of love and lots of laughter! Everything went beautifully and I couldn't wipe the smile off of my face all day. I'm so honoured to be Mrs Salley and am very much looking forward to our next chapter as husband and wife.



Mrs Vermeulen

Casper Jack Vermeulen, like his brother, made a late and heavy entrance to the world on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 weighing 8lb 10oz. Max is loving being a brilliant big brother and my mission to produce the next Brownlee brothers is on!



Mrs Woolgar (Miss Vernon)

After having our wedding postponed due to Covid in 2020, we had the joy of finally getting to say 'I Do' this year. We got married at Cissbury Barns in the heart of the South Downs on Saturday 30th October surrounded by all of our friends and family. It was the best day of our lives to date. Thank you to everyone for their congratulations and we are already looking forward to making amazing memories together as husband and wife.





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