

The Review 2022/23



DUKE *of* KENT
SCHOOL

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Front Cover Image – Prep School Sports Day

Professional Images by David Prior and Serena Shelton

Back page Image – James B in "Skellig"

Head's Introduction

This year has been absolutely jam-packed! There has been so much joy around the School and a real buzz in the air every single day. If you felt an extra frisson of energy, it's because there are more of us than ever. This year, we reached record numbers with the largest cohort in the School's history. But what excites me just as much, is the growth our pupils have achieved this year and the way they have thrown themselves into School life, making the most of every single opportunity. Just to give you a snapshot, the pupils have dissected hearts, lungs and eyes and grown and eaten vegetables from our Forum Garden. They have coded, debated, presented and heard talks from physiologists, interior designers, acousticians and forensic scientists. They've swum and run, played netball, hockey, football and table tennis. They've raised money for charity and re-enacted the Great Fire of London. They've dressed up for World Book Day and worn wacky clothes for Wellbeing Day. They have camped, navigated, got lost and then found their way again. They have danced, sung and acted in plays, musicals and concerts. They have visited Legoland, the Globe Theatre, Swanage on a Geography trip, the Houses of Parliament to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the New Forest and the Isle of Wight and, as well as this, they have absolutely thrived in their studies. It has been a real pleasure to witness a journey of significant growth for all this year.

Highlights for me have to be our productions of "The Addams Family", "Plastic Pirates", the Pre-prep Summer Dance Show and the Year 8 and 9s incredibly powerful production of "Skellig". I'm also so very proud of how our pupils embraced our inaugural Community Week in the Senior School. Every pupil had the chance to visit a local charity and participate in activities ranging from pruning to litter picking, to painting a mural and packing food boxes for the food bank and mucking out fields. They also helped to build bird boxes at School and restore our willow deer in the School grounds. Next year, our plan is to develop the Community Week programme even further. We are so proud of our achievements in these two areas that we entered the initiatives into the ISA National Awards competition and received a Highly Commended Award.

We have also had a wonderful year in sport – with much excitement when the U16 Boys' Football Team took the ISA National Tournament Plate in a penalty shoot-out. The U11 and U13 mixed hockey teams also emerged victorious in the Duke of Kent School Tournament – the first time either team has won. Our Year 7 and 8 girls have shown fantastic development in their cricket skills which is brilliant to see. The annual Sports Days and Sports Dinner were fabulous events as we celebrated some wonderful achievements this year.

Behind the scenes, we've been embracing change to ensure Duke of Kent School is the best possible School for our pupils now and in the future. One of the ways we do this is through the power of Pupil Voice. Pupils can make suggestions through the School Council, using the online pupil form where they can send a suggestion to



us, or in person. This year, a Year 9 pupil suggested that Year 9 and 10 pupils should be allowed to wear their hair down. She gave a convincing presentation and we agreed we should trial the idea for a term. The pupils responded brilliantly and sensibly to the trial, and this is now policy. Prep School have been working on improving the range of activities in Junior Jungle and, through a survey, identified that there was overwhelming support for a zip wire. Pupil Voice so often comes back to topics of food and we have had suggestions for more sauces, more chilli, more donuts, more chips and a sandwich bar. I look forward to more suggestions next year.

I save my last words for our wonderful Year 11s, who have finished their GCSEs and end their Duke of Kent School journey with us. It has been a great privilege to watch them learn and grow. They have been on a remarkable journey of self-discovery and exploration. From the first day they walked through the doors, unsure and curious, to this moment of accomplishment and pride, they have proven their resilience and determination. The lessons they have learnt inside the classroom and beyond its walls will serve as a solid foundation for their future endeavours.

They are most deserving of the wonderful set of GCSE results received in August and now set off on exciting journeys in the next step of their education. The dedication, encouragement and unwavering support shown by each teacher has also played a crucial role in the success of each individual. A huge thank you to all of the fabulous Duke of Kent School staff 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



News from our Chair of Governors

Another year passes and much has been achieved, although we cannot sit back on our laurels! It is an exciting and interesting time for education, both in and out of the classroom.

We will now be embarking on our 2030 Strategic Development Plan, consulting with parents, pupils and staff on their vision and dreams for the future. This will encompass the School's 50th birthday in 2026. We have already conducted an exercise with the pupils and staff about what they believe makes the School unique and here is a general flavour of their responses:

"The School feels like a family, where individuals care for and support one another in a warm and nurturing environment."

"Every child is known and valued as an individual."

"There is an abundance of opportunities to get involved in every aspect of School life."

"The School upholds strong values, with a central focus on kindness guiding all interactions and actions within the community."

As Governors, we enjoy many opportunities to visit the School, in addition to the various committee meetings we attend. This can range from attending performances at School or G Live to having lunch or observing classroom lessons. This gives us a real insight into School life on a daily basis. This year I asked my colleagues to give me their highlights for the year. These are a few of their comments:

On Governors observing teaching lessons:

"I thought this afternoon, for me, was of the most valuable as a Governor and one of the most rewarding and important opportunities to see the School in action."

"In each lesson I was impressed with the knowledge of the class and particularly the confidence of the pupils to ask questions and answer questions without the fear of it being wrong."

"Everyone was involved in the lesson; no one was missed out."

On School lunch:

"A real pleasure both in terms of the culinary experience and the atmosphere. Had a real buzz about the place."

On the Addams Family performance:

"Thank you all for giving the capacity audience such a great time. Everyone in the team should be so proud and congratulated."

"It was such a professional production which showcased exceptional talent. I took my daughter and now this soundtrack is all she wants to listen to in the car!"

PADoK is an incredibly important part of our School life. The team work tirelessly behind the scenes promoting fabulous social events and raising monies for School projects and worthy causes, as well as



being a really important support network for our families. The new PADoK uniform shop was finished this summer and is a welcome addition to our site.

I would like to thank our parents for their continuing support of the School. We know that times are very challenging and deeply appreciate the trust that you have placed in us.

The School continues to thrive. None of this would be possible without the immense amount of work put in by our Head, Mrs Knox, brilliantly supported by her Senior Leadership Team, our bursarial and front office teams and of course our superb teaching and support staff.

The teaching at Duke of Kent School continues to provide unwavering support and nurturing to all of our pupils, irrespective of their age and abilities. This has ensured that our standards and performances continue to improve.

Our very best wishes for a happy and successful future go to all pupils who left at the end of the last School year and, in particular, to those in Year 11, who achieved excellent GCSE results. Thank you for your contribution to School life. Keep in touch!

It is an exciting time for education, particularly with the technological advancements that are taking place in our sector. Duke of Kent School will continue to embrace these advancements whilst ensuring our excellent reputation for outstanding education in a nurturing and inclusive setting is maintained.

Mr Brocksom
Chair of Governors

News from the Bursary

Following the end of a hectic Summer-Term, I sought sanctuary on the bench by the Forum Garden and was astonished to see how the garden has matured with a wonderful array of vegetables, plants, sunflowers and an assortment of tadpoles. This transformation is no accident and the result of much hard work by pupils, parents and staff who should all be congratulated on their commitment to the cause. It is also the result of regular weekend watering by the Head and Grounds staff (Kelly) who should also be commended.

Having recently been in touch with my brother-in-law, who was evacuated from his home in Corfu following the recent wild fires, it does bring home the challenges of climate change, the need to reduce our carbon footprint to protect the environment and to be fully sustainable.

As educators, we are in a perfect and privileged position to be able to engage directly with pupils and discuss the challenges and opportunities they will face with all of these issues. You may be aware that the Department of Education will be introducing a new Natural History GCSE in due course. This qualification will enable young people to explore the world by learning about organisms and environments, environmental and sustainability issues and gain a deeper knowledge of the natural world around them.

The School has also reached out to Surrey Wildlife Trust to become one of their "Wilder Schools", where the Trust and the School can work together on longer term projects to embed nature into the curriculum and improve the School grounds for pupils and wildlife. The intention is to also have a number of learning hubs within the grounds to support outside learning about the environment.

As a School, we are not standing still as there is always more we can do. We already have a Sustainability Committee where pupils look at ways in which the School can help the environment and implement initiatives – one initiative involved pupils bringing in re-usable water bottles to save the School buying water in plastic bottles. This has now been supplemented by the installation of four new water stations for refilling bottles situated in the Link and outside the changing rooms.

Other School initiatives involve the monitoring of food waste with regular reviews of menus, reducing paper usage through the introduction of more technology (iPads and Chromebooks) where information is stored in files rather than on paper; switching off lights when leaving classrooms and offices, recycling bins throughout the School and the introduction of the Forum and Coronation Gardens, which has given pupils a deeper appreciation of their environment.



From my perspective, and in the capacity of Bursar, there remain a number of challenges. Whilst our expensive gas and electricity supplies are produced in a green way, given the nature and age of our buildings, our heating arrangements remain inefficient and there will always be planning issues regarding the introduction of greener solutions (given our Grade 2 listing) unless planning policy changes. Our minibuses continue to bring into School over 30% of our pupils, which reduces traffic on site and helps the environment. However, there will need to be a move towards electric vehicles when existing vehicles become due for exchange and our electrical infrastructure for effective charging will need some enhancements for this to be a fruitful exercise.

All in all, a good start, but more can be achieved. I have been thinking about ways to become more in-tune with the environment and promoting a greener School and I am advocating the planting of some vines and producing some Duke of Kent School fizz... although no buy-in from the Head, as yet!!

Mr Stacey
Bursar

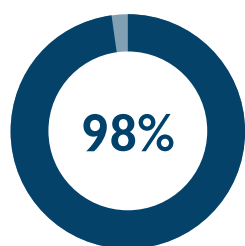
Fantastic GCSE Results for the Class of 2023!

It is with great pride in our pupils that we at Duke of Kent School congratulate the Year 11 cohort of 2023! On behalf of the teachers, Governors, our wonderful parents, support staff, alumni and the whole Duke of Kent School community, I would like to acknowledge the collective spirit, endeavour and excellence of each and every one of them. With sustained hard work, collective support and an upbeat approach, our pupils outperformed expectations, and did so with personality and panache. These outstanding GCSE results reflect their very best efforts.

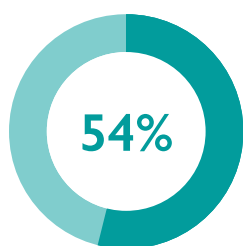
Our Year 11s achieved an overall GCSE pass rate of 98%, with a commendable 92% of our pupils gaining at least one grade 7 or above. Indeed, over half of all the grades awarded were a grade 7, 8 or 9. The cohort average across all subjects was a grade 7, with grade 9 making up 12% of the total. This is a truly fantastic achievement for our pupils, enabling each one of them to move forward confidently in the next step of their education.

We are delighted for our pupils and know they will strive forward with self-assurance and verve, taking their next steps safe in the knowledge they are always welcome back. Their achievements speak loudly, but we will also remember them for being warm-hearted, cooperative and resilient. They leave us with wonderful memories and challenges overcome. Congratulations, Class of '23!

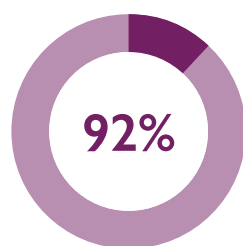
Mr Damian Allen
Head of Pupil Progress



**Overall GCSE pass
rate of 98%**



**54% of results were
grade 7 or above**



**92% of pupils achieved
at least one grade 7**



**GCSE Maths, English
and Sciences
average grade = 7**



**41 grade 9s
achieved**



**Cohort average
level 7**



Snapshots of a Year as Deputy Head

Wednesday 7th September:

Well here we are, my first day as Deputy Head at Duke of Kent School! I'm excited, nervous but buzzing to get started working closely with all the wonderful pupils, parents and staff. Greeting pupils at the door as they arrive is a real highlight, seeing familiar and new faces as they hop up the front steps allows me to get a feel of how the day is going to go...and today everyone is excited to catch up with friends and find out what the School year holds. Off to a whole School assembly to welcome everyone back and introduce the three key words to making the School a great place to be this year: calm, safe and supportive. I take a wander down to Pre-prep (always great value!) and see that the youngest members of our community have settled well too.

Thursday 6th October:

Nothing out of the ordinary today. Mr Stacey and I met with PADoK to discuss the safety in the car park and committed to reviewing the systems over the next year. Today is also National Poetry Day, a great day to celebrate one of my favourite things to teach and read. In the afternoon I am lucky enough to get out to see the Year 3 and 4 girls in their netball match and catch up with some of the parents. Mila, my daughter, is playing and it is so nice to be able to watch her play alongside work. I was even lucky enough to accompany her and her Year 3 class to Kew Gardens recently! I get a chance to see pupils at lunch and catch a glimpse of how things are going.

Friday 9th December:

Today marks the end of my first term as Deputy Head. It has been even busier than I anticipated, but also more rewarding and exciting. The School day starts with a staff briefing where we discuss details of the day to come. It has been a jam-packed week this week with the Carol Service I helped to organise, Christmas parties and films, and the end of term assembly to prepare for today, which never fails to put a smile on my face. This is a culmination of a hard term's work as the whole School community comes together to celebrate everyone's achievements and acknowledge those who have gone above and beyond. Once the pupils have gone, all the staff gather to exchange "Secret Santa" gifts, have a bite to eat and wish each other a Merry Christmas. Just a note on the staff I get to work with day in and day out: I could not ask for a more supportive, inspiring, genuine and kind team to work alongside. They have blown me away this first term with the way they have helped me navigate difficult situations and provided help whenever I have asked them – and all with smiles on their faces. To end the day – Friday Football! I love decompressing with a kick about with former pupils, staff and parents. It is lovely to hear how pupils who left between 12 and two years ago are getting on...and then getting the better of them and sticking one in the top corner!

Saturday 25th February:

Today Mrs Southee, Mr Seeley and I are running a fun trip down to Brighton with Year 9. I really believe that making core memories by doing non-curriculum based trips is one of the most important parts of a child's education. We catch the train from Horsham and head straight to Brighton Cookery School. Here the pupils make their own pasta from scratch and enjoy it for their lunch. There are some mixed results and flour everywhere but a great time was had by all! We then had a lovely walk around The Lanes where the pupils gorged on ice cream and treats and we nipped in and out of the unique boutiques. It was so lovely to spend time with the Year 9s and to get them know them better as they prepare to enter the upper years of the Senior School.

Monday 26th June:

Today was a typical Monday. It is a busy day with plenty of lessons, meetings and duties. In the morning the Senior Leadership Team meet to discuss the wider life of the School. I love the way all members listen to each other and respectfully debate the merits of each idea or solution presented. Next up is a PSHE lesson with Year 8. I have really enjoyed teaching PSHE this year and the variety of topics that we have covered. Before lunch I catch up with Mrs Knox and we review my first year as Deputy Head. She has been a constant support and I have learnt a lot about leadership and management from her over this year. Luckily she is happy about the way things have gone! Later in the afternoon I have my Pre-prep club. Today it is multisports and we do some cricket on Front Pitch as the weather is beautiful. There are plenty of great batting performances and several I had to duck out the way of as their parents watched on! Finally, all the preparation for the Year 11 Leavers' Dinner came to a head with a wonderful evening of celebration of our leavers. My speech included reading out some extracts from letters they wrote to themselves in Year 7 – it was hilarious seeing their reactions!

Tuesday 4th July:

The last week of the academic year. Today is one of the busiest days of the year! I always arrive into school at 7am to sort out the cover for the day – and today is a busy one. Year 10 are out on Duke of Edinburgh and Year 11 have left for the "End of School" trip. These are all great events but there is a lot to sort for the teachers who are out to ensure the pupils in School still receive the best provision. It is quite a puzzle! Preparations are underway for Parents' Day coming up on Saturday and all the key players meet to discuss the finer details. It is a day I have been both looking forward to and dreading since I became Deputy Head: how amazing to award the pupils their prizes for a year of hard work and announce the House Cup winner; but making sure all goes smoothly on the day and with the ceremony is a big task. Finally, the day ends with tea duty and waving off the last pupils as they leave at 18:30...and breathe!

Mr Southee





Stretch and Challenge

Guest Speakers

Throughout the academic year we had the privilege of welcoming a diverse range of speakers who shared their academic and professional journeys with our pupils. The aim of these talks was to inspire pupils, broaden their horizons, explore different career paths and to think outside the box. These talks also highlighted the fact that education, like life, is a journey that can take many different paths.

Our first talk in January was given by Huw Chandler, who spoke about his profession in the insurance industry. Huw delivered an interactive talk that provided insight into his role and career journey. He highlighted the fact that there are opportunities for individuals from different backgrounds, including science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM). Huw also shared the many exciting experiences he has had as a result of working in this industry, and the excellent career prospects, training and development opportunities, and possible sponsorship for further education and professional qualifications.

In February, we welcomed Nicole Porter, a local physicist and environmental acoustician. Nicole spoke passionately about her role as a STEAM ambassador and her work at the acoustic branch of the National Physical Laboratory. She shared fascinating stories about her investigations into the effect of aircraft and airport noise on health and sleep patterns. Nicole also talked about her decision to start her own business and the challenges and freedom that came with it. She gave an overview of some of the impressive work she is doing now with airlines and airports to design future air space that will reduce noise and improve efficiency.

As part of British Science Week in March, we welcomed Carolyn Lovell, who gave a talk about the fascinating world of forensic science. Carolyn gave an insight into the different ways to enter the field and shared her journey as a fingerprint technician. She talked about the advancements in DNA science and the challenges of finding out who the DNA belongs to. Carolyn's talk showcased how technology has changed over the years, leading to constant learning and no two days being the same in CSI.

Our final talk of the year was from Olivia Winther, a physiologist at Qinetiq. Olivia spoke about her work within the human performance section of Qinetiq, where she works alongside other physiologists, psychologists, engineers and physicists. She highlighted the equipment she works with on a daily basis and the type of work she does testing out new clothing or equipment on pilots that enable them to work in extreme conditions while still performing their tasks to the best of their ability.

All our visitors spoke with enthusiasm and passion, and it was lovely to have such a variety of individuals delivering such inspirational messages to the pupils. These talks emphasised the importance of exploring different paths and the fact that it is normal to experience uncertainty in career choices. The speakers also highlighted the many opportunities available in STEAM-related fields and the potential for career growth and personal development. Overall, these talks were an excellent way to encourage pupils to extend their learning and interests into a variety of different areas.

Finally, I would like to share a few inspirational messages that our visitors shared with us:

- Work with people you can learn from.
- Work with people you like and bring the best out in you.
- Take best advantage of any opportunities that present themselves.
- Keep pushing boundaries to grow.
- Listen and don't judge.
- Communicate effectively.
- Aim to have a little fun whilst working hard.
- Remember that a work-life balance is so important.
- Do what you love and enjoy; a career will follow.

Mr Wyllie
Senior Science Teacher

The Day We Celebrated The Coronation

Amidst an atmosphere of joy and celebration, Duke of Kent School commemorated the momentous occasion of King Charles III's Coronation. The School was transformed into a colourful spectacle as bunting adorned every nook and cranny. Vibrant flags and banners in regal hues added to the festive ambiance, creating a visual feast for the celebrations. The grounds came alive with a delightful array of events and activities throughout the day.

The day began with a Coronation assembly where we discussed the role of the monarchy in today's world and considered the various aspects of the Coronation. Poems read by pupils entitled: "The day I became King" added to the importance of the occasion. For me personally, the Coronation has great significance and meaning as my parents met at Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953 watching the ceremony on the newly-installed black and white TV in my Dad's house in Urswick. A House quiz led by Mr Allen and Mr Wilson was a fun finale to a thought-provoking and enjoyable assembly.

Additionally, as part of our Coronation celebrations, we dedicated a corner of our School grounds to create a beautiful Coronation garden. Pre-prep and Prep School pupils planted wildflower beds and Years 7 and 8 planted two beautiful witch hazel trees. Filled with vibrant flowers and native plants, this garden will serve as a sanctuary for bees and butterflies in the future and is a symbolic representation of our School's commitment to environmental stewardship.

A mouth-watering BBQ followed at lunchtime where the enticing aroma of grilled delicacies filled the air, delighting everyone's taste buds. We were also treated to slices of the Coronation quiche and an amazing strawberry and clotted cream salad. An ice cream van, Sir Whippy, was an absolute highlight with everyone (staff included) thoroughly enjoying a tasty 99 Flake ice cream. One pupil commented: *"I wish we could have a BBQ and ice cream every Friday!"*

The festivities continued with a series of Coronation-themed games organised by our Sports Department ensuring laughter and excitement filled the air. Pupils and staff enthusiastically participated in a spirited tug of war competition, showcasing their teamwork and competitive spirit. The staff won their tug of war against pupils! The School's celebration of King Charles III's Coronation was a resounding success, filled with laughter, delicious food, and exciting games. The festivities brought our School community closer, fostering a sense of unity and gratitude for our Monarch. This memorable event will be cherished by all as it was a real moment in history.

Mrs Knox
Head





British Science Week 2023

British Science Week was a brilliant opportunity to provide a range of hands-on activities for pupils outside the usual practical experiments and demonstrations to capture their imaginations. For the Science Department, it's a joy to do things a little differently and step away from exploring curriculum-based concepts, getting to see the extra enthusiasm and enjoyment from the pupils when trying new things.

Science week began with a Senior School Science Assembly, which started with a scientific song sung by Year 7. This was followed by a large-scale elephant's toothpaste demonstration which nearly hit the ceiling in the Performing Arts Hall, a demonstration of how the same reaction can be used to generate so much water vapour and gaseous oxygen to drive fuel into combustors to launch rockets, and finished with an explanation of what was in store throughout the week!

For the Prep School, our STEAM Prefect, Natasha B, delivered a fascinating assembly about her volunteer work with St Johns Ambulance, where Natasha has achieved the rank of Corporal. She shared her experiences of providing first aid at premier league football matches, marathons and events like the Brighton Pride Parade. She shared lots of information about the training she has received, her role, and also gave some demonstrations of how to apply bandages and a sling.

The Prep and Senior School had the opportunity to carry out an activity during the week which always goes down well; making slime. Pupils used some household ingredients to make a type of slime known as a non-Newtonian fluid and they were investigating how it can sometimes act like a solid and sometimes like a fluid. It has been wonderful to hear from parents of all age ranges about slime-making activities that have been happening at home using the method learnt at School.

A highlight for the Senior School was investigating a pluck with Mrs Vermeulen. A pluck is the internal organs of a pig including the trachea, oesophagus, heart, lungs and liver. Pupils inflated lungs using a pump, enabling them to observe their elasticity and ability to hold air; they were excited to feel the different organs and compare how light and spongy the lungs are in comparison to the thick and muscular heart. Feeling the rigidity of the rings of cartilage in the trachea was fascinating.

It's not just goo and gore that inspires pupils at Duke of Kent School, simple things can create impressive results. Years 7 and 8 successfully made a battery using a few everyday items such as a coin, a piece of cardboard soaked in one of five different

electrolytes and a piece of aluminium foil – all you need to push electrons from the aluminium to the coin to produce voltage. Our results were shared with the Royal Society of Chemistry Global Experiment 2023 which seeks to encourage pupils to learn about alternative sources of energy as we move away from fossil fuels to embrace electrification.

Years 9 and 10 took part in an Escape Room-inspired activity by carrying out a series of practicals. Correctly completing each practical enabled pupils to work out a code before they received instructions to allow them to progress to the next practical. This was run as a House Competition, with teams earning House Points for cracking the code at each level and, importantly, working as a team and answering bonus questions to demonstrate their understanding of the science underpinning the practicals.

Whilst most of the week was lab-based, Mrs Lwambo and Mr Wyllie both got pupils outdoors as we combined science with our beautiful location in the Surrey Hills. Mrs Lwambo took pupils for a walk up Pitch Hill to listen to the variety of birdsong around us and shared the results with the RSPB as part of a community science initiative. This also demonstrated the power of connecting scientists and their findings through technology. Meanwhile, Mr Wyllie ran a rocket launch activity. Pupils had the opportunity to design and decorate their own rockets using a plastic bottle and simple materials such as cardboard, paper, and tape to help with streamlining. They then launched their rockets using compressed air to establish how high each design could go. This activity provided a fun and exciting way to explore the principles of aerodynamics and Newton's laws of motion.

British Science Week 2023 resulted in many smiles and copious interesting questions and discussions as our inquisitive pupils explored and experimented with different scientific concepts. The week would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and creativity of the Science Department and our Science Technician, Mrs Shaw, who prepared materials, equipment and solutions for all the activities throughout the week. When providing such engaging and interactive science activities, pupils develop their scientific literacy and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them – a vital part of inspiring the next generation of scientists and encouraging pupils to pursue careers in STEAM fields.

Mrs Tattan-Robb
Head of Science

Pre-prep Review

A Vibrant Tapestry of Learning and Growth

Nestled within the heart of the School, the Pre-prep Department is a place where each day unfolds as a unique adventure. The palpable enthusiasm for learning, the joy of engaging in play, and the courage to embrace new experiences create an environment that resonates with vitality.

At the heart of the Pre-prep experience lies a dynamic curriculum that fuels individual growth. Every pupil is given the space and time to embrace their childhood while building a strong foundation for future learning. This is where the “have a go attitude”, reigns supreme, from the Reception pupils taking their first aquatic splashes in the School swimming pool to Year 2s boldly challenging themselves on various fronts. The close-knit community fosters an atmosphere of support, ensuring holistic development across all domains.

A distinguishing hallmark of Pre-prep is the celebration of achievements, both within the classroom and beyond. The pupils benefit from being part of the wider School community and including the invaluable expertise of Senior School staff like Mr Rye and Miss Vickers, contributes significantly to each child's development in music and sport respectively.

The dawn of the academic year ushered in renewed vitality, as pupils returned with their customary vivacity, adorning shiny shoes and crisply pressed uniforms. The reunion of old friendships and the warm embrace of new faces painted a heart-warming tableau. Classes set forth on captivating learning experiences outside of the classroom, with Reception exploring the Weald and Downland Museum, Year 1 delving into Arundel Castle and Year 2 embarking on an adventure to the Brighton Sea Life Centre.

As autumn gracefully yielded to winter, the Pre-prep pupils put on an uplifting show for the Christmas season with their captivating production, “Baarmy

Bethlehem”. Through the lens of talented sheep, the traditional nativity story was infused with a unique charm, leaving melodies and memories that lingered well into March.

Spring dawned with a thematic exploration of dinosaurs, igniting a fire of curiosity within Reception and Year 1. Fossils and palaeontology set the stage, culminating in a captivating Dinosaur Day where corridors transformed into prehistoric playgrounds. Amidst these learning escapades, the transition of Year 2 to the care of Mrs Rigby seamlessly unfolded after Mrs Salley started maternity leave. South African influences enriched the curriculum, offering perspectives that transcended borders.

Across the Pre-prep spectrum, the dedication to thematic learning shone bright. Nursery pupils journeyed through polar realms, culminating in a whimsical ski-doo creation. Spring's unexpected snowfall was a delightful surprise, allowing for unforgettable snowy escapades on Top Pitch. Seasonal festivities, including the Easter Bonnet Parade, added splashes of colour and joy to the calendar.

As summer unfurled, the Pre-prep landscape transformed into a mosaic of educational milestones. Year 2's remarkable celebration of learning left minds astounded by their vast knowledge. A jubilant gathering commemorated King Charles' Coronation, complete with regal dress and traditional games. Despite the weather's whims, Sports Day and a spirited parents' race added vigour to the closing weeks.

An array of clubs, from STEAM to art, enriched the experience for older pupils, while the Early Years members enjoyed leisure time at the day's end. Collaboration between age groups added an enriching layer, as the older pupils shared in reading and game-playing with their younger peers.



In this bustling canvas, teachers cherish their time with pupils, recounting magic moments that form the tapestry of the year. From Nursery's enchanting experiences to the transformative journey of Year 2, each stage is imbued with wonder and growth. The Pre-prep Department stands as a testament to the power of nurturing, discovery, and community, fostering a love of learning that extends far beyond the classroom.

Finally, the Pre-prep staff love their time with the children and so I asked each teacher why they enjoy their class so much:

Why Mrs Ragless loves Nursery

"I love working in Nursery because every year and every day is so different. When I reflect back and see how far the children have developed in the fundamental skills of communication, emotional wellbeing, independence and progress across the curriculum, I am always so proud of their achievements and this is what keeps me so enthusiastic."

Why I (Mrs Henry) love Reception

"The Reception Year is so amazing as the children develop so many new skills: reading, writing, counting and developing independence. It's a transformational year!"

Why Miss Walpole loves Year 1

"I love how enthusiastic the children are with everything they approach, they have a 'have a go attitude' and it's always fun in the classroom!"

Why Miss Munro loves Year 2

"I love coming in every day and seeing the smiles of each child and getting to witness the enthusiasm and progress they make during their journey through Pre-prep; it's so very special and rewarding!"

Mrs Henry
Head of EYFS





The Pre-prep Nativity Show

In December 2022, Pre-prep pupils took centre stage to perform “Baarmy Bethlehem”, a creative take on the traditional Christmas nativity. And my goodness, what a performance it was! Having practised their lines and dance moves over and over again for many weeks prior to the production, the children’s hard work paid off as the audience – in both the dress rehearsal and official performance – were truly (and duly) captivated!

Although Mary and Joseph are, of course, the main characters in the traditional Nativity, a group of “Party Sheep” – Cheeky, Rascal and Scamp – definitely stole the show in our Baarmy Bethlehem version! Dressed to the nines in their awesome party outfits (complete with tie-die shirts, colourful pompom coats, snazzy star glasses and wicked party hats), the three sheep helped tell the Christmas story whilst sprinkling in some cheeky humour for good measure!

A real highlight of the show was when George F, Humphrey G, Charles L and Archie H performed a beautiful vocal to the main characters, Mary and Joseph. Their song told the soon-to-be parents not to be afraid of their upcoming journey; that God would always look after them and had chosen them specially to fulfil His plan. A truly beautiful moment and sensational singing boys, well done!

Mary and Joseph were played by Heidi A and Harry L from Nursery and what a fantastic job they did in taking on such pivotal roles; their dancing took the audience’s breath away and their adoration for the newborn baby Jesus was exceptionally sweet to witness!

Pre-prep, you really shone this year and should be exceptionally proud of yourselves; your dedication to bringing your roles to life as well as your enthusiasm during the performances led to a truly memorable nativity!

Mrs Salley
Year 2 Teacher



Dinosaurs in Pre-prep

During the Spring Term Reception and Year 1 began their topic on Dinosaurs. This was a new topic, which both teachers and pupils were incredibly excited to begin, and we started with an exciting day studying fossils. Here the pupils were able to excavate fossils from sand. They created amazing fossil pictures using pasta and sand and they baked delicious dinosaur cookies.

After this we were ready to begin learning about the different periods in time that dinosaurs existed, where they lived and all about the dinosaurs themselves. The pupils were really knowledgeable about their diets and were able to explain what herbivores, omnivores and carnivores were.

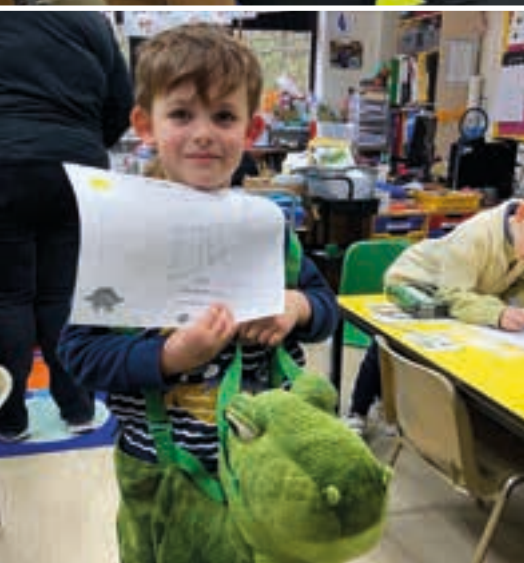
In our weekly art lesson, we made lots of dinosaur art, including clay fossils, dinosaur sunsets and drawing and painting the different species of dinosaurs. Impressively the children were able to create an excellent book full of information all about the dinosaurs they had been learning about, which they then took home to enjoy with their families.

At the end of the topic, the pupils had another focus day called "Dinosaur Day". They came to School dressed as dinosaurs and began their day by learning some dinosaur-themed dancing with their dance teacher, Lisa Lee. Following this, Freddie P in Year 6 worked really hard creating a fantastic slideshow all about his passion; dinosaurs! Freddie spoke about the different periods of time that dinosaurs existed, how many millions of years ago they lived and he finished by showing Year 1 and Reception a dinosaur alphabet. Thank you so much Freddie, we really enjoyed your presentation, it was clear how hard you worked on it!

The pupils then had some activities where they were able to earn valuable House Points. The first activity was to design their own dinosaur and to write a descriptive piece all about the dinosaur they had created. They then worked in their Houses to create a short film about dinosaurs. The final House activity was a quiz testing the pupils' knowledge on everything they had learnt! After this, Mrs Henry baked some delicious dinosaur cakes with the children which we enjoyed at the end of a fun-filled day!

This was a really enjoyable new topic in Pre-prep and I **dino** what to tell you but it was **ROARSOME!**

Miss Walpole
Year 1 Teacher



Pre-prep

Summer Dance Show

This year, Pre-prep's Summer Dance Show retold the much-loved tale, "The Wizard of Oz" and, as ever, the Performing Arts Hall was packed to the rafters for the curtain call. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, cousins and siblings – not to mention any staff who could squeeze in – had arrived in their droves to witness the latest in a long line of classic Pre-prep performances.

Every child, from the youngest performers in Nursery to the Year 2s with starring roles, simply shone! To say it is quite some feat to pull together a 30-minute show in which there is no dialogue, only dance and music, all performed by children under 7, is an understatement. This, of course, is proof – if any were needed – of Lisa Lee's own powers of wizardry (not to mention patience), choreographing moves and set sequences that the children are not only capable of learning, but – most importantly – absolutely love.

For some, being on stage is an exciting time, and their enthusiasm and aptitude no doubt helps guide and embolden those around them, especially when moves are inevitably forgotten. For those who find it an altogether more disorientating and overwhelming experience to dance for an audience, it is testament to our caring and encouraging Pre-prep staff, that all those who may have been feeling reluctant or nervous were still comfortable enough to get in the spotlight and give it their best.

The Year 2 pupils took on the role of the main characters with aplomb, ably supported by their peers including Nursery as the good folk from Oz, Reception as Munchkins and Year 1 as Jitterbugs. The costumes (with a little additional sparkle!) were quite astonishing and it was a fantastic way to end the year. Parents joined in with the finale of "Disco Inferno" and tears of joy and pride were shed by many! Indeed, the whole musical backdrop was so superb, I thought you might like to see the tracklist for the show, so you can enjoy it all over again on Spotify!

Over the rainbow – Israel Kamakawiwole
Slide some oil to me – from the Wiz
Wipeout – The Ventures
Step into the Bad Side – Jamie Foxx
Green Door – Shakin' Stevens
His Morning Promenade – Charlie Chaplin
Organ Grinder's Swing – Coleman Hawkins
One Way – Blondie
The Blue Danube – Spike Jones
Pump It – Black Eyed Peas
The Nicest Kids in Town – Hairspray
Ice Ice Baby – Vanilla Ice
Disco Inferno – The Trammps

Chris Wright
Head of Prep and Pre-prep



Prep School Review

The last time I took up the reins of leading the Prep School, it signalled the start of a global pandemic, so I will confess to feeling some trepidation when Mrs Green said she was expecting a second baby in the Autumn Term. Thankfully, things were decidedly more routine this time around, and we were all delighted to celebrate little Frankie's arrival into the Duke of Kent School community. One other change to the staffing team was the welcome return of Mr Herbert to the Prep School classroom; I know he very much enjoyed his time being Year 6's Form Teacher, and the feeling was certainly mutual!

As well as settling into new routines and the academic demands of School life in those early Autumn Term weeks, the pupils were also rediscovering their social network. A "Social Evening", for each year group is now an established feature in the calendar, allowing the children to stay late after School with their classmates. They all had a fantastic time, enjoying team sports, indoor games, dance competitions and more, providing the opportunity to form and strengthen new and existing friendships, as well as to build the pupils' sense of security and confidence within our School community.

Pupil Voice is also an essential – and increasingly influential – aspect of life in the Prep School. Hustings to be elected as a class representative on the School Council inspired some very persuasive and impassioned pitches in September, and Mrs Lock was delighted with the serious and purposeful tenor of discussions during their meetings. Amongst other things, the School Council representatives were consulted on plans for celebrating the King's Coronation, reviewed and approved the anti-bullying policy, and also reflected on what makes the School unique, as we embark on a new strategic development cycle. Minutes of these meetings and surveys are shared on the corridor noticeboards, so pupils can see what is being discussed. It has been heartening to note how much more empowered the pupils feel when they raise concerns or suggestions, having seen positive changes taking place as a direct result of the School listening to Pupil Voice. One such change has been the increase in clubs being run at lunchtimes, with many pupils signing up for at least one of Junior Chamber Choir, Art, German, STEAM and Ukulele club.

It is not only through councils and committees that pupils have a voice; all individuals do, and one of my favourite ways to hear from the pupils is in our morning talks. These are open to any pupils in Years 4 and above to speak to the rest of the Prep School about a hobby, a topic of interest or expertise, or perhaps a special achievement. Pupils prepare and deliver these talks with minimal input from adults, so they can have full responsibility for what they wish to say, and how they deliver it, invariably producing some fascinating and entertaining presentations. This year we heard about: climate change from Henry O'B and Harry L; music from Eva W and Layla B; the Great Fire of London from Alexander I and Arthur S; her experience of cancer and amputation from Amelie C; books from Ben W and Thibaut J; their band "Broke 'n' Bones" from Jenson P, Rommy B, Solomon S-B and Arthur H; sweets from





Lola C and Holly B; and the periodic table from Penny A. Congratulations to all those who volunteered; their ability and confidence to address an audience will no doubt have benefited them enormously.

At Christmas, we wished farewell to Mrs Gritton for her maternity leave, and have relished having occasional glimpses of baby Freya around the School over the following months. In her place, we welcomed Mrs Tuite as Year 4 teacher, who very rapidly settled in.

Highlights from the Spring Term for most will be the wonderful performance opportunities that come around each March, with many Prep pupils entering House Music and not just taking to the public stage at G Live, but excelling – to our enormous pride – in the process. The production of “Plastic Pirates”, however, deserves particular mention as it is the culmination of so much dedicated teamwork over an extended period of time. It was a truly superb show, and I know all who took part felt a great sense of satisfaction when they could hear and see each audience’s enthusiastic appreciation for their efforts. The Prep and Performing Arts Department go far above and beyond to pull together such performances, and my heartfelt thanks – and respect – go to all of them: Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Tuite, Mrs Gritton, Lisa Lee, Mr Rye and – most notably this year – to Mrs Lock who was leading a production for the last time (or so she thinks). What a way to finish!

The Summer Term saw exams come and go, and the children should be commended on how well they coped with what can – for many – be an unsettling and daunting experience. This is precisely why we introduce exams from Year 3, so pupils can begin to adopt sound revision and exam skills, familiarise themselves with timed-test conditions and also use the process to reflect on areas of strength and weakness, with the ultimate goal of improving for next time. Mental Health Awareness Week preceded exam week, and Prep pupils were reminded of the importance of approaching exams with balance (including good rest, sleep, fun times, down time, exercise, eating well and occasional revision).

I can barely believe I’ve not even mentioned many of the other wonderful speakers, assemblies, trips and residentials that have informed and enriched the pupils’ time in School this year; but suffice to say there hasn’t been a moment wasted!

Mr Wright

Head of Prep and Pre-prep

Windows into Learning

At the end of the Spring Term we held our very first “Windows into Learning” event, inviting parents of Prep pupils into the department to learn more about how we teach maths. We were delighted to have over half of the pupils’ parents attend, spread across all four classes. The event began with an introductory presentation from Mr Wright, underlining the importance of maths and its relevance in so many aspects of daily life, as well as placing pupils’ enjoyment of and engagement with the subject at the very top of our list of priorities. Mrs Nicholson went on to explain how the curriculum is structured, so that all aspects of mathematical learning are not only encompassed, but also revisited – at gradually higher levels of challenge and complexity – during a pupil’s time in Prep School. Mr Gritton, the Maths Coordinator for Prep and Pre-prep, then gave a few demonstrations of some of the resources, teaching strategies and methodologies used in lessons. To round off the initial session, Mr Gritton gave the parents the chance to be the pupils, challenging them to work through a series of questions to reveal the hidden number. This caused anxiety for some, and brought out the competitive spirit in others, but most importantly provided some insight into the sort of tasks their children would be taking on regularly in their daily learning.

Parents then had the opportunity to join their children in their classrooms. They worked alongside them, and their friends, to tackle a range of puzzles and games, providing a lovely chance to see the children’s knowledge being tested and applied in their usual learning environment. Challenges ranged from trying to match geometrical shapes with segments of text describing each one’s properties, to a version of Connect 4 using their multiplication skills. On laptops dotted around the department, pupils and parents were able to manipulate virtual 3D shapes and experiment with placing, rotating or reflecting them in relation to coordinates on the x and y axis. The pupils absolutely loved sharing the experience with their parents, and those of their friends, and I think it’s true to say that several of the parents didn’t want to leave! We very much look forward to hosting another “Windows into Learning” in 2024.

Mr Wright

Head of Prep and Pre-prep



Plastic Pirates

by Niki Davies

This year saw the start of a new era for our Prep School Production; although wishing to continue our tradition of staging a musical, we wanted to take the opportunity to showcase a story with a particular theme. "Plastic Pirates" by Niki Davies fulfilled this brief perfectly; it was fun and lively but with an important message about the devastating effects of plastic being thrown into our oceans.

The ethos for the Prep Production has always been one of total inclusivity. Any pupil who wishes to take part is welcomed with open arms and given the opportunity to sing, dance and speak in whatever sized role they are comfortable with. We deliberately shy away from having "lead" parts – so much so that this year we split the two main roles so that each one was shared between two pupils. We also felt it was important to challenge the idea that the captain of a pirate ship would be male!

"Welcome, me hearties, to a story of the seas, where ships set sail and pirates roam free."

With these lines we were lucky enough to be drawn into the murky world of the miscreant Plastic Pirates, whose obsession with collecting plastic and then hurling it (literally) into the ocean was causing huge danger to its poor vulnerable inhabitants. The sea creatures end up getting caught in all the plastic; it gets tangled in the shells of the turtles and wrapped around the octopus' tentacles. Fortunately, the pirates eventually realise the error of their ways and become reformed characters, deciding to abandon their love of plastic and recycle instead; a very important message for us all. There was mutiny and mayhem, pirates and parrots, spectacular sea-creatures, nautical narrators and Cap'n Clingfilms!

The cast for "Plastic Pirates" drew upon an excellent mix of both experienced and first-time performers and pupils from all the year groups. From the outset of rehearsals, they worked well as a team, supporting and encouraging each other. They focused hard and quickly learnt their lines. It was inspiring to see them become familiar with the many different songs in a remarkably short space of time; a huge thank you to Mrs Tuite for all her efforts with this.

Months of hard work and effort paid off in a spectacular fashion. The two performances were a huge success; the audiences clearly enjoyed watching them and reacted with great enthusiasm. Those of you who were lucky enough to experience it will agree with me when I say the pupils sang their hearts out, virtually lifting the roof off the Performing Arts Hall. They smiled and laughed their way through every performance, with loud, clear expressive voices; every single one word-perfect. What a joy it was to see their confidence in front of so many people. There were wonderfully bright creative costumes; thank you to Mrs Nicholson for her inspired ideas and vibrant make up, all set against the background of the Plastic Pearl floating in an ocean of plastic. A huge well done to everyone involved, both on the stage and backstage – a real team effort which greatly entertained all those who saw it.

Many thanks to the whole creative team for their hard work, patience (with me!) and brilliant ideas. In particular, to Lisa Lee for her genius choreography, fabulous set design ideas and inspiring direction, to Mrs Tuite and Mr Rye for the music and to Mrs Nicholson for the costumes.

Mrs Lock
Prep School Teacher



Next Steps and the DoKtopus

Every half term, Prep School pupils receive “Attitude to Learning” grades, to indicate to them – and parents – how their teachers have evaluated their approach and efforts in each subject. Prep School pupils also receive a target, called a “Next Step”, for the upcoming half-term period. This target identifies a specific area in which the pupil should target their attention to help them improve – most commonly in their learning, but these targets can also be aimed at helping develop better social, behavioural or organisational skills as well. Next Steps are identified and discussed collaboratively between the pupil, subject teachers and Form Teacher, with a Bronze, Silver or Gold level being awarded at the end of each half term, depending on how well and how consistently the pupil has tackled their target.

To assist pupils in becoming more familiar with the key attributes that their teachers want to see – effectively what constitutes an excellent Attitude to Learning – the Prep School Council created the “DoKtopus” in 2022. Each leg represents one of the eight key learning attributes: resilience; effort; motivation; response to feedback; challenge; positive attitude; embracing mistakes; focus. All pupils’ Next Steps target the same DoKtopus attribute – rotated half-termly – and each pupil’s Next Step is carefully personalised to their own abilities and needs to help them progress in this area of their Attitude to Learning. This year, a colourful mural in the Prep School corridor has helped the DoKtopus to become a much more familiar and visible symbol of the pupils’ learning efforts, each tentacle displaying photographs of those children who have achieved a “Gold” level for their Next Step.

Mr Wright

Head of Prep and Pre-prep



Reading

in the Prep School

At Duke of Kent School, we aim to help all of our pupils develop their reading skills and build knowledge, but also to encourage them to be genuinely excited about books and to develop a lifelong love of reading. Early success in reading is one of the best predictors of future academic outcome. This year we have made reading a particular focus, encouraging pupils to read a little every day, in order to improve not only their reading skills, but also their vocabulary knowledge and writing skills. Also to expose them, through a variety of reading challenges, to a wider range of literature, inspiring intelligence, creativity and empathy.

Pupils have received awards for routinely reading for 15 minutes at home each day. Furthermore, they have received raffle tickets for completing reading challenges, which are listed at the front of their reading record books. These have been drawn at the end of each term and there has been great excitement to see who has won the various literary prizes.

We have celebrated pupils' reading achievements in our weekly assemblies and their photos are proudly displayed outside the Prep School Library. Bronze Award is given to pupils who have completed 50 "reads" (of 15 minutes) with an adult at home, Silver Award is for 100 reads, Gold Award for 150 reads and Platinum is given to those who have completed an impressive 200 reads. This year, we would like to congratulate Henry H, Rowan B, George S, Oliver T, Hope N, Halle S, Jasmine W, Millie W and Ben W for successfully achieving their Platinum Award.

As well as reading at home and to teachers, the pupils have enjoyed a weekly opportunity for paired reading with other pupils from different classes within the Prep School. This gives a wonderful time for shared discussions about reading experiences between older and younger pupils. Whether these entail book recommendations, strategies employed or simply strengthening friendships, it has been heartening to witness the purposeful thrum of these weekly sessions. "Aloud & Proud" certificates are awarded fortnightly to those who have impressed us most with their collaboration during paired reading sessions and "Rising Readers" acknowledge pupils who have been nominated by their Form Teachers for their effort, reading frequency and engagement with their reading.

In the words of Dr Seuss, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!" and, judging by this last year's efforts, the Prep School pupils at Duke of Kent School will certainly be going far!

Mrs Nicholson

Deputy Head of Prep School

Year 6 Assembly

The Year 6s capped off their final year in Prep School with a heart-warming and memorable assembly. Their pride at all they have achieved in their time in Duke of Kent School's Prep School – for some just a matter of months, for others already eight years – was most evident, delivering their lines with confidence and enthusiasm. The terrific Year 6 song "Say Goodbye!" was being hummed around corridors for the remainder of the term, by almost everyone in Prep School! A highlight of the assembly, without doubt, was the retelling of the truly remarkable occasion when, in Year 5, Solomon discovered he had a live mouse in his shoe – which he had unwittingly brought in from home! This, and many other treasured memories were shared, and – as ever – I found the pupil's testimonials of each other (echoed by their parents' thoughts, too) deeply moving.

Acknowledging the support we receive from those around us is important. This not only shows appreciation for others' efforts – as the pupils did by awarding some entertaining prizes to staff, as well as recognising the roles their friends had played in their enjoyment of School life – but also because it is a reminder that some obstacles can only be overcome as a team. There is no shame in asking for help and, indeed, success is often most rewarding when you get to share it with others.

The Final Year 6 Assembly is always a bitter sweet event as we bid farewell to pupils who have become part of the Prep School family, but seeing the delightful camaraderie between them on stage, and hearing of their highlights, successes, failures, challenges and hopes for the future, I am sure they will continue to flourish in the Senior School. They have been sound ambassadors in Prep School life, and have set the bar high for next year's Year 6s to emulate.

Mr Wright

Head of Prep and Pre-prep



Senior School Review

As the Senior School continues to grow in numbers it is wonderful to be able to reflect on the journey of the last 12 months, with many personal and collective successes and achievements. The attitude of the pupils has been outstanding; positive, willing and full of gusto. Their effort and application has led, not only to many academic achievements, but also to various successes across the performing arts, music, sports and debating areas.

The academic year began with the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II, an event which affected the whole country but also allowed us, as a community, to reflect (in assembly and form time sessions) on our position within society and the influence the royal family has upon us all. The Art Department was particularly busy in the Autumn Term with visits to the Booth Museum and the Witterings and studio visits to artists such as Caroline de Peyrecave. Team-building trips to Sayers Croft sat in the calendar alongside events such as the Student Conference on Mental Health and the School Wellbeing Forum, hosted at Duke of Kent School, where pupils from our School and others came together to ask pertinent questions and exchange ideas. The Drama Department supported the pupils through a magnificent performance of "The Addams Family", with almost two-thirds of the Senior School involved in one way or other.

At Duke of Kent School pupil feedback is integral in producing the harmonious and cohesive spirit we rely upon. Being a member of the Senior School relies on strong links, both between staff and parents in the background, but also between staff and pupils. To foster this, we positively encourage pupils to be involved in the rule-making, reviewing the sanctions lists in Student Council every year, feeding back any comments or improvements through the anonymous digital Pupil Voice form or through consultation with the Year 11 Prefect Team. We hope that, by keeping these channels of communication open, we can treat these pupils as adults and explain decisions clearly and rationally so as to allow them to understand situations fully.

The Spring Term saw the Duke of Kent School team excel at the Rotary Youth Debating competition, reaching the final. Similarly, our KS3 and KS4 teams performed outstandingly at the SATRO Problem Solving Challenge, qualifying for the national finals as winners and runners-up in their respective age group regional heats.

Getting outside in the grounds and beyond remains a vital part of the School's ethos. After-school clubs such as trail running and mountain-biking continue to boast high numbers, allowing exploration of the local area and a connection with the outstanding natural environment. The Duke of Edinburgh Award saw all of Year 10 participating in the Bronze Award this year and over half taking on the Silver Award. Additionally, the Games Department continues to run a varied and busy programme.

The Summer Term saw a number of exciting trips go ahead. We also hosted our inaugural Community Week, where pupils from across the Senior School came together to support a variety of projects and organisations in our local community; building friendships, improving their team working, and sharing in the positive experience that voluntary work could bring. Some worked on environmental projects, whilst others looked to repair overgrown paths and remove invasive plant species alongside the wildlife rangers at Warnham Nature Reserve and Southwater Country Park. The more creative designed and painted a mural for Horsley Riding for the Disabled, whilst other activities included assisting at Cherry Trees, Horsham Foodbank and Elysian Animal Therapy. We really do hope that this event will help our pupils further discover their place in the wider world and a spark for volunteering and helping others will be ignited.

The Year 11 cohort coped admirably with the demands of GCSE exams, their supportive camaraderie and positivity explicitly apparent throughout. The results were outstanding, with 92% of our pupils gaining at least one grade 7 or above, but what was also remarkable was their attitude to the whole process; no exams were missed across the cohort, with no late arrivals and no meltdowns. It was great to see the resilience and confidence with which they approached this very intense and potentially stressful period of testing. A joyful end to an extremely successful and diverse academic year; we are hugely proud of them all.

Mr Wilson
Head of Senior School







SATRO Challenge

In an era marked by increasing automation and the rising influence of Artificial Intelligence, there's a growing consensus that the future generation, our young people, must adopt an increasingly creative approach to harness these emerging tools. Thriving in this rapidly-evolving landscape demands a skill set that includes creative problem-solving, effective collaboration, articulate communication, and empathetic understanding. The development of these essential skills lies at the heart of our objectives within the Design and Technology curriculum. This commitment is underscored by our enthusiastic participation in the annual SATRO Challenge.

The SATRO Challenge provides a unique platform for our pupils to apply their knowledge of science, technology and mathematics collaboratively. They engage in the challenging task of designing and constructing prototypes to tackle real-world problems. In the spirit of friendly competition, they test their mettle against schools from all corners of the country. During this year's regional heats, they were tasked with designing and prototyping a machine capable of retrieving and sorting plastic from the ocean. Remarkably, our Key Stage 3 team emerged as leaders in their category, while our Key Stage 4 team secured an impressive second place, with only a minuscule percentage separating them from the top spot. These outstanding performances propelled both teams into the National Finals. Here, they were assigned the formidable challenge of creating a mechanised pulley system for transporting blocks between two points. While victory in the National Final eluded us, both teams earned highly respectable scores.

Following the thrilling victory in the South East Regional Heats and the near-miss at the National Level, I anticipated a subdued atmosphere during the long journey back home. To lighten the mood, I tuned in to the ever-enthusiastic Magic FM, hoping its cheerful pop tunes would dispel any disappointment. However, before the first chorus of a pop classic could even play out, it was drowned out by spirited chatter emanating from our pupils. Lowering the volume, I listened intently as they engaged in animated discussions. Contrary to my expectations, they were not disheartened but rather delving into the intricacies of the challenges they had encountered, contemplating alternative approaches, and evaluating the entries of other schools. It was evident that our pupils had grasped the idea that winning was not the primary objective; rather, the creative and collaborative journey they had embarked on was a rewarding experience in itself. Well done to everyone involved.

Mr Watson
Head of Art and Design

UKMT Success

Senior School pupils achieved some impressive results in the UKMT National Mathematics Challenge this year. Pupils took part in the Intermediate Challenge and the Junior Challenge. The Intermediate and Junior Challenge is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make pupils think. Particular congratulations go to Ben O in Year 7 who not only achieved a Gold certificate, but also qualified for the follow-on Kangaroo round, which is against several thousand pupils from across the UK.

Well done to every pupil that took part in the UKMT Mathematics Challenge this year. Below are the results:

Intermediate Challenge (Years 9 and 10)

Gold

Bobby F and Eva L

Silver

Sam S, Alex F, Ava W, Lucy M, Jess I and Daisy R

Bronze

Kai G, Helena K, Ariane L, Ella S, Abigail W, Maggie B, Henry C, Oscar H, Vir O'R, Mattie R, Saoirse W and Josh W-D

Junior Challenge (Years 7 and 8)

Gold

Ben O, Edie H, Alex W and Wilfred K

Silver

Eddie C, Samuel H, Ben J, Harry L, Monty L, Chris M, Sam R, Tom S and Oscar V

Bronze

Alice B, Alex B, Felix C, Tildy C, Jonny J, Jack M, Heath P, Francesca R, Hector W, Orson A, John B, Theo C, Erin C, Poppy F, Ben R, Harvey R and Patrick W

Mrs Coackley

Head of Maths



Computer Science Review:

A Year of Innovation and Growth

In the dynamic realm of technology, computer science has flourished this year, bringing forth advancements and transformative experiences. From immersive VR workshops to coding competitions and the introduction of a prestigious scholarship, the subject has left an indelible mark on pupils. Let's take a journey through the highlights of this year's developments and glimpse into what lies ahead.

Paving the Way for Aspiring Scholars

The Computer Science Department took a significant step by introducing a new scholarship program. The highly anticipated scholarship attracted numerous internal and external applicants who underwent rigorous evaluation through programming tasks and interviews. With plans to make it an annual event, the scholarship program is set to inspire and support future generations of computer science prodigies.

Nurturing Young Learners:

Year 11 pupils were treated to an immersive virtual reality (VR) workshop, where they delved into the world of technology's potential impacts. The workshop offered hands-on experiences with VR headsets, enabling pupils to explore various scenarios and deepen their understanding. The session culminated with some exhilarating VR gaming, making the entire experience both educational and entertaining. Furthermore, in a bid to foster young coding enthusiasts, Duke of Kent School hosted a Game Development workshop for Year 5 pupils in the local area. Through the use of visual programming language, MakeCode, pupils embarked on an adventure to create animations and simple games. With a focus on collaboration and experimentation, the pupils honed their coding skills, resulting in an array of impressive and creative game projects.

The Thrill of Legoland:

Year 6 pupils embarked on a memorable educational trip to Legoland, where they were exposed to the mechanics of forces and robotics. Engaging experiments allowed them to grasp concepts like gravity, acceleration, and friction. The hands-on experience of rollercoaster rides provided a real-world understanding of these principles, making it an unforgettable learning journey.

Competition Sparks Excellence:

The Perse Coding Competition brought out the best in talented pupils, as they competed with teams from across the UK for the coveted Braben Cup. The challenges tested

their programming skills, sparking determination and effort from all participants, resulting in an exhilarating and intellectually-stimulating event. Additionally, the ISA STEAM Competition provided an exciting opportunity for pupils to tackle real-world problems and develop crucial skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Lucy and Chris M's outstanding second-place achievement among all ISA schools in the UK exemplified the spirit of innovation and collaboration fostered by the STEAM Club. Finally, Year 6 pupils embraced the Bebras Computing Challenge, showcasing their computational and logical thinking abilities on a global stage. The competition's wide reach and engaging questions sparked excitement about computing and computational concepts.

Celebrating Innovation:

Year 7 pupils embraced their inner entrepreneurs by establishing t-shirt businesses with unique designs. This comprehensive project encompassed design principles, copyright regulations, website creation, and other essential aspects of entrepreneurship, providing pupils with a holistic learning experience. Moreover, the Year 8 "Solve for tomorrow" project, with a focus on inclusivity, challenged pupils to explore tech's role in creating a world where everyone belongs. Through innovative Design Thinking sprints, pupils presented ideas promoting inclusivity, highlighting their creativity and vision for a more inclusive future. Also, Year 9 pupils harnessed the power of Minecraft Education Edition to enhance their learning across subjects. The game-based platform encouraged creative and inclusive learning through interactive 3D model building and explanation of concepts. It proved to be an engaging and innovative way to deepen their understanding.

As we bid farewell to a year filled with progress and innovation in computer science, we eagerly anticipate what lies ahead. The journey continues with a series of exhilarating prospects, including a captivating GCSE trip to The National Museum of Computing, the highly anticipated Surrey Coding Cup and engaging ISA competitions. With each event promising to be a source of excitement and learning, the upcoming year holds even greater opportunities for the bright minds of Duke of Kent School.

Mr Boden
Head of Computer Science



The Ski Trip 2022/23

The Ski Trip Part 1

The December Ski Trip to Alpendorf, Austria was a very memorable experience for everyone involved! For those that were stranded at Gatwick, more on that later, but those that made it to the resort enjoyed perfect skiing conditions in beautiful mountain scenery and had the chance to explore the festive atmosphere of the Christmas markets in Salzburg. Alpendorf is a charming ski resort located in the Austrian Alps and part of the Salzburger-Sportwelt ski area. We stayed in a family-run hotel in the picturesque and charming town of Werfen, made famous in films such as "The Sound of Music" and for the imposing Hohenwerfen Castle ("Where Eagles Dare").

The pistes in the Ski Adade region are well-maintained and cater to all levels of skiers, from beginners to experts. The snow conditions were ideal, with low temperatures and plenty of fresh powder to make skiing even more enjoyable. The scenery was breathtaking, with snow-covered peaks and tree runs adding to the magical winter wonderland atmosphere. The kind, funny and experienced instructors, provided by IBT, were superb and ensured that everyone in the group received the guidance and support they needed to improve their skiing skills.

We also had the chance to visit the beautiful city of Salzburg to explore the famous Christmas markets. The markets were a feast for the senses, with the scent of hot mulled wine and roasted chestnuts filling the air. The group wandered through the markets, admiring the beautiful handmade crafts, jewellery, and clothing on display. The Christmas decorations and lights added to the festive atmosphere, creating a truly magical experience.

Overall, the School Christmas ski trip to Alpendorf in Austria was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The skiing was exhilarating, and the festive atmosphere of the Christmas markets in Salzburg added an extra special touch to the trip. The group created memories that will last a lifetime and developed new skills and friendships along the way.

The Ski Trip Part 2

After the heartbreak of the flight cancellation due to snowfall at Gatwick Airport, half our pupils were unable to fly to Austria for the ski trip in December. So, in true Duke of Kent School fashion, we felt it was only right to organise a new trip for those who didn't make it out to Austria the first time! Excitingly, we were also able to open the trip up to all our pupils in Years 7-10, including pupils who had joined since the initial ski trip was organised.



Incredibly, the travel was wonderfully smooth this time around, with the group arriving at the hotel in Austria ahead of schedule! The hotel was fantastic, with lots of facilities to keep everyone entertained and delicious food. We spent our first day playing football, volleyball, table tennis and basketball alongside table football and card games. IBT had already sorted all of the ski equipment so the ski fitting was extremely efficient and everyone was raring to go for Day 1 of skiing.

We were lucky once again with the ski conditions, with plenty of appearances of the sun and a huge dump of snow on Day 4, which gave us wonderful fresh powder conditions on Day 5! The pupils made fantastic progress throughout the week and the instructors were extremely complementary about the positive and enthusiastic attitude of our Duke of Kent School pupils. The week finished with a presentation as each instructor gave out certificates to their group, including their top speed from the timed run.

Alongside the fantastic skiing, we also enjoyed some brilliant evening entertainment including a quiz night, swimming and bowling trips. The swimming pool was epic, with three water slides, jacuzzis, indoor and outdoor pools as well as a climbing wall, so fun was had by everyone!

All in all, it was an incredible trip and was made even more special by having to wait an extra three months to enjoy the slopes!

Mr Seeley and Miss Vickers

Director of Teaching and Learning and Head of Girls' Games





The French Exchange

After a three-year wait, our Year 10 and 11 French pupils were buzzing with anticipation for our trip to France in February. This was the first leg of our French Exchange programme with the Lycée Bossuet in Meaux, about half an hour outside Paris. The pupils had been texting each other for weeks in the lead-up to the exchange, so it was with excitement, and a little trepidation, that they met face-to-face at the train station and went off to spend the weekend with their new French families. It takes guts to do this, and Mr Rye and I were extremely proud of them as we waved them off.

The entrance hall at the Lycée Bossuet was alive with English voices as we met up on Monday morning and the Duke of Kent School pupils exchanged tales of their weekend experiences: Rouen Cathedral, a ride in a Ferrari, Disneyland and Paris by night were just some of the wonderful excursions planned by the French families. We were welcomed with a tour of the school and lunch before heading off to the War Museum; an extraordinary space which engaged everyone: historians and non-historians alike. The pupils then had their first experience of French school!

A fire on the train line on Tuesday led to the unexpected cultural experience of taking a Parisian bus in rush hour, but we did eventually make it to the Musée d'Orsay where we all revelled in the glorious building as well as some very famous works of art by the likes of Van Gogh, Monet and Degas.

We were the local celebrities in lessons on Wednesday and we enjoyed being interviewed in English lessons. Everyone was a fan of the half-day though! Ariane L was able to join her exchange partner's choir that afternoon, which was a wonderful experience for her.

Thursday was a busy day and fortunately the trains were back up and running. We started with a bike tour of Paris, which our brilliant tour guide filled with fascinating anecdotes about the history of the city.

We then warmed ourselves up at the Opéra Garnier where we enjoyed learning all about the magnificent building. It was an exciting but exhausting day and everyone was happy to go back to their newly-found families for one final evening.

Just before our departure on Friday, we were fortunate to be taken around Meaux by the Lycée's history teacher who filled our "balade" with insights into the workings of the city both past and present. As well as seeing the Medieval and Roman ramparts we also visited the imposing Gothic cathedral and even met the Mayor's right-hand woman!

After a quick supermarket trip, we were en-route home. Friendships had been forged and we were excited to welcome the French pupils to Duke of Kent School the following month.

It was a joy to have our visitors from the Lycée Bossuet visit us. Their reactions to our School building as we rounded the corner were extremely gratifying! "Ahhh, mais c'est magnifique!", "C'est comme 'arry Potter!"...and they were particularly impressed with our School lunches. Thank you to all our teachers for accommodating them in lessons. In particular Mrs Turnbull for introducing the girls to the rudiments of netball and Mrs Vermeulen for allowing a couple of the French pupils to take part in a heart dissection, which they don't have the opportunity to do at school in France. Heartfelt thanks go to all our wonderful host families who gave the French pupils such a wonderful time: shepherd's pie, roast dinners and bread and butter pudding were on the menu, there were expeditions up Holmbury Hill and to find red telephone boxes, and trips to the cinema and bowling to name but a few. This enriching experience could not have happened without you! À bientôt Lycée Bossuet!

Miss Francis

Head of Modern Foreign Language



House Events this Year

This year's House Bake Off saw a record of 56 entries by pupils in the Prep School and Senior School! The House Captains and Heads of House selected one Prep and one Senior pupil to represent their House in the semi-finals, where they would attempt to recreate the cake that secured them their place. Once the judging was complete, the remaining cake was used in a bake sale which raised £300 for the School's chosen charities. The competition was fierce during the semi-finals, yet the pupils created a supportive and friendly atmosphere. The quality of the cake and the baking prowess were exceptional and fostered a great deal of debating amongst the judges. In the end, it was decided that Manon A (Kestrel) and Oliver T (Buzzard) for Prep, and Ava L (Buzzard) and Edie H (Kestrel) in the Senior School would progress to the finals, where they needed to create eight Christmas-themed fairy cakes. We were privileged to welcome back Great British Bake Off's Steve Carter-Bailey, who was on hand to lend his expertise to the pupils and help the judges decide whose bake deserved to be declared the winner. The imagination and technical skill of Oliver T and Eva L meant they were declared the competition winners. The baking continued in the Summer Term with the Coronation Cupcake competition, where pupils made two cupcakes inspired by King Charles's III Coronation.

In the Prep School, the pupils competed in a draught and table tennis tournament, won by Henry O'B (Hawk) and Ben W (Buzzard), respectively. The Prep school showed great sportsmanship and respect to their opponents throughout the competition. It was wonderful to see the older pupils supporting their younger peers during the matches. The chess competitions were as competitive as ever, with each pool match a tight contest! Eventually, the player pools were whittled down to the semi-finalists, who all displayed the chess prowess that saw them secure one of the coveted spots. It was lovely to see those pupils in the beginner's competition develop their confidence and love of the game. Well done to George S (Kestrel), who won. The trophy for the advanced competition went to Arthur H (Buzzard), who just pipped Henry O'B in a thrilling final!

In the Senior School, the House Debating competition made a welcome return. Under the adjudication of the Cranleigh Rotary Youth Debating judge, Andrew Kolmar, and Mrs Southee and Miss Francis, the Houses in Years 7, 8 and 9 persuaded, pondered and perfected their arguments, much to the audience's awe. The winning Houses were as follows: Year 7, Kestrel (Alex W, Orson A and Elliott S) with their motion: "The school bus is better than being picked up by your parents"; Year 8, Peregrine (Annie B, Mercy M and George C), their motion being: "Being an only child is more rewarding than having siblings" and finally Year 9, Kestrel (Saoirse W, Daisy R and Josh W-D) arguing whether prisoners should be allowed the vote. A huge well done to everyone involved, it was fantastic to see so much passion with the subjects chosen.

Once again, House Music was a popular event, culminating in the finals on Friday 3rd March. All the performers displayed incredible musical talent, which made the job of our guest judge, recording artist Isaac Stuart, very tricky! Every member of the Houses were involved in the performances, and everyone across the Houses came together and got into the spirit of the competition. Ultimately, Hawk and Kestrel's commitment to their performances secured them joint first place. Something that never happened before! With over 100 entries into the solo and group competitions, it was a tricky process to whittle the entrants down to just a handful per category, and Isaac found it incredibly hard to judge between the finalists. Congratulations to Florence A who won the beginners category, Lola C and Herb M who were tied for first place in the intermediate category and to Harley B who won the advanced category. The overall winners of the whole competition were Buzzard.

The House Drama Final took place in the Performing Arts Hall and showcased the finalists' enthusiasm, creativity and skill. The finalists from each House performed monologues and duologues that were unique, thought-provoking and funny and showcased the talent and dedication of our pupils. The competition was particularly tight, with the duologues from Mila S and Norah C winning in the Prep School. Still, the judges couldn't decide between Poppy F and Tansy Bela T's performance and Kai G and Alex K, so both pairs were awarded first place!





All four Houses experienced great success on the sports field, earning over 4,000 House points this academic year. Peregrine lead the way after the Prep School events came to an end. However, Buzzard's strong performance in the track and field events during Senior Sports allowed them to leap into first place after thrilling relay races filled with close finishes, dramatic slips and change overs: all while being cheered on by their parents and the Prep School. The classic Duke of Kent School spirit came to the fore as the pupils braved the conditions to proudly represent their Houses, but a particular well done to Holly B, Rommy B, Emily B and Zac L for the Best Athlete of the Games awards.

Earlier in the year, Peregrine claimed victory in the Prep Gala and Kestrel in the other major event, House Cross Country! Wet weather seemed to be a common theme for running events this year as Years 7 and 8 battled through rain and mud to complete the race (with over 46 pupils taking part!). Yet there were still plenty of smiling faces. The Prep School were luckier with the conditions. Each race was filled with plenty of individual battles, but the pupils still went out of their way to encourage their peers who showed perseverance to cross the finish line. The positions were tight coming into the term's final weeks, making the House cricket results even more important.

The matches were played with good team spirit, yet the pupils were desperate to win! Buzzard managed to secure victory in five competitions, but was pushed very closely by Kestrel in the Year 5 and 6 tournament. Buzzard's final haul of 4,750 House points earned from these competitions and Kestrel's total of 4,300 would be the deciding factor in the final positions.

With all the results from the competitions and points from rewards added, Buzzard retained the trophy and Kestrel sneaked past Hawk to claim second place!

1. Buzzard - 222

2. Kestrel - 208

3. Hawk - 205

4. Peregrine - 195

This year was the first year that House Awards were issued at the end of each term. These were given to pupils who stood out while representing their House in the competitions, whether for their performance during a competition, or the number of competitions they participated in. There were also pupils nominated for a House Award for the year. These pupils were nominated by their Heads of House and Prep House Leaders due to their impressive commitment to their House across the year. Each pupil was issued a special badge based on the House emblem. Congratulations to:



Violet W
Ariane L



Hope N
Edie H



Alexander I
Tansy-Bela T



Penny A
Poppy F

Mr Gritton
Head of Houses



World Book Day

World Book Day is an important event for the whole School; it's a wonderful opportunity for the School community to join together and celebrate a love of books and reading.

This year former secondary school teacher, children's author and founder of Conscious Dreams Publishing Ltd, Daniella Blechner visited the School to spend the day with the children and reiterate the importance of reading. Daniella's love of reading and writing developed early on in her school career when she found lots of book characters "Didn't look like her!". She felt that she needed to share stories about characters that she and others could relate to.

The day began with the procession of pupils' costumes with the Senior School pupils assembling in a magical tunnel as Pre-prep and Prep pupils waltzed through and paraded their costumes. There were Harry Potters, Oompa Loompas, and even a mini Greg Heffley! As usual, the Science Department relished the opportunity of dressing up and wowed the School by becoming "Alice in Wonderland" characters. Mr Wyllie as the "The Mad Hatter" was particularly exceptional!

The procession was followed by Daniella holding an assembly which was based on the importance of representation in children's literature and how anyone with a passion for reading and writing can become a writer. Throughout her career, Daniella has helped children as young as 7 years old become published authors – the same age as some of our Prep School pupils!

After assembly, Year 11 had a careers-based talk where Daniella took the pupils through different career opportunities within the field of publishing and discussed how many authors are now using social media as a platform to promote their books. Year 9 took a special trip to Pre-prep to read the children's literature books they had written and created in English and computer science, whilst Year 7 had an exciting "storytelling" workshop with Daniella where she shared some top tips for creative writing with the pupils. It was amazing to see her ignite the creative minds of the pupils and even commented on how some of the pupils were authors in the making!

In the afternoon, Daniella spent time with the Prep School and found out all about their favourite genres – Beth F even won a prize for her contributions! Year 8 created their own board game based on their favourite children's book with Mrs Southee and Mrs Punter, which they later played with the Prep pupils. The most popular game was Mix and Match, where pupils had to match pirates with their correct underpants!

As always, there was an immense buzz throughout the School as pupils reminisced about their favourite children's book. Thank you to everyone for getting involved and to our staff for taking the time to dress up and promote a love of reading across the School!

Mrs Punter and Mrs Southee
Heads of English







Debating

House Debating Competition

Throughout the whole of the Autumn 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 their 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!

What a fantastic day we had on Friday 10th February listening to all the incredible motions in our House Debating Competition. Under the adjudication of the Cranleigh Rotary Youth Debating judge, Andrew Kolmar, together with Mrs Southee and Miss Francis, the Houses in Years 7, 8 and 9 persuaded, pondered and perfected their arguments, much to the awe of the audience. The winning Houses were as follows: Year 7, Kestrel (Alex W, Orson A and Elliott S) with their motion: "The school bus is better than being picked up by your parents"; Year 8, Peregrine (Annie B, Mercy M and George C), their motion being: "Being an only child is more rewarding than having siblings" and finally, Year 9, Kestrel (Saoirse W, Daisy R and Josh W-D) arguing "Whether prisoners should be allowed the vote".

Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

In January, two teams represented Duke of Kent School at the Cranleigh Rotary Youth Debate Competition in Cranleigh. Our Intermediate team consisted of our proposer, Ariane L, our opposer, Mattie R and our chairperson, James B, keenly assisted by Maggie B. Their motion, "Youth should invest in property over stocks" impressed the judges immensely and they were praised with their mature and confident delivery of a topic that was well above the heads of most of the audience!

Debating for our Senior team were Johnny McM, our chair, Ariane L, our opposer and initially, our proposer, Pippa S. Unfortunately, Pippa was unable to attend the actual debate, although she had worked long and hard in writing and formulating her arguments. Therefore, a huge thank you must go to Kai G who stepped in on Wednesday morning to take on the responsibility of proposing that: "Technology is having a detrimental effect on society". Once again, the judges were incredibly impressed, stating that they stood out clearly as being the most engaging team and they went on to win the Senior competition.

In February, Duke of Kent School hosted the Rotary Youth Debating semi-finals. The afternoon started with two debates from the Intermediate teams from Lingfield College and Seaford College. A well-deserved congratulations go to the winning team, Lingfield College. This was then followed by the Senior competition, where our amazing team consisting of Johnny McM as chair, Kai G as proposer and Ariane L as opposer were against a team from Sackville College. Pupils realised quickly that we were up against their Year 13 team, a scary thought at first! Our three determined pupils completely stepped up. Their motion: "Technology is detrimental to society", was professed by the judges to be well considered and thoughtfully argued. In fact, the judges scored as they never have before, giving both teams the full marks available. With this conundrum, they asked the Chair of the Rotary if both teams could go through to the final.

In March, our outstanding debating team partook in the District Finals of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition at St. Teresa's School, Effingham. Having perfected their debates from the previous two rounds, they did not disappoint with their calm, confident and knowledgeable presentation. They have made us all so proud with the commitment and effort that they have shown. It was an extremely tight competition, with an incredibly high standard shown by all five teams. We congratulate the winning team (Oathall Community College), whose motion was: "Censorship should be censored". Ariane, Johnny and Kai have already said that they want to enter next year and go all the way to the National Finals!

Mrs Punter
English Teacher

An Evening of Original Works

Regrettably, due to circumstances beyond our control, we were compelled to postpone and ultimately cancel our Evening of Original Works. The evening stands as one of the highlights of our academic year, and it is evident, through their unwavering attendance, that this sentiment is shared by both our staff and Governors. This event serves several vital purposes, not least the celebration of the creative accomplishments of our young individuals in the fields of art, music, and English. By holding evenings such as this, creative works that are typically relegated to the depths of a GCSE examiner's briefcase, receive the recognition they truly deserve.

Our young talents are given the opportunity to showcase their achievements before an adult audience. The evening offers pupils the chance to perform and exhibit in a more mature setting, far removed from School assemblies and teacher assessments. In a previous Evening of Original Works, a pupil expressed that it felt like "*my first real gig*"! A statement that shows how wonderful and worthwhile these events are.

In light of the cancellation of this year's event, we felt it would be wonderful to share these works with you through The Review. We invite you to enjoy this selection of art. Please also use the QR code provided below to read the carefully-curated selection of poetry and prose, and to listen to compositions from our most recent group of budding creatives.

We look forward to the return of this event next year.

Mr Rye, Mr Watson and Mrs Southee

Director of Performing Arts, Head of Art and Design and Head of English





Performing Arts Review

This year has seen our Performing Arts Department at its best! A full complement of productions, concerts and events saw every single pupil participating at some point, be it in House Music, the Nativity or Parents' Day. GCSE music and drama remained popular choices, with an average grade of 7, and again over 60% of our pupils received instrumental or LAMDA lessons with a 100% pass rate across all the exams.

Music

Autumn Term

The Autumn Term brought record numbers of pupils to our Senior School Choir; so much so that we had to split the Senior Choir into a Years 7 and 8 choir and a Years 9 to 11 choir. With help from Miss Barnes and Mr Kaye the choirs prepared for our annual Carol Service in the beautiful St Nicolas Church in Cranleigh, and for the first time since Covid we could sing to a full church! It was a joyful affair with all three sections of the School beautifully represented. The week before this the Performing Arts Hall was alive with the wonderful sound of cheering and applause at our annual Prep School Christmas Concert; add to this a gorgeous, traditional Pre-prep Nativity and it was an Autumn Term to remember!

Spring Term

With a packed programme of events involving the entire School from Nursery to Year 11, spring promised to be even busier than Christmas. The highlight of the term was perhaps the combined schools concert held at G Live. House Music was back to its brilliant best with House Song back in the mix, and over 120 pupils entered the solo and group competitions. We were delighted to welcome singer/songwriter Isaac Stuart to judge the finals; he was a huge hit with pupils, performing brilliantly and really throwing himself into the spirit of the day. The dinosaur themed Pre-prep Spring Concert saw the Performing Arts Hall filled with T Rexes and Pterodactyls and the Ensembles Concert had us all rocking along. On top

of all this, one of our Senior rock bands only went and won an external Battle of the Bands competition, beating off stiff competition from 11 other schools. Proud does not begin to cover it!

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, 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 yet again! Competition season was upon us and Lola C in Year 6 and Maddie I in Year 11 both entered the ISA Songwriting Competition. Lola C superbly won her category and Maddie I was runner-up in hers. Maddie also made the top ten of an international songwriting competition, beating over 1,000 applicants to achieve this. As this review goes to print, Maddie will be about to take part in the live finals in London – good luck! To conclude the outstanding year, we held our Senior and Junior Summer Concerts, lunchtime recitals and a mass School song at Parents' Day. What a year of music!

Drama

Autumn Term

The focus of the Autumn Term was the Senior School Production of "The Addams Family", directed by Lisa Lee. The production involved over 85 pupils both front and backstage and was a highlight of the year for many. The commitment, industry and focus of the cast was a joy to witness – creating a full-scale musical in ten weeks takes a huge effort and every single pupil involved, from the newest Year 7 to a seasoned Year 11, demonstrated a desire to create something of which we could all be proud; and boy did they succeed! The feedback from all was wonderful and in fact one parent was so moved that he wrote a review! Mr Simpson's brilliantly written piece appears later in The Review for you to enjoy.



Spring Term

The Spring Term brought the Prep School production of “Plastic Pirates” with the Performing Arts Hall transformed into an oceanic fantasy world. The audience witnessed talking jellyfish, dancing crabs and naughty pirates learning the error of their wasteful ways! It is always fabulous to see our younger pupils taking to the stage, discovering that unique ensemble experience and taking ownership of a piece as opening night draws ever closer. The children learn so much more than just character and choreography; they learn about teamwork, self-discipline, delayed gratification and the idea that however “small” their role may be, it is a group effort and everyone relies on each other. This was Mrs Lock’s last production as director and the cast did her proud, creating a wonderful production that was enjoyed so much by all who came to see it. Thank you, Mrs Lock, for all your efforts over the years.

Summer Term

The annual House Drama competition took place in the Summer Term, with the finals held in the Performing Arts Hall. Here, 12 finalists from the Prep and Senior School performed in front of their parents and the guest judge, Terenia Barlow, a British actress and singer currently working with Netflix on Season 3 of Bridgerton. Later in the term, Year 2 got in on the act and excitedly participated in a drama workshop centered around Florence Nightingale. Finally, pupils from Years 8 and 9 performed “Skellig” – a powerful and demanding piece, beautifully acted and staged by our pupils, about an angel who has lost his way.

Dance

Dance remains a popular activity in the School. As well as forming part of the Pre-prep curriculum, Senior and Prep School Ballet Clubs and Senior Modern Dance Club all operate weekly and are well attended. In the Autumn Term dancers from our Ballet Club acquitted themselves wonderfully well at the ISA Dance competition, and the Modern Dance troupe performed superbly at the Spring Ensemble and Summer Concerts. The highlight of the year, however, must be the Pre-prep Summer Dance Show. This year the theme was “The Wizard of Oz” and it was gorgeous to witness a Performing Arts Hall full of parents and grandparents 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 Performing Arts

The Addams Family

What a Scream!

I'm still humming those tunes...anyone else?

Full Disclosure: my daughter and son have been at Duke of Kent School for nearly eight years now. Coming up through the School we've attended plenty of productions, concerts, assemblies and soirées. These events never fail to entertain and are superb reminders of just what a wonderful School community we are privileged to be part of. What's more, they seem to get better and better. As we arrived at School on Friday night it was lovely to see a generous number of recent alumni coming back to watch and support the production. It speaks volumes for the Performing Arts Department and the School that they love to come back.

So it was with a little trepidation that I took my seat. How would the "new" Senior School do? Would it be obvious they were missing such a talented bunch that were now seated among us in the audience? Of course, I needn't have worried. What followed was a joyous evening.

It never ceases to amaze me what talent the Performing Arts Department possesses. They really are very special, combining raw talent and skill with relentless hard work. There is so much work that goes into a production like this, even before the very first cast meeting. As parents (and chauffeurs), I am sure we only begin to understand the very tip of that iceberg. Our School is so very lucky to have them.

Among the pupils that took part there are undoubtedly some that have immense reserves of natural, unbridled talent – who only need the lightest of guidance and will inevitably have very bright futures ahead of them in performing arts-related fields. Beautiful voices, actors, comedians, musicians and dancers who blossom with even the hint of a spotlight. And that includes the many behind the scenes away from the limelight; the stage managers, lighting, sound and video production – without whom it just wouldn't be possible. They were all **AWESOME** as always.

The amount of content in this show was mind-blowing. This was full-on with numbers like "Death is just around the corner" and "Crazier than you" which were just a couple of the many memorable group pieces. But these were interlaced with some stunning and gorgeous individual performances and duets with real depth and quality. Fester's duet with the moon was haunting, beautiful and just absolutely bonkers.

I would like to talk about all the individual parts and roles, but there is not enough time and there are not enough superlatives. Some of the more prominent roles had so much to learn and they completely aced it. And for the junior members it was a new experience with a different but just as steep a learning curve. For everyone, it must have been absolutely exhausting and I commend your efforts, your style, your smiles, your resilience and your brilliance.

Mrs Knox mentioned that it was so good to see the Year 7s taking part and enjoying it so much. I completely agree. A cast of nearly 80 – it was an incredible ensemble. All dressed and made up in a manner that would make the West End proud – with set and staging,

light and sound to match. It is a tribute to their ghoulish make up and attention to detail that even the musical director, Mr Rye, had been made up to look like he hadn't slept or been outside in weeks, those dark shadowed eyes and greying locks...at least I think that was make up (don't worry the smile and wit are still there!).

After Friday's performance my daughter expressed (in a quiet moment) that not everything went perfectly, "we messed up a few things" – well I can honestly say I really didn't spot very much wrong at all, and I was concentrating! But my point here is that she felt responsibility for the team performance. She didn't say "Derek forgot a line", or "Jane missed a cue", but just "we could have done a few bits better". Now apart from disagreeing that it made any difference at all, I just thought this highlighted one of the most important aspects of the production: they were a real team. The whole endeavour creates friendships and bonds across the year groups like little else is able to. They (and I) will remember "The Addams Family" for many years to come.

When we brought our children to Duke of Kent School we did so because of the warmth of the School. Everyone knew everyone else's name. It was friendly, safe, nurturing and seemed, to us, to offer a good all round education and a place to look after and care for our children. Eight years later our original choices have been vindicated more than we could ever have hoped. Our children are doing so well – thriving academically, and above all else are turning into fantastic, kind and confident young people. What we didn't expect was that they would be lucky enough to experience what must be one of, if not the, best Performing Arts Departments in the country. This is not just my opinion, but has been recognised by those better qualified to judge.

After the final show Maddie I and Jasmine K (Year 11) explained that "whether you have five lines or 50, if you venture into the Music Block at any break or lunch you'll find Mr Rye will be there and happy to give you help with your performance". Lastly, thank you to Lisa Lee, our wonderful choreographer, who knew from the moment that nearly 80 pupils arrived in the Performing Arts Hall exactly where each and every one should be positioned and Mrs Honey, Mrs Punter and Mrs Douglas for always being so kind and helpful with whatever the pupils needed. So, as the curtain comes down on such an epic project, Mr Rye can finally draw a breath, well apart from Christmas concerts, Carol services, assemblies, and reports to write.

The final words should go to the gang that brought these fabulous scenes to life. The pupils on stage and behind it. To the main characters, and to the supporters. You all did brilliantly. I tried very hard to keep my eyes on everything going on – to keep a detached and critical eye – but it was just such a performance – worthy of any professional company. You pulled out all the stops, you truly swept me away. You lit up the room and took me to a place I didn't want to leave. Congratulations, you should all be extremely proud of yourselves!

Mr Simpson
(Senior School Parent)









The Combined Schools Concert at G Live

The second week of March is traditionally when Duke of Kent School participates in the Combined Schools Concert. This is organised by the Rotary Club of Guildford District and performed at G Live, Guildford's most prestigious live music venue. This year was no different and once again we were delighted to take part. In fact, the number of pupils involved this year was higher than it has been for a long time; 110 pupils and 11 staff!

Wednesday 8th March arrived – or G Day as we like to call it – and we were greeted by inches of snow on the ground! But this did not stop us, or indeed any of the other schools getting to the venue. The only people it stopped were the sound crew from G Live, who got stuck in Aldershot! Last minute replacements had to be found and this meant of course that the whole day ran late from the very beginning. Our pupils dealt with it all superbly, showing patience and discipline whilst waiting and then again whilst on the stage during our technical run-through. With rehearsals done it was off to Zizzi's for our annual treat of pizza; again our pupils showed excellent standards of behaviour and enjoyed the meal chatting and relaxing before the show.

Back at G Live we had our group photo taken and then prepared for our set. We were on second and raring to go by the time our segment began. With performances from our Big Band featuring Ella S and James B, Stomp Group, Senior Choir featuring Ozzie H and amazing beatboxing from Jonny J, The Ukes of Kent, DoK Rock Band, Junior Choir and then a wonderful finale including all 110 pupils featuring Humph G, Zac L and Daniel M, it's fair to say we were superb! Entertaining, joyful, eclectic and quality were just some of the adjectives used by parents to describe our wonderful pupils' performances. As always I was a very proud Director of Music and Performing Arts; huge congratulations to every single pupil that took part from Year 3 to Year 11, and of course a massive thank you to the staff team there on the day who made everything easier!

Mr Rye

Director of Music and Performing Arts

Skellig

Whilst there is plenty of musical activity in the Performing Arts Department throughout much of the year, it is also a place of serious acting and theatre study. In no way was this better represented this year than in the incredible Year 8 and 9 production of "Skellig".

Adapted from his award winning novel of the same name by David Almond, the play follows Michael, who is excited for his family to be moving house, but his baby sister is critically ill, leaving his parents frantic and distracted and Michael helpless. In the dilapidated garage of the new house, Michael and his new friend Mina discover Skellig; strange, something like a beast, something like a bird, something like an angel, and Michael fears that Skellig is dying. Together they carry the creature into the light, and Michael's world changes forever.

Directed by our Head of Drama, Mrs Honey, the cast and crew of 30 Year 8 and 9 pupils performed with incredible emotional honesty and a commitment to telling the story with sensitivity and truth. The Performing Arts Hall was miraculously transformed into a traverse theatre space representing a derelict garage, a family home, a bus, a school, a mysterious attic and a garden filled with the sounds of birdsong. From the moment the audience entered the space they were immersed into the world of this angel trapped on earth in a garage at the end of the garden. The play explored family, love, and redemption, using the backdrop of a family's fear of losing a child, and the response of the young pupils to these complex and mature themes was exceptional.

Both evenings the audience were transfixed from the minute they entered the space, demonstrating a hushed silence and complete immersion into this moving and magical world, so beautifully realised by the wonderful cast and crew. To quote one parent, who came both nights: *"Theatrically it was absolutely superb. The use of space and the unexpected layout placed a whole new dimension on things. The sets and the costumes, the use of props and improvisation – the elements of dance, the narration, characters and action entering from different places, and activities taking place in multiple locations. It was slightly surreal and a challenge to keep up. This was no ordinary production. This was a tour de force."*

Mrs Honey
Head of Drama







A Decade of Artists in Residence

Duke of Kent School has been privileged to host a diverse range of talented artists as part of its “Artists in Residence” program. These artists have left a lasting impact on the School community, showcasing the breadth of the contemporary art world.

Lillian Spibey was our first Artist in Residence, introducing photography as a central pillar of the Art curriculum. Her unique perspective encouraged pupils to see the extraordinary in the everyday. She supported the Art Department in cementing digital photography as a valuable tool, receiving praise from our exam board. Lillian has since ventured into instructional children’s books on photography.

We collaborated with humanitarian photographer Giles Duley on two occasions. His work opened pupils’ eyes to diverse realities. Having been severely injured by an IED in Afghanistan, his own recovery story, portrayed through powerful images, resonated deeply. Giles worked with pupils and a local care home to produce a photographic document, sharing memories and old photographs.

Portrait painter Maureen Domoney introduced pupils to the timeless beauty of human expression. Her attention to detail and skillful use of colors captured the essence of her subjects, highlighting to pupils the power of portraiture as a means of conveying emotion and identity.

Renowned Heatherwick Studio designer Simon Winters introduced pupils to architectural design, showcasing the fusion of art and functionality. His workshops pushed boundaries and encouraged pupils to think beyond traditional artistic mediums.

Despite the recent pandemic, we maintained the Artist in Residence program. Photographer Gemma Brunton (a former Duke of Kent School pupil) emphasized the power of visual narrative, resulting in a fascinating documentation of the period through a virtual project with pupils.

Set in the Surrey Hills, our surroundings often inspire the work the artists undertake with our pupils. Collaborative artists Olly and Suzi brought an innovative approach, challenging conventional notions of art and emphasizing the interaction with the natural world. Chainsaw sculptor Mike Jones transformed locally-sourced cedar into intricate works of art, inspired by the resident animals in the School woods. We also had mother and daughter artists, The Willowtwisters, help pupils realise their vision of a herd of wild deer sculptures that have become a permanent feature of the School grounds.

The impact of these remarkable individuals on our pupils is evident. The Artists in Residence program has inspired creativity and embraced artistic expression. Duke of Kent School continues to foster an appreciation for the arts, shaping future generations and cultivating a rich tapestry of artistic voices.

Mr Watson
Head of Art and Design



Duke of Edinburgh Award

On Parents' Day in July the explorer Charlie Walker presented 22 Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award badges to Year 11 pupils and another eight badges to those who had completed the Silver Award. These pupils had taken part in DofE Skills, Physical, Volunteering and Expedition activities, inside and outside School, since Year 9. Others are completing their awards as we "speak", and they have until their 25th birthday to complete them!

Amber C's horsemanship, Toby C's rowing, Tom H's landscaping and Max K's photography are but a few of the numerous examples of resilience and achievement. Multiple sportspeople, musicians and drama enthusiasts also abounded. The Silver participants had successfully walked over 40 kilometres of the South Downs Way over three very hot days in July. This had been marked by Alex S's leadership and Luke I's equally remarkable and popular cooking skills! They also contributed over 600 hours worth of volunteering work, which equates to over £3,000-worth of free and willing help to individuals and communities.

In contrast to the Year 11 Silver Expedition, the Year 10s survived part of their expedition in a torrential downpour, which at least pleased the persistently inquisitive family of ducks at Washington Camp. I never fail to be impressed by the spirit and resilience of our pupils completing either the two-day (Bronze) or three-day (Silver) back-to-back walks, especially those for whom the word "walk" elicits grim fear!

In June, Year 9 embarked on their DofE Bronze Award training day. This began with an excellent First Aid lesson led by Mrs Sarjant and Mr Garrod, where each group made a (guided) presentation on: asthma attacks, allergic reactions, bleeding, bone, muscle and joint injuries, burns and scalds, and extreme heat and cold injuries. Walking groups, accompanied by brave members of staff, then walked from School to Pitch Hill before heading west on the Greensand Way, pausing for lunch near Madgehole Farm, and then turning east across Winterfold Wood. Famous for being a film location for "Jurassic Park: Dominion". The route included several steep ridges which I referred to as the "Rollercoaster" but was renamed by the teams variously as: "Devil's Tail", "Heart-Racer", "Camel Humps", "Caterpillar" and "Speedbumps"! The pupils then (literally) "lit their fires" and had a go at cooking their food using the School Trangia stoves. They now anticipate their own qualifying expedition in the Autumn Term.

All these accomplishments serve as a life-long record of personal achievement. Mr Wyllie and I are proud of every single participant simply for "giving it a go". It is hoped the pictures tell the stories of a marvellous year of the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Duke of Kent School.

Mr Lodge

***DofE Manager and Head of History
and Religious Studies***



Sports Day

Pre-prep Sports Day

Due to a rainy Thursday morning on the planned date for Pre-prep Sports Day, we postponed the event to Tuesday morning. Incredibly, although the forecast was somewhat dodgy, there was not a drop of rain during the two-hour event!

We started with the obstacle race, always an exciting event! Reception kicked everything off and remembered all the aspects of the obstacle race perfectly, including moving through a hoop, hitting a ball along the floor with a tennis racket, jumping onto spots and balancing on a skipping rope! It was fantastic to see the excitement on all the children's faces as they saw their parents and family members watching from the side of the track. Year 2 had a slightly more challenging obstacle race including balancing the ball on the tennis racket and running backwards when balancing on the skipping rope! Nursery did brilliantly with their own obstacle race involving a high-vis jacket, bag, ping pong balls and a hat.

Next up were the sprint races: each child ran 50m and the cheering from parents was fantastic! It was great to see the pupils focusing on running in a straight line, remembering their long strides and to pump their arms. The parents' race was another thriller; this time with a Wimbledon theme. Congratulations must go to Mr Lavin for taking the gold medal in a very close race.

The parents moved over to the long jump and watched each year group do their best jump with plenty of cheering and encouragement for everyone. Finally, Year 2 showed us their fantastic throwing skills in a ball throw competition to conclude the Pre-prep Sports Day.

A huge well done to all the children involved for their enthusiasm, effort and determination throughout the morning. Thank you so much to all the fantastic supporters and also to the Year 8 Sports Leaders who did a great job in encouraging the Pre-prep pupils and ensuring that everyone had a wonderful time!

Mr Herbert
Director of Sport



Sports Day

The Prep School Sports Day

The Prep School Sports Day went ahead after a late pitch inspection due to rain falling hours before the start time, and what a great afternoon the pupils gave us! The competitive but supportive nature of all the children was great to see. This was all backed up by the fantastic support from the watching parents, who showed great encouragement throughout, spurring each competitor along.

The first event of the afternoon was the shorter distances for each year group. While moving onto the middle distance events, the pupils rotated around each field event; long jump, high jump, cricket ball throw and shot putt (for Year 6) in their year groups. The track finished with skipping before everyone was able to watch the conclusion of the Sports Day with the exciting relay races. These did not disappoint, with some close finishes and everyone cheering each other on.

A huge well done to all the pupils involved for their effort and determination, as this was a showcase on just how much the pupils have improved this year. After some very closely competed events, the final scores were Peregrine 181, Buzzard 169, Kestrel 163 and Hawk 150. These scores were the start point for the Senior Event the day afterwards.

Congratulations to all who took part, and particularly well done to Holly B and Rommy B, who won the Best Athletes of the Day Trophies, showing great technique and tenacity in all their events. Thank you to the Year 8 Sports Leaders who did an amazing job helping officiate the events they were in charge of. This included recording the distance of the cricket ball throw, ensuring that it was a legal jump in high jump and then raking the pit and finally helping put the bar back on for high jump.

Mr Herbert
Director of Sport



Sports Day

Senior School Sports Day

Senior School Sports Day was finally given the go-ahead after a morning of drizzle; we were all delighted to be able to run the event and the pupils showed great resilience in less than ideal conditions. The sports events for the day included a variety of track and field disciplines, such as sprints, middle distance runs, high jump, long jump, shot put, javelin and concluded with the relays. Unfortunately, the day's events were significantly impacted by the rain, making the field slippery. As a result, track starts were standing only and throw events were restricted to one step before the shot or javelin was released. Despite the adverse weather conditions, pupils displayed remarkable determination, and many personal bests were achieved.

One of the highlights of the day was the outstanding sportsmanship demonstrated by the Duke of Kent School pupils. They cheered for their fellow housemates and offered encouragement and support to those struggling with the challenging conditions. This spirit of camaraderie was heart-warming and truly exemplified the values of our School. Once the individual track and field events had concluded, the Prep School joined us to watch the exciting relays and to discover which House would be victorious.

In the end, after a hard-fought battle and when the scores from the Prep School Sports Day were added, Buzzard emerged as the champions, earning the coveted House Athletics Cup. However, it's important to note that every House and individual displayed remarkable effort, and the final point tally was close, highlighting the competitiveness of all the pupils. Female and Male Best Athlete Awards were presented to Zac L and Emily B for their fantastic performances throughout the day.

Thank you to all the pupils, staff, and spectators for making each Sports Day event such an enjoyable experience. We look forward to even more thrilling Sports Days next year, with hopes for better weather conditions!

Mr Herbert
Director of Sport



Sports Leadership Award

Duke of Kent School has been running the Sports Leadership Award for two years. Within that time, 43 pupils have passed their Level 1 Sports Leadership qualification whilst in Year 8 or 9. The pupils attend a Thursday after-school club throughout the year and it has been fantastic to see their commitment and desire to improve as sports leaders. During the sessions, a mixture of theory and practical elements are completed, including learning about the key skills of a leader and delivering sessions to younger members of the School.

The pupils focus on improving skills such as their communication, self-belief and teamwork. It is wonderful to see the development in these areas throughout the year. Another key part of the course is planning and leading sessions as “mini teachers” – the pupils create lesson plans and then lead short sessions for small groups in the Prep School. It is always fantastic to see them remembering to include a demonstration and encouraging the younger pupils with high fives and positive praise. Alongside the practical element of the course, the pupils complete a 20-page Learner Evidence Record in which they plan, set targets and reflect in order to improve as a sports leader throughout the year.

At the end of the course, the Sports Leaders help at Pre-prep and Prep School Sports Days and put all their new and improved skills to use! The roles are varied and can involve helping a specific class, retrieving balls, giving out medals, encouraging their House and much more! It is great to see the younger and older members of the School interacting in such a positive way and it proves to be an invaluable experience for the pupils, on both sides! Huge congratulations to our 43 Sports Leaders for making such brilliant progress throughout the course and, excitingly, they now have a qualification to put on their CVs!

Miss Vickers

Head of Girls' Games

Sports Leadership Award Coordinator



Charity Stalls Review



Throughout the Spring Term, the Year 7s were researching different charities; analysing and evaluating how these charities use persuasive techniques to encourage the public to donate to their causes. This culminated in the pupils themselves creating their own charities, supporting a cause that they felt strongly about. Working in groups, they created posters, leaflets, TV adverts and pitches, all designed to persuade an audience to “donate”. The care and thought that went into designing these charities was incredible. We had:

The National Whale Watchers

created by Erin C, Alex W and Alma E.

Paws for Thought

created by Elliott S, Patrick W and Harvey R.

Flame Tame

created by Molly F, Max S, Samuel H and Esme W.

Petrified Pandas

created by Ollie K, Ben O, Poppy F, and Tansy T.

Save The Toucans

created by John B, Orson A, Isla W and Jasper T.

The Turtle Foundation

created by Willow D, George S, Holly R and Theo C.

The Red Squirrel Foundation

created by Ben J, Sasha H, Issy N and Arthur M.

Dolphins Deserve

created by Ben R, Bob P and Eddie C.

At the end of the term, each charity was able to showcase their cause in the Charity Stalls afternoon. This was a chance for the groups to create a stall, using any materials that they had, to create something that was eye-catching and draw in their crowd. From ash on the table to a dog crate housing many a stuffed toy, the Year 6s who visited were enthused by all that they saw. This was the chance for the Year 7s to display the ingenious array of products that they had created throughout the term on their stall.

Finally, it was time to deliver the pitches. Each group delivered these to a very discerning and tough audience comprising the Prep and Senior School charity committees. It was their task to judge which pitch they believed was the most persuasive and who deserved the much sought after edible prize. The aforementioned prize went to a very commendable group, “Paws for Thought”, which was the mastermind of Harvey R, Patrick W and Elliott S who impressed both of the committees with their enthusiasm and compassion.

It was an extremely chaotic, but fun and rewarding afternoon. Well done Year 7.

Mrs Punter

Head of English

Community Week 2023

Community engagement and social responsibility are vital values instilled in pupils at Duke of Kent School, which were exemplified by the launch of our inaugural Community Week programme this year.

Throughout the week, pupils from the Senior School joined hands with various local organisations and charities, dedicating their time, talent and enthusiasm to a range of meaningful projects. Community Week showcases the power of collaboration and compassion in fostering a closer-knit pupil community, as well as developing their respect and understanding for the local community that supports them so well.

Integral to Community Week is our partnership with local charities, including Horsham Foodbank, Warnham Nature Reserve, Southwater Country Park, Riding for the Disabled, Cherry Trees and Elysian Animal Assisted Therapy. Duke of Kent School pupils actively engaged with these organisations, offering their time and effort to make a difference to the lives of those in need. Whether it was volunteering at food banks, assisting with therapy animals or participating in conservation efforts, the pupils demonstrated empathy, compassion, and the value of giving back.

One of the highlights of the week was a collaborative mural painting project. Working alongside Horsley Riding for the Disabled, pupils adorned the walls of their equestrian facility with vibrant artwork. The mural project illustrated the profound connection between art and community, demonstrating the transformative power of creativity while clearly communicating RDA's motto in their actions as well as their artwork; **"It's what you can do that counts"**.

Recognising the importance of local environmental stewardship and responsibility, Duke of Kent School pupils dedicated themselves to green projects during Community Week. The restoration of pathways in Warnham Nature Reserve and working alongside park wardens at Southwater Country Park epitomised their commitment to preserving local ecosystems and enhancing access to nature.

Building upon the success of this year's Community Week, Duke of Kent School looks forward to further strengthening its ties with the community as we begin organising Community Week 2024. If you would like to recommend an organisation for next year's Community Week, please contact Mr Watson on mwatson@dokschoool.org.

Mr Watson

Head of Art and Design and Community Links





Wellbeing

at Duke of Kent School

Nationally, the requests and need for children's mental health support remains high, with service providers' waiting list times, unfortunately, at a historically high level. This has been evident in the rising numbers of pupils and families requesting emotional support in School and therefore it has been a busy year for wellbeing support.

Pupils are able to access one-off support on a regular basis at the twice-weekly Open Door drop-in sessions or 1-1 support via parental requests to Form Tutors at School. I am also now offering ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) sessions for primarily Pre-prep and Prep pupils, which is an addition to our wellbeing offering this year and arranged by form tutors for specific targeted emotional support.

In October, we showed our support for Young Minds' Hello Yellow campaign, with all staff wearing a splash of yellow to demonstrate to the pupils that we care about their mental health and to open up conversations about it. There were challenges to be completed and Pre-prep and Prep School teachers hid affirmation cards to be found by pupils to remind them that they are appreciated. Excitingly, Young Minds approached us for permission to feature our School and pupils on their website.

This academic year we introduced Mental Health Ambassador roles to pupils in School. They were nominated by staff from the 2022/23 Year 9 cohort. The Mental Health Ambassadors attended additional mentor training sessions and were allocated a Year 7 mentee to support during their transition into Senior School. Some really lovely relationships between the Year 9 and Year 7 pupils were formed during these meetings and will, I'm sure, continue through their time at Duke of Kent School.

The Mental Health Ambassadors launched their role by attending a mental health conference and listening to a number of speakers from STEM4, a young persons' mental health charity. From this, their conference-winning initiative to boost pupils' self-esteem and wellbeing, was created; Dress Wacky for Wellbeing.

They drummed up engagement and enthusiasm for the event through a fantastic presentation to the School delivered during an assembly. The idea being that we should wear what we want to wear (rather than worrying about wearing the "right" thing or what others' judgement of our outfits might be) and to brighten up a Monday in the depths of winter. The pupils and staff did not disappoint with a wide array of outlandish and colourful outfits.

This year we were lucky enough to have a visit from Nathan at The Self Esteem Team who spoke about the importance of having self-belief and his own experiences of trying to "fit in with

the crowd". He encouraged pupils to consider the impact of their words on others and not to be afraid to follow their own passions and interests to be their authentic selves. This is hugely important for positive mental health – to learn to embrace ourselves as we truly are.

At the end of the Spring Term, Nigel Grimes from The Breathing Studio came to lead parents in a Forest Bathing workshop. Our amazing site was the perfect place to learn more about the power of shinrin yoku – the art of mindfulness within a forest atmosphere. Allowing the senses to be immersed in the stillness of nature, smell the fragrance of the forest and breathe in the natural aromatherapy of phytoncides: all proven to benefit our wellbeing.

We also launched our "Big Sister" mentoring in the Summer Term when Year 10 pupils, who had been peer mentors last year, regularly met with a "little sister" from Year 5. This was primarily to boost the younger girls' self-esteem and to offer advice and empathy from a more mature perspective. This has proved to be really successful and I know some of these partnerships will continue as they enter Years 6 and 11.

In May, we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week, this year with the theme of "anxiety". Falling just before the start of summer exams, this was a pertinent time to talk to Senior and Prep School pupils about what anxiety is, normalising the emotion, how it manifests in our bodies and how we can practise a number of different techniques to help calm ourselves when feeling overwhelmed.

Pupils took part in creating a shared artwork of "Helping Hands" passing on their own strategies and advice for dealing with their anxiety. There were also opportunities to: practise breathing techniques and mindfulness, listen to music at lunchtime, read about others' experience of anxiety and create their own calming stones to keep in pockets.

The Summer Term also saw the second of our pupil diversity forums when pupils are given a safe and welcoming space to discuss all matters of diversity. These coincided with the celebration of LGBTQ+ history month in February and Pride month in June when we recognised some of the amazing creative, musical, scientific, sporting and artistic achievements of members of the LGBTQ+ community throughout history.

All of this reflects our aim for all pupils to be seen, heard and hopefully understood.

Mrs Douglas
Wellbeing Manager

Year 11 Leavers

Monday 26th June 2023 saw us say farewell to the class of '23 with our traditional Leavers' Concert and Dinner.

The evening started with photos of the leavers and their parents outside the School building. It was a delight to see relieved faces, after finishing their GCSEs, glide up the hill suited and booted or in glamorous dresses.

We progressed into the Performing Arts Hall for a short concert, where the musical talents of Harley, Izzy, Maddie, Alex and Oliver delighted the ears of all present. The boundless talent of the leavers, not only in the field of music, but sports, academia and art, to name a few, will be remembered by all who came across and worked with the leavers of 2023.

It was then time for a refreshing drink and catch up with teachers, pupils and parents out on the South Bank. Stories and memories were shared with plenty of laughs, hugs and tears.

The evening was rounded off with a delightful meal and speeches. Mr Wilson spoke passionately about the cohesion and happiness of the year group. I then had the pleasure of reminding each of the pupils of what they had written to themselves in a letter when they were in Year 7!

The evening was a fitting formal farewell to a memorable and much loved year group.

Mr Southee
Deputy Head







Parents' Day

I am going to start my reflection of the day with Charlie Walker, our guest speaker. Still a young man, Charlie shared his adventures as an explorer around the world. What captured me was a story of what's possible even on the most limited of budgets and this really got me thinking, if only briefly, of buying a new rucksack and a two-person tent. That's right Mrs Knox, you're coming too. We are setting off on a new adventure. I looked out of the door and it was still raining so my plans were shelved. I'm sure pupils wouldn't be put off by a little rain and I hope that Charlie's visit leads to footprints made by new shoes on foreign lands.

Choirs, both in and out of School, are ever popular and to compliment Mr Rye's musical finale to the event, the Duke of Kent School Mum's choir joined in. In my mind this is what makes our School so special, namely the over-arching sense of community and common bond. The song they sang was "Here comes the sun" – more about that later...

Now for some awards and clapping. The stage was graced by multiple proud pupils receiving awards on the big stage in front of the whole School. Awards for science, mathematics, geography, art, drama, DT, English, history, languages, IT, sport, more sport, music, even more music as well as awards for effort and attainment throughout the year. I really enjoy witnessing the results of much hard work by the pupils and their dedicated teachers.

After prize giving, we moved outside to the Front Pitch where picnics were being set up and the Year 11 leavers and their parents came to Old Hall for canapés and a glass of champagne. The sun was still being chased by the rain, but it didn't dampen enthusiasm. On the field, pupils were breaking speed records on the inflatable slides in the rain and enjoying some magnificent ice creams from the ice cream van. Every day at School is a day of learning and, on this particular day, we learnt what happens when a Gruffalo comes out of the woods in the rain. The Gruffalo knew best by staying in his tent but, by mid-afternoon, the sun came out. George Harrison wrote "Here comes the sun" up on Pitch Hill. Perhaps it was also the Gruffalo's favourite tune and his matted, fur-dried self reappeared to thrill pupils and parents alike.

And then the party really started. Beautiful sun, lush green fields, pizzas, burgers, the occasional chink of a glass of Pimms, tents and marquees opened, pupils started to dry off and parents from different year groups began to mingle.

In her speech, my wife talked about a spark, something that charges children's passions and interests. We all need this. Some of us get fired up quite early on in our lives and some a little later on. What makes the difference is environment. I honestly feel that the opportunities and the encouragement enjoyed by the young minds at Duke of Kent School are perfect for igniting the spark.

A truly fantastic day.

Mr Knox

Mrs Knox's Husband





Pupil Achievements

Hope N, Year 6 – She could have been anything that she wanted to be...

Hope N in the Prep School was busy over the summer holidays performing in two shows, “Bugsy Malone” at G Live’s Summer Youth Project, and “High School Musical” at the PPA Kids in Guildford. These were great opportunities for Hope as she loves Performing Arts and these productions have given her a wealth of experience and taught her some valuable skills for her to add to her blossoming talent. We look forward to seeing Hope in a starring role in our next Prep School Production, well done again Hope!



Thibaut J, Year 6 – Skiing into the National Championships

After qualifying for the National Schools Snowsports Association ski squad last September, and following a couple of successes (including a Vermeil medal in open Fleche slalom in France during the winter season) Thibaut achieved second place in his first NSSA competition of 2023 representing Duke of Kent School at the English Schools Indoor Championship. Now classified in the U14s, he competed for the first time in full-sized gates against 20 children in Years 6 and 7 from various school ski teams.

Photo credit: Matt Birch Pictures.



Hugo S, Year 8 – Football Success

Congratulations to Hugo S in Year 8 who won the U13 Premier Division of the Epsom and Ewell League with Leatherhead Youth FC this season. The team only lost one match all season and with Hugo in goal had the best defensive record in the whole division. Let’s hope they can retain the title next season! Well done Hugo and to your teammates!



Florrie P, Year 9 – Dancing into 1st Place

Florrie in Year 9 has been busy this year competing in multiple dance competitions and took part in Time2Shine down in Brighton with her dance school VMA Dance School in May. Florrie was awarded 2nd place in her ballet solo and 1st place in her lyrical duet (a very large category). Florrie then went on to compete in the South East Stars competition and was awarded 1st or 2nd place in all six dance categories she competed in (including group dances). Huge congratulations Florrie, we are so proud of what you have achieved. As Strictly Come Dancing would say, “Keep dancing”.



Annabel O, Year 9 – Riding for Rosettes

Annabel O in Year 9 has been riding for seven years, twice a week at Maple Stud in Ewhurst. Annabel and her pony Flash entered a local Horse Show at Dunsfold Farm in May and competed in four different classes; two in hand and two showing. She placed in all four classes, with her highest place of 3rd in the Ridden Class, displaying a great performance in walk, trot and canter, both pony and rider came home beaming! Annabel is hoping to go on to compete in Munstead Show in the summer, we wish her the best of luck!



Jasper B, Year 10 – Smashing it in Volleyball

Only taking up volleyball at the beginning of 2022, Jasper has gone from strength to strength, culminating in representing his club at the Volleyball England finals in Kettering in March. His team, Ashcombe Volleyball, finished the tournament fourth overall in the U15 category after reaching the semi-finals. Jasper was also awarded the U16 most improved player 2023 at his volleyball club's annual awards dinner. This is just the beginning of what we are sure will be a sport Jasper goes on to excel at!



Helena K, Year 10 – Top Class Riding

Helena K in Year 10 has been riding and competing for 13 years and in November won her class at the Open Pony Club which led to an invitation to the Champion of Champions Class. Helena had to perform in front of a large crowd following instructions from the judges. This is an incredibly high-pressured environment and Helena and her horse Mikey thrived. Even though Helena did not place she gained some valuable experience and even got asked to do an on-screen interview after competing. This was a superb achievement for Helena and her riding and we hope you continue to improve and compete. Well done!



Ariane L, Year 10 – In2Drama Scholarship

Ariane has a passion for musical theatre, drama and dance and has taken every opportunity to perform on stage at Duke of Kent School since she joined in Year 2 and also outside of School. Her performances this year include "Grease", "The Little Mermaid", "A Chorus of Disapproval", Theatre School Showcases and of course our very own production of "The Addams Family". Ariane recently auditioned for a Scholarship at the In2Drama Academy in the summer to benefit from training from Industry Professionals, and was thrilled to be successful and be offered a Scholarship amongst a competitive field. Ariane's ambition is to train at Drama School in the future and her scholarship will offer her a great opportunity to hone her performance skills, well done Ariane!



Will R, Year 10 – Flying High

Will has been with RAF 1254 Cranleigh DF Air Cadets for two years. He has learnt a variety of skills such as drill, problem solving, field exercises and has recently incorporated his Silver DofE Skills category where he has learnt how to use radios effectively during field exercises. As part of his Silver DofE Award, Will planned and taught a lesson on radios to the younger Cadets on Radio Communication, impressing his NCOs and resulting in him being promoted to a Corporal. Will also recently earned his wings after his first flight in a Grobb Tutor propeller plane at RAF Benson and more recently a Viking T1 Glider. He hopes for a career in aviation in the future and is proud to be part of the RAF Cadets and the links the RAF share with Duke of Kent School.



Sam S, Year 10 – 70th Anniversary of the Armistice in the Korean War Celebrations

Sam has been a pupil at the London Korean School for the past three years, attending classes every Saturday. Alongside his academic pursuits, Sam has actively embraced a variety of co-curricular activities. His notable achievements include participating in the prestigious “My Dream Speech Contest”, an event organised by the MDI Foundation and the Association of Korean Schools in the UK. This experience not only enhanced his cultural awareness but also honed his skills in public speaking. Furthermore, Sam enthusiastically joined the celebrations, organised by the Korean Embassy in St Paul’s Garden, marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice. Alongside fellow pupils, he had the honour of playing the Danso (Korean Flute) for esteemed guests such as Korean War Veterans, the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, and the Korean ambassador. The event also provided an excellent opportunity to engage in captivating Korean folk dancing, music and singing, while fostering enriching discussions with military historians and archivists.



Alumni News



Andrew Harrison (2009 – 2014)

Andrew Harrison left Duke of Kent School in 2008 and followed his dream of joining the Royal Air Force at RAF Honington in Suffolk. Along with 12 other potential Officers, he recently graduated from the Junior Regiment Officers Course in Sennybridge in Wales (and Norfolk) becoming an RAF Regiment Officer. The course was 32 weeks long and takes potential Officers through individual infantry skills up to platoon level. The course culminates with potential Officers being assessed on their ability to command their Flight (the RAF Regiments version of a Platoon) in the full spectrum of dismounted close combat along with planning to coordinate deliberate attacks and raids with support from sniper teams, mortars, machine guns, anti-tank weapon systems and the coordination of combat aviation via Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs).



Zach Harewood (2015 – 2020)

Zach joined Duke of Kent School in Year 7 with half the Ewhurst FC Football team! At School he was cheeky, smiley and always hungry – according to his Dad, who was the School chef at the time. Zach has always been ready for adventure and loved the Duke of Edinburgh Award for the challenges it brings. Starting with the Bronze and Silver at School, he moved onto Godalming College for A levels and his Gold DoE Award, where he trained with a chef for a year, kept up his football and volunteered with the Wey Arun Canal Trust helping to create Tickners Lock. A residential in Scotland started his love of snowboarding and led to a gap year in Whistler, Canada with some other Duke of Kent School pupils from his year. So what next? Another year adventuring in Canada!



Mia Dobbing (2016 – 2018)

Mia attended Duke of Kent School in 2016 after coming over from Norway with her family and siblings, Hannah and Sienna, who all attended Duke of Kent School too. After Duke of Kent School Mia returned to Norway where she studied a range of subjects focusing on sciences and maths for her A levels. Since finishing college we are delighted to announce that Mia has been awarded a place at Linacre College at Oxford University to read Medical Physics with Radiobiology in the Oncology Department, which is part of the Medical Science Division. Mia hopes to go on to study for a PhD and eventually work in cancer research. In-between college and starting university, Mia has also been working at the largest hospital in Norway in the Immunology Department for Cancer Research. She will also be co-author of a paper being released soon on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL). There is just no stopping Mia! We wish her huge congratulations and the best of luck as she embarks on her studies at Oxford.



Staff v Alumni Netball Match

On Friday 20th January we held the first Staff v Alumni netball match. After a lot of catching up and reminiscing about the “good old days” the match began. The alumni team were exceptionally strong, and the Duke of Kent School staff were most definitely challenged from the first whistle. Izzy Barlow continued her flawless shooting technique from School along with a rotation of equally talented GA players; Kate Godfrey and Alice Skinner. Mrs Woolgar, Mr Monk, Mr Southee and Megan Godfrey were put under a lot of pressure in the circle shooting with alumni such as Izzy Powell, Daisy Katesmark, Bridget Coombs and Kate Godfrey showing no signs of letting us off easy! Center court play was incredible, Bethany Bubb, Millie Katesmark, Amelie Wait-Burr and Hollie Bloomfield were nippy and looked like they had been playing together for years, but Miss Vickers, Mrs Faulkner (Miss Reynolds when she worked at Duke of Kent School), Mr Southee and Mr Gritton kept up with them all brilliantly.

It was a thrilling match with a final score of 27-25 to the Duke of Kent School staff team. It was great to have so many players and supporters, and it was wonderful to have the notorious Mrs Wilson back to umpire along with Mrs Barlow (Izzy’s mum). A final mention to Mr Orme and Mr Boden who had never played netball before but were naturals! Well played everyone, we look forward to the next match in 2024!

The Parents' Association

PADoK

Donations this year from PADoK

- £600 to Cranleigh Food Bank
- £1,000 towards the cost of a new wellbeing space
- £200 to Ewhurst and Peaslake Infant Schools
- £750 towards the Year 11 Prom
- £6,486 towards the build of a brand new Second Hand Uniform Shop

It has been an extremely exciting and busy year for PADoK. Here is a review of what we have achieved, planned and enjoyed this year:

Bingo Night – October 2022

In the Autumn Term we held our first ever Bingo Night, with the wonderful Mrs Coles-Woodfield as our bingo caller and her trusty helper Mrs Woodford! We had prizes a-plenty for those who completed their "Bingo" lines with a Full House prize at the end! It was a popular evening and lots of fun was had by all. It was a great start to this year's PADoK events.

The Christmas Hamper Raffle – December 2022

The PADoK team, in their Christmas elf outfits and antlers, collected all the generous donations from families at School drop-off and this was followed by a busy team who worked hard over a two-day period to make up the 18 beautiful Christmas hampers. We were able to increase our donation to Cranleigh Food Bank this year to £600 which, in these challenging times, was gratefully received. We also donated £100 to Peaslake School and £100 to Ewhurst Infant School.

A Taste of Burns – January 2023

This was a first for our current PADoK team. Thanks go to Mr and Mrs Hamer-Hodges, who brought their Scottish heritage and Burns Night experience to Duke of Kent School with support from PADoK. It was a fabulous evening, with guests greeted by a Piper at the entrance to Old Hall. There was a parade of the haggis followed by traditional poetry and a toast to the haggis with a wee dram! After a delicious meal (thank you Holroyd Howe) the reels commenced. The ceilidh band and caller were great fun and the dancing energetic, if not slightly chaotic at times! It was a fantastic evening and one we must do again.

Macmillan Afternoon Tea – March 2023

A table full of delicious cakes were provided by PADoK and parents for this wonderful event and we raised an incredible amount of over £800 for Macmillan, a charity so deserving of support.

Party in the PADoK – June 2023

In June, the PADoK team came together to transform the School into a colourful "festival feel" venue! Entertainment early in the evening was provided by some talented musicians that just happened to be our very own pupils from Years 10 and 11. We had a delicious Hog Roast and strawberries for pudding. The main musical event was Mr Rye's band, The Accidentals, who started their set outside before heading inside. At that moment, in true festival style, the heavens opened. The band played their second set in the Performing Arts Hall – they were on fire and the atmosphere was brilliant.



PERFORMING ARTS





PADoK Clubs

Duke of Kent School Singers

The Duke of Kent School Singers have performed "Somewhere Only We Know" by Keane at the Prep School Christmas Concert and "Brave" by Sara Bareilles, at the Summer Concert and both were fantastic. Thanks go to Mrs Williams for running the club and, of course, to Mr Rye for giving us his time on Thursday mornings and making each session fun and informative.

PADoK Walks

Every other Friday we meet at Hurtwood Control Car Park 3 and enjoy a walk around Pitch Hill. Everyone is welcome, with or without dogs, and it is a lovely way to meet parents from different year groups, catch up and enjoy the beautiful surroundings that the School is situated in.

Physical and Core Fitness Club

This has continued to grow as a club for PADoK, popular for both men and women. Mrs Rowe is a physiotherapist and introduced the club for those wanting to improve their core fitness for running or overall health.

PADoK Book Club

PADoK Book Club has read a number of interesting books followed by a get-together to discuss the book. "A Fatal Crossing" by Tom Hindle, "Snow Country" by Sebastian Faulks and "The Music Shop" by Rachel Joyce. Thank you Mrs Newman for continuing to run our book club.

Finally, as PADoK Chair I would like to thank Mrs Knox, Mrs Monk, Mrs Hopwood, Mrs Woolgar, Mr Stacey, Mrs Wichman and Mr Tearle for their ongoing support and all they do for PADoK throughout the year. Thank you to the whole PADoK committee who have managed the events this year and for giving your time and commitment throughout the year, it is hugely appreciated!

Farewell and a huge thank you must go to Mrs Read, who steps down as Secretary, Mrs Cunningham our departing Year 11 Rep and to all those who have stepped down from being class reps this year. I look forward to welcoming Mrs Cocking as the new PADoK Secretary and all those who are joining PADoK in September. Last but not least, thank you to the parents who continue to support the School and the events we put on each year.

We look forward to 2023/24.

Mrs Camilla Phillips
PADoK Chairlady

Staff Farewells

Bethany Arnold

Bethany has been a brilliant member of the Sports Department at Duke of Kent School for the academic year 2022/23. She has made fantastic progress in her teaching and has developed good relationships with staff and pupils alike. Bethany helped in a huge range of areas within the School, contributing to duties, lessons, trips and matches across the Pre-prep, Prep and Senior School. Bethany ran a variety of successful after-school sports clubs, including karate and rounders, with great professionalism and commitment. Bethany will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best as she continues to pursue a career in teaching, starting with completing a PGCE in Physical Education at the University of Chichester. Good luck Bethany!

Miss Vickers, Head of Girls' Games



Tom Orme

Tom Orme started work at Duke of Kent School in September 2020 and spent three years as part of the PE Department. He made huge progress in his teaching throughout the three years and finished his final year by combining his work and successfully studying to qualify as a PE teacher. Tom was extremely well liked by the staff and pupils; he was extremely well organised and hardworking and showed a caring nature when teaching. Tom has now taken on a teaching position at More House School. We wish him all the very best and look forward to seeing him at fixtures in the near future.

Mr Herbert, Director of Sport



Louise LaCroix

Louise LaCroix arrived at Duke of Kent School in September 2012. Throughout her time at the School she has taught mathematics to Years 6 to 11. She made maths accessible and enjoyable with pupils making excellent progress under her tutelage. Louise also enthusiastically supported pupils with a particularly keen interest in maths through the FSMQ Advanced Maths qualification with excellent results. As our Head of Careers, Louise organised various visitors to talk to our pupils in assembly about their experiences in the world of work and their route to their chosen career.

We wish Louise all the very best as she embarks upon new and interesting projects.

Mrs Coackley, Head of Mathematics



Emily Young

Emily taught cello and piano at the School for 13 years, working with pupils of all ages and contributing so much to the department as a whole. She implemented and ran our baby cello programme, providing free group lessons to Reception and Year 1 pupils. She assisted at concerts, accompanied her pupils, offered assemblies, and promoted strings and piano in the School to great success. Emily was always cheerful, willing and so organised! She will be missed hugely and we wish her all the best in her new role as a class music teacher – a job at which she will be superb.

Mr Rye, Director of Performing Arts



Steve Richardson

Steve taught bass guitar and electric guitar at the School for seven years, bringing his wonderful experience, sense of humour and superb talent to our department and his pupils. Having worked as a professional musician for the best part of 40 years, he was able to give fascinating insights into the life of a musician to his pupils, as well as teaching them how to be real players rather than just passing exams and learning the odd piece of music. Steve also played in the band for all our musicals, accompanied his pupils in concerts and recitals and was a popular member of the staff room. He will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike and we wish him the absolute best for his retirement.

Mr Rye, Director of Performing Arts



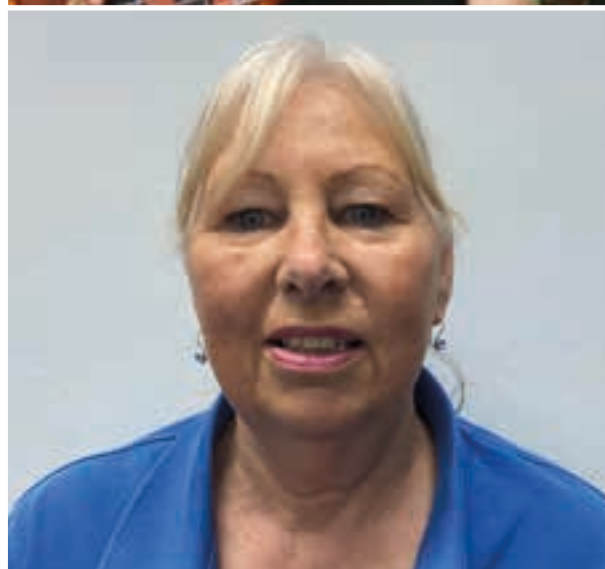
Joy Mitchell

We said farewell to Joy Mitchell, our trusted and hugely valued Cleaning Supervisor, who has been at the School over a span of 29 years and worked for four Heads!

Joy developed excellent relationships with both staff and pupils. She would always offer a helping hand, no matter how minor the issue. She also attended work and cleaned areas of the School throughout the COVID pandemic whilst we were open for pupils of key worker parents. Committed wholeheartedly to the School, she tirelessly emptied bins, cleaned classrooms, offices and changing rooms, shined trophies as well as led her amazing team to ensure the whole School was sparkly clean, on a daily basis!

We are so grateful for her dedication to the School and shall miss her greatly. We wish her well in her retirement.

Ms Harris, Head of HR and Deputy Bursar



In Our Spare Time...

Mr and Mrs Green

On Saturday 8th October 2022, Frankie Margot joined the Green household, weighing 8lbs 2oz. We are thoroughly enjoying getting to know the newest member of the clan and it has been particularly enchanting to watch the bond with her adoring big brother develop.



Mr and Mrs Gritton

On Saturday 10th December, after breaking up for the Christmas holidays, Freya Vivien Gritton made her entrance into the world at 16:49. She weighed 8lb 2oz and got straight into the festive spirit with her little Christmas pudding knitted hat that she wore when born. She loves looking at the world around her and giggling at her best friend, Teddy, our labradoodle. We have really enjoyed becoming a family of four and can't wait to see her character evolve!



Madame Fellous

Charly Suzanne Stapleton (Fellous) arrived at 17:03 on 2nd May weighing 2.8kg. Seeing her smile each day makes everything so much better. We are speaking to her in French and in English so that she loves her heritage.



Miss Francis

Over February half term, we had the best day of our lives celebrating our wedding at Duke of Kent School, after the marriage ceremony at St John's Church, Wotton. Bubbles were served in front of a roaring fire in Old Hall (thank you, Mr Southee!) before our wedding breakfast and speeches in the Dining Hall, which had been completely transformed by my very clever cousin! We finished the day off ceilidhing the night away in the Performing Arts Hall. Thank you to the whole Duke of Kent School community for your well-wishes and support, from congratulations passed through car windows at pick-up, to Mrs Knox and Mr Stacey for trusting us to make use of our beautiful School building.



Mrs Mitchell

Little Maci Poppy Mitchell made an early entrance to the world on 23rd October 2022 weighing exactly 6lb. Maci has won us all over with gorgeous blue eyes and cheeky smile and we are loving becoming a family of four, including her big sister Millie.



Mrs Plumbridge

Proud big brother Hugo would like to introduce his little "Smash Bang" also known as Imogen Ava-Rose! She arrived via C-Section on 13th April at 15.28 weighing 8lb 1 oz. We are really looking forward to our adventures ahead as a family of four.



Mrs Salley

On Sunday 19th February we welcomed our wonderful daughter, Scarlett Poppy Salley, into the world. Scarlett weighed a beautiful 9lbs 11oz and was born with a full head of dark brown hair! She is hands-down the best thing that has ever happened to us and is the light of our lives. I loved coming into School to introduce Scarlett to the Pre-prep children.





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SCHOOL

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