# EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

### EWELL CASTLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

#### Summer Term Review 2023

## INTRODUCTION



We are all Unfinished Songs.

One of my favourite artists Celine Dion sings this song, which has really touched me recently: 'Life is like music. There is so much unsung (...) You can write the song and write the story (...) Take the time, to make the time, to make each moment count. It's your life.'

Why do I include this now, at the end of the year? It is not just because I adore music, as a musician myself. You will have heard me mention this song at our recent Prize Giving, where I explored the analogy of not being a perfect polished product, but constantly evolving, as we add a verse, change key, invite others to sing in harmony, or improvise and create a different version. And... this is what we strive to do at Ewell Castle. It is no longer good enough to provide a pure academic education without fostering within all in our care the desire to love the non-material aspects in life; to teach pupils to learn to love themselves for what they have to offer, and not in relation to the child next to them;

to risk sensibly and not be afraid to try new things. When we provide the right conditions for children to try new things, for psychological safety for children to risk and offer those ideas, to not be afraid of possibly getting it wrong; to enjoy working alongside others, whom they may or may not like, we provide them with the ingredients to have choice later on, to be adaptable, to have a growth mindset. And that... is what will give them agency, and employability later in life. The credentials may land the interview; the values and people skills and adaptability and growth mindset (unfinished songs) together with that, will give them choice thereafter and employability.

Now, more than ever, we live in exponential times: our greatest gift is to help children to love themselves, while giving them all the tools to succeed, change course if they need, or to re-invent themselves if they wish. This is the life they will have when we are no longer around, and we cannot help them sing their song. If we can foster in our pupils the desire to take others with them on their creation, and develop the 'soft skills' which I would argue are more essential skills than they ever have been, and they have the confidence in themselves that they can do it and that we will catch them if they fall, we will have creative, inspired pupils: healthy risk and curiosity are where *all* the ideas happen.

So, as the gates click shut for another year, and so much has changed, I ask you to consider this for yourselves: Who would you ask to sing your song, if you had the choice? Do your children know your song, why you matter, who you are and are you adding verses, so they see first-hand how to live a fulfilled life? Do they have one they are working on, and do they share some of it with you? This can be as much metaphorical as it is literal. How can we help you and your families to ensure that your songs are heard? I know, as I listened to the Year 1-6s sing 'Go the Distance' at Prize Giving. which had me in tears, that there are so many different voices, each with their own harmonies. I am privileged to be a part of their becoming, as they craft their own songs and use music as a shorthand for emotion. As Plato once said: 'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.'

I hope that this year has afforded opportunities for all to contribute verses to their songs, as we work together on a symphony of a whole Prep school on one site, joined in ethos and culture, singing what is in our soul. I look forward to next year, where so many more opportunities to take music and performance to the next level, literally, will be possible...

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Loren Macallister Head of Preparatory School

# **NURSERY DAYS**



















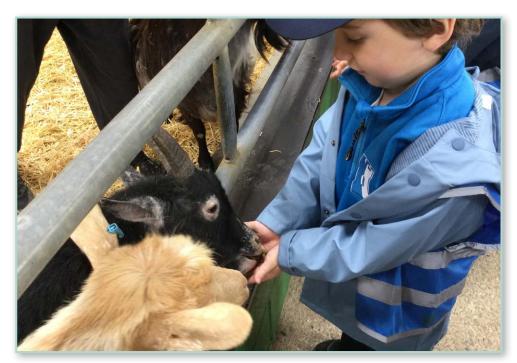






## **RECEPTION TRIP TO BOCKETTS FARM**

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Bocketts Farm on 19th May and the children behaved excellently throughout the whole trip. The children had the opportunity to stroke some of the small animals, feed some goats, cows and other larger animals and we had a great time watching the pig race. The children learned lots about animals that live on the farm from Farmer Alfie, our tour guide. We enjoyed going on the tractor ride to see some of the animals in the fields and we got to play in the playground at the end of the day.



Mrs J Kodi







## WRITING WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 13th June, four specially chosen pupils from Years 1 & 2 went to the A.I.M High writing workshop. The workshop was a high quality, aspirational and deepening learning experience for children who demonstrate a particular talent for English and have the potential to work beyond their current level.

The children spent the day working with the brilliant author, Michael De Souza, who is the writer of the Rastamouse stories. They explored traditional rhymes, reciting them, adding drama, examining the words and rhyming patterns. They then created modern day rhymes based on traditional ones.

The author, Michael, really engaged with the children, encouraging them to be adventurous with their choice of language and creativity. The children learnt a lot and brought back some excellent ideas to the classroom. A fantastic, enjoyable day was had by all.

Mrs L Patel







### YEAR 3 TRIP TO THE LIVING RAINFOREST



A visit to the Living Rainforest was arranged for the pupils in Year 3 in March 2023. Having spent the spring term learning about rainforests, this day trip allowed the Year 3 pupils to immerse themselves in a rainforest environment and experience the wonderful wildlife and plants without having to leave the UK.

The Living Rainforest is an indoor tropical rainforest set up by the Trust for Sustainable Living, located in Berkshire, and they offer children a guided tour with a rainforest expert. While the children visited glasshouses named Amazonica, Lowlands and Small Islands, they immersed themselves in a rainforest environment and experienced a glimpse of the unique fauna and flora of a rainforest. A thoroughly successful excursion which put a big smile on the children's faces.

Mrs V Kiening





## YEAR 3 VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE







the Palace, explaining and modelling the jobs. Some jobs were rather horrible including the toilet scraper and the royal bottom washer! The children learnt that some jobs were better than others, including jobs in the kitchen, which were paid well and also meant that the children were provided with meals.

Master Finn was impressed with the engagement of the children and the questions they asked in the workshop. The children took part in roleplays to learn about the jobs and this provided an immersive experience. After lunch, the children explored more of the Palace including the chocolate room and gardens. A wonderful day was had by all and the children learnt a lot about life in the Tudor Court.

Mrs L Patel

Year 3 had a glorious spring day for their visit to Hampton Court Palace. The children were in awe as they walked through the iron gates to see the Palace shining in the morning sun. It was quite the spectacle! The tour began with the children exploring the kitchens. They learnt about the food that was eaten in Tudor times and how



it was cooked. The children enjoyed smelling the different herbs and spices and were amazed by the size of the fireplace. The children thought it was rather unfair that the workers only had 3 choices on their menu whilst the Court had more than twenty!

The tour continued into The Great Hall and the King's Apartment. The children spent some time learning and playing Tudor board games which were similar to draughts. Lots of very interesting questions were asked and the children looked carefully at the artefacts and paintings, noticing intricate details.

Next, the children took part in a workshop entitled 'Jobs at Court'. The workshop had a focus on the jobs that children did at the Palace. Our guide, Master Finn, walked the children through the different parts of

# EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

# **SCIENCE WORKSHOP - YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4**

At the beginning of May, Year 3 and Year 4 pupils took part in an in-house half-day workshop linked to their science curriculum. Fizz Pop Science was interactive, entertaining and truly captured the imagination of the pupils. The session mixed learning new vocabulary and science ideas with practical application and amazing demonstrations. The workshop helped the children to discover splitting apart white light and creating rainbows in the hall as well as learning about how light travels and how it can be used in everyday life. A fun-filled, hands-on workshop left our Year 3 and Year 4 children truly enthusiastic about science!



Mrs V Kiening

## YEAR 5 TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

On Wednesday 10th of May, Year 5 woke up extra early and gathered excitedly outside St Mary's Church to board the coach, which would take us on a three-day whirlwind adventure to the spectacular Isle of Wight.

We said our goodbyes to our tearful parents, and before long we were on our way to Portsmouth to catch our ferry to the Isle of Wight. It's hard to believe but even though we set off early, NOBODY slept on the coach and everyone was excited to sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Mr Bryant, who also had to get up really early on his birthday!

After a gloriously sunny crossing, the coach took us to the beach so we could eat our packed lunches (SAND-wiches) while looking at a stunning view. The teachers then led us to the Isle Of Wight Zoo near Sandown. At the zoo we saw lots of interesting animals such as a lemur, some spider-monkeys and my personal favourite - the tigers. We left the zoo in the afternoon and headed to the Kingswood Centre for the moment we'd all been waiting for... to find who we were in a dormitory with!









After we'd unpacked we went for dinner, followed by the evening's activity which was a mini Olympics challenge! I think the teachers were trying to tire us out... by the way, it didn't work!

Day 2 and the fun was only just beginning at the activity centre. After breakfast we all enjoyed different activities in our group, including abseiling. The 3G swing was incredible; it had a massive drop and an amazing view at the top. Everyone loved it. Luckily our breakfasts stayed in our stomachs! We were all very tired especially after the beautiful Culver Walk but we still managed to put on our fancy clothes and join the teachers for a disco later.

On Day 3 we were all becoming a bit sad that our adventure was coming to an end. However we made the most of it with archery and an epic football game ending in an 8-8 draw! We got back on the coach at lunchtime to head back to the ferry. Everybody had a wonderful time and chatted the whole way home. I'm sure the teachers were delighted by our enthusiasm as we headed back to St Mary's Church! Thank you to all the teachers who organised this trip for us; it was the best experience of my life!

Milo Springham, Year 5





# EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

# FARMS FOR CITY CHILDREN - YEAR 6













I am not going to repeat the blogs from the trip, which I wrote in some detail, but I do want to mention the real value of the five days in Devon at Nethercott House...

This trip was never going to be about just the animals, nor was it going to be some analogy for Animal Farm and coming back with

an humans versus animals dialogue. It was about learning about the process from farm to fork, about responsibility and sustainability. It was about sacrifice and stewardship, perspective, and patience. A question I posed recently with my Year 6s in class went along these lines: 'What would happen if the UK suddenly stopped importing meat?' Economics, vegetarian and vegan diets, water sources out of areas to increase vegetable growing, lack of compost, civil unrest over scarcity - these are some of the big 'questions' which were raised. And, being at the farm, where we learned that a 40kg weaner (piglet) would fetch £30 and 100g of bacon costs about £2 in a shop, I could see children doing the maths and realising that this doesn't quite add up. And then, what to do about it. We fed animals; we cleaned out stables, transported hay and distributed; we learned how to cook, using the produce, the seeds of which other children had sown before us. We planted trees under whose shade we would never sit, to paraphrase Eleanor Roosevelt.

The real value of the trip wasn't getting up before the animals, to serve them their breakfasts; nor was it about just enjoying the fresh air. These residentials are not holidays per se. They are educational trips outside of the classroom and the formal curriculum and school, designed to foster teamwork, leadership, ownership, and agency. And, to help those in our charge to connect the big 'why' questions with the needs of society, be they the UN sustainability goals, or just to ponder their own private and personal ethics, morals, career paths and choices. If we can get our children to think, and problem-solve and find creative ways to do so, they will be given the tools and skills to survive and thrive in a fast-changing society. Their future.

Mrs L Macallister

# **CORONATION LUNCH**













# 500 WORD STORY COMPETITION AND EXTREME READER PHOTO CHALLENGE



To inspire and encourage the children with their English skills, a 500 Word Story Competition and an Extreme Reader Photo Challenge were launched. I was pleased to receive many entries for both competitions from all year groups, Reception through to Year 6.

The theme of the story competition was 'Animal Adventures' and the children had to write an original story based on this. The quality of the entries was very high and I thoroughly enjoyed reading all of them. There were stories involving fantastical creatures like dragons and unicorns, jungle animals and even some with made-up animals! House points were awarded to all entrants and there were special prizes for runners-up and winning entries.

The Reception winner was Rudra from Sunshine class, Key Stage 1 winners were Leah (2H) and Avaana (2H), Key Stage 2 runners-up were Jayden (5B) and Bertie (5S) and the Key Stage 2 winners were Adhira (5S) and Abigail (5B). Huge congratulations to all!

Many imaginative and funny photographs were sent in for our Extreme Reader Photo Challenge. I was very impressed with the creativity of the children and thoroughly enjoyed looking at all of them. It was hard to choose winners as everyone had tried so hard. Well done to everyone who entered.







Runner-up from Reception was Lucia and the winner was Sofia, both in Sunshine Class. Key Stage 1 runner-up was Riley (1T) and the winner was Joseph (2H). The Lower Key Stage 2 runner-up was Luke (3P) and the winner was Edward (4F). The Upper Key Stage 2 runner-up was Lois (5B) and the winner was Sienna (6B)

By Mrs L Patel











## MATHS CHALLENGE

This term, Ewell Castle has participated in the Junior UKMT Maths Challenge, with 18 pupils from Years 5 and 6 and 41 pupils from Years 7 and 8 competing. In Years 5 and 6 we obtained 2 golds, 3 silvers, 7 bronzes and 6 participations. In Year 7 we achieved 6 silvers, 4 bronzes and 11 participations. In Year 8 we obtained 5 golds, 9 silvers, 3 bronzes and 4 participations. Of these pupils, the following six achieved gold as well as gaining participation in the Junior Kangaroo: Alisha Seehi, Sam Davies, Max Midzic, Jangwon Moon, Seung Moon and Seung Min Na. Congratulations to all.

**Miss L Francis** 

## **CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP**

#### Roll up! Roll up! The circus is in town!

As part of Activities Week, Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic Circus Workshop from Juggling Jake. The instructors from Juggling Jake, Steve and Chris, started off the day with a circus show to demonstrate the skills the children would be learning. There were squeals of delight and cheers as Chris juggled six balls and Chris rode a unicycle!

Throughout the day, the children learnt a range of circus skills including the tight wire, juggling, diablo, stilts, devil sticks and many more! The skills were broken down into steps and the children worked hard and with resilience to learn and practise these. A favourite skill was the diablo, and a lot of the children were quite proficient by the end of the day and some had even learnt tricks with it! Another firm favourite was clown skills using the tiny bikes. The children loved falling down and 'clowning around' to make everyone laugh.



Some comments from the day included:

Alexander 'I really liked learning to balance a feather! I was able to balance it on my chin and head and do some spins too. It was a great day!'

Harriet P 'I liked the stilts and the huge hula hoops. I love having workshops in school!'

Mrs L Patel





The day finished with a show where the children dressed up and performed the skills they had learnt in a routine for the teachers. The teachers thoroughly enjoyed the show and were very impressed by all they saw. The circus workshop was a success where the children learnt not only the circus skills but more importantly developed the skills of collaboration, perseverance and resilience and learnt a lot about themselves.





## **OUR YEAR 6 JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS**



Year 6 has been a wonderful year with lots of great activities and achievements to remember. The year got off to a brilliant start when we went to a team building day at the Three Peaks, where we completed an assault course, rock climbing and played a fun game on trampolines called *Aeroball*. The day gave us the chance to work together and test our courage. It was great to see so many push themselves and come out of their comfort zones and leave with a real sense of accomplishment.

This year we were lucky to get two table tennis tables installed in the playground for use by all the Prep children. These have been a massive success and have been in constant use since the day they arrived, with many of us competing in a knockout tournament over a series of lunch breaks. We even got to meet and play with three-time paralympic bronze medallist, Aaron McKibbin, when he visited the School to share his journey and show us his medals.

A real highlight of the year had to be the residential trip to Devon, where we experienced living and working on a farm, and I felt that we all became even more collaborative as a result. The five-day visit was filled with activities and fun. We would get up early every morning and feed the animals before we had breakfast and then the rest of the day was filled with farm tasks, such as grooming the horses and mucking out the stables. We visited a neighbouring farm and helped feed the cows and were lucky enough to see a newborn calf that was only ten hours old! We were asked on one day to count some sheep, which felt like a maths lesson in disguise. We have had a year filled with sporting activities such as: football, rugby and cricket. Fixtures gave all the teams a chance to compete and improve throughout the year and one highlight was when the U11 football team won the Oakwood Football Tournament. We also competed in an athletics event against other schools with lots of our pupils performing brilliantly and the Year 6 team won! Finally, I'd like to mention this year's Sports Day which ended up being a very close competition with Arundel just managing to win the House competition. We had amazing sunny weather, everybody had fun and lots of parents were able to come and support us. Some parents even took part in a relay race and surprised everybody with how seriously they took it!

As I write this, rehearsals are in full flow for our play, 'Hoodwinked' and we are about to perform it to our parents and families. I've got a feeling this will be a great end to a great year and will give us memories that we will keep forever.

#### Thomas Paton Evans, Head Boy 2022-2023

Year 6, where to start? How about the beginning! On my first day, I was greeted by my form tutor, Mr Young, and we played 'getting to know you' games and had lots of fun! A few weeks later we travelled to the Three Peaks where we participated in a wide range of activities including shooting hoops whilst on a trampoline; balancing everyone on a massive seesaw; traversing a laser-like spider web (made of rope) without touching the lasers (ropes); rock climbing and completing an obstacle course.

Sport has been a big feature of the year and a selection of girls were chosen for an all-day hockey tournament where we were thrilled to achieve bronze medals. Following that, the girls were introduced to rugby, and we played against the boys in several matches.

At the end of the year, we visited Nethercott House in Devon, which is run by Farms for City Children. We stayed in a Victorian manor house for 5 days where we fed, cared for and cleaned-up after pigs and chickens, as well as groomed horses and a donkey. We even helped at the neighbouring farm called Bridgetown, where we showed a ram and a small herd of cows back to their fields. We were literally counting sheep before bed! We had so much fun; eating together, sleeping in bunk beds in our shared rooms, playing in the Games Room and purchasing items from the 'pop-up' shop.

Following half-term, we enjoyed participating in our production *Hoodwinked* where I was involved in making the props. I'm looking forward to our final events which include the Leavers' Assembly, disco, and Celebration Day where I will pass my role on to the next Head Girl.

Keira Krause, Head Girl 2022-2023

# YEAR 3 ART - RAINFOREST JUNK MODELLING



# **UNITED KINGDOM TOPIC WORK**





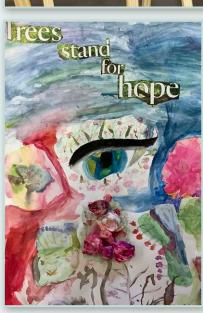




# IAPS IART COMPETITION WINNER



We are excited to finally be able to share with you Elodiedh's massive achievement in winning 1st prize in the @iapsuk 2023 Art competition Y3 & Y4 category with her mixed media piece 'One Small Person Can change the World'. You certainly can Elodiedh!















# YEAR 4 ART -CHANG DYNASTY BLOCK PRINTING AND TERRACOTTA ARMY

















# YEAR 5 ART -OBSERVATIONAL DRAWINGS USING WATER COLOUR



# **SPACE THEMED ART**



# **YEAR 6 ART - SELF PORTRAITS**





















# PREP SCHOOL CRICKET UPDATE

What a great season for cricket both single sex and mixed, we played in 48 fixtures in total against other schools and won 26 of these! Well done to all the children for their superb efforts with many displaying outstanding skills. We have also seen some lovely examples of great sportsmanship and teamwork.







## YEAR 3 MIXED CRICKET

The Year 3 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the cricket season where they have developed their batting, bowling and fielding skills in both Games lessons and interschool fixtures. The enthusiasm has invariably been high and the excitement of wearing cricket whites has been super! Matches have been played against Banstead Prep, Aberdour, Kingswood House and Weston Green with some close games along the way. The highlights were a convincing 40 run win against Kingswood House and a super final victory by 13 runs against Weston Green. Well done to all the year group but special mention to William for his aggressive batting, Violet for her all-round skills and Alex for his development as a cricketer.



## YEAR 4 MIXED CRICKET

Overall, a very successful season for Year 4 with the year group triumphing in most of their games. Many of the games were incredibly tight and evenly matched with some coming down to the barest of margins. This was highlighted with the mixed A's winning by 2 runs over Banstead, with the game going to the final ball of the match. This match showed how much our bowling contributed as a key aspect of the teams' success this season. The B team had an even more nail biting run win over Chinthurst, while the C team also achieved success with a 56-run win over the same opposition. There have been many pupils that have made great strides over the Summer Term; Oli, Lani, Flo and Nayana to name a few. Consistency in key in cricket and Emi has shown this in masses, with her bowling and positive attitude to all scenarios. A special mention as well to Alex B, with his outstanding sportsmanship, leadership, and quality on the field throughout the year. A development point for next year would be to further communicate with each other when running between the wickets. Well done to all.

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Mr N Andrade
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# COLTS CRICKET (YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6)

This season, the boys worked hard on their bowling, batting, and fielding skills and further developed their knowledge of the game. In the matches against other schools, the boys fielded and bowled well but lacked the application to go on and get big scores in their batting. Working on getting to the pitch of the ball and playing appropriate shots to the balls bowled would be things that I pick out. Bowling and fielding were excellent throughout with some super catches taken. In the inter-school fixtures, games against Banstead were nip and tuck throughout with the A team down coming down to the final over. However, a pulled four secured a tense victory for Banstead. A victory was followed up against Kingswood House and a terrific bowling and fielding performance secured a memorable win against Surbiton with a 6-wicket defeat concluding the season against Aberdour. All in all, a successful season with special mention going to Harshan A, Finnian B, Bertie L for their contributions to the team and to Yusuf R for his improvement throughout the season.

Mr N Andrade



## **GIRLS' CRICKET**

The U10 and U11 girls' teams have displayed a good awareness of the rules and are starting to play with increased tactical awareness. The girls are developing their overarm bowling action and their batting skills are evolving nicely. Developing a run-up when bowling and increasing their shots all around the wicket are areas for development.

With regards to girls' fixtures, the U11 girls team played Banstead Prep winning by 68 runs with 4's and 6's from Natalie, Eimear, Bella, Immy, Miriam and Sienna and excellent running between the wickets by Kiera and Nour. In addition, there was some great bowling from Bonnie and Alix. The U10A girls played in a close game against Rowan winning by 2 runs. Great bowling from Aurelia, great batting from Lolly and fielding from Holly. The U10B team won by 13 runs with excellent batting from Ava E. What a fantastic game with a very enthusiastic team that showed great encouragement for each other. The U10 girls also showed superb efforts in an interhouse game. The cardinals just edged the eagles with encouragement in the field and great bowling and batting on display. Wonderful weather matched the wonderful play!

The U9 and U8s have played in mostly mixed games in addition to playing the girls of Cumnor House. The U9s fought hard but lost by 60 runs 261-321 but having learnt from this game their ability has improved greatly this season. Great calling and encouragement by Emmy and Elodie, and very good bowling by Amelia, Lucy and Isabelle. The U8 won their game by 13 runs with Esme displaying some great running between the wickets. The U8 team have taken to the game quickly and have improved their batting, bowling, and fielding skills. Well done to all.

Mrs C Cope



# SPORTS DAY

**& RECEPTION** 











**YEARS 1 & 2** 



On Friday 23rd June, Years 1 and 2 participated in their annual Sports Day on Glyn House field. The weather was sunny and the setting idyllic for what was an action-packed afternoon.

In round 1, children participated in a carousal of sporting activities gaining points for their houses based on what they had learnt in Physical Education lessons this year. Children spent two minutes on each station and enjoyed the challenges that they had to overcome.

In round 2, children participated in individual sprint races, hurdle races, an obstacle event, a javelin throw and the house relay. The races were particularly exciting most notably the relay races and I was greatly impressed by the children's endeavour and sportsmanship.

Well done to all the children who took part, the individual medal winners and congratulations to Arundel House who were the overall winners.





















# **YEARS 3-6**

On a warm and sunny day, the Prep School pupils took part in their annual Sports Day at the Harrier Centre in Ewell. A major focus of the event was to have each child regularly involved. This year, all pupils represented their House in at least three events. Pupils took part in sprint and longer distance races and then had the opportunity to participate in the long jump, ball throw or high jump. Some pupils took part in the House relay.

The event commenced with individual sprint races, and I was very impressed with the efforts and enthusiasm of the pupils. Following the sprint races the pupils took part in their field events and then returned to the track for the individual 200m and 400m.

The 2023 event concluded with the closely fought relay races. The relays always stimulate great excitement and this year they didn't disappoint.

Congratulations to Arundel House this year who were overall winners of the event. Well done to all the children that participated this year and congratulations to Max A and Elizabeth H who were awarded the Vicor and Victrix Ludorum awards for the male and female champion athletes.

Mr N Andrade



## IAPS TABLE TENNIS FINALS









We are very proud of our pupils that took part in the IAPS National Table Tennis Finals in April.

They did exceptionally well, all progressing through the group stages and into the knockout phases. Out of 127 participants, our pupils made the last 32 players, with one pupil getting to the last 16! No doubt some of this success came from the additional practice on the new outdoor table tennis tables, kindly donated by the PTA.



PRIZEGIVING



# **PRINCIPALS' REUNION**



It was wonderful to welcome back two former Principals, Mr Peter Harris (far left) and Mr Andrew Tibble (far right), to the Castle to join current Principal Mr Silas Edmonds and the governors for their End of Year Dinner.



**Ewell Castle Preparatory School** Glyn House, Church Street, Ewell, KT17 2AP

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