



INTRODUCTION



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to be reflecting on an action-packed summer term that has been full of learning, challenge and excitement. Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, sports days, trips and visits have been a welcome counterpoint to the intense weeks given over for end-of-year examinations, GCSEs, A-levels and BTEC assessments. Move over, Year 11 Prom, because the Year 6 Disco was the undisputed party of the year, with much excitement and singing along to a certain Mr Rick Astley, ironically a pop legend from my own childhood.

Our term has ended with a farewell Year 6 moving up assembly and an ambitiously accomplished performance at the Senior School of the satirical *Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht. The Prizegiving ceremonies at The Rose Theatre for the Prep School and Senior School

were truly gala occasions where the spotlight was shone brightly on our children and young people, not to overlook our little ones in Nursery and Reception at their own special event. Academic, sporting, creative and performing arts achievements were rightly celebrated. My greatest joy, however, was seeing the qualities of leadership, teamwork and friendship given equal billing. Mrs Macallister's Prep Prizegiving speech focused on the theme of each individual child writing and singing their own song, an extended metaphor for our young people creating their own futures, more of which you can read about in *Tales from the Turret*.

I love the imagery in Stephen Spender's valedictory poem, *The Truly Great*, which came to mind as I watched our young people walk across the red carpeted stage, each for their own moment of recognition, admiration and honour:

"... Near the snow, near the sun,
in the highest fields,

See how these names are fêted
by the waving grass

And by the streamers of white
cloud

And whispers of wind in the
listening sky."

I include below the text of my speech as a memento of the Senior School Prizegiving event, and I trust that it will give you a flavour of the evening, if you were unable to be there.

Prizegiving Speech

Welcome to Ewell Castle Prize-giving and how lovely to gather once again at the Rose Theatre in Kingston. Indeed, in this Coronation year of His Majesty King Charles III we stand close to the original site where Anglo Saxon kings were crowned within a Coronation Stone's throw from here: Æthelstan was consecrated king at Kingston in 925, Eadred in 946 and Æthelred the Unready in 979.

Hence its name Kingston. Just opposite this theatre, the sarsen Coronation Stone, upon which Anglo-Saxon kings stood to be crowned, is on display for all to see. And this is but one tiny example of Ewell Castle's mission to educate you all, finding the learning in every moment. Historians are, as yet, unable to confirm whether Quiche was traditionally served at any of these Anglo-Saxon Coronation ceremonies.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have just completed their public examinations, following an immense effort in their focus and studies. I am

proud of you all, as your Principal, for your resilience and determination, and the effort that you have all invested in your futures. I am looking forward to seeing you all on results days in August and, don't worry, I won't get any sleep the night before either.

I cannot possibly mention all the extraordinary achievements in the co-curricular and enrichment arenas this year. Model United Nations, The Great Debate, the return of Croquet and lunchtime recitals, visiting speakers and lunches for our Scholars' groups all thrived this academic year, and who can forget Ewell Castle's Enterprise Village, Dragon's Den and the initiatives of the Charitable Works Committee to support The Children's Trust and the Food Bank, amongst other good causes.

Our sustainability focus was further enhanced with the addition of a hot composter and our "ground force" champions, who set about reclaiming and managing different areas of the Castle Site, mimicking the trampling movements of wild boar in the undergrowth (yes – that is a thing), restoring a pond and planting native species, including several trees. Big trees from little acorns grow. Our young people are sowing seeds into our future – someone has to.

After the summer expedition to Romania in the summer of 2022, Duke of Edinburgh activities have gone from strength to strength with the legendary Mr Blencowe at the helm, aided and abetted by Messrs Hall and Skinner, ensuring that continuing generations of Ewellians learn how to cook their own delicacies over an open flame, as well as igniting in them the passion for the great outdoors and a strong connection with the natural world. Our strategic mission to inculcate sustainable habits and to care about our world becomes even more compelling when we spend quality time embracing outdoor learning experiences. During the Cairngorms Gold wild camping

expedition, Mr Hall also learned to his cost that Avon's Skin Soft Oil Body Spray does not in fact repel insects (as urban mythology suggests) – and he still has the midge bite scars to prove it. Although, to be fair, his skin has never felt so soft and supple.

In performing arts, the School Musical returned to the Epsom Playhouse – we quite literally did "move on down the road" to perform *The Wiz* as a cast of talented young performers took to the stage for a number of spectacularly choreographed dances, wonderful singing and some hilarious comic turns from a number of entertaining characters such as the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion. And the summer term musical concert returned to St Mary's Church for an eclectic and accomplished repertoire of playing and singing, taking in classical, choral, Chilcott's *Jazz Mass*, and contemporary music, including some original compositions – a truly magical evening that moved many to tears. And next week, we will be experiencing the sold-out *Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht.

In the sporting arena, our teams in rugby, football, netball, and cricket continued to build great momentum, with an extraordinary 85% of our pupils involved in competitive fixtures this year, further energised by a successful cricket tour in Dubai. The Sports Awards this week were testament to this, with standing room only for the many who were recognised and rewarded. A huge thanks must go to our Director of Sport, Mr Neil Turk (sponsored by Ambre Solaire in Dubai) and his exceptional team of sporting staff whose level of dedication has been much admired by us all.

I must mention a few individual sporting achievements: Liv Barfoot-Saunt won golds in the Southern Counties and Kent International Judo competition; Finlay Rhys Jones was selected to row for Great Britain in the J16 this summer; Ben Atkinson was

silver medallist in the U14 European Hockey League finals in Holland; Henry Bale in Year 10 was runner-up in the *Schools Golf* at Windlesham and Piltdown; and, Charlie Miller who won Gold at the IAPS indoor skiing championships in the slalom, also taking Gold in the British Inter Schools slalom and grand slalom (amongst many other competitions) and finished his season with Gold in the grand slalom in the British Championships to become British Champion.

In elite tennis, our Tennis Academy has excelled this year. Lexie Macdonald and Ella Alleyne won the 18U Girls' Surrey Schools' Tennis Festival and our Senior Boys' Team successfully defended their title at LTA's Surrey Championships, on a nail-biting tie-breaker to retain the Rootham Shield. Although our Tennis Academy players are all currently competing at the National Finals in Nottingham, Mrs McManus and Mrs Battista have sped back to our Ceremony this evening, and I would now like to call on our Chair of Governors, Mr Colin Griffith, to congratulate them personally on a stunningly successful year in tennis.

And now, on to academic matters (yes – we do actually do *some* work!) and our core mission that children should discover their strengths and cultivate their intellectual curiosity! Our commitment to developing a growth mindset in our young people and to stimulate their higher order thinking skills was recognised by NACE (The National Association for Able Children in Education) who accredited us for our highly effective stretch and challenge in the classroom and commitment to rigour in our pupils' learning power. World Book Day costumes were as creative as ever this year and, during STEM week, we experimented with water rockets, egg drop challenge and Spaghetti Towers. We also enjoyed the ever-popular Pi Day and the UK Maths Challenge initiative.

In the summer term, we threw ourselves in to Creative Arts Week and also raised awareness through Mental Health Week, busting myths and challenging stigmas. Our life-affirming Pride Week culminated with a magnificently inclusive Rainbow-themed picnic to round off a number of other exciting events. No sooner have our Year 7 pupils returned from Paris then another intrepid group will soon be off to Switzerland. While New York may be the city that never sleeps, I do wonder if Ewell Castle might be the School that never sleeps!

I would like to offer a vote of thanks to all our young people who threw themselves into so many learning opportunities this year. You have brought so much to our School's community. And finally, I would like to offer a vote of thanks and appreciation for all your teachers and educational support staff. And also, to our Governors, particularly our Chair Mr Colin Griffith, who gives so much of his time and dedication to Ewell Castle.

Wonderful events like this do not happen by accident and much work goes on behind the scenes with organisation and logistics. Thank you all for your contributions, in particular Mrs Natalie Ruthnum and Mr Ben Essenhigh. I hope that you enjoyed celebrating with us this evening and please do have a wonderful summer vacation.

Staffing Update

At the end of this term, we will be bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Laura Oldfield, who is leaving the Castle. Mrs Oldfield has had recording sessions with the BBC singers recently and is very excited to be developing her professional singing career, amongst other planned projects. We also say goodbye to Mrs Lindsey Steedman, who is leaving at the end of August to take up the post of Marketing Manager at St John's Leatherhead.

Mrs Natalie Ruthnum will also be moving on to take up a new role as part time HR Assistant at NESCOL. She has signed off triumphantly with her final major event: Prizegiving at The Rose Theatre. Mr Tom Hunt has been successful in securing a role at West London Free School, a school nearer to his home. He will be leaving us at the end of December.

I am very pleased to announce that, from 1st September 2023, Mr Stephen Leigh will be taking on the new and evolved position of *Head of Senior School*. His new role will be vital to the School realising its ambitions for the future and will be essential in delivering how the very real challenges of our growing setting can be met with ever-increasing effectiveness. The Head of Senior School role is responsible for overseeing and leading all aspects of the day-to-day operational running of the Senior School, as well as being key to the oversight of educational provision across the Senior School.

In further news (in addition to updates provided in my previous letters):

- We welcome Mrs Victoria Ikwuemesi back to the Castle for the Autumn term. Mrs Ikwuemesi will be caretaking the PRS department as Head of Department with Ms Alex Brown overseeing the coordination of the KS3 curriculum.
- Senor Alberto Oscoz will be taking on the role of House Coordinator
- Mr Will Chipperton becomes Head of Dover House.
- Mrs Ellie Bonner will be taking on the new role: Assistant Director of Sixth Form
- Miss Hannah Ashe joins us on a 1-year Maternity cover as part time Teacher of Music

- Mrs Laura Cole joins as Part Time HR & Compliance Assistant to job-share with Mrs Claire Montagnino
- Mrs Gill Glasspool joins as Senior School Learning Support Assistant
- Mrs Pennie Bailey Bain joins the Prep school as a Learning Support Assistant
- Mr Phillip Bunce will be overseeing KS3 Geography for 1 term
- Miss Natalie Maskell will be overseeing KS4 Geography for 1 year
- Ms Emma Walford returns to the Heads of Year team
- Mr Luca Shaw de Leon joins the PE department as a Saturday Sports Coach

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of Governors who are committed to upholding the ethos and values of Ewell Castle. After over 16 years as a Governor, we are very sad to be bidding farewell to Mrs Jennifer Moran (as both Governor and former Vice Chair) who has made a significant contribution, in the building of the Budgell Building and the Music Pavilion, as well as bringing girls into the Castle. Mr Sean Sullivan (a Governor and a Ewellian) has provided invaluable legal advice during his eight years on the Board and has brought his analytical questioning style to all things governance, policy and compliance, especially during his time as the inaugural Chair of the Education Committee.

As we say goodbye and send our gratitude to Mrs Moran and Mr Sullivan, we are delighted to welcome two new Governors: Mr Channa Jayaweera, a Ewellian, who previously worked for Goldman Sachs Asset Management and is currently Managing Director of Deutsche Bank Group; and Mrs Charlotte Carpenter,

who will be returning to Ewell Castle as a Governor from September. Mrs Carpenter previously worked as a SEND consultant for the Prep School and now works in the Third Sector. Both will bring a raft of new skills to the Governing Body and I look forward to introducing them to you in due course.

Estates Update

These are exciting and busy times for us as a learning community and I am pleased to share our continuing ambitions for facilitating our pupils' learning experience:

- We are currently waiting for planning permission to be granted for the refurbishment and expansion of our tennis courts, with work hopefully commencing soon
- Phase One of The Pledger (Science, Maths, DT and Art building) refurbishment will commence this summer vacation, creating another Science lab and paving the way for Phase Two during the following summer vacation in 2024
- The top floor of Fitzalan House has been acquired one year ahead of schedule to create discrete private study spaces, additional seminar rooms and offices for our 6th Form provision – refurbishment is already underway
- Preparations are advanced for welcoming Year 1 and Year 2 in September to our Glyn House Prep setting, with classrooms being re-decorated, refurbished and specially furnished

- At Chessington Lodge, classroom spaces, facilities and equipment will be re-organised during the summer vacation to facilitate 6th Form teaching and learning from September 2023
- In September, we will kick off the process with our architect and planning consultants to re-locate our EYFS provision to our Glyn House site for September 2024

However you may be spending your summer vacation, I wish you much fun and refreshment with family and friends. I look forward to seeing our Year 13 families on the 17th August for A-level and BTEC results, and then our Year 11 families for their GCSE results on the 24th August, from 8:00am on both dates.

Yours sincerely,



Silas Edmonds
Principal

YEAR 7 PARIS TRIP



Wow!! What an amazing trip. We set off very early in the morning, excited for the adventure ahead. The ferry crossing was smooth, and we soon arrived in France. From here we headed to the hotel which was large, and the rooms were very tastefully decorated. The food at the hotel was delicious and I enjoyed the selection of pastries.

I loved the visit to the Eiffel Tower, the view was breath-taking; the climb up was tough, but it was worth it. Disneyland was great fun, and I ended up going on lots of exhilarating rides.

Overall, I think the best part of this trip was that we were able to spend quality time with our friends and teachers, outside of the school environment.

Emily Hennings, Year 7

YEAR 8 ENTERPRISE



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO DORSET

Our Year 12 Geographers recently visited Dorset as part of their A-level syllabus. Topics included a trip to Durdle Door, Swanage and investigating erosion of the Jurassic coastline.



EWELL CASTLE PRIDE WEEK 5TH - 9TH JUNE



At Ewell Castle we are proud to celebrate Pride Month, condensed into Pride Week, to offer an authentic week for the pupils to get involved where they wish to. Why does Ewell Castle celebrate Pride? It is only in recent years that Pride has been celebrated here at Ewell Castle and Pride is becoming more popular with more countries across the globe celebrating. Pride is not a celebration in hindsight; it is a protest to gain equality and inclusion for all. Over the years, people within the LGBTQ+ community have struggled with many aspects of life, hiding who they truly are, losing friends and family for their choices, potential therapy conversion as well as being exposed to words that may offend them.



Ewell Castle is a school that believes in family, and we want to provide a safe environment where staff and pupils can celebrate who they are. The society in which we live in does not always offer the safe space to celebrate who we are; this can be from religious views, personal opinions or culture however luckily it is a minority group in society who have these negative feelings. The abbreviation of LGBTQ+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer, and it is important to understand this so that our staff and pupils can understand it when discussing the subject.

PRIDE WEEK ACTIVITIES



Years 7-9 were addressed by Mrs Bonner, who delivered an assembly on Pride, looking at the importance of Pride, the meaning of Pride to some LGBTQ+ members, how within LGBTQ+ society there is also a minority within them and discussed how different members of the society may receive more hatred than others. We finished the assembly by watching a video on Lady Phyll covering her journey to become openly gay.

'Thank you for the assembly, it was honest and showed us some real people and how they feel.' - Year 7 pupil

'The assembly really touched me, and I am grateful you shared your story, be proud of who you are as I am proud of you.' - Year 7 pupil

On Tuesday there was a *Bake Off* with two pupils from Year 10 winning with their great cake covered in multi

coloured chocolates, which then turned into a break-time treat with others who participated. We also had tutor time activities, covering what LGBTQ+ means and a quiz.

On Wednesday, pupils were able to wear rainbow accessories, with stickers, tattoos and face paint which was loved by all, pupils and staff alike.

'I love the stickers, it goes with my rainbow glasses, I think I will have more rainbow face paint too' - Year 8 pupil

Thursday would be what I called the main event, which was the *Pride Picnic*, hosted by Harry and his catering team, for the whole school to enjoy. Harry created a vibrant spread for all those who have a contract lunch; sitting outside in the sunshine with music playing in the background, it was a great vision to see! There were rainbow breads for the sandwiches, rainbow themed salads, an array of rainbow fruit kebabs, rainbow jelly, rainbow cookies, a large rainbow cake and a variety of doughnuts too. It was great to enjoy the picnic with staff and pupils; the vibe and atmosphere could not have been beaten.

'The food was a sea of bright colours and so tasty too' - Year 10 pupil

Another well attended activity was the

Diversity Tree where pupils and staff drew around their hands and wrote up to 5 things that made them unique. We then hung these on the tree on the Croquet Lawn, leaving the hands to blow in the wind on the branches - it was lovely to see the uniqueness of our pupils and staff.

'I felt confident writing 5 unique things about me and proud to write I was part of the LGBTQ+ community' - Year 9 pupil

Throughout the week we also offered pride mindfulness colouring and a showing of the film *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*.

A few Pride flags will still fly for the remainder of June as Pride is a whole month of celebration which we continue to support.

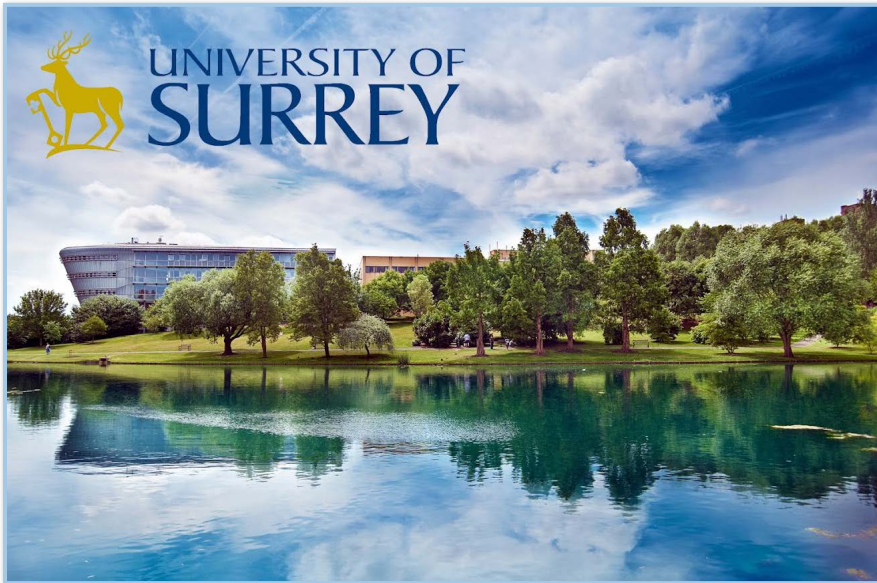
Mrs E Bonner



CORONATION LUNCH



SIXTH FORM TRIP TO SURREY UNIVERSITY



On Tuesday 22nd June, Ewell Castle Sixth Form embarked upon a trip to Surrey University, located in the city of Guildford. Showcasing a wide range of facilities and the strong community, the university presented its commitment to excellence, leaving us with a lasting impression and memorable experience.

Our tour began mid-morning where we were introduced to the team of student ambassadors who welcomed us with a Q&A session, highlighting the aspects of student life away from the classroom. The team of ambassadors were approachable and enthusiastic, reflecting the university's commitment to providing a supportive learning environment for all. During the Q&A, the team educated us about a variety of topics such as: education, Student Union, facilities, events and more. The ambassadors highlighted the university's academic strengths and rewarding student life, given that they had ranked 9th in student satisfaction and received a 1st place ranking in the UK for certain subjects such as criminology and civil engineering. In addition, the university's Student Union plays a pivotal role in enhancing student life outside of studying, including trips abroad to ski and learn about other cultures. Additionally, the ambassadors expressed the university's strong ties with certain industries within the UK and abroad, providing students with opportunities for graduate jobs and internships.

As students themselves, the team of ambassadors shared tips and experiences of their own life at Surrey. The team encouraged us to participate in societies to make new friends and improve our own social skills and abilities, while also encouraging us to maintain a positive work life balance.

After our student Q&A, we were given a guided tour of the university grounds. The tour included a visit to impressive facilities such as the *Innovation for Health Laboratory and the Advanced Technology Institute for Engineering and Physics*. These facilities illustrated how the University is dedicated to student success and its commitment to research and innovation. In addition, other interesting places on the campus included: the BBC News' headquarters, the new Business and Drama schools as well as a variety of restaurants and hubs for student relaxation. Additionally, the ambassadors informed us about a variety of clubs and societies, including societies related to culture, sport and identity - creating a positive sense of inclusivity and engagement that permeated the campus.

It was a very useful experience to visit and learn about the university in preparation for when we begin university next year.

Zishaan Masood, Year 12

UCAS DISCOVERY EXHIBITION



In April, our Year 12 students enjoyed finding out about different options and pathways at the UCAS Discovery Exhibition in Farnborough. With over 100 universities and apprenticeship providers in attendance, students were able to access the latest advice and information on higher education and career choices.

Miss R Monk

CHILD'S CHAIR PROJECT



This term, we were excited to hear about the new project in Design and Technology; building a child's chair for a real-life client. We had never completed a project before involving a client, as previously all our DT projects didn't require the consideration of our clients' 'needs' and 'wants'. However, with this project we were allocated a client and were challenged to create the most complex product we had ever constructed, which satisfied another person's requirements.

At the start of the project we met our clients, who were Year 1 pupils in the Prep School. We carried out our research, comprising of asking various questions that we prepared before meeting the clients. These questions ranged from functionality, design, and asking about their own interests. This questionnaire gave us a better understanding of who our clients were and what style of chair they would like us to create.

Next we sketched a multitude of ideas to create a clearer picture of our chairs and what we intended to create. Our drawings and ideas changed over time as we improved the functionality, design and ease of construction (in preparation for when we came to

build the chairs). We used different techniques when sketching the chairs such as drawing on isometric paper, including dimensions and viewpoints of the chair.

When it came to building the chairs, we constructed a base with four wooden legs and four wooden rails that were connected with screws. If our chair was to be a different shape (for example, larger or cut in half for storage) we would work around the original skeleton and change the dimensions or mirror it. Then everyone built up from this frame to create their own designs, using mostly MDF. To decorate the chairs, we used the laser cutter to accurately cut shapes and writing from materials like MDF and coloured acrylic. Additionally, we used paints (both spray paints and acrylic paints) to apply a coloured finish.

When the chairs were finished, we met with the clients for the last time to give them the chairs and ask for their feedback. We paired the client's feedback with our own, to create a detailed evaluation of how our chair performed functionally and aesthetically for our clients.

This has been one of the most challenging DT projects we have faced and was an important learning experience for projects. We really enjoyed the challenge and hope the Year 1 pupils found our designs useful.

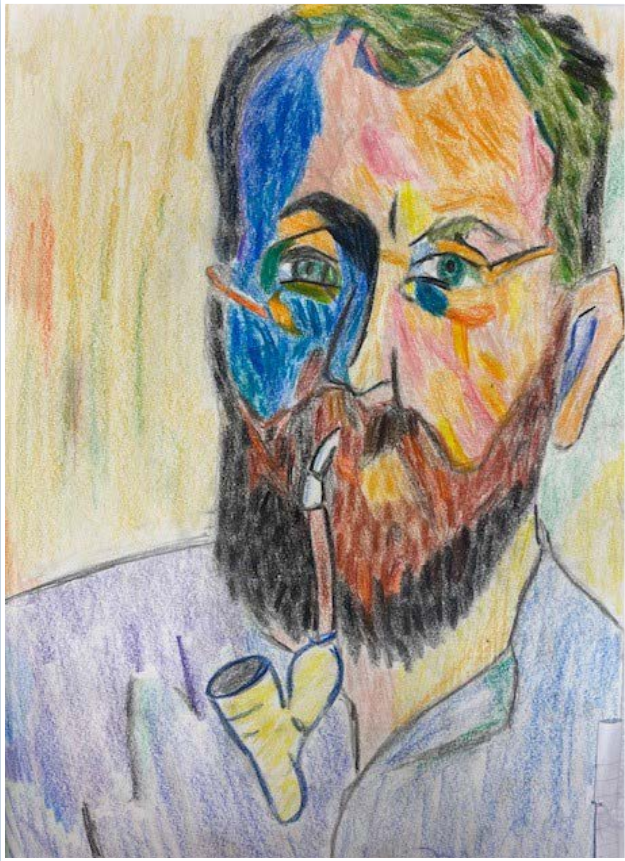
Iris De Monchy and John Montgomery, Year 10 Design and Technology scholars



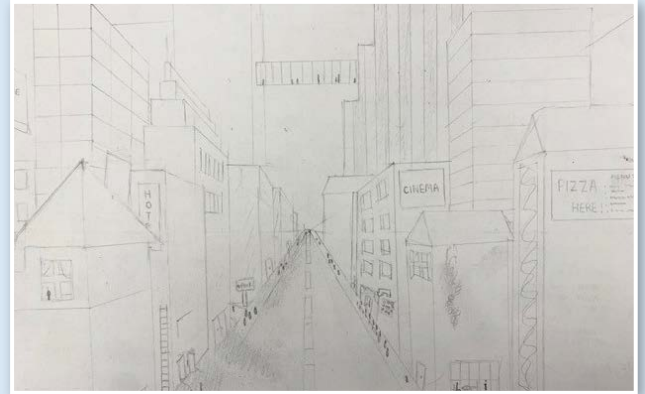
Feedback from Year 1 parents

- "Thank you for making this through School initiative, it is so wonderful. I love it! I know much work has gone into it from all of you".
- "My son's chair is amazing, please pass this on to the pupil's teacher. My son is a lucky boy to have such a beautiful chair. The detail is perfect and the fact that it also has storage is ideal. I hope the pupil receives a great grade."
- "Please pass on a massive thank you to the Year 10 pupil that made the Benjamin bunny chair that my son received. He absolutely loves it and was delighted to bring it home, so far, he has read his book on it, taken it out into the garden to sit on and had his dinner and breakfast sitting on it. I am sure he will look after it very well and use it a lot".

ARTISTS OF THE SUMMER TERM



Marco Savastano - Year 7



Amelie Skinner - Year 8



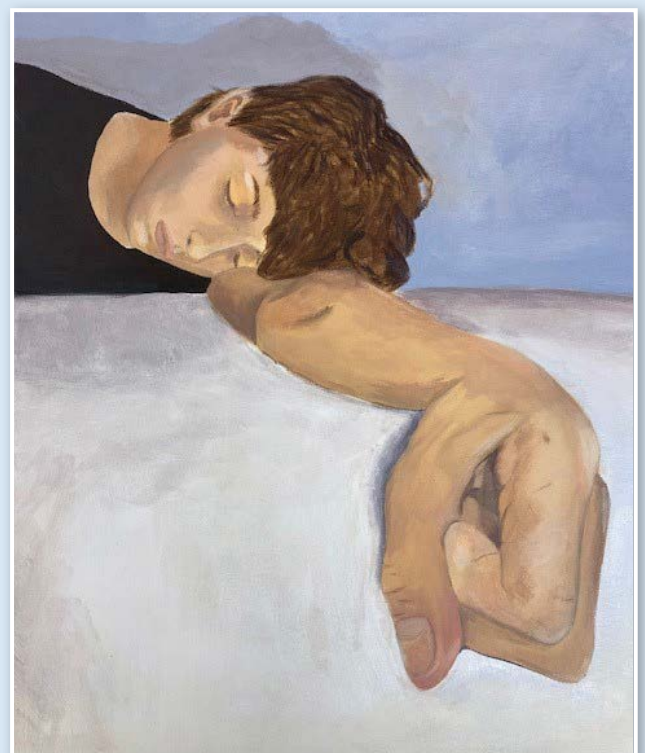
Jonny Montgomerie - Year 10



Emily Caruana - Year 9



Faye Sanders - Year 11



Eddie Davis - Sixth Form

YEAR 9 DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING WEEK, 26TH - 30TH JUNE 2023



The whole of Year 9 were taken off timetable for a comprehensive week of training. All the training - bar a specialised first aid course - was given by Ewell Castle Staff and over 30 staff were involved at some stage.

The ethos of the week was for the staff to teach the pupils first, then do the activity with them, before leaving them to complete it by themselves.

On Monday, the pupils mastered map reading, the use of a compass, cooking, road safety and camp craft.

On Tuesday, they completed an orienteering course at Nonsuch and a first aid course with Josh Miller, an old Ewellian.

On Wednesday, they went down to Banstead to practise practical navigation. As the day went on the staff took a back seat as the pupils navigated themselves.

On Thursday, they started their practice expedition on Epsom Downs. Very few mistakes were made and those were quickly corrected. They camped over at school before completing a map reading route back to Epsom Downs. Most of the groups got everything right but it was towards the end when a few mistakes were made by tired pupils losing concentration. However, making mistakes is all part of the learning process.

I was really impressed with the teamwork and determination showed by the Year 9s. We are all looking forward to the real expedition on the weekend of the 16/17th September. It is a bit tougher, but I am sure they will rise to the occasion. In the meantime, pupils need to think about their kit - what worked and what was not needed. They also need to make as much progress as they can with their other activities.

Mr C Blencowe



SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

At Ewell Castle, we take part in a variety of weekly Enrichment activities that are not only enjoyable but also develop skills which will be useful for the future. Over a couple of weeks, we learned the steps in applying for a graduate job. Ben McManus shared his experience of applying for a graduate job, including his achievements and struggles. After this, we continued with a whole year group Kahoot quiz where it replicated the questions we might be asked in a job interview. The top 8 winners participated in a one-way online interview, a group interview and finally answering questions from Ben. An example question was 'Explain how you have led a team through a stressful situation.' The selected students had to show knowledge, confidence and competence and were given an individual score on each question; the overall winner was Sam Freestone. This Enrichment session was especially important as it gave everyone a detailed understanding of the graduate application process, and how to apply oneself in the workplace.



With university just around the corner for Year 12s, we started completing our UCAS applications, with the help of Mrs McManus, our Head of Year, and Miss Monk, the Careers Advisor. We received plenty of help completing the many sections of the application and everyone had to be very cautious as one mistake could possibly lead to a rejection from university. The most important part of the application is your personal statement, therefore we have spent many Enrichment sessions going through which details to include and phrases to use, with the teachers correcting and helping us at every point, to ensure our personal statements stand out. Mrs McManus is currently checking everyone's personal statements prior to submission, to add additional information and corrections, giving everyone the best chance of securing a university offer. Everyone has been very supportive during this time, with subject teachers also offering to help and give advice, along with our form tutors helping to make sure we are on track.

Last week, we had a very interesting Enrichment session which involved designing our own university bedroom! We were split into groups



and had to create a mood board with pictures from magazines and design the layout of our room with a range of furniture. There was lots of room for individualism and personalisation. Every room and mood board was individual, based on everyone's needs and wants at their universities. With Mr D'Souza leading, one person from every group had to go up and present their ideas. We based our answers around Maslow's *Hierarchy of needs*; what do you need to be happy in your university room versus what do you want? The students had two minutes to pitch their room while trying to



incorporate all the criteria displayed and expected. Everyone was very supportive of one another as they went up to present their rooms and listened with interest. Every teacher put in a lot of effort into creating and presenting this fun activity for us, even joining in, showing how invested they are in our wellbeing. Each group was judged on different aspects, examples included meeting the brief, creativity and authority over the room. It was a unique experience and was enjoyed by everyone. The winners were Andrea, Catherine, Tommy and Ilya!

Sarah Blencowe, Year 12

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE



Over the 2022-2023 school year, the Student Council undertook 3 main projects spanning the fields of logistics, catering, and teaching. Meetings were held bi-weekly with representatives from each form congregating in the DT Workshop to discuss current projects and any feedback we'd received from members of the upper and lower school. At the start of the year, it was noted that there was a lack of sufficient seating for pupils across the School, particularly around the Budgell and Croquet Lawn. As the School numbers have increased from previous years, our Logistics Committee saw it fit to install benches across heavily populated areas. Safety checks and budgeting led to 6 new seats (from one of the UK's leading suppliers of sustainably source furniture) being installed, with thanks to our PTA. Feedback has been positive, and I have seen a great reduction in traffic and disputes over seating since the change.

Catering adjustments have by far been the most common type of request from pupils this year, so a lot of time and effort has been spent on trying to improve the dining experience. A school-wide survey asked pupils what kind of ready-made and dessert options

they would like to see added to the lunch menu. Notably, 66% of pupils believed that meal quality was their key concern, with portion size and availability being considered much less important, so meetings were held with the School catering staff to discuss practical dietary implementations. Discussion amongst the Catering Committee and Mr Leigh led to a largely successful trial run of food at break times outside the Sixth Form, modification of the queue system to increase throughput via a new sandwich bar and an overall improvement to the dietary accommodations for pupils.

Discussion of the School's reward and punishment system has also taken place, particularly on the uneven distribution of merits and sanctions available. Pupil feedback suggested that although rewards such as commendations and merits existed, they were outnumbered by different types of issues, detentions, and levels that a pupil could receive. The Teaching Committee focused on both trying to develop new positive reinforcement schemes and developing the notion of



behavioural merits rectifying issues. Although these ideas need critical development, I believe tackling this imbalance would provide a steady foundation for future pupil-led conversations about learning.

New water stations have been situated across the School premises, to encourage the use of reusable water bottles and ensure that pupils in PE or games lessons can get a fresh water more easily. Combined with the benches and new lunch queue system, crowding has reduced significantly across the Quad and Budgell areas. The Logistics Committee has also received a remarkable number of requests to redesign the basin for sports, particularly football. Different years using the basin on a rota basis would help prevent friction, along with the cross-use of year-specific equipment. This would result in massively expanding the area of play for pupils and reducing tension between year groups. These logistical decisions also have a profound effect on the social and communal aspects of school life, allowing our committees to resolve problems in multiple areas with one solution.

Ultimately, I am very proud of the work that the Student Council completed during this academic year. I have no doubt that our system will continue to evolve over time, perhaps decreasing the entry year for candidates so presidents can graduate to mentorship roles in Year 13, allowing extra time for their studies. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Mrs Sarmiento, my peers in the council and the rest of the staff. I hope that the groundwork that has been laid here will spur on explosive growth for generations to come.

Alex Cridland, Year 13

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TENNIS SCHOLAR



It was another full day of tennis training and school work today at Ewell Castle School.

My alarm goes off at 5:45am every morning. I get up, shower, eat breakfast and leave the house just in time for 6.30am. It's a 45-minute journey for me to Ewell Tennis Club and I arrive at the courts at 7.15am, in time for the 7.30am session before school starts. At the moment, it's summer time and therefore a lot easier to rise early, but in the winter with the dark, cold, icy mornings it can sometimes be a real struggle. I have to dress in all my layers and kit and arrive on the courts very early. Today, our morning session was concentrating on improving accuracy when serving and then executing an attacking shot to gain advantage in the point.

After the training, I make my way to School for my first lesson of the day and straight afterwards sign back out at Reception to go to the Tennis Club for my individual session with my coach, Tom Burn. During my individual session, it is an opportunity for Tom to have a closer look at my game and to identify any areas of development we can work on together. We also discuss my tennis schedule and prepare for my upcoming tournaments.

After my private session with Tom, I return to School and return to lessons.

At lunchtime, the tennis scholars from all the year groups come together and play mini tennis on the courts at School. This is great fun and can be very competitive at times.

Following afternoon lessons, I take the train home and then travel by car to my evening training session at St George's College, Weybridge, where I train until 7pm. This is great hitting practice, to put into play what I have been working and to prepare for upcoming tournaments or School fixtures.

I get home at 7.45pm and am exhausted. I eat dinner, which is usually a big bowl of pasta! I then complete any remaining homework, as I realise the importance of keeping up with my school work and achieving good grades. I also understand the importance of listening to my body and not overtraining. Sometimes, rest is more important than training.

Before I go to bed, I pack my bag for the next day and give my tennis rackets, which need restringing, to my Dad. I try to go to bed at 9.30pm and usually fall asleep in 5 minutes. I recharge, ready to do it all again tomorrow!

I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to be a tennis scholar. It's a lot of hard work, both in training and at school but it is also incredibly rewarding. I love being able to train with a great coach, and top national level players. Having such a good group of tennis scholars to train with is invaluable. We all help each other to improve and achieve our goals. Above all, we are really good friends and I know how lucky I am to be doing what I love the most.

Sometimes, I have the opportunity to play in an LTA tournament or a School fixture during the school day. It is great to have the support from the School and of course I have to maintain my school work. I am very grateful for the academic support if I need it.



I'm really looking forward to my upcoming tournaments. I've been working really hard on my strength and conditioning, and I am confident that I can perform well and move to the next level. Over the next few months, I am really looking forward to my School tennis fixtures, especially trying to qualify for the National finals. It will also be great when we have our new School tennis courts.

The most important thing for me is to keep improving in both my tennis and my school work. Above all, it's about enjoying this tennis journey that I am on.

George Lobb, Year 8



EWELL CASTLE TENNIS ACADEMY 2022 – 2023

18U BOYS #2 NATIONALLY

15U BOYS #2 NATIONALLY

Surrey Schools Festival:

12U Winners Boys - 13U Winners Boys - 18U Winners Girls

Surrey League:

15U Boys Surrey League Champions - 18U Boys Surrey League Champions

Winners of the Rootham Shield

ISTA 15U Boys Finalists (National) - ISTA 13U Boys Finalists (National)



This was to be an important year for the Tennis Academy. Having won Surrey LTA Tennis School of the Year, and reached the National Finals of the 15U Boys, narrowly losing to Millfield, we knew we had to train hard to reach the Finals of the 18U at Nottingham. With James Beaven going from strength to strength, achieving his first World ATP points, we knew we had one of the strongest school teams in the UK. Before getting to Nottingham, there were many other competitions to compete for across the age groups.

Much of our training and preparation is done over the winter and this year was particularly cold. I often went up to the courts before school to see the scholars training in these conditions and was struck by their grit and determination; unlike many of the other top tennis schools, we do not even have our own courts, let alone indoor facilities. We have introduced a good strength and conditioning programme run by Ms Slinn which has added a great deal to the programme and is needed at this level.



Surrey Schools' Festival

Every year we have the Surrey Schools' Festival where every school in Surrey puts forward a pair for each age group. This is a doubles competition where the pair need to work together to win. It was a fantastic year for Ewell Castle coming away as winners in the 12U Boys of Louie Cruz and Keiju Yuto, the 13U Boys consisting of Sammy Mhiza and Edouard Hay Brown, and the 18U Girls with Ella Alleyne paired with Lexie McDonald. This was a brilliant haul of titles for a day's work where we dominated many of the age groups.

LTA Schools' Tennis 13U Boys

With excellent preparation by our incredible coach, Tom Burn, who always demands that they put their heart and soul on the line, we were ready for the schools' competition season. The Years 7 & 8 team are an outstanding group of boys and we were able to put out an A and B team, both of whom powered their way through their qualifying boxes to reach the County Finals. ECS Bs will play St George's College and the winner of that match will then play ECS As for a place in the Regionals. If they make it through the Regionals, they will be off to Bolton as part of the top eight teams in the UK to play the Nationals. Good Luck to both teams.

LTA Schools' Tennis 15U Boys

Years 9 & 10 had a similar route. They battered their way passed Kingsdale School, Trinity, Whitgift and Wilson's to reach the County Finals against a very strong Reed's team. This Final will be played in September. Jesse Clarkson, Taiju Yuto, Edouard and Louis Hay Brown will have to be at their very best to come out on top.

Surrey League

Along the way, all the scholars were involved in the Surrey League which involved three pairs, only playing doubles. Having accidentally entered Years 7 & 8 into the 15U League instead of the 13U League, we had a tough time getting through to the Finals Day at St. George's. Fighting our way through ACS Cobham, Hampton Boys and Trinity in some close fought matches, the Years 7 & 8 team, along with Mitchell Dawson, joined our 18U team to play the other schools who had reached the semi-finals. First, it was the turn of the 18U team. The three pairs of Harry McDonagh partnered by Ade Anifowose, Raahil Hatimi and his partner Theo Turton and then Andy Newton partnered by Ruairi O'Rourke managed to emerge as Surrey League Champions beating KCS in the Final.

Not a moment was lost as the older boys accepted their medals and ran to support the Years 7 & 8s who had managed to beat Hampton Boys in the semis to then face a huge Wilson's side who had the World Number 1 playing for them. I still do not know how they did it, but Sammy Mhizha, George



Lobb, Freddie Pratt, Nick Kyzis, Louie Cruz and Mitchell Dawson somehow managed to beat a much bigger and more powerful team to come away as 15U Surrey League champions. This was an extraordinary achievement by an amazing set of players.

Rotham Shield

Before travelling to Nottingham for the 18U National Championships, we had the final of the Rotham Shield to play. We knew this would be a really tough match to play against a very strong Reed's team and we suspected that this would be the same final as the Nationals the following week. We also put in a strong team of James Beaven, Robin McAlpine, Sai Gandepalli and Jesse Clarkson. It was as difficult as we anticipated and a very close fought match. Yes, we came away with the victory to retain the Shield but our Number 1, James Beaven picked up an injury which didn't bode well for the Nationals.

18U LTA Nationals Glanville Cup

With a quick turnaround, the squad travelled up to Nottingham on the Monday to prepare for the big one. The Glanville Cup is the most prestigious competition in Schools Tennis with over 400 teams across the whole of the UK competing. With the addition of Harry McDonagh and Sami Sivinov, the team came through the quarters, and the semis to reach the finals without dropping a set. Pretty remarkable when you are playing the top teams in the UK.

And as we predicted, Reed's overcame a tough Millfield team to set up a re-run of the very close match on the previous Saturday. Fighting his singles valiantly, James Beaven struggled with his injury and eventually had to pull out. This was a huge blow to the team to lose their Number 1 player. The other members rose to the occasion and of

special mention was Jesse Clarkson who battled to win an incredibly close match. All the rubbers went to a tie-break but, this time, it was not to be. It was really disappointing to be so close to holding the title of National Champions as the players had trained so hard to reach this final. It was not to be. We are now #2 nationally in the 18U and the 15U, which is incredible for any school. But we have ambition and high expectations, and our goal is to be the National Champions. As we move forward to the Nationals with the 15U and the 13U where we have topped our groups in both age groups we know we have to work incredibly hard to secure that title.

Independent Schools Tennis Association ISTA

With Nottingham finished, we drove back to London on Friday night, ready to drive out to Eton for ISTA early on Saturday morning where over a hundred independent schools compete over four days at Eton College. This is where each school enters either one or two pairs in each age category. We managed to reach the finals of two age groups. First to reach the final was the 15U Boys consisting of Louis Hay Brown and Taiju Yuto. They were a smooth pair cruising their way through some tough opposition beating Mill Hill, Abingdon and Millfield 2 along the way. The final drew them against Millfield 1 and although they battled hard, they succumbed to very good opposition to come runners up.

Next was the turn of the 13U Boys. We had two pairs in this age group. The second pair of Louie Cruz and George Lobb battled hard against one of the pairs that eventually reached the semi-final against our first pair Keiju Yuto and Sammy Mhizha. Sweeping away Trinity



and KGS, Sammy and Keiju faced the UCS pair they both knew well from Nationals. The standard of tennis was incredible for that age group, but the UCS pair were a very well established pair, playing together at the highest level around the circuit. They secured the title, but our pair played extremely well and were worthy runners up for the independent nationals.

And finally...

As I write this, we are waiting to hear if we have planning permission for the courts to be built. I sincerely hope we will be successful. We have been incredibly fortunate in being able to use Ewell Tennis Club and we would like to thank the club for their fantastic support.

I want to mention a couple of individual successes of our players. Keiju Yuto played brilliantly to reach the final of the LTA Nationals and having lost through nerves, he then beat the finalist convincingly the week after. I also want to congratulate Jesse Clarkson on reaching his first ITF J30 singles final and winning his first every ITF J30 doubles final. Both Robin McAlpine and Sai Gandepalli reached their first ITF J60 semi-final – an incredible achievement for both, showing the strength and depth of the squad.

Finally, I want to say a huge 'thank you' to Mrs. Battista who has taken up a position as a Business and Economics teacher at another school. Alison Battista has been an essential part of the Tennis Academy team. As part of the LTA, she has been instrumental in helping the players with their tournament planning and providing the team with invaluable advice. She will be greatly missed by all of us, both as an integral part of the Tennis Academy team and as a great friend to us all.

Mrs E McManus

SUMMER SPORT REVIEW



The summer term has been a real Jekyll and Hyde season in terms of the weather and the impact it has had on the cricket season for all our pupils. The early season in April and May was a real disaster with the British weather claiming a huge number of victims and some teams not playing a competitive match until mid-May. We also had the King's Coronation, so for the first time in many years, the season didn't really get up and running until just before the half-term break.

One team that did manage to beat the weather was the School's 1st Team (boys), that completed all of its fixtures. A win against Whitgift's 2nd Team and an invite to go back and play their 1st Team for the first time ever was a pleasure to witness. Our 1st Team is arguably the strongest it has ever been; led by Sam Freestone and George Baldwin who are both county

age group U18 players, we have won all our matches. George has scored an impressive 265 runs at an average of 88.5 and Sam has been in the wickets averaging just six runs per wicket!

In the younger year groups, we have regularly had ten teams playing on a Saturday. Whilst playing at six different home venues and co-ordinating pupils, parents, opposition and staff has been a challenge; it is amazing that over 100 pupils are playing weekly Saturday cricket matches here at the Castle! Our Under 15 Boys' team has started to put together some strong performances and the future of the 1st Team here is in good hands, with several boys performing strongly with bat and ball.

Our girls continue to push the boundaries and develop their skills at a time when women's cricket is fast becoming one of the most popular

sports in the world. The U14 girls have a large squad and with only 20 girls in the year group, the appetite for cricket with these girls is fantastic to see. We could nearly get two teams out in this age group if we just had a couple more girls in the year! On the pitch Alex Banfield, Yazzy Fowler and Kaiya Patel are playing some good cricket.

The athletics season is always a short one in school sports as the number of events seems to reduce year on year. Schools struggle to find facilities and space in a packed summer diary. This is certainly something that would be good to see improved in all schools, as I fear athletics is falling behind other sports. Despite the lack of competitions, we attended the annual district sports and had some strong performances. Soloman Royal, Lewis Channing, Charlie Vella and Gino Savastano all qualified for the Central Surrey Team and Lewis went on to be selected for Surrey in the England Schools Competition. I believe this is the first time a Ewell Castle pupil has reached this level since 1997!

The summer term also sees the culmination of the sporting year at the school with our annual Sports Day and Sports Awards. While these are yet to occur, I know that they will be great events and look forward to celebrating the sporting year at the Castle with pupils, parents and coaches at these events.

Mr N Turk

GIRLS' CRICKET SUMMER TERM UPDATE



U13 CRICKET

This year I believe we have had a remarkable cricket season and have improved massively in our batting, bowling and confidence. At the start of the season people struggled with confidence and willingness however going into the summer term that has changed. Although we have achieved a lot this season, I think we could still work on a few areas such as catching high and fast balls. The highlights for this season for me were when Camille caught an incredibly high ball and Amalie's remarkable wicket at the park match. My low point was being out on the first bat however that experience has developed my resilience for further matches. I think everyone should be very proud of themselves this season.

Alex Holt, Year 8

During matches the team played to the best of their ability and used their knowledge well. Some great highlights include Alex Holt hitting the first 6 of the season. Many other girls in the team also hit 4s and got some amazing wickets.

Camille Hodder-Mary, Year 8



U14/15 CRICKET

The 14/15's have had a great season, playing some wonderful cricket! The team have come together to produce some great performances, particularly wins over Lingfield College and Harrodian. Notable batting performances have been Alex Banfield scoring 44 against Broomwood Hall and Zahra Sheikh-Saleem scoring 26 against Harrodian. Alex has also performed well with the ball, taking 7 wickets in just 4 games. Francesca Young took 2 important wickets to guarantee victory over Lingfield and Yasmin Fowler has also contributed with her quick and accurate bowling. So many players have contributed in the field and have made this a fun and successful season. Thanks to all the parents for the strong support from the sidelines!

Mrs J Jones

SPORTS DAY



**SPORTS DAY
2023 RESULT**

- 1. Carisbrooke**
- 2. Bodium**
- 3. Dover**
- 4. Arundel**

CRICKET TOUR TO DUBAI



We went on our first cricket tour to Dubai during the Easter holidays. Arriving early in the morning at Dubai International Airport, we stopped off at our hotel before going straight to the Emirates' Sevens Training facility. We all trained here during the day, allowing us to acclimatise to the heat of the UAE. We then went back to our hotel located in the 'The Festival City' to check into our rooms and collect our luggage, before heading out

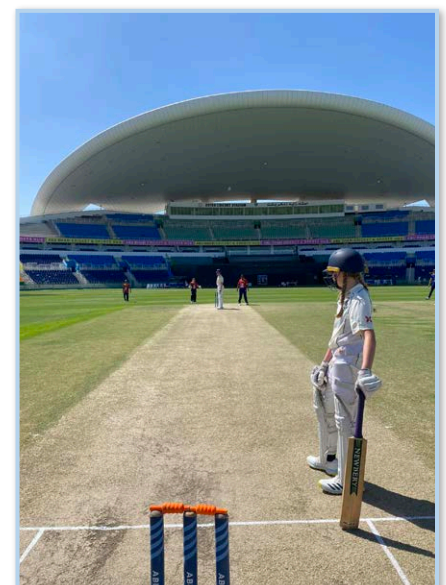
to explore the mall next door. One thing that surprised everyone was the sheer size of the shopping malls. We were located next to a relatively small one in comparison to others, but the range of food and clothes shops kept everyone occupied and gave many options for evening meals.

Every day at least one team played a game of cricket, which were played at a variety of places. All teams were very lucky to play at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium which is an international stadium where many professional and international teams have played. This was a great experience for everyone as it is such a prestigious cricket ground. One person who was ecstatic to be there, and also a bit disappointed not to be playing, was Mr White. We played at other grounds such as Ajman Oval and the Sevens Ground.

Although I didn't have the best of tours with the bat, I really enjoyed bowling. I was able to put into my game what I had worked on during the winter months. The 1st team had great success on the field, and we won many of our games. This was replicated across the teams, making

the tour even more enjoyable. We learnt how the different conditions affect the pitches and led us to adapt to the conditions. There were many stand-out performances and we had two members of the tour make their first century for the School - Charlie Matthews from Year 9 and George Baldwin (who got his first and second) from Year 12.

Off the pitch we also took part in many activities. We all enjoyed a day at Kite Beach, where we played beach rugby



CRICKET TOUR TO DUBAI



and football and also went swimming. We visited the Dubai Creek and Souks which is part of the original city and is one of the oldest parts of the UAE - now a market selling glasses, bags, thobes (ankle length garments) and ghutras (Emirati headdresses). Many students bartered for their items. Ghutras were very popular and many of us wore them on our heads for the remainder of the trip.

Our final activity was visiting the famous Atlantis Water Park located on the Palm Jumeirah. This was great fun and aside from the cricket, was my favourite part and I'm sure others would agree. There were so many slides, including the tallest in the world which was great fun and exhilarating to ride. Although there were amazing slides, my favourite activity was creating a very long chain of floats with everyone holding onto each other and floating down the lazy river in a massive line! We finished the day with a trip to the Burj Khalifa where we ate our final tour dinner, before heading to the airport. We returned home with great memories!

Sam Freestone, Year 12

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF APEX2100 SKI ACADEMY



My name is Charlie Miller, and I am in Year 7.

I started skiing on family holidays when I was 4 years old and became good enough to join the Mountain Masters Children's Ski Race Team in Val D'Isere when I was 9. Due to the pandemic lockdowns, I could not ski for a year and a half. However, following a successful trial in the October 2022 half-term, I was offered a place at Apex2100 Ski Academy in the under 12 performance programme for the 2023 winter season.

Apex2100 is an international ski academy based in Tignes in France and is one of the world's leading ski academies for young ski racers. It is a new purpose-built facility located next to the ski slopes. I am in the under 12 group which has a dormitory for 6 boys and a dormitory for 6 girls. In my group there were 2 Australians, 1 French, 1 Greek and a Spanish child; the rest were British. The season runs from the beginning of December to the end of April and there are various race training and fitness camps through the summer and autumn as well.

We ski five mornings a week and do schoolwork in the afternoons and all-day Tuesday. We have Saturday afternoon and Sunday off. A typical day would involve leaving the Academy at 8:30am and skiing until 12.30pm, we then have lunch followed by lessons in the afternoon. We do a mix of gate training and free skiing, and occasionally go to the freestyle park or ski bumps and powder when conditions permit. The focus is mainly on ski race training, and we take part in a number of regional French races and national British races throughout the season. Every day we do an hour of 'strength and conditioning' training which can include core strength, balance exercises (wobble board and tight rope), and gymnastics on the air mat. We may also do rollerblading, trampolining and ice hockey.



Dinner is at 7pm and lights out at 8.30pm. It is a long day, hard work and tiring but amazing to be outside exercising most days as well as doing lessons. It was not so easy sharing a room with 5 other boys when you are used to your own room. The novelty soon wears off! At weekends, in our spare time we use the huge sports hall in Tignes with a great swimming pool complex. We can swim, play badminton, table tennis or football.

As a competitive sport, ski racing is tough. You can lose a place by one/100th of a second and any mistakes will lose you time. It's easy to miss a gate and get disqualified or crash and not finish, and you can hurt

yourself and get injured. Soon after joining Apex2100 I crashed and had to have 7 stitches in my face.

One highlight this year was meeting Dave Riding, the top GB slalom skier (and first ever GB World Cup Alpine Race winner). He is an Ambassador for Apex2100 and skied with the Under 12s twice this season. And I even got to race him through a slalom course. He won – but not by much!!

I have had a great first season: for U12:

- British Inter schools Ski Championships: Slalom – Gold, Giant slalom - Gold and best overall U12 skier.
- British Ski Academy Championships: Giant Slalom – Gold, Slalom - Silver

- Anglo Scottish championships: Super G - Silver, Slalom - Bronze.

I finished the season on a massive high at the British Championships in Tignes, winning gold in the Giant slalom and becoming British Champion!

Next year I move up to be a first year in the U14 category racing against children a year older than me and more experienced. I would love to get in to the British U14 team but that is some way off and there is very strong competition. I have only been racing competitively for a year and a half so for now I'm happy to keep improving and see how much better and faster I can get.

Charlie Miller, Year 7

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

MORE ABLE AND TALENTED CLUB (MAT) SUMMER TERM UPDATE



The summer term saw the MAT Club (for Scholars and open to all pupils) focus on the Torrance Test. The Torrance Test measures creativity via verbal and figural which ties in with the World Economic Forum's Top 10 Skills of 2025. E Paul Torrance (Professor of Educational Psychology) was one of the first to recognise that creativity is part of intellect. This debunks IQ tests as the sole measure of intelligence.

The group were introduced to the stages of the test which start with fluency and considers the amount of ideas followed by flexibility in terms of thinking of ideas from different perspectives. Originality and then elaboration of these ideas are then employed to increase novel responses. The groups were

excited to let their imaginations run free resulting in some very interesting ideas.

The second half of the term looked at public speaking. Collectively, the group identified the key features in delivering speeches such as body language, being prepared and knowing your audience. Pupils were encouraged to give diplomatic feedback and to also consider when these oratory skills would be needed in life. I was immensely proud of the pupils who stood up in front of their peers and presented on a subject of their choice.

Academic mentoring group sessions focused on problem solving, by asking questions on how to modify starting points such as story writing

or product design. Questioning from the pupils themselves rather than simply responding to teachers is a Building Learning Power area that also ties in with Higher Order Thinking (HOT).

The Scholars' Talk this term was given by Adrian Berry. Mr Berry was a former pupil at Ewell Castle and left after his A-levels in 1980. Since then, he has successfully co-founded a consultancy firm called 'Factorydesign' which specialises in aircraft interiors, consumer products and transportation. The pupils were thrilled to hear about the impact he had on designing the interior of Concorde. This was especially of interest to a Year 13 student who will start working and designing for British Airways in the autumn, as well as future designers in the younger years.

Many more Scholars' Talks will take place in the next academic year but if you would like to present about your career or an inspirational life story, please get in touch d.carrick@ewellcastle.co.uk.

The Year 7 Academic Scholars' Lunch was hosted in Mr Edmond's office where pupils enjoyed pizza supplied by Accent Catering. This was a great opportunity to discuss current affairs in smaller groups and present back to one another.

Ms D Carrick

DRAMA PRODUCTION - THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI



EWELLIANS' SUMMER REUNION



This year's Ewellians' Summer Reunion was a hit again, with many former pupils attending. Our current Sixth Form students took guests on a tour of the Castle, and they could have a game of croquet or boules, along with enjoying a glass of Pimms and a slice of cake. We were pleased to welcome many current and former staff, who enjoyed mingling with the Ewellians, reminiscing over past stories.

It was wonderful to welcome back two former principals, Mr Peter Harris and Mr Andrew Tibble, to join current principal Mr Silas Edmonds and the governors for their End of Year Dinner later that evening.





EWELLIAN FOOTBALL EVENING



A great evening was had by everyone who attended the Ewellians' 5-a-side football at GOALS in Tolworth during a warm and sunny evening in May.

Five teams took part and were kept busy and slightly out of puff, during the one hour round-robin competition which was won by the team consisting of Joe, Anthony, Ethan, Lewis, Max and Sidney.

Thanks to all those who played, we look forward to seeing you at next year's event.



ANNUAL EWELLIAN GOLF EVENT



When 26 Ewellians arrived at Kingswood for the annual Ewellian Golf Event, they were all concerned about how wet they would get as it had been raining all morning.

It was still very wet at 1pm so the annual group photograph was taken indoors but by a stroke of luck, twenty minutes later it had stopped raining and a sunny and dry afternoon was enjoyed by everyone.



With the greens being pretty quick for April, the standard of golf was fairly mixed, but it was enjoyed by all and our 2023 Champion was Robert Mumford with a great score of 37 points. Runner up, also with 37 but beaten on countback, was Owen Penwarden. Other prizes were claimed by Charlie Fowle, Rob



Worthington, Neil Turk, Kevin Mitchell, Henry Bale and Jamie Baldwin.

The usual hard luck stories were told over the “golfers grill” with the

promise of everyone “to score better next year.”

**Colin Griffith,
Chair of Governors**

PRIZE GIVING



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.