



### INTRODUCTION

#### Dear Parents and Guardians,

“Peace on Earth and goodwill to all...” is a central theme of the Christmas Nativity story as we re-visit afresh what may seem to some the time-worn traditions of the festive period and to others nostalgic joyfulness. It can often be challenging to disentangle a sense of peace from our busy lives, especially when we see the ongoing conflict in Ukraine as well as the human tragedy unfolding in the Middle East, the cruel irony being that the events surrounding the birth of the Prince of Peace took place in the very area now torn apart by conflict.

Perhaps our own “first world problems” seem rather insignificant, playing out as they do in front of the backdrop of tumultuous international events, as well as local challenges for so many families relying on food banks this winter. May I offer my thanks to everyone who supported our non-uniform day with donations to the *British Red Cross* to help their relief work in the Middle East. If you missed the opportunity to donate, you can still do so here if you wish: <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territory-appeal> The Charitable Works Committee has also been selling tasty treats at The Castle over the festive period to support the work of the Epsom and Ewell Food Bank; you can find out more about their work and impact here: <https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk/> No matter how small these gestures might seem in the grand scheme of things, they all make a difference to someone.

Dr Maya Angelou first read her poem *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem* in 2005 during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the White House. I present here some excerpts



of this powerful and moving verse. I warmly recommend the poem in its entirety and encourage you to read it as complete: <https://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/maya-angelous-amazing-peace> For me, these final two lines epitomise our passionate ambition as educators and parents that our children and

young people will truly know and accept themselves and discover new ways of connecting authentically with one another to deepen their mutual respect and understanding. May we all find a deeper connection with one another this festive season “To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.”

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,  
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope  
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.  
The world is encouraged to come away from rancour,  
Come the way of friendship.  
Hope is born again in the faces of children  
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.  
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,  
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.  
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.  
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.  
We hear a sweetness.  
The word is Peace.  
It is loud now. It is louder.  
Louder than the explosion of bombs

On this platform of peace, we can create a language  
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

## Reflections on an Inspiring Autumn Term

So much has been crammed into these weeks as the leaves have changed from green to gold and a teepee classroom has risen up at the Prep School, as Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed their first term at Glyn House. Public speaking, success on the sports field and in the creative arts have enhanced all the hard work of Year 6 pupils attacking their 11+ assessments with endeavour. More about all of that in the upcoming *Tales from the Turret*.

At the Senior School, Ewell Castle came first in the local *Top of the Bench* chemistry competition (we were runners up last year) hosted by Reigate Grammar School this term. We beat stiff competition from ten other schools, including City of London Freeman's, Croydon High, Dunottar and Reigate Grammar, underlining the ever-growing success and popularity of STEM subjects at Ewell Castle School, always a popular choice at A-level. Special thanks to Mrs Hilding-Ohlson and Dr Macey for inspiring our team of Nicholas Tank, Alexander Stoker, Henry Leigh and Aran Coombes.

We have seen a range of inspiring educational visits, hard-fought sporting fixtures and trips abroad for Senior School pupils. Highlights have included the seasonal journey to the Battlefields, the Jack the Ripper walking tour in Whitechapel, the DT trip to Munich, a Classics tour of Rome and a cultural trip to Japan.

## Grease is the Word

I am extending a huge vote of thanks to all those involved in producing and executing a stunning performance of *Grease* at the Epsom Playhouse. The audience was bowled over by the energy, quality and sheer confidence of our young people. "Stunning" is the word I heard most often in the foyer at the interval and at the end, on both nights. Thank you to everyone who came to watch, staff past and present as well as alumni, Governors, parents, grandparents and friends.

We all know that 95% of the work happens in rehearsal (evenings, Saturdays and Sundays) behind the

scenes in the weeks and months leading up to performance: back-stage, the lights and the tech, the musicians and singers nailing the final details. Mr Watkinson and Mr Skinner were there long after we all left, clearing down the set and technical paraphernalia, having mentored and coached the pupils in the stage and tech teams throughout. So many other colleagues helped in so many different ways.

In his inaugural Ewell Castle Musical, a huge shout out to Mr Hargreaves (our Head of Senior School Music nearing the end of his first term here), his Castle baptism now complete, who did a superb job with the music and overall producing duties. And to Mrs R Brown, who directed with aplomb, driven by a growth mindset and continuous feedback to the performers, challenging the whole cast to find a little more each performance and to stretch beyond what they thought their potential was, thriving in their efforts.

Many of us have seen our performers developing from Prep School productions such as *Robin Hood* and other staff-penned shows, and even EYFS nativities. The articulacy, confidence, resilience, adaptability, teamwork and leadership of our young people was there for us all to enjoy and savour. Most of all, the sense of fun and enjoyment made us all so proud – the standard has been raised yet again!

## Christmas Celebrations

Our President's Dinner for Ewellians (our alumni) had a Christmas flavour this year with a mixture of Governors, parents and alumni (one returning for the first-time in 43 years!) enjoying traditional festive fayre and an entertaining quiz that featured some Castle-related trivia and ephemera. Fittingly enough, the alumni team came through as worthy winners.

A huge vote of thanks to our PTA Chair, Mrs Emma Mitchell, and her team of volunteers who have organised the ever-popular Winter Village event at the Senior School, as well as a festively cheerful Christmas Fair where our Year 7 pupils set up and ran fun stalls for our Prep School children to enjoy. Senior School pupils have all received chocolate boxes while Prep children enjoyed parties and a visit

from the man with the bag and the big red coat – if you know, you know.

It has been lovely to visit the EYFS Nativity performance, along with a full house audience, as well as the Prep School Carol Service, *Carols by Candlelight* at St Mary's Church and the Senior School Carol Service to send us off home at the end of term. Spare a thought for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils who will be revising hard for their mock GCSEs, A-levels and BTEC assessments in between the presents and feasting.

## Parent Collaboration

My gratitude to all those parents who have taken time to send feedback to the School this term, whether through the *High Performance Learning* survey, attendance at Principal's Breakfast or Head of Prep Breakfast events or through the Senior School Parent Ambassadors. Topics have ranged from: catering feedback on food and portion size; how we are educating our children about ultra-processed food (UPF) versus a "farm to fork" approach; debates about the use of mobile phone usage at the Castle; our planned approach in response to the rise of Artificial Intelligence and how we are preparing our young people for the future.

In the new year, a colleague from Accent, our caterers, will be running some nutrition sessions at the Prep to enhance our work on healthy eating there. Our Parent Ambassadors also have a standing invitation to join us for lunch and enjoy for themselves the catering provision as well as to offer their feedback to Accent: more will follow. Our Prep School Year 6 (as last year) will visit *Farms for City Children* in the summer term (2024) for an immersive residential experience to discover not only where their food comes from, but how they can produce and cook it for themselves to eat: <https://farmsforcitychildren.org/> If you wish to know more about the growing UPF debate, you will find a useful introduction here from Dr Chris Van Tulleken: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzUDhstqXbg>

It is also our intention to convene a small parental and teacher working group for contributing to the thinking around screen usage as well as the

pros and cons of AI in our educational setting and beyond. Please do contact your Year Group Ambassador or Mrs Carol Hernandez should you wish to share your perspective: [c.hernandez@ewellcastle.co.uk](mailto:c.hernandez@ewellcastle.co.uk)

Parent Ambassadors also felt it would be worth signposting to you that we have *Programmes of Study* for all subjects in Key Stages 3, 4 and 6th Form on the website, along with recommended textbooks and study aids. These provide a brief summary of the key topics studied by pupils and students each term. These can be found here for KS3 and KS4 <https://www.ewellcastle.co.uk/senior-school/the-curriculum-and-subjects/> and here for KS5 (Sixth Form) <https://www.ewellcastle.co.uk/sixth-form/the-curriculum/>

### Staff News: Saying Goodbye

As we draw to the end of the Autumn term, I wanted to share some news with you about some wonderful colleagues who are leaving the Castle, and also introduce you to those who are joining us here in their stead.

- The Geography Department and Senior Leadership Team bid farewell to Mrs Owen who, having joined in September 2015, has had a significant impact as Head of Teaching & Learning and a member of the Castle Leadership Team (as Assistant Principal). We wish her all the best as she moves to the Royal Geographical Society to focus on educational research.
- We also say adieu to Mrs Sarmiento, who also joined the Castle family in September 2015. As Head of DT and Student Council Coordinator, she has made a big impact both inside and outside the classroom and will be missed by pupils, colleagues and also on the D of E expedition trail. We wish her all the best at her new school.
- We say farewell to Mr Bunce, who joined us as an NQT back in September 2020. He has been a keen colleague, taking on the role Head of House, teaching Games, being a popular tutor and part of the 'Castle Camps' holiday crew. We wish him and his family all the very best as they relocate to Australia on a very big adventure.

- Mr Hunt, although only with us since September 2022, has certainly made an impact on the games field including coaching the winning *Jonny Wilkinson Cup* team along with Neil Turk at Rendcombe College Oct 2022. He has raised the bar in terms of the fixture list we wish him well in his new school.
- Ms Cockar joined in April 2023 as acting SENDCo at the Prep school. She has worked with dedication and empathy to support pupils and the SEND team, with a range of different activities. We wish her all the very best in her next role.
- We say goodbye and a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Ikwemesi, who graciously came out of retirement to lead Key Stage 4 and 5 Philosophy and Religious Studies (PRS) following the previous Head of Department's departure. We thank her and wish her all the best as she eases back into her well-earned retirement.
- At the end of this academic year, we will also be bidding a reluctant farewell to Mrs Rudd, as she retires. She joined Business and Economics department back in mid-2018 and it has grown and flourished marvellously under her leadership. A host of enrichment and co-curricular activities have won great success such as The Enterprise Village and Dragon's Den. Mrs Rudd will be with us for the rest of this academic year to help us secure a worthy successor for September 2024.

### Staff News: Welcoming new Arrivals

And now, we are poised and ready to welcome some new colleagues to the Castle in January:

- Mr Angus joins the Geography Department in January, having taught in the British Army. He is very keen to meet the pupils and throw himself into Castle life (and games!), as a runner and a cyclist.
- Miss Mundy joins us as Head of PRS from Nonsuch School for girls. She has a wealth of experience in pastoral leadership and is excited to develop her academic leadership skills here at the Castle.

- Mr Lovell joins the PE department as Head of Rugby and is excited to get stuck in with all the PE co-curricular activities too! Outside of teaching, Mr Lovell is a seasoned rugby professional notably serving as the current Captain for *London Broncos* Rugby Club, just promoted to the Premiership.
- Mrs North joins the Administration team as PA to the Head of the Senior School. She is an experienced school administrator who also runs a Dance Academy that she founded in her mother's memory.
- We welcome Mrs Milton to the Marketing department, as Marketing Officer. When not spending time with friends and family, she can be found mixing paint in her home studio.
- We are grateful to Mrs McManus who will bring a wealth of experience as Assistant Director of 6th form, to cover Miss Bonner's maternity leave.

As Ewell Castle gets closer to its centenary, it is wonderful to recognise and thank all our colleagues who have made their mark on the School to enhance our legacy and history. I am hugely encouraged to see other gifted professionals taking up the baton to secure Ewell Castle's bright future of investing in our young people.

### Final Words

Looking at all the hyperlinks above, I realise I have inadvertently set you all some festive homework – force of habit, perhaps? This will be a boon to those of you who keep all my Principal's letters in a chronologically organised commemorative leather binder, secure against posterity's judgment (you know who you are) but for the rest of you, please do dip in and out of this Christmas treat as and when the mood takes you.

With very best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.



Silas Edmonds  
**Principal**

## YEAR 7 TRIP TO CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES

I really enjoyed the Year 7 Chessington World of Adventures trip. It was a great time for making new friends and getting to know each other a little bit better. I also liked it because we were allowed to go around the park with people from different forms, as well as people from our own form.

It wasn't very busy, so we had the opportunity to go on all the rides. My favourite was the new Jumanji ride. Dragons' fury was also fun and a little scary, I also really enjoyed Tiger rock as it was a really hot day and we managed to ride it twice to cool us down.

I really enjoyed seeing the animals too, especially the Capybaras, which are a very rare animal and we got to see the tortoises which were huge.



*Aaliya Kaidi, 7C.*

## YEAR 7 FORM PHOTOS





## SIXTH FORM'S DAY OF TEAM BUILDING AT BLACKLAND FARM

The Sixth Form undertook a purposeful visit to Blackland Farm, a prominent team-building center renowned for its comprehensive activities. The occasion provided an opportunity for Year 12 and Year 13 students to engage in a series of structured challenges aimed at enhancing teamwork, communication skills, and fostering camaraderie.

The diverse range of activities included the crate stack, high ropes, Jacob's ladder, and an impromptu football match during the lunch break. Each exercise required meticulous collaboration and effective communication, promoting a cohesive and unified approach among the participating students.

The day's significance extended beyond the physical challenges, as it facilitated meaningful bonding among the Sixth Form cohort. The shared experiences, coupled with moments of encouragement and camaraderie, contributed to the establishment of enduring connections and strengthened interpersonal relationships.

In particular, the event served as an effective icebreaker for new students, providing a conducive environment for seamless integration into the established Sixth Form community. The activities not only honed teamworking and communication skills but also instilled a sense of confidence and belonging among the participants.

This Teambuilding Day at Blackland Farm exemplifies the Sixth Form's commitment to cultivating a supportive and dynamic academic community. As students reflect on this valuable experience, it is evident that the day has contributed significantly to the establishment of a resilient and collaborative ethos within the Sixth Form.

**Jay Llambias – Year 13**

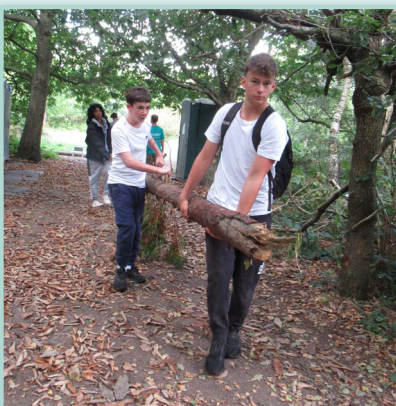
## YEAR 9 BUSHCRAFT TRIP



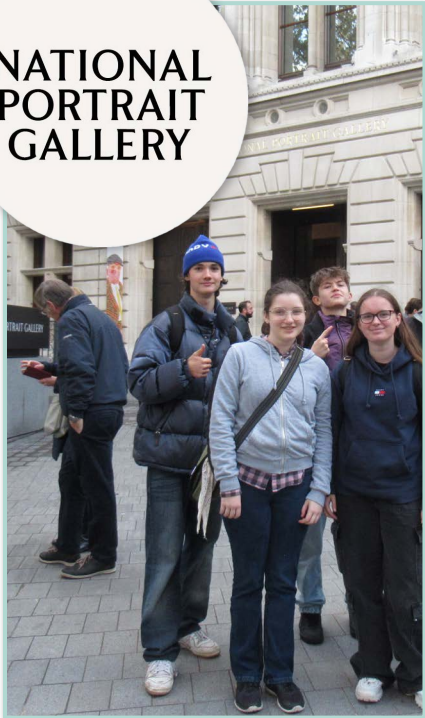
As we returned to School life in September, Year 9 headed out into the forest of Penshurst Place in Kent on the annual Bushcraft trip. This was a great start to the year and a wonderful way to welcome our new Year 9 pupils into the Ewell Castle family. Pupils learnt how to light and maintain fires; build their

own shelter; make traps; cook their own food; and the principles behind camouflage. A great team building experience and opportunity for students to demonstrate the School values, particularly when it came to resilience and social responsibility!

**Ms A Materna**



## NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



## SIXTH FORM ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY VISIT TO THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY AND NATIONAL GALLERY

THE NATIONAL GALLERY



On Thursday 9th November the Sixth form Art and Photography students travelled up to London to visit the newly refurbished National Portrait Gallery. The Photographers visited the annual Taylor Wessing Photography Prize Exhibition and enjoyed a variety of thought-provoking contemporary portraits.

Meanwhile the artists looked around David Hockney's 'Drawing from Life'

exhibition filled with a wonderful array of hand and digital drawings from Hockney's extensive and inspirational career.

There was time to look around the permanent exhibition before lunch and then we went to the National Gallery where students were able to link their current investigations to various artworks and make notes and sketches.

Thanks to Miss Carrick for accompanying the trip and to the students for making this a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Taylor Wessing Portrait Photography Prize- running until 25th February 2024  
David Hockney Drawing from Life exhibition running until 21st January 2024

*Mrs E Shepherd*

## STREET ART TOUR

<https://www.shoreditchstreetarttours.co.uk/>



Year 10 Art pupils ventured onto the streets of Shoreditch on Tuesday 10th October for a fascinating guided tour of the local Street Art. Our very knowledgeable tour guide Dave, owner of the highly recommended Shoreditch Street Art Tours, told us tales of turf wars, legendary artists and recent work. He also taught us about the history of Street Art and

the difference between Street Art and Graffiti. Dave's extensive knowledge of the art form, coupled with his personal relationships with many of the street artists themselves meant we gained an extensive insight into their world.

Included in the tour were the work of Subdude, City Kitty, Cartooneros

and Pablo Fiasco. We saw chewing gum art by Ben Wilson, mosaic art by Space Invader, sculpture by Stik, Pure Evil's gallery and, of course, stencil works by Banksy.

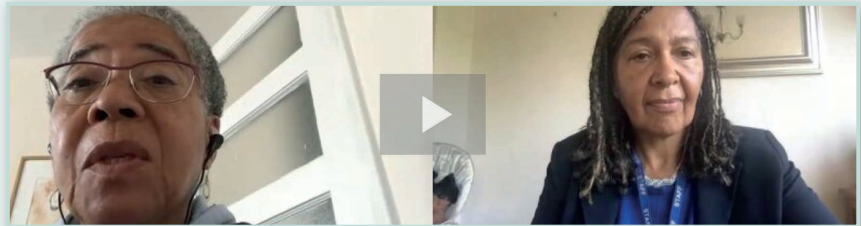
Many thanks to Miss Carrick and Miss Sarmiento for accompanying the trip and to the pupils for their enthusiasm.

*Mrs E Shepherd*

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT EWELL CASTLE

The theme of Black History Month this year was 'Celebrating Our Sisters' and alongside the fact 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of HMT Windrush arriving in Tilbury Docks carrying passengers from the Caribbean to the UK, Black History Month provided a key opportunity to raise the awareness and profile of the contribution of black people to society in the UK and around the world.

Alongside discussions in lessons and assemblies, all pupils had the opportunity to watch a very informative and insightful interview between Mrs Ikwemesi (PRS teacher here at Ewell Castle School) and Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu DBE, who not only achieve her childhood ambition of becoming



a nurse but became the country's first Sickle Cell and Thalassemia nurse specialist. Dame Elizabeth dedicated much of her life into her work as a nurse, health visitor and tutor working with black and minority ethnic communities in London. Dame Elizabeth has been recognised for her contribution to the country. She holds the Order of Merit and is appointed the Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. She is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing.

We also enjoyed assemblies delivered by Mr Woolford (Assistant Head, Director of Sixth Form), lessons from the Humanities subjects, as well as a new Poetry scheme of work for KS2 and KS3 pupils. Friday Tunes in the Budgell from DJ AXB (Ms Brown, PRS) also featured. A Black History Month playlist was compiled from suggestions from staff and pupils. We have included some below for your enjoyment.

- Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings- How long do I have to wait for you?  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/2ffGZTdiRN0iNx44LOYyTs?si=1a134cc81f954500>
- BJ The Chicago Kid- Turnin' me up  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/5MjAFPcmrR1DYCgZrXCN4d?si=032ac414b8de4e12>
- Ebony Jenae- Little brown girl  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/7maQgIVeRmzrHmUwgsMFmw?si=7e9fba65fa5d4f59>
- WSTRN- Wonderwoman <https://open.spotify.com/track/4BpZOKdcV7OLcz3CS3zmzU?si=3862d5c0975f4646>
- Iman Europe & Kaelin Ellis- And so it's so  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/2JGnCx1v2KhZCWcVpR9lct?si=0ce6982e48754af6>
- Jill Scott- Golden <https://open.spotify.com/track/28EL5veTZtx38TqxlZwFyQ?si=abf8bbe35cc24de4>

*Miss S Earthrowl*



## SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT





## YEAR 13 TRIP TO THE MINI-BMW, COWLEY PLANT



To boost our knowledge of the automation process, a School trip was made to the Mini Plant in Cowley, Oxford on the 20th November. Our objective was to find out the production methods, quality, efficiency and productivity of this famous car brand. We were first introduced to a video on Mini's approach to be "greener" which was immediately made clear through the 12,000 solar panels they had and a recent £600m investment they received to build an all-electrical production line.

Plant Oxford is the birthplace for three specific models: Mini's Hatch, the 5 door Hatch and the Mini Clubman. What has made the experience fascinating is that Mini's Factory is all based on robotic technology.

95% of a Mini is made exclusively by robots. We started by seeing the fundamental parts of the complete process with a full explanation. For example, could you ever imagine how many "electric arms" there are just in the first section of the factory, where they build the various parts? They have a total of 1,200 robots just in one section of the factory and each one of them is completely self-sufficient and coordinated with the others. The timing of the operation is precise to the last second so that the robots have enough time to complete the operation to work on a different model which arrives approximately 67 seconds after the operation completes on the previous component. Just think that in an area the size of 14 football



itches (approximately 120,000 square meters), we saw maybe 20 employees. It really seemed like science fiction when 1,000 Minis are made every day! Just -In-Time and Kaizan lean production techniques in action.

We then moved to the assembly plant which was a massive moving conveyor belt, on which employees stood and they moved with the car itself so that no time was lost at all between operations. We were taught about how job rotation was implemented for staff in order to increase employee satisfaction and to reduce repetitiveness. Cars were hung at a precise level from above or by its side so that employees could stand or sit in the most comfortable position to maximize their efficiency and productivity. This was a trip that no textbook could possibly describe to you!

My thanks to Mrs Rudd, Head of Business, for arranging this trip, and to Mr Watkinson for driving us there in the School Minibus.

**Jay Patel, Year 13**



## YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHERS AT KEW GARDENS



We did some fieldwork to measure the soil moisture, soil temperature, vegetation coverage and amount of direct sunlight between the deciduous woodland outside and the tropical rainforest simulation inside. We then looked at this data in class to analyse it and compare the characteristics of the two biomes.”

**Leon Page, 8 Arundel**



“We visited the greenhouses which have the climate set to either a hot, dry desert or a hot, humid tropical rainforest. We learned how cocoa beans grow in the tropical rainforest and how they can be grown sustainably. We found out that the banana is a herb plant and grows very quickly! The tropical rainforest plants grow faster than the deciduous woodland because it is hot and wet all year around in the rainforest – there aren’t the same seasons, and they don’t have a ‘winter’. In the desert biome we felt the heat immediately (it helped that it was very cold outside!) and the smell was strong, like honeycomb. I noticed that all the plants had spikes, to reduce moisture loss and to protect them from predators that want to eat them.”

**Moitsheki Lekalake, 8 Arundel**

In November, Year 8 enjoyed a Geography trip to Kew Gardens to explore the vegetation of the deciduous woodland, desert and tropical rainforest biomes. Please enjoy two extracts below from pupils who attended the trip.

“We have been learning about different climates and biomes, such as rainforests and deserts. We headed straight for the luscious deciduous forest and talked about how the trees adapt to the seasons by losing their plants in the winter and how the ecosystem of the woodland has a cycle of nutrients with leaves falling, decomposing and then the nutrients being used by the tree to help it to grow. We then walked over many ponds and lakes and through the wonderful scenery surrounding us. We walked through the rainforest greenhouse and the ‘forest floor’. This room was wonderful, it contained a small lake with many fish. You could walk underneath and there were windows at the bottom of the water feature so you could see the bigger fish that live in the deeper water.



## BLOOD BROTHERS THEATRE TRIP

On 27th September Years 10 & 11 GCSE Drama pupils were given the opportunity to watch a live performance of Blood Brothers at Guildford Theatre.

The experience really helped give us a greater understanding of the play, for me personally it allowed the story to come to life and gave me an appreciation of the characters and of course the acting. It was a fantastic experience and one I will never forget, watching the play really helped us get a feel for the characters and will help us through studying the play.

The twin brothers (Micky and Eddie) characters were so powerful and really made us think about what different life’s they had especially relating to social class, money and how they came back together after one twin Edward was given away only to end in devastation and heartbreak. The two mothers (Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Lions) had such a wonderful connection and such strong powerful voice and acted so well through song and really touched their emotions.

The set was amazing and really impacted the view on the play. The lighting in the play changed depending on the mood which gave us an indicator to what was going to happen next.

The lighting would also change when the narrator would come in which would show us, he was going to tell us about a big change in the play.

I really enjoyed the play, and it has allowed me to get a better understanding of this amazing story. Going to the theatre to watch a live play that we are learning about really helps. I look forward to the next one!

**Written by Mya Nag, Year 10**

## CHEMISTRY REVIEW

### Top of the Bench

We took a group of four pupils ranging from year 9 to year 11 to take part in The Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the bench competition. Top of the Bench is designed to inspire excitement about chemistry in students. We went to Reigate Grammar School on the 16th of November. The schools competing in this event were:

Cheam High School

City of London Freemen's School

Croydon High School

Dunottar School

Esher Church of England High School

Ewell Castle School

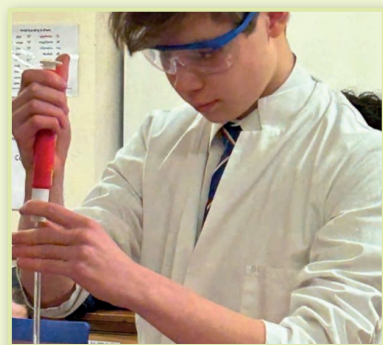
Greenshaw High School

Millais School

Reigate Grammar School

St Teresa's School, Effingham

Tanbridge House School



After an exciting afternoon meeting new people and working hard to get the best possible results, our team was rewarded with coming in first place in this event.

We are very proud of our pupils Aran Coombes, Henry Leigh, Alexander Stoker and Nicholas Tank!!

## YEAR 9 SOMME TRIP NOVEMBER 2023



In 2022 we organised our first post Covid Somme trip. It went really well, especially as I made the decision to run the trip over three days to make the most of the experience.

We visited the Neuve Chapel Indian memorial after dark, on the first day this proved to be a moving almost surreal experience as pupils searched for the names by the light of their phones.

We settled into a very comfortable hotel in Perronne and enjoyed supper.

The second day was the first day of our visit to the Somme. We went to Beaumont Hamel, Thiepval, Ovilliers the Lochnager Crater and the Tommy Café in Pozieres. We visited the graves of two ancestors of pupils on the trip which was a great experience for them.

The next day we went to the German cemetery at Neuville Sur Vaast, and then Vimy Ridge where we looked at the memorial, and went in trenches both the ones preserved on the surface and the tunnels underground.

The weather held off with only a few showers but there was a severe weather warning from the French Government so we decided to get out while we were ahead. The ferry crossing was calmer this time and we arrived back at Ewell about 19:00.

This was a great trip, thanks to the Year 9s for their good behaviour and enthusiasm and to my colleagues for their professionalism and support.

*Mr J C W Blencowe*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER ASSESSED EXPEDITION 30TH SEPTEMBER – 2ND OCTOBER



The Silver candidates travelled to the New Forest on the morning of the 30th September for their three day assessed expedition.

Silver expeditions are pretty hands off these days. With the benefit of the Bronze training behind them, the pupils navigate themselves through checkpoints with little or no input from the staff. It is up to them to organise themselves and get it right and

invariably they do. They camped for two nights carrying all their own kit.

Following a series of training sessions with Mr Skinner the routes and kit were well planned. The navigation was spot on with very few mistakes and those that did occur were quickly corrected. The New Forest is not always easy for navigation especially the bleak northern sector but they coped well.

The New Forest was an operational airbase for Lancaster Bombers during WW2 and also a testing ground for new bombs. The pupils were able to spot features in the landscape that date from that period.

As ever the pupils are encouraged to press on with their other activities and get them all signed off so they pass the full award.

*Mr J C W Blencowe*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE ASSESSED EXPEDITION 16/17 SEPTEMBER



Following the success of the Year 11's the Year 10's were keen to prove themselves in the equally testing environment of the Surrey Hills. They did a full training week back in June and it was time to see if the skills learnt in navigation had sunk in.

As with Silver, the staff organise the expedition, run checkpoints and ensure safety rules are applied. However, the pupils are very much left to navigate themselves and they thrived on the challenge.

The expedition started on Saturday 16th September. They first climbed Leith Hill, then Ranmore and finally Boxhill, to camp overnight at Boiderhurst. Following the lessons

of the practise week the standards of camp organisation were generally high. On the second day they walked through a couple of checkpoints to finish on Epsom Downs. They all did really well – only one group arrived after dark. Our Bronze expedition is designed to be tough. I spoke to another school who said they did twenty six kilometres over the weekend on the flat. Ewell Castle do fifty kilometres and we take in hills especially on the first day. However, the robust standards bring out the best in our pupils as they really have to show grit and teamwork to get through. They all did and several surprised themselves and their teachers.

*Mr J C W Blencowe*

## STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE



The role of President of the Student Council first caught my eye in an assembly at the start of Year 12. It was a great opportunity to show my leadership skills through leading the Student Council to try and make improvements for our school life. I was encouraged to go for the role by my form tutor and so I applied. Both myself and the other candidates all met together with Mrs Sarmiento, who then described the characteristics for the ideal President of the Student Council. We were then tasked with creating a short presentation, outlining ourselves and our ideas for the Student Council. These were then presented to each year group in the Senior School.

The election process was a new experience for me, and I had to compete against five other students: Fizza Khan, Niki Hartman, Kate Macallister, Zak Hobbs, and Matthew Walmsley. It was tough competition, as there were many good ideas displayed. It was made tougher by the variety in strengths in each candidate. But this was good for the students, who were then able to pick and put their trust in whoever's approach they liked the most. After giving a short presentation to each year group 7 to 11, an election was held to decide who would become the President of the Student Council. It was a close fought election, and I managed to come out on top.

Through the election process I learnt lessons that have made me adapt my plans for leading the Student Council. I

think that communication, organisation and creativity is vital for an effective Student Council. Communication is key, in order for each representative to be able to convey the ideas or issues raised by their peers. It is also important for each member of the Student Council to be able to work together to develop ideas and make an impact on school life. Organisation is important for the Student Council to be able to effectively implement change. Without it, ideas would be lost and all projects would take much longer to implement. I also think creativity allows for the generation of many good ideas. This then allows us to refine and pick out the best ideas to then develop into projects.

For my own ideas, I used my experience from Year 7 to 11 and think what I would have liked. Then I asked my peers and friends what they would have liked. My peers offered a different view to school life and changes they would make, based on their interests and what they enjoy. Then I asked my friends outside of School about their school life and good ideas that they have seen be implemented. As everyone is different, it is the job of the Student Council to appeal to all. My ideas are based around small changes to make everyday life at school better, such as more places to sit during break times, and new goals in the basin, and opening the library back up for breaktimes. These are little changes that will allow people to have a better

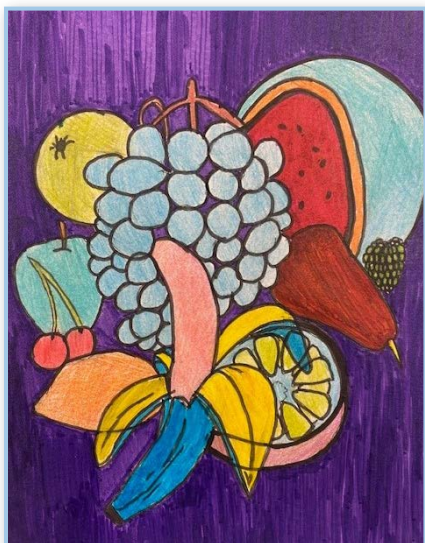
daily experience. However, I would also like to have larger projects which can be worked on by multiple members of the Student Council. Projects, such as floodlights on the field, which would allow field to be used more in the winter as daylight shortens.

In our first meeting, the new representatives from each form brought many ideas and suggestions for us to take into consideration. We started by discussing changes and issues people had with the co-curricular activities and clubs. This is important to address, as they offer a great opportunity for students to explore their interests. One problem identified was a lack of awareness to when and where each club was in School. This prompted a discussion of creating ways to advertise each club and activity. This resulted in the idea of a notice board in a prominent place in the Senior School. This is a simple but effective idea, which is good as it can then be implemented quickly and easily. The form representatives also brought suggestions from their forms about new clubs they would like. This is to accommodate for student's interests. We then also discussed general issues, that need to be amended. We then moved on to collecting responses for the Inclusivity committee, who wanted to ask students about how represented they feel in their subjects' curriculums. This is great for giving students a voice in what they learn and why.

I look forward to continuing to work with each Student Council member and other committees to make changes and improve the school. As I think having a student voice is fundamental to improving the daily lives of students in school. They provide a different perspective that is not seen by the senior leadership team and teachers. School is an experience and an opportunity for each student, this means it is essential for them to enjoy school.

**Nick Anderson,**  
**President of Student Council,**  
**Year 12**

## ARTISTS OF THE TERM



**Multicoloured Fruit**  
by Nour Al-Maajoun, Year 7



**Jennifer Anniston Collage** by Pippa Kaae, Year 8



**Tiki Cardboard Mask**  
by Freya Birch, Year 9



**Blue Building**  
by Anjelica Copland, Year 10



**Lily and Skull**  
by Michael Salmon, Year 11



**Self-portrait (right) and Portrait of her Mum (left)** by Kate Macallister, Sixth Form

## JAPAN OCTOBER HALF TERM 2023



From the 20th - 30th October, a group of 25 pupils went on a trip to Japan. Whilst we faced an arduous journey there, it was entirely worth it for the incredibly unforgettable experience. Throughout the trip we did a range of things, notably visiting some famous landmarks, including Meiji Jinju, Sensoji temple, Shibuya crossing and many more beautiful places. These visits provided us with great opportunities to learn about the culture and history of the amazing country. We explored sights in Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, and Osaka, each of which having something different and new to offer us.

Japan was truly a memorable experience, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit such a beautiful and interesting country.

**Sadie McLaughlin,**  
Year 11



## DT TRIP TO MUNICH



When I went to Munich, I really enjoyed the sightseeing of the city and the history behind the buildings and architecture. I really enjoyed walking around the town centre and observing all the modern and historic buildings which make up Munich. One of my favourite places we visited was the BMW Museum and being able to see the process of development of cars and see how they have changed. It was amazing to see classic cars and motorbikes in perfect condition. Within this museum we got an insight into how they make the cars perfectly fit together, as well as the selling and advertising model. The Glockenspiel was an amazing view, and it was really fun to be able to watch the clock struck turn 12 and the bells and statues dance and tell a story. The story was stunning and represented a beautiful moment of history about perseverance. One of my favourite experiences of the trip

was the Olympic tower which stands at 291 meters. I really enjoyed being able to see so much of the city so high up. As well as on the glass pointed to capital cities across the world which was really interesting to know. You could see the alps from the top and it was stunning. It was also really fun that we could see our hotel from the top. I also enjoyed the Technology Museum it was really amazing to be able to see the development of technology through time, and gain knowledge through all of the facts. I think my favourite part of the Technology Museum was the space section. It was so interesting to see the development of equipment of space as well as the knowledge known about space. The Allianz Arena was really fun and exciting. I learnt so much about what goes into a single football game. It was also really fun to be able to see where the Bayern Munich team would be walking on game day. We

got to scream and see how far our voices could travel.

***Megan Croome - Year 12***

The Munich trip was a great opportunity for me to learn about German culture and history, whilst developing my knowledge of architecture, design and technology.





After arriving in Germany, we ventured out in Kreuzviertel, the centre of Munich, to have lunch and get a feel for the streets of Munich. There many traditional buildings, including the Munich Rathaus (or townhall) in Marienplatz with a beautiful Glockenspiel clock which chimed the hour with moving figures and music. This was followed with a tradition dinner in a very atmospheric restaurant.

The second day started with a tour of the Allianz Arena, the second largest football stadium in Germany, seating up to 75,000 for both national and international matches, where we learnt more about what is involved in running the stadium: replacing the pitch with hybrid grass, a combination of 95% natural grass and 5% AstroTurf (costing 400,000 Euros), the organisation of the various seating options, and their respective cost. The construction cost of the arena in 2002 was 340 million euros and it is the first stadium in the world with a colour changing exterior, which can be used to celebrate national holidays and different teams which compete at the stadium.

After the stadium tour, we visited the Deutsches Museum for Science and Design. The museum was packed with fascinating exhibits, ranging

from aviation and astronautics to cameras and robotics, as well as technology in healthcare. At the museum we had an opportunity to 'build our own bridge', using blocks to better understand bridge engineering.

On the following morning we toured the beautiful Munich Residence, which served as the seat of government and royal residence of the Bavarian dukes, electors and kings from 1508 to 1918. The Munich Residence has extraordinary architecture and a fascinating history. During the Second World War parts of the residence was bombed and was rebuilt so as to integrate the old parts with a modern reconstruction.

On the last day we walked through the Olympic Park, constructed for the 1972 Summer Olympics. Despite being built over 50 years ago, I found the stadium quite modern and futuristic for its time and it is still used today as a venue for cultural, social and religious events. After this, we concluded the trip with a visit to the amazing BMW Museum and show room where we learnt more about the history of vehicle design and development. The design of the museum itself was impressive, as well as the model of the BMW i8.

Overall, it was a great opportunity to see a beautiful and traditional German city and learn about design, science and the unique architecture, giving me new perspectives for my GCSE coursework.

**Jonny Montgomerie - Year 11**

One part of Munich that I enjoyed was the food. There seemed to be a lot of salt on everything, which I didn't mind. The pretzels, for example, were warm, soft, and coated in salt. They would sell them everywhere you could see, and some would be massive.

The first night we stayed there we ate at a traditional German dining hall, where for starter we were served potato soup, which was warm and tasted very good. For the main course we had sausages on Sauerkraut. I really liked the sausages (which Germany is known for) but none of us liked the Sauerkraut all that much. For pudding we then had vanilla mousse, with berries on, which I really enjoyed, and ended up eating both mine and my friends.

The next morning, we were slightly confused by the hotel breakfast. We were all used to staying at a hotel, and being offered a traditional English breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausages, etc in the morning. The hotel offered a much more German alternative to this, including bread rolls with cold meat and cheese, as well as croissants, pan au chocolat, and eggs. Whilst this was a shock to begin with, we came around and enjoyed this type of breakfast for the next few days.

The dinners at the hotel were usually cheese based, which was perfect for me, and were good, especially as they were all you can eat.

Overall, the traditional German food we ate was very good, as well as the occasional German McDonald's whenever we were allowed, and the food contributed to what was a very interesting and fun School trip.

**George Saunders - Year 12**



On the Friday afternoon, we visited the Deutsches Museum; a breathtaking museum which contains twenty different exhibitions which combine science and design. The science exhibitions include chemistry, classical optics, atomic physics, and Foucault's pendulum. The additional exhibitions included musical instruments, photography and film, mathematics, health, a model railway, hydraulic engineering, robotics, motors and so much more. All exhibitions contained eccentric and detailed models and designs which taught you about the history and how the area of study works, to make sure you have an enjoyable but also informative walkthrough. The reason this museum stood out to me in particular was the 'Atomic Physics' section, and how they combine design with radioactivity and particle theories. When entering the room, we were met with models and boards explaining the history of the discovery of the atom, from John Dalton to Erwin Schrodinger. When we walked further into the room, we were entertained with interactive games and designs to teach you more about particle physics, such as a Neutrino-Detector model, a real insight into modern engineering and what designers are developing to make us understand more about the things we cannot see. As we walked on, we come across the music exhibition, which conveys a large array of musical instruments, and how they evolved from what they initially were until today. It was enjoyable to see how different designers throughout history created musical instruments and different sounds from the resources they were provided, and how this evolved to create more complex tunes and variations of music. Onwards, my group and I came across the engineering behind bridges, and how modern-day civil engineers prioritise in both safety and aesthetics to their bridges. The room also contained a large bridge model, which was attached to a scale to show the mass and tension the bridge must



withstand. The exhibition we visited last was the chemistry and health section. When entering, you are met with a detailed and interestingly designed maze, which guides you through different ways chemists have improved the design aspects in architecture. For example, it walked you through smart glass (glass which when supplied with a current, molecules align on a chemical layer, which causes the glass to turn transparent) and how it can be used. For example, hospitals may use smart glass in an emergency as doctors can turn the glass transparent when having to view a patient's state, without having to enter the room. Finally, we saw a large model of the periodic table, which contained the real elements inside of it (excluding radioactive and highly corrosive elements, such as uranium or plutonium). This was extremely interesting to see as viewing the real elements in the periodic table show you their properties at room temperature and what they may look like. It is remarkable how different designers created this museum, and it is evident that they wanted you to have the best experience when learning about the sciences, history and design aspects of the modern world.

***Iris De Monchy - Year 11***

My favourite thing about Munich trip was the day out to the Allianz Arena. The stadium itself was massive and impressive. It was very interesting being able to see the changing rooms and other parts of the stadium you usually can't see when just watching the matches. We were able to walk around the whole stadium and look at the different viewpoints, art of the players and other interesting things. The museum and gift shop were very big and fun to be in. The number of trophies in the museum and other memorabilia from throughout FC Bayern München's history was fascinating to look at. One of the things I liked most about Munich was how connected everything throughout the city was to the club. Everywhere you went you would see Bayern München paintings, shops, flags, merchandise and more. The gift shop was massive, and all the staff were very helpful. Many people bought things from varying prices and really enjoyed the experience. Next to the shop was the restaurant with lovely food and good atmosphere. Overall, it was the highlight of the trip for me and anyone who is interested in football would enjoy the experience too.

***Rory McQueen - Year 10***

## SIXTH FORM – ENGLISH AND CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME



We started our journey with an early start, arriving at Gatwick around 5:00am to catch our 6:50am flight. The early departure facilitated our arrival at the hotel during the early afternoon, granting us ample time to explore the Colosseum and take in the panoramic views of Rome from the Palatine Hill. Although our first day involved considerable travel, navigating the usual chaos of a large group of teenagers, we successfully managed to squeeze in our initial tour. Despite its brevity, the tour proved worthwhile, offering us a glimpse into the rich history of Rome.

On the second day we went to the Vatican, where we immersed ourselves in its storied past and marvelled at its grandeur. A prearranged tour proved invaluable, guiding us through the Vatican Museum, showcasing everything from statues of Roman emperors to tapestries depicting scenes from the Bible. Remarkably, we navigated

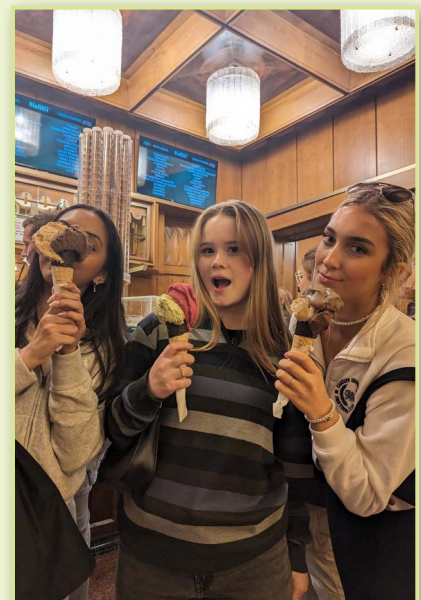
the entire expanse of the Vatican without losing anyone, marking our visit as a resounding success. The sheer magnitude and splendour of the Vatican City make it deserving of its status as an independent state within Italy. Later in the day, our explorations continued with visits to the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain, architectural marvels that contribute to the beauty of modern-day Rome. While Rome may not be as awe-inspiring as it was in ancient times, structures like the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, and the Parthenon contribute to the cultural richness of the city.

On our third day, we seized the opportunity to explore independently. Some of us, ventured to landmarks such as the Baths, the Circus Maximus, and the Pantheon. The Baths, now in ruins, left us pondering the construction and function of such a place in our modern world. The grand scale prompted reflection on the daily usage and lifestyle of ancient Romans. From a historical standpoint, studying these ruins provided insight into the fascinating culture of ancient Rome. The Pantheon, with its religious significance, offered a perspective similar to our Vatican visit the previous day. Its design, representing the Roman Pantheon

with deities like Jupiter and Neptune, was fascinating, as the sun would illuminate each god at different times of the day. Sadly, this day marked the conclusion of our trip, as the following day we would be departing for Gatwick to return home.

On the fourth and final day, we bade farewell to the hotel, made our way to the airport, and eventually arrived back at Gatwick in the late afternoon, concluding our journey and signalling our return to school the next day. It was a fantastic Sixth Form trip and a wonderful compliment to our A-level studies.

*Ethan Downing - Year 13*



## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

On Thursday 5th October pupils and staff celebrated National Poetry Day. The focus was on the theme 'Refugee'. We read Chinua Achebe's 'Refugee Mother and Child', and considered what safety meant, psychologically and physically. Pupils wrote their own poems on this theme and the English department have thoroughly enjoyed reading these.

### Refugee Mother and Child

No Madonna and Child could touch that picture of a mother's tenderness for a son she soon would have to forget.

The air was heavy with odours of diarrhoea of unwashed children with washed-out ribs and dried-up bottoms struggling in laboured steps behind blown empty bellies.

Most mothers there had long ceased to care but not this one; she held a ghost smile between her teeth and

in her eyes the ghost of a mother's pride as she combed the rust-coloured hair left on his skull and then – singing in her eyes – began carefully to part it...

In another life this would have been a little daily act of no consequence before his breakfast and school; now she did it like putting flowers on a tiny grave.

### Chinua Achebe

#### 'In the Foreign Field' by Ben Bates - Year 7

In a foreign field lies,  
A host of pale white tents  
With clothes strung on thin frayed string,  
And the sound of hunger echoing  
through the cold, make-shift streets.  
The people, hardly different from us,  
Thrown out, for simply living.  
Leaving their home behind them.  
The children, half-dead. Stumbling



With dreams of peace and luxury lying  
In their cold, sunken eyes.  
Eyes that have seen too much.  
Eyes that have given up.  
Suffering, lingering through the air.  
Why. Why should this go?  
Why? Why for such a hellish reason,  
Let people waste away,  
In the foreign field?

## NEWS FROM THE CHARITABLE WORKS COMMITTEE (CWC)

It has been a very busy term for the Charitable Works Committee. The membership has expanded considerably in recent years and is thriving under the leadership of Harrison McLean, ably abetted by Callum Danks as Finance Officer, Jay Llambias as Events Security, Nicholas Harris as Logistics Officer, and Tahmeed Ali as Marketing Officer. As a result, the whole committee has a very organised and professional approach to events. I am delighted by this.

In the Autumn term there were four events for the House charities. There were cake and bake sales run by 7 Arundel and 7 Bodiam for their respective charities, as well as the CWC running a Krispy Kreme sale for each House, raising £707 across these events. This will be replicated in the Spring term for Carisbrooke and Dover. As a reminder the House charities are:

- Arundel – [Guide Dogs for the blind](#)
- Bodiam – [Cardiac Risk in The Young](#)
- Carisbrooke – [Donkey Sanctuary](#)
- Dover – [Cat's Protection](#)



With the Principal, Mr Edmonds, we organised a non-uniform day for the [British Red Cross](#) to raise funds for all those afflicted in the Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory crisis. This raised £739.00.

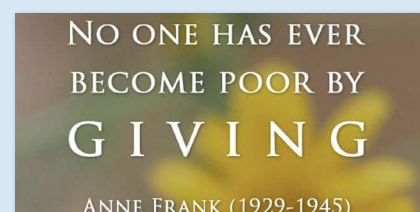
Whilst this conflict is very much at the forefront of the news, we have not forgotten our commitment to helping the Ukraine and we sent some medical supplies on a bus this week to Ukraine. The charity that we have been working with, is called Stand for Ukraine, the Ray of Hope Appeal and their latest initiative is to collect used candles (any size) to make candles for the trenches. As we enter the Christmas period where many of us will be burning candles, please may I ask that you do not throw away the last remnants once the candle has burned but save them and bring them into School for a collection in January.

Members of the CWC also staffed Front of House at the school's production of [Grease](#) and raised funds for the [Epsom and Ewell Food Bank](#). We managed to raise £258.00 in this event.

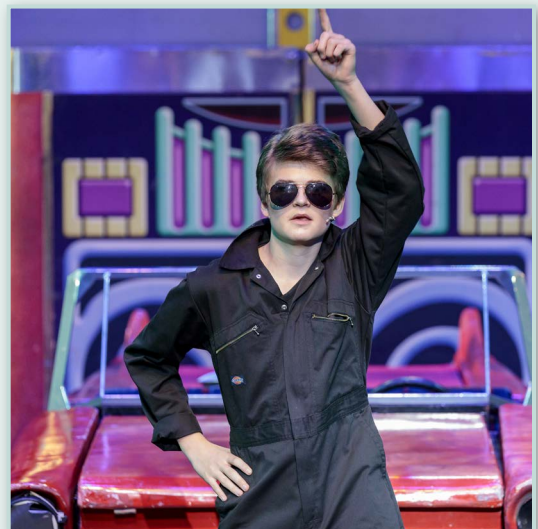
In the Spring term we have the Sixth Form charity curry night to look forward to on the 26th of January and we also have Valentine's Valets, the day the School returns after February half term – this is traditionally the time when the Upper Sixth hand over the running of the committee to the Lower Sixth and I look forward to announcing, at the end of the Spring term, who the new leader of the CWC will be.

Thank you for all the support you have given to the causes we have supported.

**Ms C Hoddell**



**GREASE: EPSOM PLAYHOUSE, 30TH NOVEMBER & 1ST DECEMBER**





## CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS

The end of term offers time and space to reflect on the School's Autumn Co-Curricular offering, indeed Student Council met on Friday 24th November to quality assure and offer feedback on this term's Co-Curricular timetable (not sure we can stretch to a Video Games club). This term the pupils have had the opportunity to partake in 29 Sports Clubs, 19 Curriculum Support sessions, 13 Creative Art & STEM activities and 10 Community Outreach club. 87% of students engaged with co-curricular activities this term and 57% percent of students participated in more than one club per week. Work starts now in building Spring's Co-Curricular timetable, sharing pupil feedback with colleagues and meeting Student Council to discuss their feedback.

**Mr S Getty**

## SCHOOL HOUSES UPDATE

The House competitions this year kicked off with European Languages Day in September. There was a language Quiz held by the MFL department for Key Stages three to five and it was won by Carisbrooke House.

Following this event, we saw the Girls' House Football in October. Bodiam came first, followed by Dover. Ariane Freemantle in Year 8 was the top goal scorer, followed by Eliza Janisch, also in Year 8 and Alix de Mas Latrie and Rose Lamb in Year 7.

Next, we had the National Poetry Day, run by the English Department. The theme this year was "Refuge" and we saw some very interesting entries by pupils (and staff!). In Year 7, the winner was Ben Bates from Arundel. In Year 8 we had Samantha Rosler from Arundel too. Year 9 had Lola Sullivan from Dover as a winner. Finally, the Sixth Form poet of the year was for George Saunders from Dover.

As a result of all the entry and prizes that the National Poetry Day brought, we saw Dover as the winning House in this event, followed by Bodiam.

In December we have seen the Art Christmas Card House competition, run by the Art Department, where pupils had to draw or paint a postcard with a Christmas related theme. Some incredible pieces of art were created by our pupils and the winner House was Arundel, followed by Bodiam, Carisbrooke and Dover. Kate Macallister in Year 12, Natalie Babuadze in Year 7 and Hannah Murphy in Year 10 produced some of the most amazing cards and got many points for Arundel!

Following the festive mood, we also had the Christmas House Quiz in form time. The winner of this quiz was Dover, followed by Bodiam, Carisbrooke and Arundel.

As the term draws to a close, Bodiam House is in 4th place with 544 points, Carisbrooke House in 3rd with 551 points, Dover House in 2nd with 559 points and in the lead is Arundel House with 544 points.

Let's see what happens to the scores in the Spring term and let's look forward to all the activities that are coming in the new year.

**Mr A Oscoz**

## CHRISTMAS ART




**EWELL CASTLE  
SCHOOL**
**Monday 11th December 2023**
*Please join us for*
**Mince Pies &  
Mulled Wine**
**6:45pm -7:20pm  
Budgell Hall, at the school**
*followed by*
**Carols by  
Candlelight**
**7:30pm-9:00pm  
St Mary's Church, Ewell**
**There is no cost for this event  
however tickets will be required**
**Enquiries: 020 8393 1413  
Tickets available at:  
[ticketsource.co.uk/ewellicastle](https://ticketsource.co.uk/ewellicastle)**


## CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE – YEAR 10

On the 22nd of November Year 10 took part in the Year 10 Royal Society of Chemistry, South East Region local sections 2023-2024 Chemistry Challenge. This is a competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry for teams from schools and school science clubs in the four RSC local sections in the South East of England. The School achieving first place overall will be invited to represent Downland Local Section in the Chemistry Challenge South East Region Final, which will be held at the University of Greenwich. Runner-up teams will be invited to attend the Downland Local Section Final, which will be held at Kingston University. Both Finals will be held in the Summer Term 2024. Results will be published in February.

Ewell Castle has entered three teams in the competition. We are very proud of our year 10 pupils who took part in this activity.

***Ms M Hilding Ohlsson***



## RUGBY TOURNAMENT - RENDCOMBE



This year's rugby term has been like no other for Ewell Castle. The enthusiasm and commitment shown from pupils, parents and staff has created a platform to showcase the talent we have and challenge schools that may have been a step too far in the past.

Our U12s to U15s Boys have continued to achieve fielding A & B teams all season. Building new bridges and creating a more competitive fixture list with the likes

of Tiffin, Glyn, London Oratory and Cranmore, to name a few. There have been over 110 fixtures in boys' rugby this season and over 120 boys playing in competitive weekend fixtures. A great effort from all involved.

The senior side have reached new heights and one of firsts in a number of ways. Ewell Castle have been able to select a 1XV and 2XV for the very first time in the school's history. 40 pupils turned up for training on the first day of school back in September

and many of these have made their 1XV debuts this term. Ewell Castle entered the U18 Continental Shield before reaching the Bowl Semi Final against a very good Brentwood School side in Essex. The senior squad were not able to retain the Jonny Wilkinson Cup this year on tour to Rendcomb, however on their return started to create some dominant performances as the season drew to an end. With rugby becoming ever popular and the sevens programme run by Mr Hunt proving a hit last season, the senior side now have enough interest to expand the game further into next term.

The rugby success story continues with the girls, as we played two matches this year. We welcomed new friends Royal Latin to the hallowed turf of Ewell Castle, as our Year 7s and 8s got a taste of competitive fixtures and this is something we look to continue to grow next year.

The bar has been raised and a platform has been set for students playing rugby at Ewell Castle next year.

**Mr T Hunt**



## U12 GIRLS' FOOTBALL



What a brilliant season we have had, with two games to play at the time of writing. Our highest attendance figures on record to training and matches, thanks to a keen and talented group of Year 7 girls.

### MATCH STATISTICS:

Total fixtures including internal matches: **9**  
 Played: **5**  
 Won: **3**  
 Lost: **2**  
 Total goals scored: **34**  
 Total goals conceded: **17**  
 Top scorer: Alix de Mas Latrie **13** goals and **2** MVP's.  
**Captain: R. Lamb**

This season began with a 7-4 away win against St George's Ascot with goals from A.de Mas Latrie(3), Lamb, L. Broux(2). B Cliff showed excellence in goal. The singing on the bus back is a highlight! This was followed by an 8-0 win against Felton Fleet with goals from B. Bush-Pickard, A. de Mas Latrie(3), A. Hitchcock, R. Lamb, A. Smith and E. Edmonds. A trip to Dunnottar the following week was a learning experience and the girls knew what they had to do to step up to challenge the more drilled opponents. A loss to the U13 team in early November was possibly the most exciting game of the season.



The scores were neck and neck. The 5-7 loss was hard to swallow but a class chip over the goalie's head from outside the box goal A Smith on the final whistle showed the fight this team have. Another 8-0 victory over LVS Ascot with hat tricks from E. Dewar and A.de Mas Latrie an 2 from A. Hitchcock who came out of goal to score a last minute free kick which fired straight through their wall. So much potential in this team!

**Mrs J Jones - U12 Coach**

## 1ST VII NETBALL

### MATCH STATISTICS:

Played: **9**  
 Won: **1**  
 Lost: **8**  
 Total goals scored: **148**  
 Top scorer: M. Gunson (**99**)  
**Captain:**  
**A. Steritt Hernandez**  
**/ M. Gunson**

This is an experienced team who have played netball for Ewell Castle since Year 7. We have been working on training harder, and the match pace is high and skill level evident as a result. Every year the challenge for the coach is to find teams that match our cohort and often we play experienced club players and schools who have pools of 100-200 pupils to choose from. Playing these tough fixtures has made this team resilient and they look like a well oiled machine. The results

have often been a loss by 1 or 2 goals and all have been high scoring and really exciting to watch. Highlights are a home fixture against Radnor House where we came from behind and just lost out in the final minutes. A torrential downpour at Wallington High School meant that we finished in the 3rd quarter, just short of an epic comeback. Lots more netball to come in the New Year.

**Mrs J Jones - 1st Team Coach**

## EWELL CASTLE TENNIS ACADEMY



The Autumn Term is a time for hard training in the dark and the early morning cold. There are no Schools' competitions in the winter, so this is the time when players compete to improve their national and international rankings. Every scholar has put in the hard hours this term, but this article will outline the achievements of the top players in the Academy. It should not be forgotten, however, that their progress benefits from the incredible work from our own recently awarded 'Surrey Coach of the Quarter' Tom Burn and our wonderful coach, Ivor Mandic. Additionally, the hard work done by our amazing strength and conditioning coach, Jen Slinn has helped us move to the next level. The success of these players is also down to the hard work of the other scholars on the programme who train with them and continually push them hard. The support that exists amongst these scholars is exemplary and reflects the amazing team spirit that exists in the Academy. Finally, just to place their achievements in some context, to compete in an ITF is to compete internationally, playing the best tennis players in the world in one of the most competitive sports.

### **Sai Gandepalli – Year 13**

Sai came to us in the Sixth Form, and it is fair to say that his rise to the top has been meteoric! He worked hard to make fundamental changes to his

technique and has now seen regular success in Junior ITFs (International Tennis Foundation). Sai's big breakthrough came in the summer when he reached the Final of the J30 ITF Singles at Bradfield. It was clear that this player was making a splash on the international stage. His next big result was winning the J30 ITF Doubles at Loughborough. At this point, Sai's true form was starting to show. This was later followed with him narrowly losing to another ECS scholar in the J30 ITF Final in Liverpool. I can only imagine his frustration with this result, having had match point in the third set tie-break. Sai is now looking to the US to secure a prestigious Division 1 scholarship at one of the American Colleges.

### **Harry McDonagh – Year 12**

Harry joined the Academy in Year 9 and has grown in stature. The start of his Year 12 saw him step up to competing at ITF level and Harry won his first ITF points during the half term in the Malta J30. For any tennis player, this is a major landmark. Harry, however, went on to climb even higher by winning a match at an J100 ITF at Loughborough at the start of December. A fantastic achievement by anyone's standards!

### **Jesse Clarkson - Year 11**

Jesse is a player of precocious talent! He is also competing in Junior ITFs. It

should be remembered, however, that Jesse is only 15 years old, and these international competitions are 18U. His first ITF win came in the summer holidays where he reached the finals of both the Singles and the Doubles in Kampala, Uganda. Having narrowly missed winning the Singles, Jesse stormed his way to his first ITF win in the Doubles. Upon returning home, Jesse stormed his way to win the Men's Super Series at Sutton before lining up for the next ITF win. This was to come in the J30 ITF in Liverpool where he and his partner fought their way through an incredibly close Final to come away victors. And, yes, it was that all-ECS Final I talked about earlier. I should also add that, along with the top twelve players in Britain, he was invited to a 16U Invitational National Matchplay where he ran the 14U Wimbledon Champion close, narrowly losing 6-7, 6-7. Jesse is an incredible player and is going from strength to strength.

### **Keiju Yuto – Year 8**

Keiju is, quite simply, a powerhouse! His recent journey started in the summer at the Grade 1 National Championships in Frinton, involving the top sixteen players in Britain. Here, Keiju reached the Final of the Singles where he finished runner-up. It is fair to say that he played in a way that was far beyond his years. Then on to the Clay Court Grade 1, again with the top sixteen players in Britain. This time he reached the final of the Singles and the Doubles, coming away as the Doubles Champion! This set him up for a run of Tennis Europes which saw the best European players pitted against each other. In imperious form, Keiju smashed his way to the final of both the Singles and the Doubles at Bradfield, coming away with as Doubles Champion! The next big competition was the Grade 1 Indoor National Championships at Bolton and, again, Keiju reached the finals of this prestigious competition. Keiju's latest achievement is winning an 18U Grade 4 at the tender age of 12!

### **Daniel Pratt – Year 7**

Daniel has been simmering quietly to burst on to the national scene in spectacular fashion! He is a player of great potential and has been working hard to get to the top. Daniel regularly figures in the Grade 1 tournaments, but it was his performance last week in 12U Invitational National Matchplay in Corby figuring the top twelve players in the country where he kept a cool head and slammed his way to third place! This was a fantastic performance, and he stamped his mark as a force to be reckoned with. This breakthrough is big for Daniel, and I am sure he will stand large in the big tournaments of the future.

#### ***Darnay Hunnygen – Year 7***

Darnay joined us in September and has already made his mark having won the Kent County Closed! He was then crowned the, 2023 Fred Perry Champion, a most prestigious event! Darnay's next achievement was reaching the Final of the Grade 1 Nationals at Corby playing the most sublime tennis and smashing his opponents off the court in majestic fashion! The next stop was up to

Corby for the 12U Invitational National Matchplay in Corby figuring the top twelve players where, again, he impressed the England selectors with his impressive play.

#### ***Dylan Young – Year 6***

And, yes, the Academy does start this young and, like Darnay, Dylan joined us this year as the County (Surrey) Champion having won the County Closed. Dylan is just starting his tennis journey with us but already has his sights on the big national tournaments. The end of November saw Dylan playing at the 11U Invitational National Matchplay in Corby figuring the top twelve players in the country and he excelled, reaching the semifinals; a remarkable achievement!

With so many national players in the younger age groups, we were proud to host the England coach, Richard Pleus who spent some time at our training camps and described them as 'one of the best in the country!' His presence highlights the incredible talent we currently have in the Academy, and I have named just a few of our players. There are several players who are on



the edge of the international scene and ready to make a huge impact. This bodes well for Ewell Castle Tennis moving into the next phase of our programme where we will see the building of our three brand new artificial clay courts with floodlights on site for September 2024. This will enable us to broaden our programme for these elite players and ensure they have access to the training needed to achieve on the international stage.

## **EWELLIANS AND PARENTS EARLY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

On Friday 24th November, over one hundred Ewellians, parents and Governors attended a special early Christmas celebration at the Castle. The School Christmas tree was ordered in and decorated a little earlier than usual, so that it would be the focal point to welcome guests as they arrived at the Tudor Lounge for the drink's reception. For some of our Ewellian guests, this was the first time they had returned to School in over forty years!

Everyone enjoyed listening to Christmas Carols played on the grand piano, performed beautifully by one of the Ewellians, who had been practising for weeks. Guests



sipped their prosecco, or mulled wine, and chatted to each other before enjoying a delicious two-course Christmas menu of turkey with all the trimmings or vegetarian wellington roast followed by Christmas pudding or chocolate yule log, in the festively decorated Budgell Hall. Christmas music, table

decorations that included fresh green holly with bright red berries and mood lighting, along with a jolly quiz also assisted in ensuring guests spent a most enjoyable time. Some guests made new friends that evening, others simply enjoyed the time catching up with those they hadn't seen for a while.

## SIXTH FORM REVIEW – AUTUMN TERM 2023

As my first term at Ewell Castle ends, it is positive to reflect on what has been an enjoyable but busy time.

The term started with the opening of our new Sixth Form facilities in Fitzalan House, the students have settled well into our new area. It is fantastic to see so many of them making good use of Supervised Study and I have had the privilege of catching glimpses of a wide range of lessons where the spirit of enquiry is always present, and the positive working relationships between staff and students enable progress to be made.

Our term begun with our teambuilding trip to Sussex where the Sixth Form took part in a number of adventurous team building activities. I was amazed at the speed of some of our students racing through obstacle courses, but I was most impressed with the sense of camaraderie and community that was present throughout. It was nice to see both year groups working together for a shared aim, and the sense of support the Year 13 students gave to the new Year 12 students was very positive.

Our Sixth Form Open evening and whole School Open Morning went very smoothly, and it was positive to see how willing all Sixth Form students were to share their experience of the School with prospective students and parents. From leading tours to acting as subject advocates, our students were knowledgeable and considerate and were excellent ambassadors for the School. Our student leaders, Ollie and Lona, spoke brilliantly about their experiences and all students should be proud of their contribution to the success of the event.

The Enrichment Programme has continued to run throughout the term. The students developed their understanding of the environment and sustainability in a workshop run by Miss Earthowl and Mrs McManus enlightened students in her reflection on suffering within the world. Here they used this information in their



Model United Nations (M.U.N.) debate on Climate Change, where our students showcased their perspectives on how different nations would approach the current situation. The Great Debate demonstrated the passion our students have for discussing contemporary events and, in an interesting workshop run by Mr D'Souza, the students developed their understanding of personal branding and LinkedIn. We also hosted a guest speaker Mr Robinson, who used his legal experience to inform students about the law in relation to driving, in an amusing and informative style. Arguably, the highlight of the term was the guest talks from two of our former students, sharing their experiences of university and apprenticeships. The eloquence and passion demonstrated provided a clear example of the success of Ewell Castle students.

The number of students who take part in extracurricular activities in Sixth Form is very pleasing, and I enjoy hearing about the experiences of our sports teams in their weekly fixtures. Similarly, the success of our students is something to be very pleased with. One of our tennis scholars, Sai, in Year 13 has recently won a tournament at International Tennis Federation (ITF) standard; an immense achievement

and something he should be very proud of. Similarly, the success of one of our Year 12 students, Billy, in his acting and performance in a BBC Special is something that should also be celebrated. A number of students have also been involved in the school production of *Grease*, and the effort put in by all has been impressive.

Our student leadership team has been hard at work, diligently supervising and supporting duties as well as coordinating external events. Their roles as ambassadors for the School is something we are very proud of, and I would like to congratulate all that have played their part.

We have also seen several students receive a range of university offers already from a host of top Russell group universities. Several of our students have received interviews at either Oxford or Cambridge and I am sure they will showcase their intellect and capabilities excellently.

Overall, it has been a strong start to the academic year and as a new member of staff, I feel welcomed into the community. The students, staff and parents have all been supportive and I am looking forward to continuing working with you all.

**Ben Woolford – Assistant Head:  
Director of Sixth Form**

## YEAR 11 CLASSICS AND HISTORY TRIPS TO LONDON



policing methods such as forensics and witness statements were in their infancy. The area of was a warren of ill lit back alleys. The police faced a near impossible task in the face of public criticism. They were not helped by well meaning vigilantes, the Press trying to spice up the story and conflict between different groups in the area. Our guide Angie really brought the story to life, as we visited the scene of each of the murders. While the area has been redeveloped, enough original buildings remain to give you an idea of what it was like in the summer and autumn of 1888. My thanks to Mr Randall and Mrs Faulknall for their assistance on the trip.

***Mr J C W Blencowe***

On the 7th of December, the Year 11 Classics pupils travelled up to the British Museum. A fair number of the exhibitions are part of the prescribed sources and we were able to study the Parthenon Marbles, the Bassae Friezes, the Theseus Kylix and a Corinthian helmet among other things. A highlight of the trip was seeing some of the Vindolanda tablets. These are sheets of wood used for writing on and posting in the Roman Empire. They were thrown away but preserved in the cold acidic soil of modern Northumbria. They give a lively impression of military life on Hadrian's Wall – surely one of the remotest and coldest postings in the Roman Empire. My thanks to Mr Watkinson and Mrs Hawken for their assistance on the trip.

***Mr J C W Blencowe***

On the 11th of December, the Year 11 Historians travelled to Whitechapel. Part of the Crime and Punishment unit is a study of the area on the 1880's and the crimes of Jack the Ripper. This unit covers not only the crimes themselves but the issues of poverty and the difficulties of policing an unruly and often desperate community. Modern



## MORE ABLE AND TALENTED CLUB AND SCHOLARS TALKS



This term we have been fortunate enough to have two guest speakers and an Academic Scholar's Lunch speaker. Firstly, the Scholars enjoyed listening to former pupil and Ewellian, Chris Stevens. Since leaving eight years ago, Mr Stevens has found success in motor sports commentary and followed his passion, in particular, Formula E.

Mr Stevens spoke about ambitiously working his way up on the journalism ladder without going to university. He discussed the marketing aspect of his work with a specialism in communications such as social media, event management and liaising with the media. In terms of his broadcasting experience, Mr Stevens spoke of his pit-lane reporting and post-race interviews, with our pupils showing a keen interest. Importantly, Mr Stevens noted the transferable skills of communication, networking and preparation are most effective in employment, especially in freelancing.

The Q&A was very popular with many questions across the year groups, and it was evident there was some keen motor sport enthusiasts in the audience. Thanks to Mr Stevens for a very engaging presentation.

Our guest speaker at the Scholar's



Lunch was Tony Rochfort. Before retirement, Mr Rochfort had worked in the rail industry for many years and in a variety of different roles such as designing and implementing railway tracks. The Year 13 Academic Scholars enjoyed a lunch with Mr Rochfort and Mr Edmunds in the Principal's Office where Mr Rochfort described his life as a pupil at Ewell Castle and how the School looked and felt several decades ago.

Towards the end of the term, we have had the pleasure of listening to Assistant Head – Director of Sixth Form and History Teacher, Mr Woolford. He spoke about a subject very close to his heart, the Empire Windrush, where 492 passengers from the West Indies arrived in the UK, post-World War II following an advert for skilled workers to be employed, including 80 servicemen.

Mr Woolford enthusiastically presented on important and poignant topics such as race, class, Imperial and Social Policies. It was fascinating to hear about the timeline of Britain's Empire, identity and world-wide status from 1930's to the Windrush Scandal of 2018 and today.

He explained what it was, the background events and the media's portrayal of the events. It is an important lesson, to help the pupils to understand media bias and misrepresentation and to look at different historical perspectives particularly those which impact today's society. Thank you to Mr Woolford for such a thought-provoking presentation.

As with all Scholar's Talks, everyone can attend – student and staff alike. I welcome any volunteers to speak about an area of interest at future events. Please contact me on [d.carrick@ewellcastle.co.uk](mailto:d.carrick@ewellcastle.co.uk).

This academic year the format of the MAT Club has changed so all pupils can benefit from the meaningful and educational messages that are delivered, and to promote the concept of 'challenge for all'.



The School is embarking on the High Performance Learning (HPL) teaching & learning philosophy which encourages advanced thinking skills and learning behaviours. The combination of how to think and how to behave is what leads to success. The HPL Framework consists of two sets of shared language; the Values, Attitudes and Attributes (VAAs) which consider how one behaves and the Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics (ACPs) contain an explicit vocabulary on how one can learn. These are for all subject areas and are lifelong skills. One area that HPL focusses on is 'Empathy' and a presentation at all year group assemblies was given to explain what empathy is and tips on how to become a better listener. The students will be hearing more about HPL in the coming term and beyond.

I would also encourage students (especially Scholars of any discipline) to sign up to the 'Castle Society' talks where individual students or small groups of pupils can practice public speaking on an area of interest to them. Pupils can contact me on [d.carrick@ewellcastle.co.uk](mailto:d.carrick@ewellcastle.co.uk).

