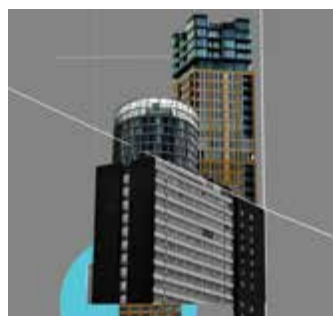




**ST EDMUND'S  
SCHOOL**  
CANTERBURY

# The Chronicle



Academic Year 2019 – 2020



# PROPERTY SOLUTIONS IN & AROUND CANTERBURY SINCE 1984

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The background of the page features white line art on a dark blue field. On the left, a large circular architectural plan, likely of Canterbury Cathedral's choir, is shown with concentric circles and radial lines. To the right, a more complex line drawing depicts a building's interior or exterior layout with various rooms and corridors. In the top right corner, there is a smaller circular sketch with some internal details.

**Paul Roberts**

C A N T E R B U R Y



# Contents

The Chronicle Vol LII No: 6

The St Edmund's Year	page 4
School Life	page 19
Trips and Activities	page 51
The Arts	page 93
Sport	page 119



# Paul Roberts

C A N T E R B U R Y



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# Editorial



It was the strangest of years. In March, the whole country came to a halt. The roads were empty and the high streets were deserted as the UK locked down and people did what they could to slow the spread of the coronavirus. We had not lived through anything like this before. Suddenly, there seemed to be nothing before us.

If it was a year of extremes, then it was a year in which – to quote Dickens – the ‘season of Darkness’ and ‘winter of despair’ inspired people to show themselves at their very best, offering clear views amid the gloom of ‘the season of Light’ and ‘the spring of hope’. It was between Dickens’ extremes that wisdom might be found and what really mattered rediscovered.

The effort and support in the wider community was reflected in what happened at St Edmund’s. The school remained open for the children of keyworkers and DT teachers produced personal protective equipment for NHS workers on the frontline of the battle against COVID-19. Teaching also continued and our homes became our schools, our front rooms our classrooms, as teachers delivered lesson after lesson online, week after week. While the lockdown prevented our usual House events, it did not – it could not! – prevent the House spirit asserting itself.

Housemasters organised events of varying degrees of wackiness – the toilet roll challenge, sounds of nature, vegetable animals, mystery objects – and edited the evidence for everybody’s entertainment to ensure the camaraderie characteristic of the school and so emblematic of its values did not falter.

But if wisdom lies in what we find after the world has shaken our certainties, then we learned that what happened through the Lent and Summer terms could not overshadow what’s at the heart of our school. Creativity has always been St Edmund’s ‘normal’ and the year saw the spectacular performance of *Chicago*, which drew together our magnificent Music, Dance and Drama departments to celebrate the talent within the school. The Junior School put together an outstanding Harvest Festival performance at the end of September and the Pre-Prep School performed beautiful Nativity plays in December. Once again, the Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior Schools united for St Edmund’s Day at the Colyer-Fergusson Music Building and, once again, pupils, parents and staff came together for the wonderful Carol Service at Canterbury Cathedral.

The country might have locked down, but we found in the sudden fragility of things the foundations on which we might stand to look ahead: family, friends, community, solidarity.

It is by looking back that we realise, after all, that everything remains before us.

Evie Coldwell, Ruby Todd and  
Mr Matthew Whitman

*“True wisdom comes to  
each of us when we realise  
how little we understand  
about life, ourselves, and the  
world around us.”*

Socrates





# Senior School

This is an abridged version of the Head of Senior School's Speech Day report.



Mr Edward O'Connor  
Head

*The greatness of a community  
is most accurately measured by  
the compassionate actions of its  
members.*

*Coretta Scott King*

Hello, everyone and thank you for joining us.

I find myself in a unique position. Our school has existed for 271 years and I am its twenty-fourth headteacher. Yet today I have the dubious honour of being the first St Edmund's Head to deliver a virtual Speech Day. It is such a shame we cannot meet in person. Speech Day is always the best day of the year because it draws our community together to celebrate pupil success. So I hope this filmed event is a one-off and that the our first virtual Speech Day is also our last.

As our Chair of Governors said, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed extreme pressures on countries, economies, businesses, schools, families and individuals. I know it has been very tough for you all. I often read Jock Asbury-Bailey's excellent history of St Edmund's, *Foundation on a Hill*, and I think it is fair to say that other than the two world wars, COVID-19 is the greatest challenge that our school community has ever faced in those 271 years. It has necessitated a huge collective response. We have all had to work together in new, sometimes difficult ways, without losing our sense of purpose or our sense of identity.

Coretta Scott King once wrote that 'the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.' By that measure, our school community has performed brilliantly since lockdown began.

Our teachers have shown extraordinary adaptability and patience, working tirelessly to adapt to the 'new normal' of remote learning while also offering pastoral care and guidance. They have absorbed extra responsibilities due the furloughing of colleagues (itself a very difficult process) and most have taken a voluntary pay cut to protect the school. Some

have worked even at weekends to create visors for NHS workers and deliver equipment to local hospitals.

Parents have shown wonderful kindness too: through the payment of fees in the most challenging of financial circumstances; by making donations to our hardship fund; by providing PPE for our staff and, vitally, by providing encouraging and supportive feedback throughout the lockdown.

That reassurance and support has been essential for morale. Thank you.

Our pupils too have shown wonderful compassion for others through our peer listening programme, individual fund-raising initiatives for charities and, in some cases, by volunteering to help in the local community.

It has been a truly remarkable team effort.

Our founding principle as an institution as the Clergy Orphan School back in 1749 was compassion for others. The recent crisis has demonstrated that the essential, defining aspect of St Edmund's remains as strong and vital as ever. Being the Head during this period has been a profoundly challenging and humbling experience.

Speech Day is a day to celebrate and this year is no exception.

We were delighted with an excellent set of A-level results. Our students performed superbly: 59% of entries achieved A\*-B grades, 29% of pupils earned A-A\* grades and 84% of grades awarded were A-C. This was impressive achievement, especially given the harder new A-level specifications.

All Upper Sixth students seeking to go to university in October achieved places, with over half



going to Russell Group or Times Top 30 universities. The London universities UCL, KCL, Royal Holloway were popular, along with Bath, Durham and Exeter. One student went to the Royal Veterinary College and another to medical school.

At GCSE level, 38% of our pupils earned grades of 7 to 9 (A or A\*) (2018 44%). We should remember this was the first year that all subjects were examined on the new harder specifications. The overall pass rate (grades 4 - 9) increased to 92%, which is our best for many years.

In September, we also launched a new two-week timetable. Along with a change in lesson length to 55 or 60 minutes, this has relieved organisational pressures on students and also given us the flexibility to develop our co-curricular offering.

We also launched two new IT platforms in September, My School Portal and Microsoft 365, which proved to be a very prescient decision. The necessary switch to remote learning in March would have been extremely difficult if these measures had not already been put in place.

The Library remains the academic heart of the school. I am pleased to say that the Curiosity Shop lecture series continues to stretch our pupils academically with a range of engaging talks from expert speakers including Simon Paisley-Day, an accomplished Shakespearean actor (and St Edmund's parent), who provided an amazing masterclass on *Measure for Measure*. During remote learning, Curiosity Shop morphed into Culture Club, an online alternative. This has been a huge success with lectures on subjects as diverse as Socrates, the Euler Equation and the American Civil War.

There have been a number of successful academic trips this year too. Our geographers visited Finland and had a unique learning experience in



Esme O'Connor with her GCSE results



Geographers find their way



beautiful surroundings. There have also been academic visits to the Tate Modern, the British Museum, a residential trip to Cambridge University, the British Film Institute, the electronic microscope at UKC and Blencathra. It is a shame that the lockdown has interrupted our summer programme of trips, which included the sports tour of Barbados

Our students have once again achieved great success in external competitions this year. We performed strongly in the Biology Olympiad. This is run by the Royal Society of Biology and is open to students around the world with over 9,000 participants. Tim Smith and Eloise Newman-Brown both received a bronze medal, placing them in the top 25% of pupils worldwide. Lucy Bullows, Emily Collard, Jaya Lorne and Ellie Horder (all U6) were highly commended and Alexandra Millard (U6) was commended. Well done to all pupils who took part in this prestigious competition.

Younger scientists took part in the Royal Society of Biology Challenge and they did us proud. Particular congratulations go to Patrick Sutton and Thomas Pennington-Arnold in Lower Fifth, who won silver awards. In Middle Fifth, Josie Head achieved a gold award – a tremendous achievement – while Cyrus Cooper and Katie Head won silver awards and Ella Wheadon a bronze.

We also performed strongly in the Maths Olympiad, a national competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Lubhanshi Arora (U5) won an outstanding silver award and Annie Fu (L6) an excellent bronze. My congratulations also go to Harry Carlin, Sophie de Giorgio (both U5) and Sienna Cowell (M5), who all won externally assessed algebra awards in January. The future of Mathematics at St Edmund's is clearly in safe hands.

I am proud to report that two St Edmund's students achieved



Sophie de Giorgio's prize-winning artwork

highly commended status in the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education National Art and Poetry Competition. Well done, Katie Head and Jennifer Chongbang!

Sophie de Giorgio was awarded Best Junior in the Landscape or Woodland Scene category of the SAA Artist of the Year competition. Her work reached the final 70 out of 3000 entries and the painting was subsequently exhibited at the Art Materials Live event at the Birmingham NEC.

Former pupil Charles Francis, who left last summer, is now at the Birmingham Royal Conservatoire for Music. In the Michaelmas term, Charles won the prestigious Dame Gillian Weir Messiaen Award. The prize is awarded for the best performance of a wide-ranging programme, which must include a work by Olivier Messiaen. It is a remarkable achievement for a first-year student to win such an award.

William Inscoe in our Upper Sixth, whom I have always thought one of the hardest working and most talented musicians that I have ever encountered, excelled himself earlier in the year by winning the Worcester College Oxford Carol Competition with his own composition 'I Sing of a Maiden'. This is a great accomplishment and testament to William's unique skills as a composer and musician.

Two students in the current Upper Sixth have won places at Oxford University for October. Competition for places on these courses is ferocious and we are extremely proud of Joseph Burton (Corpus Christi) and Matilda Trueblood (Somerville College), winner last year of the PC Vellacott Historical Essay Prize, which is run by Peterhouse, the oldest college of Cambridge University.

We are fortunate to have a talented crop of debaters and public speakers at the school. After winning through competitive local rounds Lawrence Wake (U6), Nathaniel Florence-Wratten and Isobel Wanstall (both L6) competed in the Regional Final of the ESU Public Speaking Competition. They performed brilliantly but lost out to the team from Brighton College, who eventually won the competition. It was a victory of style over substance in the end. Our team gave more reasoned and empirical arguments but Brighton College gave a more flamboyant and aggressive performance. Still, this is an excellent achievement and



Former pupil Charles Francis

I am proud of our team for going toe-to-toe with some much bigger schools.

From the end of March, the school switched to remote-learning provision. It was an immensely challenging process for all involved but I am hugely proud of our staff, pupils and parents for their amazing efforts to make this work. The feedback





William Inscoe

in parent questionnaires and anecdotally has been excellent and I think St Edmund's has risen to the challenge exceptionally well. Lessons, tutor periods, assemblies and online lectures have been delivered through the Microsoft Teams package. Work was set via My School Portal and supplementary resources, like GCSEPOD, have provided invaluable additional support.

It is also quite remarkable that we have also been able to deliver a comprehensive co-curricular programme to keep pupils engaged and healthy via Mr Millard's Co-curricular Menu of Opportunity.

Above all it has been a phenomenal team effort. I hope we don't have to do it again but if we do, we are ready.

Let us not forget that in the midst of the remote learning process, we also had to adopt and implement a brand new system for calculating public examination grades. This has been another Herculean effort by teaching staff, and especially Mr Mount and Dr Sotillo, involving amongst other things review and analysis of all pupil assessment data for the last two years.

Now we turn our attention to Sport. We enjoyed a successful football season. The 1st XI secured victories over Dover College, Kent College, Eton College and Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School. Once again, we have held our own against some larger

schools. The U15s beat St Anselm's, Eton College and Claremont School. We have also participated in some very challenging ESFA cup fixtures. Our link with Chelsea FC Foundation has developed further. They were involved with our senior pre-season football training at the start of the Michaelmas term. Chelsea FC also run an after-school club for Years 7-9 on Thursdays, have provided numerous coaching sessions across the age ranges and were also a presence on Open Day. We are hoping to take the 1st XI to Chelsea's training ground at Cobham for a friendly fixture soon.

Girls' football has continued to be part of the Lower Fifth and Middle Fifth Games curriculum. Alisha Davis (L5) has been identified as a particular talent and is currently trialling with Crystal Palace and potentially Gillingham.

In girls' hockey the 1st XI beat King's Rochester, Sir Roger Manwood's and, most pleasingly, King's School 2nd XI. The U14 and U15 girls both won three and lost three local matches. The U15 girls beat Chatham & Clarendon by a magnificent 12-goal margin. The U14 girls were very close to qualifying for the semi-finals in the county tournament and this is certainly a team to watch in the future. Mr Stubbings introduced and organised the inaugural Mel Clewlow U18 Girls' Hockey Tournament, hosted on the St Edmund's all-weather pitch. This was a great success, with ten teams from around the county

playing for the kudos of the Mel Clewlow Cup and Plate. This will become an annual event in addition to the Peter Firminger Boys' Hockey Tournament. The 1st XI boys also continue to impress on the hockey pitch and have won several matches against the odds.

The U14 netball team were unbeaten and many other fixtures have been extremely close. The 1st VII were victorious over King's Rochester for the first time in many years.

We are lucky to have some extraordinary young athletes at the school. St Edmund's runners were very successful at the district cross-country event. Most notably, Teigan Sullivan (M5), won the Intermediate Girls' and Alexandra Millard won the Senior Girls'. They progressed through to the next round which took place in January. Alexandra Millard was then selected for the Kent team for the English Schools' Championships and came 6th in the Senior Women English Schools Cross-Country in Liverpool in March.

Alexandra Millard had an extraordinary year as a runner. She was 2nd (for the England team) in the Rotsellar International Cross-Country in Belgium and 5th in the U20 UK Cross-Country Championships. Alexandra is ranked 15th UK U20 Female Endurance Athlete by Athletics Weekly at 18 years old. She also achieved a tremendous 5th place in the finals of the English Schools and Club 1500m championships.





The cast of *Chicago*  
razzle-dazzle

Alexandra is an extraordinary talent and we wish her every success for the future.

The department strives to provide an all-round experience for our pupils. We offer a wide range of co-curricular activities, with tennis, squash, basketball, badminton, handball, trampolining and wellbeing fitness proving very popular.

Dance has been introduced into the Lower Fifth curriculum this year and we welcomed Herne Bay High School's Year 12 BTEC dance company for a performance and workshop.

Canterbury Touch visited the school to deliver touch rugby workshops. Forty of our pupils took advantage of this opportunity, spending a superb afternoon learning new skills and taking part in fast-paced games. Connor Hughes (U5) is involved in the England set up and thoroughly enjoyed helping coach his contemporaries alongside the club coaches.



Alexandra Millard

Indoor climbing has been taking place at the new indoor centre in Wincheap and is available to all year groups during their Games lessons. The sport has been well received with over 30 pupils using the Chimera climbing centre on a weekly basis since Christmas.

Badminton has become more widely attended and our team has enjoyed friendly fixtures against King's Rochester, Ashford School and Highworth School.

We also entered our first squash tournament and played two squash fixtures against other schools. Mr Barnes has on average

18 pupils attending club on Wednesday after school.

Sadly, our summer sports programme could not take place due to the COVID lockdown. This was a particular blow to our top tennis players and athletes. Our cricketers too faced a summer without matches. We say goodbye this year to some extraordinary cricketers in the Upper Sixth, such as Joe Gordon and Ben Mills, who are already playing for the Kent men's second team, and also to Louis Gray, who has been a stalwart of St Edmund's cricket.

However, the sports provision has not stopped during lockdown. Weekly fitness and skills challenges and picture quizzes were set for Lower Fifth, Middle Fifth and Lower Sixth PE and Games using the incredible array of resources available online.

Those taking part in the London Marathon 2.6 Challenge have been inspiring in both their creativity and self-motivation. Charlie Gotke (L5) is the 'winner' with weekly



26km runs, 26km static bikes, numerous tennis related activities and log splitting. We have raised £258 for the Rainbow Trust.

The Health and Fitness Suite is a wonderful addition to our facilities and is proving useful not only for Games and PE but also for after-school activities and during the evenings for the boarders. The new cricket pitch on the Jackman Field will be ready for 1st XI cricketers in due course.

Plans, surveys and discussions are in full swing for the new timber building to cover the swimming pool, with further phases in the pipeline. I am very grateful to Michael Stewart for his generosity in this project.

We continue to have a healthy and vibrant Combined Cadet Force, led by Captain Jones and Colour Sergeant French. CCF teaches invaluable communication and leadership skills. They had a particularly successful day at Folkestone ranges for CCF Skill at Arms Cadre and 11 Brigade Live Firing Marksmanship Training. Members of the Lower Sixth are also completing the Cadet Force Instructional Techniques Cadre with regular army members to qualify as sergeants.

Recent events have demonstrated the importance of outdoor education and Mr Kincaid, Mr Anderson and Capt Jones continue to develop this area through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and a range of other options. We will be relaunching our Outdoor Education programme in September to make best use of our wonderful site.

The school production of *Chicago* was an absolute triumph. Three sell out performances, three standing ovations: that tells the story. The response to the show was unprecedented. It sent out a shockwave locally and it may be the highest quality production that the school has ever delivered.



Jonty Harris-Harding



Major Hawkins contemplates a year without CCF adventures





#### The reviews described:

*'A night to remember, an epic in the annals of school drama productions'*

*'An event of excellence beyond compare'*

*'Stunning entertainment'*

*'West End or Broadway quality'*

*'An astonishing achievement'*

Our triple-threat performers were exceptional: a staggeringly talented and committed cast worked phenomenally hard and delivered an astonishing ensemble production.

Of course, the team behind the show also did an extraordinary job and we are lucky to have such a combination of talents within the school. Tam Walker-Reid and Helen Golding produced some sensational costumes which stylish and sophisticated, of course, but also cleverly adapted to the personalities of the characters. I am also very grateful to Stuart Gain who designed our lighting plot and to Billy Boorman Powell as stage crew for making everything work so flawlessly.

We also had some A-level and GCSE Drama practicals of extraordinary quality and

consistency. During lockdown, the Drama department gave us the brilliant Lockdown Monologues, an online improvised soap opera, and some wonderful Storytime Podcasts for the Pre-Prep School. We also had a Strictly Dance Challenge thanks to Lisa Jayne Gordon, which was brilliant fun.

The sheer range of musical talent at St Edmund's is quite remarkable. This Michaelmas term may have been the busiest yet for the Music department. St Edmund's Day was a particular highlight taking place at the Colyer-Fergusson Music Building, where we were able to accommodate the Senior School, Junior School the Choristers and Pre-Prep Choirs in an hour-long celebratory service supported by beautiful choral music.

The Michaelmas Concert in late November was a huge success with virtually every St Edmund's ensemble and performer represented. This combined event for Junior and Senior Schools showcased the talent across the age ranges and gave a platform for our seriously talented soloists to perform.

Pupils have also excelled in their ABRSM and Trinity practical and theory exams, taken here at the school. These are high level exams and qualify for UCAS points at grades 6, 7 and 8. Well done to all of you!

Lunchtime concerts in both Junior and Senior Schools have increased in frequency from last year providing a dedicated platform for aspiring performers. The Senior School production of *Chicago* was supported by St Edmund's musicians and singers in the band and on stage. The Hullabaloo Big Band Concert in December also featured the St Edmund's School Ensemble in an afternoon of Big Band classics. It was a brilliant success.

House Music this year saw a number of talented ensembles go head-to-head before Baker emerged victorious. The House Singing theme was 1980s Power Ballads and, again, the event was a great success with pupils really rising to the occasion with a strong degree of commitment from every house. Well done to Wagner for winning this event.

To round the term off in true St Edmund's style, the annual Carol Service in Canterbury Cathedral, involving Senior School and Junior School Choirs, choristers and the Pre-Prep children, provided a fitting end to the year.

The Gala Concert in the Lent Term took place just before the lockdown. The splendid setting of Canterbury Cathedral always provides a magical atmosphere and this year we were treated to some very special musical moments from a number of the main school ensembles, choirs and soloists.

During lockdown, Music lessons have continued online and very successfully, I might add. We also had had a Virtual Concert, an online masterclass with Julia Klimek and a song competition judged by pop star and former pupil Dan Caplen.

Finally, I should like to thank all of you and your forbearance during the COVID-19 crisis. It has been a real test of our community, but we are emerging from it stronger, more cohesive and more understanding of each other.



# Junior School

This is an abridged version of the Head of Junior School's Speech Day report.



Ms Anya Bensberg  
Acting Head of Junior School

*We encourage children to use their imaginations, to interrogate what they know, to make unique connections and have original thoughts. We instil a lifelong love of learning.*

Chairman, governors, Mr O'Connor, ladies, gentlemen and children, welcome to Speech Day.

They say that time is the most valuable thing a person can spend and today, this speech day, is all about time, and so is education. We have this unique opportunity at the end of the school year to stop time and simply be; to live in the present, look around and be thankful for what we have right now. So, please enjoy this evening. St Edmund's School is a wonderful place. Let us celebrate this year, but also reflect and look forward.

I heard a story recently of a boy at another school who was in a drawing lesson. He was seven and was at the back of the classroom, drawing. The teacher said the boy did not often pay attention but in this drawing lesson he did. The teacher said to him, 'What are you drawing?' The boy replied, 'I'm drawing what heaven looks like.' The teacher said, 'But nobody knows what heaven looks like.' The boy said, 'Well, I'll show you.'

The word education comes from the Latin *educere*, meaning to draw out. At St Edmund's we take the time with individual pupils to draw out their talents and interests. We encourage children to use their imaginations, to interrogate what they know, to make unique connections and have original thoughts. We instil a lifelong love of learning. At St Edmund's School that boy would have been actively encouraged to finish his drawing and to tell us all what heaven looks like!

At St Edmund's, quite simply, what is born naturally inside our pupils develops in the present within an environment that nurtures original thinking and diverse talents. It is an environment where teachers take time to get to know each pupil as an individual within a kind, caring and supportive community. It is

an environment where pupils are encouraged to take a chance with their learning. If they don't know, they'll have a go.

Pupils are not frightened of being wrong because our teachers praise effort and inquisitiveness. They understand that you will never come up with anything original and new if you are not prepared to be wrong.

But back to time, because lost time is never found again. When schools were closed on March 20th, St Edmund's moved incredibly quickly to remote learning. During those dark weeks when we were only allowed outside once a day, pupils continued to follow the same curriculum they would have had at school, enjoying opportunities to interact with teachers and fellow pupils during online lessons. Many pupils participated in the vast array of co-curricular challenges and competitions – from the St Edmund's Strictly Lockdown to the Julia Klimek virtual piano masterclass for music scholars.

When Mr O'Connor asked me to lead Junior School, I saw it as a precious and unique opportunity to lead this wonderful school, and it's been the most fascinating journey.

In Computing, I saw Form 3 children taught to programme. In History, I saw Form 4 work out tactically how to beat and crush a legion of Roman soldiers! In Design Technology, I witnessed Form 5 bake, design packaging for and then sell flavoured flapjacks at the School's Fairtrade café! In Drama, I was proud to show school governor Maggie Carnegie Year 6 performing high quality graded pieces of drama stimulated by the phrase 'Now you've gone and done it!'



In English, I've seen Mr Pellet, Mrs Wakefield and Mr Stones skilfully teach to the top to get the very best out of their Form 7 pupils and I've seen the Maths department become You Tube stars, quickly realising the value and power of creating a video of Maths teaching that could be stopped, paused and rewind. And our Form 8 pupils are nothing short of inspiring. From diploma presentations to school tours, they take it all in their stride and are leaders and role models to the younger children.

There have been some interesting moments too. For the first week, I was known by the children as 'the lady with the purple jacket!' On World Book Day, I dressed up as Mr Twit and roamed the school for at least 30

minutes completely undetected. I then bonded with Filip Powell, who had also dressed as Mr Twit, and we admired each other's beards.

It's been a real pleasure and the time spent here will remain with me forever.

The academic life of the school continues to blossom. In January, we held a series of learning walks to observe lessons across the school and share best practice. Our Director of Studies, Mr Comfort, has broadened our definition of gifted and talented pupils and started Pupil Voice meetings.

The reporting system was revised with a move from numbers to words. The rich assessment data we have on our pupils continues to be shared widely and to form

the basis on which progress targets are set. We plan enhanced data-gathering procedures for September to ensure we can fully support all pupils when they return to school. A curriculum review sees Outdoor Education introduced as a compulsory subject for Forms 7 and 8.

For Form 6 pupils next year, the curriculum will be taught primarily by class teachers. For this age group teachers can see a better-rounded student when teaching a variety of materials. We will make a clearer distinction between Forms 3-6 and the 'elite' forms 7 and 8, taught primarily by subject specialists, including those from Senior School.

A pupil who reads for 20 minutes a day encounters 1, 800,000 words per year. A pupil





Skiers of St Edmund's in Denver, Colorado



In character for World Book Day



Filip Powell as Mr Twit



who reads one minute per day encounters just 8000 words per year. Closing the gap between word-rich and word-poor students is the key to educational success. That's why it's great news that this year our Librarian Karen Elford expanded Accelerated Reader to include a fortnightly Library lesson throughout Lower School and in many Upper School classes. Accelerated Reader is an excellent programme that stretches gifted readers while supporting and monitoring reading at all levels across the school.

To enrich pupils' learning the staff have organised a huge range of trips this year. Pupils have visited: Kingswood Activity Centre; Kent Life Museum; Butser Ancient Farm, the Science Museum; French penfriends in Arras, France; the

Roman Museum and the Rocky Mountains, USA. Not bad for half a year!

Due to schools closing, there were less local and national competitions this year. However, I am pleased to report the following academic successes. Masha Polglase-Korestelova gained a GCSE grade 9 in Russian, taking the exam four years before pupils usually sit GCSEs. St Edmund's Junior School won the first prize in the Kent County Stand Award Category: Best Society Award. Alice Yeomans-Attwood, Yasar Zhao, Ami Watters and Daniel Rose all won prizes. Arthur Underwood won the French 'Globalist' magazine photography competition with his photograph *Le Chaos de Couverts*. Fabian Crooks, Henry Goodwin, Charlie Alexander, Emily Jackson,

Monty White, Camilla Boarman Powell and Olivia Standen completed St Edmund's Diplomas.

More recently our Upper School pupils have entered the national 'Spirited Arts' competition and Leicester University's 'Artefacts to Arts' competition, so watch this space!

An exciting curriculum, classes small enough for the teacher to take time to individualise learning and rich co-curricular opportunities. That's what inspires the children at St Edmund's and that's what leads to happy children who love to learn.

The Canterbury Cathedral Choristers are a wonderful part of our Junior School community and our boarding community. The boys are quite simply exceptional. Exceptionally talented...

exceptionally hard working... exceptionally good-natured... and exceptionally good fun to spend time with. In addition to their daily Cathedral commitments, the choristers have this year performed a number of outreach concerts, including a concert in Calais.

I am grateful to our senior choristers Charlie Alexander, Leo Routh, Frederick Butler, Samuel Buck and James Hodgkinson for being such amazing role models to all the boys in Choir House.

School House is the Junior School Boarding House, located within St Edmund's itself and a true 'home-from-home'. School House is a very special place run by very special people – Colour Sergeant French and Mrs French. Our School House boarders receive top level nurture within a happy, focused and caring environment. Quite simply, it is a home-from-home where weekend activities include baking, carving pumpkins, cinema trips, visits to climbing walls and much, much more!

At St Edmund's School we are blessed to enjoy some of the best Drama and Music facilities and teachers in Kent – if not the best! And our pupils reap the rewards. Many congratulations to Eliana Rogers-Bricout, who recently gained her LAMBDA Grade 4 with distinction. This is equivalent to a GCSE – not bad for a Form 4 pupil, Eliana! Congratulations also to Camilla Boarman Powell (F7) who achieved LAMBDA grade 5 and modelled as a poster girl for the musical *Identical*.

While speaking of individual successes, talented Form 5 dancer Riley Chidwick successfully auditioned for the London Ballet School.

Back in October, the Lower School Harvest Festival was a huge success with Form 3 performing 'The World Came to My Place Today' and the scratch choir singing Rutter's 'Look at the World'. The Junior School Nativity was equally moving and impressive.

Weekly drama lessons, taught by our phenomenal Drama department, have been supplemented in Lower School by termly Kic Theatre workshops. The Lower and Upper School Drama Clubs are amongst the most popular in the school and the Musical Theatre Club is the most popular in the school – audition only - with standout performances at this year's House Singing Competition and Michaelmas Concert.

In the Lent term, Drama teacher Miss Glinn began work directing her first production for Junior School, *Ernie's Incredible Illusions*. Sadly, the production never came to fruition because of lockdown. What was achieved during the rehearsal process was fantastic. Thirty-three pupils from Forms 3 through to 8 created an exciting and innovative piece of physical theatre. All pupils gave their absolute best and the standard of performance was hugely impressive. Although the children never got to perform for an audience, they experienced the full rehearsal process, including the technical rehearsal. The level of learning was excellent.

The Music department managed to squeeze in two big concerts and two lunchtime concerts before March 20th. November's Michaelmas Concert featured over 40 Junior School pupils within the East Kent Children's Orchestra, Junior Strings and the Junior Choir. There were incredible solos by Fredrick Butler, Ami Watters and Thomas Young. The Junior School Choirs enjoyed singing in a Cathedral service to celebrate the installation of the new Bishop of Dover.

March's Gala concert was stunning. Twenty-five Junior School pupils participated in a very moving recital of Chilcott's 'Requiem' and Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens'. Thomas Young, Jonty Harris-Harding, Ami Watters, Henry Goodwin, Fabian Crooks, Meena Hay and Thomas De Berry swelled the ranks of the orchestra.

More recently, 20 Junior School pupils took part in a virtual summer concert spanning the entire age spectrum of the school and exploring a wide range of musical styles.

Pupils have continued to produce outstanding performances and results in their Trinity and Associated Board practical and theory exams. Between September and March, pupils achieved 14 merits and 10 distinctions. Standout performances include Fabian Crooks' Grade 8 Drums with merit and Yasar Zhao's Grade 8 Violin with distinction.

Speaking of standout performances, Yasar Zhou, George Gannon, Leon Watters and Ami Watters all won prizes in this year's Kent Festival of Music Piano Masterclasses, with Ami winning second prize in the Junior Competition (she had already come first the previous year!). Ami is really excelling at the piano and is already working above Grade 8 level.

Jonty Harris-Harding played trumpet in the Canterbury Festival Bursary Competition Finalists' Concert and Oliver Tesic was accepted as a saxophonist into the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. Yasar Zhou won a special prize in category 1 of the prestigious Berlin International Violin Competition and has been invited to participate in Berlin International Music School's Autumn Concert.

This year the Co-Curricular life of the Junior School has been extremely active. From bake sales to Christmas fairs, Mrs King has not stopped counting money raised for charitable causes. This year, the Junior School raised well over £6000 for a variety of charities.

The School Council meets regularly to discuss topical issues and plays a leading life in the school and even interviewed for the new headteacher!

After school hours and at lunchtimes, the corridors have heaved with over 30 co-curricular





Mrs Fitcher conducts

In harmony







clubs, ranging from sewing to animal care, chess to science and everything in between. When school stopped, the co-curricular activities most certainly did not! Head of Co-Curricular, Mr McKean found himself writing a Menu of Opportunity that extended pupils learning and coordinating a vast array of competitions which included den building, poetry, art, photography, music and drama.

Sport at the Junior School continues to go from strength to strength. Since September there have been 72 girls' hockey matches, with only four losses, and 70 boys' hockey matches, with the U9 boys' team unbeaten. Some talented boys from Forms 3 and 4 played for the U11 squad three years early, which makes very exciting news for the future! There have been 65 netball matches, 90% of which were won, and Daisy Holt and Matilda Marriner were selected for the U13 team at county level. We should not forget that there were 88 football matches, most of which were won. The U13a team won all their games of the season, as well as the Molten League Cup and the Shapira Cup. Stanley Allom, William Knoupe and George Wager were selected for the Canterbury St Augustine's U13 squad.

This year there were four cross-country teams from U10 to U13. At the Northbourne Park Cross-

Country Competition in January, the U13 and U12 boys' and girls' teams came third. Adam Whitlock, Tom Blunt, Joseph Gormley, Daisy Baker and Hetty Moran qualified for the finals. Adam Whitlock also participated in the Knole Run.

Speaking of individual achievements, Jessica Reynolds and her team went to the regional finals of the British Dressage Quest. Her team was placed 4th. Charlie Alexander also had county cricket trials and Michael Nkereuwem, who plays U14 tennis nationally, is ranked within the top 100 players.

Sport forms an important part of the co-curricular life of the school. Before school, pupils join the famous 'wake up and shake up' and parents have joined the Friday morning parents' netball session. There are also clubs for hockey, football, volleyball and indoor winter cricket.

Even as we locked down, the PE department developed a family-fitness programme for pupils to follow during their PE and Games lessons. And when our usual end of term Sports Day could not take place, they invented a virtual one! What more could we ask for or expect?

A huge well done to all children who have represented the school at sport this year.

Now, Form 8, it is your time. It is your time to leave the fold of the Junior School and move on. You are ready now for a new world, the world of Senior School. Coming from the Senior School myself I know that you are ready and that you are going to thrive there.

Thank you to those Form 8 pupils who have taken on responsibilities as part of the Seniorship Programme this year.

It has been a real pleasure to get to know you as you prepare to make this next step on your journey. You will see your Junior School friends and teachers around so please make sure you stop to tell us all your news.

And now time is ticking. We are almost done.

It's been simply wonderful to be part of the Junior School community. Childhood is a very precious time. We feel lucky to have the privilege of educating your children in this wonderful school. That is why we are so dedicated to them, to their progress and growth, and to creating a circle of learning, development and flourishing that will continue to widen and increase with time.



# Pre-Prep School

This is an abridged version of the Head of Pre-Prep School's end-of-year report.



Mrs Julia Exley  
Head of Pre-Prep School

*Raising the profile of science  
in the Pre-Prep School and  
inspiring in the children a  
love of it were the aims of  
Science Week.*

Over the last week, I have been trying to reflect on this academic year. I have found it hard to remember all that happened before March, as it feels like COVID-19 and all the implications it has brought with it, is all that I have thought about for so long. However, it is important to remember all the wonderful things that happened earlier in the year.

Term began in September with two new members of staff, Mrs Maisey, our Music teacher, and Miss Ashenden, our Nursery manager, joining the school. They both settled in quickly and became part of the team. The children enjoyed the new approaches to music teaching and the Ladybirds began their educational journey in an inspiring environment. Mrs George took on a new age range, moving to Honey Bees. She straight away started working her magic with the classroom, creating a stimulating environment and providing an imaginative curriculum. We also had a number of new children to welcome across the Pre-Prep classes. This was a great start to the year.

The teachers, as ever, had planned exciting topics and imaginative ways to deliver the curriculum. Dragonflies and Ladybirds benefited from new interactive screens in their rooms. This has successfully developed the IT opportunities for the children. Mrs Sherwin loves a challenge and has become adept at using the technology, creating videos and presentations. Her skills have become extremely useful in recent months. We are hoping to replace the other two screens next year.

During the Michaelmas term, the classes went on several trips, including to Dover Castle, Canterbury Cathedral, Tyland Barn, Wingham Wildlife Park and a senses walk in Whitstable. The children always enjoy trips out of school, which enhance the learning experience in many ways. As a whole school we also

went to the Colyer Fergusson at the University to celebrate St Edmund's day. This is always a special service and the only time in the year when the school is altogether. The Pre-Prep took part by singing beautifully, stealing the show, although I may be biased! At the end of term all of the Pre-Prep went to the Gulbenkian theatre for a Christmas treat to see *The Snow Dragon*. This was a lovely production which we all really enjoyed.

The highlight of the Lent term for me was Science Week. Everyone immersed themselves fully in experiments, scientific activities, research into famous scientists and used an extensive range of equipment. Raising the profile of science in the Pre-Prep School and inspiring in the children a love of it were the aims of the week. These were definitely achieved. We had support from many people but especially the Senior School Science department, whose members brought over animal skulls, exciting equipment to demonstrate electricity and 'magic' potions that changed colours.

The Dragonflies were very aware of the devastation caused by the Australian bush fires and helped plan fund-raising activities. The class made biscuits in the shapes of Australian animals and sold them at a cake sale. Parents kindly brought in other cakes and biscuits, including an amazing kangaroo cake made by Mrs Fogg. I tried to make some Australian lamingtons, which proved to be the hardest cakes I have ever had



Imogen



Ploughing Match

to make! It was impossible to get the chocolate sauce to stick to the sides of the cake so I was left with the sauce and desiccated coconut all over my hands. The only way to clean up was to lick it all off, so I suppose it wasn't all bad. The Dragonflies also helped Mrs Millard organise a 'Sporty Circuits' event to raise more money.

Midway through the Lent term, we realised the impact COVID-19 would have on schools and started to plan. We had to cancel our Mother's Day and Easter activities, which was very sad but very necessary. Schools were closed a week before the end of term for the majority of the Pre-Prep children, but we started the key-worker provision immediately. This began a period of what I call the 'dark times'. We were all gripped by uncertainty, anxiety and to some extent, fear. However, we needed to focus on providing a safe and happy haven for key-worker children and remote learning for everyone. In situations like this, people react in different ways depending on their circumstances and personalities and this had to be accepted and coped with. It took a number of readjustments, such as learning how to teach remotely with new technology, but also in the way we planned. I can safely say that in 30 years of teaching this is the hardest period in my career.

Recently, I heard someone on the radio say, 'In the darkest night the stars shine brightest'. I'm not

sure if this is a famous quote or who said it, but it resonated with me. I realised that it is only when you go through the 'dark times' that we are in at the moment that you notice and appreciate those bright stars such as the Governors and Head, who had to make difficult decisions for the good of the school; the teachers, who worked all hours planning, sending out work, marking, responding to emails and teaching on Teams; the staff from across the school who offered to help look after the key-worker children and some who came to work with us when we reopened. The maintenance and cleaning staff helped enormously in setting up the Pre-Prep School for reopening, kept us so clean and so cheerfully made sure the carpark ran smoothly, as well as the catering team, who provided our lunches with lots of little treats to keep us going and invented BabyBel Monday. Help and support came from you, the parents, too, and you have no idea how much your positive comments lifted our spirits! However, the children were the brightest stars; they coped with all the changes: not being able to see their friends, not going out, having parents as teachers and working hard at home. They learnt to speak confidently during Teams lessons and I think some children are destined for careers on screen!

The reopening went remarkably smoothly, after a great deal of planning, cordoning off of

playgrounds, removal of furniture removal and buying of sanitiser. We became used to and liked our own 'Bubbles.' This time at school allowed us to complete the year's planning and prepare the children, as best we could, for the transition to the next class.

We greatly missed those Dragonflies children that did not return, but were pleased to be able to keep in touch and have one Outdoor Learning Day together. You have been a brilliant class and achieved so much. Keep up the hard work!

We send our best wishes and good luck to all those from Dragonflies and Nursery that are leaving to go to other schools or moving on to the Junior School. As the late Vera Lynn and, more recently, the Queen has said: 'We'll meet again' – hopefully, at an end-of-year celebration in September.

It has been a strange year, but there have been many positives; a few tears, but many laughs along the way. It has made us appreciate all that we have and, despite the sacrifices we have made, we are safe and well. However hard it has been, it has been nothing compared to those working in the frontline of the NHS. I would like to thank our NHS families for everything they have done.

I hope you all have a safe summer.

Keep looking for those bright stars.



Education is the most  
powerful weapon we can  
use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

## School Life



St Edmund's Day	20
Boarding	24
Senior School House Reports	26
News from St Edmund's	36
Valete	42
Staff Leavers	43



Putting some heart into proceedings





At the Colyer-Fergusson Music Building



Frederick Gourdie, James Wood and Rhyd Lowe



Frederick Gourdie and James Wood

## St Edmund's Day

In November, the whole school celebrated St Edmund's Day. The Reverend Steve Bennett expertly led the annual service in the Colyer-Fergusson Music Building. The event also showcased the extraordinary musical and choral talent within the school.

This occasion is of great value to us. Not only does it commemorate the life of St Edmund of Abingdon, it also brings together in one place the staff and pupils of the Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior Schools to foster and emphasize the very real sense of community and group identity of which we are all so proud and from which we draw so much strength.

The sermon was given by the Reverend Canon Dr Tim Naish who, in addition to his responsibilities at the Cathedral, is also a governor of the school. Tim gave an inspirational address about the life of St Edmund, reminding all of the extraordinary man after whom our school is named.

Mr Edward O'Connor

# St Ed's Locked Down!

Well-being and continuity of education were at the forefront of the school's remote provision during lockdown.

## Senior School

Housemasters responded with creativity and energy to the challenges of delivering remote pastoral care. House Line went online and every effort was made to maintain a sense of House identity during challenging times. Training for the peer listeners was completed remotely and the pupils did a fantastic job supporting members of the school community. The Peer Education Project also continued, with a group of Lower Sixth pupils delivering PSHEE lessons online to Lower Fifth classes. As well as frequent Teams lessons, teachers also delivered on-line 'Culture Club' lectures each Friday afternoon.

## Junior School

Nestled away in the Senior School Library, a group of Junior School keyworker children spent their days working on computers, creating artwork, reading books and creating the most fun outdoor – and socially-distanced! – games imaginable. Wednesday afternoons meant an adventure into Forest School where the children made fires, hung hammocks, created dens and toasted marshmallows. These children created the most amazing bubble and loved every minute of it. We teachers felt very lucky to spend that time with them.



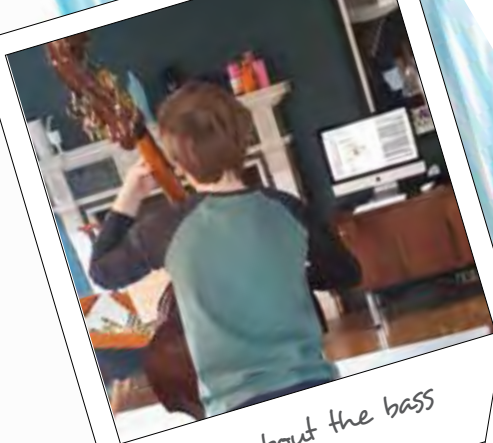
Right: Oliver Tesic





## The Pre-Prep School

Many educational activities were adapted to suit pupils' new circumstances. Household objects were used in the delivery of Maths, topic work was completed on daily walks and PE performed in the garden. On-line resources and educational websites were sourced for parents and, like Senior and Junior Schools, Teams meetings took place. It became obvious how important it was to see and connect with each child. Teachers offered extra support to those struggling with home teaching and teachers adapted to suit the needs of each family, devising and delivering support plans tailored to each child.



All about the bass



Weighing it up



Pre Prep pupils find their balance in uncertain times



Online music lessons



Virtual Sports Day



Sweet appreciation for NHS and healthcare workers



The Design & Technology Den Building Challenge



Sugar and spikes!







Girls' night in



Punting on the Stour

# Boarding

As always, life in our large family was frenetic and fantastical and the weeks went spiralling by when, suddenly, everyone had to abandon ship in March! Nevertheless, I hope the following gives a brief glimpse of the year.

Weekend activities continued as usual with roller skating, bowling, climbing, cycling and ice skating, as well as trips to the cinema, Flip Out, Kaspas and Laser Quest. Sunday afternoon activities included: punting on the River Stour, the Canterbury Food Festival, paintballing, the Harry Potter Studio Tour, Chom-Chom restaurant and *Screamland*.

Sport is an important aspect of boarding and boarders continued to make excellent use of the AstroTurf for friendly football matches and hockey practice. There was also basketball and access to the new fitness suite. In addition, many boarders represented St Edmund's on pitch and court. Max Carlin, Friedrich Schuerholz, Roshan Limbu, Marcus Yanni, Mayowa Dickson, Carl Charneau, Kumeode Lamai, Sergei Crowder, Haziq Fazal, Harry Carlin, Archie Carlin, Frederic Golling, Sunip Gurung, Joseph Henry,

Nelson Limbu, Maximo Garrido, Diego Del Olmo, Pedro Silvera and Pablo Relano all played football for the school, as did Katerina Anton, Luisa Pfennig-Veyisoglu and Sneha Shrestha. Joseph Henry, Nelson Limbu, Maximo Garrido, Diego Del Olmo, Pedro Silvera, Pablo Relano, Lottie-Lou Smith, Lubhanshi Arora, Maren Petsching, Linnea Steffen, Alice Horder and Katie Head wielded hockey sticks for the school, whilst Geri Ng, Lily Vigor, Hasina Thapa Magar, Linh Pham, Haziq Fazal, Mekhail Laghari, Isaac Ng, Carl Bender, Alexander Falter and Roy Yuen all demonstrated their skill at badminton. A special mention must go to Geri, who organised badminton amongst the boarders for many years.

We are blessed to have so many talented musicians in boarding. Sophia Grundmann, Annie Fu, Alexander Falter, Emile Tamschick, Joseph Henry, Marcus Yanni, Freddie

Rupp, Katie Head and Frederic Golling all participated in Chapel Choir, lunchtime concerts, string ensembles, Symphony Orchestra, Big Band and the spectacular Carol Service at the Cathedral. In addition, Lottie, Jasper Smallwood and Giorgia Vaccarone were cast in the fantastic school production *Chicago*, while Freddie, Andrei Abromov and Sophie played with the accompanying band.

Regular features of boarding continued to be popular, such as the in-house cinema on a Saturday evening, and the weekly prizes for the best kept rooms became highly desirable! Special mention goes to Bethany Stringer and Yalamber Rai in School House, who seemed always to be collecting the prize! The Christmas Ball proved yet again to be a popular way to celebrate the end Michaelmas. This year was the best so far. With the lighting low and the bass high,





Frederic Golling



Kumeode Lamai and Mekhail Laghari

boarders partied hard, celebrating their academic achievements and rejoicing at the end of term. Anders Dennis, an Old Boy of the school, provided the music and memories of Artem Geskin and Daria Karaulova dancing brilliantly to Boney M's 'Rasputin' will never be forgotten. Our boarders love being one big integrated community but sometimes it is great to have a girls' night in. So one Saturday in early December, the boys were politely excluded from the Sixth Form Common Room to make way for make-up stations, magazines, nail bars, too much pizza and delicious chocolate fountains. Competitions and super-selfies ensued as did skincare regimes, popcorn, crisps, painted nails (gone by Monday morning of course!) to say the least and gallons to Fanta. The common room was awash with girls having a great deal of fun!

The Boarding Council met every Wednesday before the main weekly boarding meeting to discuss issues pertaining to the boarders. The meetings were informal and gave a chance for boarders from all year groups to voice their opinion and give suggestions. I am hugely grateful to them all for the time and effort that they put into being a voice for the boarders to the boarding staff.

In School House, Toby Rupp joined the team, having travelled all the way from Perth. He settled quickly into boarding life and was an extremely popular member of staff with our younger boarders. He could often be seen playing tag, joking and laughing when walking back from the playing fields in the late afternoon. Archie, Pedro and Pablo trained on Thursday evenings with the Chelsea Football Academy, and all boys joined in with the older

boys (and some girls!) on Friday evenings on the AstroTurf. They have also keenly participated after school with basketball, badminton and chess club. The birthdays of Omna Arora, Setayesh Kalentari, Bethany and Jasper were celebrated during the term with, well, cake of course! Flexi boarders joined School House during the week and we enjoyed the presence of the regulars Nathan Sadan and Freddie Bickley, who contributed to the great atmosphere. Halloween was celebrated just after half-term with carving out pumpkins and electric candles and the older Lower Fifth boys also enjoyed going to Screamlend and ... screaming.

Dr Edwin Jones



# Senior School House Reports



## Champion House

The David Knight Champion House Trophy is awarded each year following inter-House competitions and the publication of academic review cards. Baker (with 260 points) wrested the trophy from the grip of Wagner (208), who were pushed into third place by Watson (244). Warneford (188) came fourth.



Watson House on the up at Flip Out





## Watson House



Lottie- Lou Smith, Elizabeth Bourne, Isobel Kimber

I have been a member of Watson House since my first day of Lower Fifth, and what an adventure it has been! On the first day of Year 9, I wandered into the building, bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and lost. But I soon found my way. Mr Hodge and Mr Clapp welcomed me to the House with open arms, and since then, I realised that Watson was truly the best house to belong to. With Watson being a House of many assets, I was extremely honoured – if not a little anxious! – to be selected to be Captain of Watson this year.

Watson has hosted many successful socials, one of the most memorable being our trip to Flip

Out at the start of the year. After an exciting hour of flipping on trampolines and competitive games of dodgeball, we were treated to pizza and an array of slush puppies (a sugar kick we definitely needed after all that exercise!). On pancake day we gathered in Food Tech, knives and forks at the ready, ready to consume our body weight in pancakes and Nutella.

Watson, as everybody knows, has its competitive side. We had successes in hockey, netball and football and our junior girls' teams were unbeaten! House Singing, however, was a different story. The event remains a touchy subject for

Watsonites, as we are robbed year after year of our deserving winning title. Unfortunately, despite our immaculate performance of Bon Jovi's power ballad 'Livin' on a Prayer', we still fell short of 1st place. But what we lost in points and dignity, we made up for in House spirit!

Even though the year did not have the ending we had all anticipated (thanks COVID!), Watson House never failed to provide ongoing fun and support through our weekly House Lines, which were held through Microsoft Teams. Mr Anderson, in his first year as Deputy Housemaster, organised the Fastest Finger Challenge and sent us trivia questions during lockdown. Whoever supplied the speediest answer won. Congratulations to Joseph Henry, who came in first place with a whopping accumulated total of 42!

This year has certainly been one to remember, and for that I would love to thank my fellow Watson team, Isabelle Matharu, Alexander Castle and Rob Gain. I would also love to thank Mr Anderson and, of course, Mr Hodge.

Lottie-Lou Smith



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## Warneford



Warneford prepare for take-off

This year in Warneford has been different to say the least and just as memorable, if not more than previous years, with only just over half of the academic year being in school. At the beginning of the year, the House enjoyed its annual social to Screamlend in Margate. This is always an exciting evening for students with lots of screaming and laughter and it is a particularly good opportunity for new pupils to get to know existing students better and create a sense of unity within the House, putting us in a strong stance for the rest of the year.



Getting down with Warneford

The next Warneford event of the year was the House Music and Singing Competitions. Warneford

is generally strong in music and drama with a large proportion of its pupils involved in the arts. Despite every single person making an effort, we came third in the House Singing Competition with a difficult song, 'Sweet Child o' Mine' by Guns N' Roses.

Warneford also had a large number of pupils performing in both the Michaelmas Concert and the Big Band Christmas Concert with Hullaboo. The House also had a strong presence in the school's rendition of Chicago which was absolutely spectacular. Similarly, Warneford students did very well in the Gala Concert, with Matilda Trueblood and Eloise Newman-Brown singing 'The Flower Duet' and many students appearing in the Choir and Orchestra.

Into sporting events, despite often being low on numbers in some categories, Warneford won the Senior House Badminton Competition, House Fifa and the House Table Tennis. These are great achievements which I know will be built on next year.

I am pleased to say that throughout the difficult lockdown period, Warneford pupils continued to stay in touch. In weekly student-led virtual drop-in sessions, students and staff were able to catch up, stay informed

and ensure the strong House identity was maintained. This gave the House a sense of solidarity, even though we could not be together in person.

This year we say goodbye to Mrs Slater-Williams, as she retires. She has been a great support to us and a brilliant Housemistress since 2016. I would like to thank Mrs Slater-Williams on behalf of Warneford House for everything she has done and wish her a very happy retirement. Next year we warmly welcome Ms Florence as the new Housemistress and wish her the best of luck.

Finally, it has been an honour to be House Captain and I would like to thank everyone for their support, particularly the Warneford House Team: Mr Symaka, Terrence Yue, Louis Gray and Emily Collard.

Isabella Boarman-Powell



Sophia Grundman and Andrei Abramov



Warneford make it big



Wagner's debating team



Wagnerites socialise



Ready to score!



House hockey

## Wagner

Mr Underwood's parting words were 'expect the unexpected' but I'm not sure even he could have predicted the events of this year. It has been a whirlwind and the first term certainly flew by in a flash with notable wins in House competitions during a busy academic period. We managed to secure second place in the House Music Competition, largely thanks to the efforts of our all Lower Fifth entry and Matthew Bawtree and Oliver Futch were selected to perform in the afternoon of the House Singing Competition too. There wasn't a dry eye ...

We were never going quietly into that House Singing. Our Upper Sixth were on a mission, given that those who had been here for the entirety of Senior School had never lost a competition yet. I have to admit to feeling slightly apprehensive at the enormity of the pressure and I couldn't help but think that my

first term as Housemaster might be a very short one should we not prevail. Fortunately, my worries were unfounded. Wagner sang their hearts out; each and every one contributing to a magnificent noise. They listened carefully to Mr Underwood's words of wisdom and, much though he would like us all to believe that he bribed the judge, this was, in fact, all their own work. That day we gathered for some House bonding time too in the form of an 'Intra-House Festival of Talent'. I cannot unsee Dr Horn's pirouette (I think he may have missed his vocation) and Jude Ness and Charlie Allan's 'yodel off' will go down as a defining moment of their school careers.

During Michaelmas, we emerged in various degrees of victory from House sports competitions and our quiz team challenged the teachers in the annual St Ed's Heads challenge. All the while our pupils continued to contribute to

the life of the House by making our new door signage and Christmas stockings (thank you, Carl le Hegerat and Daisy Lord) and Wagner pupils continued to impress across the curriculum. Success came in the form of an invitation to an English or Maths masterclass or to speak at a parents' evening. Many received commendations for blue cards. Wagner pupils shone on the stage in Chicago, in the Michaelmas concerts, in Hullabaloo and in the Carol Service. They became debaters, tour guides, peer listeners and Student Voice representatives too.

The Lent term brought a whole new set of challenges but Wagner pupils started as they meant to go on, beginning with House sports. Boys' hockey and girls' netball for junior and senior year groups were held within the first working week (apart from junior boys' hockey which was postponed twice, the



first time because there was actual danger of drowning in that rain and the second because of events very much beyond Mrs Millard's control). The senior girls deserve a special mention for winning their tournament but given that most of these matches were played in seriously character-building conditions, I think all our players should be worshipped as heroes simply for donning their blue shirts.

Individuals of note this term included our debaters (Jasper Smallwood, Katie Head, Lawrence Wake and Carl le Hegerat), who saw success debating for the school and in the House debating competition. Alexandra Millard became our very own England U20 cross-country runner and back in those heady days when we could all run around in the same room together, Kristina Somai emerged victorious as queen of our extreme 'rock paper scissors' tournament. Inevitably some of our events had to be postponed. There is a frustrated quiz team who were poised for victory and, given that I dressed up as Rocket from *Guardians of the Galaxy* to promote it, I am particularly vexed that we missed the fun run. However, despite an unprecedented turn of events, our last few weeks were busy and productive. We came second in House Basketball, our members performed in lunchtime concerts and in the Gala concert. We attended trips to Finland, to Malham and to America, contributed to the L5 Becket Day and performed in GCSE and A-level Dance and Drama pieces. Our pupils continued to make a difference through Interact and the Student Voice and I even remembered to send a large (and not altogether unenthusiastic) representation down to the Dining Hall Committee! Virus notwithstanding, this was a fantastic term.

It did all end somewhat more abruptly than usual though and our Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth leavers found themselves with only a couple of days to process



House netball

the end of their school career. However, I hope that Wagner gave the Upper Sixth at least, some sort of closure.

No one expected our Summer term to take shape in quite the way it did but despite the physical distance, Wagner pupils continued to contribute to the life of the school, performing in virtual concerts, and singing competitions (well done, Matthew Bawtree) and taking part in House Art, Photography and Sporting competitions. There were some amazing demonstrations of remote learning; Aimee Rose Hawksworth earned herself a Headteacher's commendation with her wonderful practical demonstration of transverse waves.

Wagner pupils raised money through the 2.6 challenge run by Mrs Millard and in other ways too; Oliver Fitcher arranged and performed alongside his mother in a special fundraising concert for a local MS charity, early in the term. Our pupils brought forward their remote training as Peer listeners so that they could be ready to help those struggling a little at home. They also made the most of the Menu of Opportunity, extending their knowledge and widening their horizons across the curriculum.

During lockdown, pupils from Wagner House baked for Mr Barnes (and later on for Josie Head

and Isabel O'Connor), listened to Mr Bodle's 'Sounds of Nature', made vegetable animals, shared in the pet's corner, watched films together, attended Wagner tea, planned and taught lessons for Form 7, performed many acts of kindness, made dens, took part in the EKST's Feel Good Friday event, and gave, received and clapped for virtual people receiving virtual birthday chocolate on a weekly basis. Wagner pupils, and tutors embraced a new normal with surprising speed and admirable enthusiasm although Mrs Wakefield appears to have inadvertently committed herself to a lifetime's search for mystery objects. We were so sorry to lose our Upper Sixth (and of course, some of our treasured Upper Fifth) in such an untimely fashion this year but our sincere thanks go to Alexandra and India and to Charlie and Jaya for their service as House Captain, Vice Captain and boys' and girls' Sports Captains respectively.

Wagner pupils proved themselves to be resourceful. Success is not always measured in House points and prizes and I have been so pleased to see small achievements make such a difference in so many ways. I thank them for all they have done. Onwards ...

Mrs Victoria Burton

## Baker



Grace Laslett and Shantih Hone

The year was a busy and successful year for Baker House. The beginning of the new academic year saw the installation of a new Housemaster, Mr Clapp, and with him came a change of both mantra and mindset. Out went the old 'We did well... for

Baker' to 'We did well. Full stop!' We had a consistent year in House competitions. We may not have always had the best technical team, but we always had the most committed one. Indeed, we saw early wins in the senior boys' football and the House Music and St Ed's Heads Competitions, as well as a string of second places, including table tennis, badminton and junior girls' hockey. The Lent term, truncated though it was by the lockdown, still saw Baker House win the House basketball and clinch a string of second places (House debating and senior girls' netball, to name but two). This consistent and enthusiastic approach ensured that we pushed past our rivals to win the hugely coveted House Cup. Not bad for the House that finished last the previous year!

During lockdown, the competitive atmosphere did not abate. Mr Clapp set regular 'Taskmaster' competitions, which included making the most exotic hat, building the most incredible (but edible) sandwich and drawing the best picture without removing pen from paper. Such fun and laughter broke the monotony of life within four walls.

Mr Clapp was not the only new member of staff to join the House. When Mrs Lea took maternity leave at Christmas, Ms Scally joined us as Deputy Housemaster. She brought along with her the innovation of Baker 'Brew Monday' – doughnuts and tea in the Baker study, which established itself immediately as a new tradition and one that we even managed to continue in the virtual world of lockdown.

Ali Scott-Kilvert, L6

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## Choir House

The Choristers had another productive year with Dr Flood until they were forced to stop singing in March when lockdown began. We started in September by welcoming our five new probationers: Rupert Gregory, Angus Henderson, twin brothers Jeremy and Theodore Isom and Cesar Ntamushobora. They had just graduated from their

probationer timetable of a weekly Evensong in the Cathedral to singing with the XVI every day when lockdown began, so were showing great promise and enthusiasm for singing.

Our senior chorister team of Charlie Alexander, Frederick Butler, James Hodgkinson and Leo Routh led the Choir brilliantly this year and worked really well

together. Samson Buck had had to retire from the Choir after his voice changed over the summer. Frederick also managed to get through to the finals of *BBC Young Chorister of the Year* for the second year in a row, this time as first reserve, and proved what an outstanding talent he has as a chorister. James also surprised and thrilled us all by entering the



Choristers keep their distance



James Hodgkinson and Paloma Faith





ITV talent show *The Voice Kids* and getting through to the 'battles stage' with Paloma Faith as his coach. His ambition was to prove that choristers can do more than 'only' sing choral music and he proved this spectacularly. We wish these boys every success in the future and thank them for their efforts as they leave Choir House after five years and take the next steps in their educational and musical journeys.

As well as their weekly Evensong and Eucharist services in the Cathedral, the XVI sang at outreach concerts in Hythe and Herne, at UKC and also enjoyed a hop over the Channel to Calais for a candlelit Remembrance Day service. In the run up to Christmas, the choristers enjoyed their 'boarder choir' activities, a week of fun and excitement during the last week of the cathedral year which falls outside the St Edmund's

school year. This included a trip to Bluewater for trampolining and Christmas shopping; Lazer Rush; the annual trip to the panto and a visit to the Old Palace for an evening of being entertained by the Archbishop of Canterbury and family – all thoroughly deserved treats for their hard work.

Mrs Paula Stones



Choristers at work



En route



# News from St Edmund's



Andrew De Silva



Sara Rook



Mindaugas Pakstas



Claire McKenzie



George Coupe



Simon Georgiou



Xiaobing Wang



Rebecca Holness

## Staff News

We welcome a number of new staff members to St Edmund's this September.

Andrew De Silva joins us from Fair Oak School in Hampshire as Head of Junior School. A committed and passionate educationalist, Andrew will be a wonderful asset to the St Edmund's team. He is also a Lay Clerk at Winchester Cathedral and, as such, brings excellent choral expertise and experience.

Simon Georgiou joins the school as a teacher of Modern Foreign Languages and we welcome Rebecca Holness as teacher of Biology.

Xiaobing Wang replaces Mark Hawkins as teacher of Mathematics and we have two new arrivals in the English department, George Coupe and Steven Bukin. We also welcome Mindaugas Pakstas

as teacher of Business Studies. Catherine Futchter moves from the classroom to increase her work as a Visiting Music Teacher and continues to lead the Lower School Junior Choir and Musical Theatre Club.

The Sports department is strengthened by the arrival of Canterbury Ladies First XI Hockey player Dominique Masters and also Alice Brett, who is our sports gap student for the year.

Tracey Barnes joins the Learning Support department as a Teaching Assistant and Harriet Clapp is our new Year 3 and 4 Music Teacher. Sara Rook becomes a teacher of Form 3.

Our boarding team is enhanced by the arrivals of Jayden Lewis (resident tutor, School House) and Claire McKenzie, who is our residential boarding matron.

Julie Bull joins the school in the vital role of Examinations Officer.

Ross Comfort becomes Acting Deputy Head of Junior School from September and Dr Cathy Sotillo becomes the Senior School Director of Studies. Mrs Judi-Sprinks takes over as Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Ms Florence is the new Head of Warneford House and Nick Hodge becomes Head of Art. James Anderson becomes Head of Design & Technology.

### Congratulations

Christina Lea on the birth of Isaac

Rebecca Maisey on the birth of Arturo

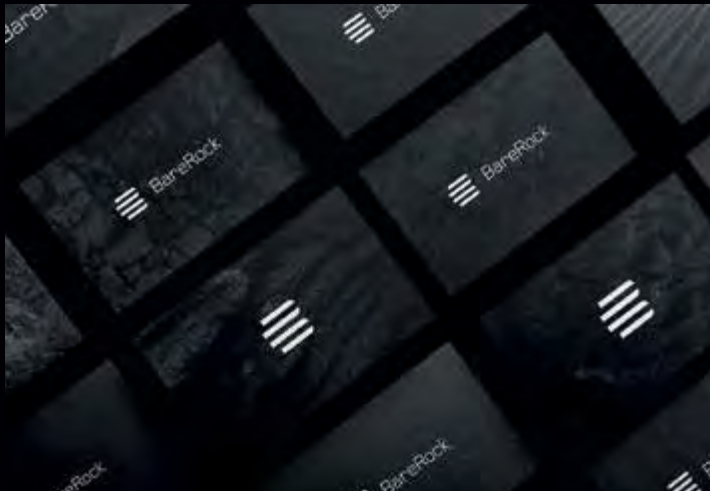
Pippa Ashenden on the birth of Tommy

Edwin and Liz Jones on the birth of George Edward (aka 'Woody')



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## Chapel

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*



Remembrance: the view from above

These bold words from St John's Gospel, read to us by Captain of School Isabelle Matharu at the close of the Carol Service, provide us with a strong and hope-filled image for these difficult times. Jesus Christ, the 'light' that St John proclaims was there at the beginning of time, is with us now and will be for ever. The first fourteen verses of this chapter always form the final lesson in a traditional carol service because they bring together the themes running through the Christmas story – that embodied in the Christ-child, born into poverty and forced migration, is God's promise of redemption: love and hope for all even in the darkest of days. It's this message that forms the very core of a Christian community, such as our school. So especially after the disruptions affecting our school life this year, we remember more than ever that the message of light and hope, joy and peace will always be there, calling us, nurturing us and emboldening us to spread the light.

In addition to the more significant services of the Michaelmas term – Harvest Festival, Remembrance, St Edmund's Day and Advent through to Christmas – and underpinning them are the usual five morning Chapel Services and weekly Eucharist. In 1857, the Clergy Orphan Corporation raised what today would amount to nearly £350,000 for our beautiful Chapel. Given the pressing financial challenges arising from establishing the school, the determination to build a fitting place of worship for this community seems astonishing to us now. But it's really not that surprising given the strong belief that faith should be so central to the lives of the boys who came to live here and to receive an education. Of course, their presence in this community came about through tragedy – the loss of their fathers – and to build in physical form a representation of God's love and redeeming light was a bold statement about life and the human condition, today as much as it was in 1857.

The outward-looking generosity inherent in this 'theme' was much in evidence at both our Harvest Festival services in October, where the school came together to provide for those less fortunate; in this case, our brothers and sisters who find themselves homeless in Canterbury and East Kent and who receive help and support from the wonderful Catching Lives charity.

The 94 young men from our school family who lost their lives fighting for a better world were remembered with respect and gratitude at both Remembrance Services in the Chapel on Armistice Day. Our Chapel Choir, directed by Mr Payne, sang the beautiful setting of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen' by Peter Irving and trumpeter Jonty Harris-Harding performed 'Last Post & Reveille' with aplomb.

Last year the St Edmund's Day service took place on the 14th November and the splendour of the musical offering providing yet another example of the professionalism and skills of all our musicians. The beautiful Colyer-Fergusson Music Building provided the perfect setting for this unique whole-school celebration and we were richly blessed by the presence of one of our School Governors, the Rev Canon Dr Tim Naish. Tim spoke passionately about what it means to be a community and even produced a bottle of Pontigny wine as a useful prop – empty, I hasten to add! The music featured the school's favourite hymns; one-time pupil James Fitcher's setting of the school motto, Parry's 'Hear my words, ye people'; 'This is a special day' and the stirring 'Ceremonial March' by Herbert Sumsion.

The Lent term began with the Epiphany narratives – the visit of the Magi; the presentation of the baby Jesus in the temple; his baptism by John in the Jordan and the miracle performed by Christ at the wedding in Galilee – which are traditionally known as the four manifestations of his divinity. The move to a more reflective atmosphere on Ash Wednesday was marked by the traditional ashing ceremony and the daily break time meditation in the Chapel. I would like to thank Karosi Akande-Alasoka (L6), who kept me company in these meditations every day. The ensuing lockdown inevitably robbed us of the opportunity to gather together and celebrate Easter in the usual way and also meant that the nine pupils preparing for their Confirmation in May have still not been confirmed. I commend them to you for your prayers as they wait to take this momentous step in their journey of faith.

The Revd Steve Bennett  
Chaplain







# Fundraising

## Senior School

The school year began normally for the Interact Club. The newly elected committee worked on plans for a charity fancy dress run in the Lent term and our normal sale of candy canes and non-uniform days in the run up to Christmas. Cake sales and Valentine's roses, delivered by our own God of Love, characterised the second term. As we approached Easter, the COVID epidemic entered our thoughts and the fancy dress fun-run plans had to be shelved. Despite the struggles of COVID-19, we raised £5474 for a series of good causes.

Nathaniel Florence-Wratten, L6

## Junior School

Despite the academic year on the school site being cut short by three months, an incredible amount of money was raised throughout the year. Fundraising amounted to an astonishing £5,729.55!

A range of charities benefited from the monies raised. Roper House continued to raise money for the Red Cross at their Roper Fair and also donated £298.95 to our local MS Centre. Becket raised an enormous amount of money for Pilgrims Hospices; Marlowe focused on Guide Dogs for the Blind and Chaucer supported Kent Air Ambulance.



Festive fundraising

Animal charities are never far from our minds and as soon as the plight of wild animals caused by the devastating fires in Australia hit the news, a fantastic event was put together that not only raised £235.70 but also led to the knitting of pouches for orphaned baby koalas.

Cake sales are always popular and this year we also held our first



Nathaniel Florence-Wratten delivers Valentine roses





Bake On event. There were entries from across the Junior School and Mr Millard and our School Captains were more than happy to help with the judging! Additionally, we raised £123.00 for Macmillan. Non-uniform days raised £232.00, which was shared among the four House charities, and the Christmas Fair raised £644.00. The Valentine's Disco – a huge success – raised £713.50 for Kidney Research UK. We also collected food donations, designed Christmas jumpers and raised money through a multitude of fun activities.

In March, we were visited by Mr Hari Budha Magar, a double amputee, who told us all about his astonishing plan to climb Everest. After listening to Mr Magar inspiring the children with his long list of achievements, a cake

sale and non-uniform day were organized and £324.55 swiftly raised for his epic adventure.

Mrs King's ever-popular tuck shop raised £1,647 and she did an amazing job of sorting and selling second-hand uniform. The sale of the uniform raised a staggering £1,042. These funds were shared between local charities Porchlight and Catching Lives.

Mrs Tracy Donnelly

## The Pre-Prep School

Pre-Prep supported three charities through the year. We started in October by sending the Harvest food and money collection, along with the proceeds of a non-uniform day, to Catching

Lives, a local homeless charity. In November, we held a dress-up day for Children in Need and also sent them the money collected at our Christmas wrapping event. In February, the Pre-Prep children, led by the Dragonflies Class, held a cake sale for the Australian Bushfire Appeal. The class gave a presentation about the dreadful fires and their effect on people and animals in the affected region. Each class and many parents made cakes and biscuits to sell. Many had an Australian theme, including an amazing kangaroo cake. For this charity we also held a 'Sporty Circuits' event in the Sports Hall. Thank you to all those that helped us to raise money over the year.

Mrs Julia Exley



Charitable donations for Down Under

# Valete

## Baker

Lucas Amiano Maillo  
Rowan Bayly  
Luca Beba  
Javier De Artaza Estebonez  
Jordan Duong  
Alexander Falter  
Haziq Fazal  
Pia Frentzen  
Mia Harrison-O'Donnell  
Laura Hart  
Oscar Hird  
Emma Hockenhull  
Ellie Horder  
Laetitia Hotzen  
Gemma Humphries  
William Inscoe  
Fergus Jimenez-England  
Sebastian Lescow  
Ava Martino  
Amélie Newies  
Isaac Ng  
Lucy Reynolds  
Friedrich Schuerholz  
Emily Seidel  
Augustin Senlis  
Irene Serrano Caballero  
Tim Smith  
Emile Tamschick  
Giorgia Vaccarone

## Warneford

Andrei Abramov  
Isabella Boarman Powell  
Ruby Bright  
Max Carlin  
Emily Collard  
Herbie Eason  
Liura Fathuhulla  
Maximo Garrido  
Felix Geiger

Joe Gordon  
Louis Gray  
Joshua Hollywood  
Daria Karaulova  
Kasper Molin-Thoegersen  
Theodora Munday  
Eloise Newman-Brown  
Geri Ng  
Toby Paton-Smith  
Maren Petsching  
Luisa Pfennig-Veyisoglu  
Pedro Silvera Darias  
Aurora Tecle  
Hasina Thapa Magar  
Matilda Trueblood  
Elise Vergnes  
Ariadna Vial Molist  
Sophie Yeomans Attwood  
Terence Yue

## Wagner

Olivia Ashman  
Isabel Backes  
Carl Bender  
Helena Brenner  
Joseph Burton  
Joshua Cowham  
Francesca Fraser  
Alexander Gunning  
Clara Kreiter  
Kumeode Lamai  
Daisy Lord  
Jaya Lorne  
Lilli Martinez Volter  
Ruth Metcalf  
Iris Mickleburgh  
Alexandra Millard  
Ben Mills  
Annabel Murphy  
Jude Ness  
Louis Osmond

Pablo Relano Hernandez  
Riley Robertson  
Henry Sherwin  
Jasper Smallwood  
Max Smith  
Linnea Steffen  
India Tabony  
Lawrence Wake

## Watson

Charlie Allan  
Cristina Amigo Vinuales  
Toby Annett-Baker  
Callum Austin  
Anna Baker  
Aleks Barnes  
Charles Barrett  
George Bersey  
Eva Brandl  
Lucy Bullows  
Fabiola Castillo Sanchez  
Alexander Castle  
Alice Chester  
Seriosha Crowder  
Bryony Curtis  
Diego Del Olmo Lopez-Royo  
Luise Fischer  
Rob Gain  
Jed Hunt  
Beatrix La'da  
Luke Lanaway  
Anna Marrocchesi  
Isabelle Matharu  
Emma Panayides  
Mia Pfeuffer  
Linh Pham  
Emilie Siebenmorgen  
Lottie-Lou Smith  
Michael Webb  
Ewan Wood



Vice Captain Lottie-Lou Smith, School Captain Isabelle Matharu, Senior Vice Captain Joe Gordon and Vice Captain Alexandra Millard



# Staff Leavers

## Anya Bensberg



Anya joined us as Head of Additional Educational Needs in 2013.

She transformed the department, overhauling and professionalising its operations and developing robust, rigorous and supportive systems to help pupils and teachers. The consequence was a modernisation and upgrading of our provision in this vital area and the school owes Anya a debt of gratitude for this.

In 2018, she took over as Deputy Head (Academic) and proved to be a highly capable and empathetic leader of the school's academic provision. Teachers and Heads of Department found her to be an industrious and effective Deputy Head. Her natural intelligence and instinctively caring nature were combined with an unerring eye for detail: Anya knew how to get

things right and offer the correct advice at the appropriate time. She also successfully represented St Edmund's at international recruitment events in Croatia and Slovenia.

In January 2020, she also stepped up again as Acting Head of the Junior School, leading it superbly through the recent COVID crisis. Her calmness under pressure and determination to achieve the best possible outcomes for the young people under her care were obvious during this period.

Anya goes on to become Assistant Head (Inclusion) at Spires Academy. Our loss is their gain. We will miss her and thank her sincerely for the extraordinary contribution that she made to St Edmund's.

Mr Edward O'Connor

## Dominique Micheloud



to make her lessons enjoyable and innovative as well as informative, to which she committed a great deal of time. As a native speaker, with a background firmly based in academia, she was perfectly placed for the position and ran the department with enthusiasm and understanding. Staff who worked with her remember her as outstandingly caring and supportive.

Dominique contributed to many areas of the school. She was Head of PSHE from 2009 to 2016 and while introducing new ways of delivering the material she never lost sight of the importance of student engagement. She became an honorary member of the Art department running many Art and MFL trips to Paris when she was happy to share her depth of knowledge about Paris and its history, as well as her interest in art and archaeology. This interest also came into play during Classics trips

abroad. Dominique was always great fun and a valued travelling companion.

Dominique also sang in the Chapel Choir, performing on many occasions, and as a tutor was always keen to support pupils in their activities. Her exuberant laugh will be missed in the Senior Common Room as well as in her classroom. Having had the pleasure of sharing an office with her for many years, I have witnessed the return of many of her past students, who pop their heads around the door to catch up with her. During her years at the school she was held in great affection by pupils and staff alike; she was always full of life, a good listener and great fun.

Mrs Anne Gunn

Dominique joined the school in 2001 as a teacher of French and German. She became Head of French in 2010 and Head of MFL in 2014. Pupils will always remember her enthusiasm for Modern Foreign Languages, French in particular, and her constant quest

## Daniel Dawson



Dan Dawson joined St Edmund's School as a teacher of English in September 2016. He picked up immediately the role of Literacy Coordinator and made it his own from the very first, calendaring whole-school literacy days and, later, along with Librarian Sharon Scally, driving the school's Accelerated Reader programme.

He inspired pupils to read – and then read more – not only through the scheme itself but through his creative approach to incentives, the most memorable of which was his 'Word Millionaires' and the much-coveted million-word notes.

Dan was equally creative in the classroom and his carefully orchestrated group work was a sight to behold. Pupils knew that they would be pressed to develop ideas and to aim high consistently. His relaxed manner with senior pupils created a cooperative approach to texts and his Sixth Form appreciated greatly his Shakespeare movie evenings, as well as the trips he organized and led to see live local theatre.

He was an asset to the department, constructing and maintaining the pupil-tracking spreadsheets and he proved an insightful and invaluable voice

during departmental meetings. He contributed to the department's Fifth Form Masterclass programme and delivered sessions on Shakespeare's tragic figures and modernism. He also designed and ran the 500 Word Short Story Competition, working closely with the Junior and Pre-Prep Schools to coordinate a whole-school approach designed to celebrate the literary talent across all three schools.

Dan leaves St Edmund's to join the English department at Highworth Grammar School for Girls. We thank Dan for his great contribution to English at St Edmund's and wish him, his wife Karen and young son Ted all the very best.

Mr Matthew Whitman

## Mark Hawkins



Mark Hawkins retires from the school from his current role as teacher of Mathematics. Cambridge and Sandhurst educated and blessed with the combination of a rigorous mind and a genuine empathy for young people, Mark achieved a great deal working in small groups with our GCSE pupils. Many owe their all-important GCSE passes in Maths to his support and patience.

However, his broader contribution to St Edmund's over many years has been enormous.

A former pupil of the school in Watson House from 1966-1975, Mark was Contingent Commander of the CCF and Stage Manager for many years after re-joining St Edmund's as a teacher in 1996.

His work with our CCF was invaluable. Major Hawkins worked tirelessly to offer opportunities for our pupils to develop their leadership and communication skills. For some, the St Edmund's CCF has also provided the springboard for successful careers in the military. CCF field trips and overnight exercises, along with summer camp, require much organisation, commitment and hard work if they are to be successful. Mark epitomised this meticulous approach and led these expeditions superbly.

Mark also played a vital role backstage for school productions over many years. His technical skills and personal industry were essential lynchpins of many of

our high profile school plays and musicals. These often involved long hours after school and at weekends to perfect sets and lighting plots.

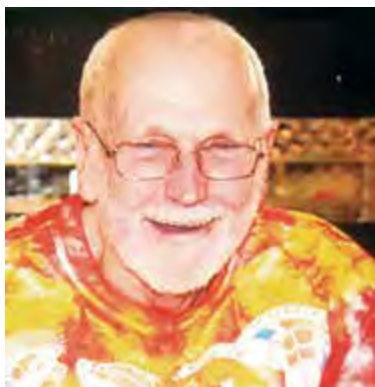
Mark was an essential (unsung) hero in the creation of the termly school calendar, combining a forensic eye for detail with an invaluable knowledge of the strange historic quirks and convolutions of the St Edmund's timetable. He also possessed an uncanny knack for saying the right thing to Headteachers at the right time - usually reminding us of some critical thing that we have forgotten to do! My predecessor and I both benefitted greatly from that.

I will miss his wise counsel and thank him sincerely for the massive contribution he has made to our school.

Mr Edward O'Connor



## Guy Hawkins



Guy Hawkins joined St Edmund's as a pupil back in 1946 and was a member of Watson House until he moved on to study at Imperial College London in 1957.

He taught at St Edmund's for 31 years as a respected teacher of Chemistry and was also an officer in the CCF (in addition to being a Captain in the Territorial Army

Volunteer Reserve and a qualified Mountain Leader!).

In recent years, he has been Technical Director of the School Theatre and worked tirelessly on school productions. Set design and construction, lighting and sound, Guy was a master of all backstage disciplines.

His recent triumphs included *Time and the Conways*, *Animal Farm*, *Oliver!* and *Chicago*. Turning the ambitious visions of our Drama department into a working reality is an extremely demanding challenge. This also extended to working on the staging of GCSE and A-level Drama practicals – always brilliantly done and to the great benefit of our performers. The fact that we have needed to hire three people to

replace Guy is testament to his unique combination of skills in construction, art and design!

Guy also accompanied the Drama department on a number of trips, most famously to Los Angeles a couple of years ago where he demonstrated his extraordinary physical fitness to an admiring crowd on Venice Beach.

Guy is simply irreplaceable. On a personal note, I will miss his good company at boarding breakfast. He was always supportive and patient with me as a new Head and offered instructive wisdom and insight (over scrambled eggs on toast). Guy is St Edmund's through and through and I wish him every happiness in a very well-earned retirement.

Mr Ed O'Connor

## Debbie Nolan



Debbie Nolan has worked at St Edmunds for 10 years, mainly in the Pre-Prep School as a teaching assistant. She was a wonderful

support to her colleagues, who really appreciated all that she did for them. The children and parents also loved her as she always went that extra mile to provide the best education for our pupils. Debbie has many talents but will probably be remembered most by the children for her role as the Easter bunny!

We will miss her hugely, but wish her well in her new job in recruitment.

Mrs Julia Exley

## Tina Culver



Tina Culver has worked at St Edmund's for over 10 years in a variety of roles and as a teaching assistant in the Pre-Prep School since September 2012. She was loved by all the children in her care, as well as her colleagues. She worked hard to support staff and contributed enormously to the wonderful environment for the children to learn in. She is very artistic and we all enjoyed her Late Stay displays.

We will miss her a great deal but wish her well as she takes on her new job working for a garage.

Mrs Julia Exley

## Alison Slater-Williams



Alison Slater-Williams joined St Edmund's School in September 2008 as Head of Art. Within a year she became also the Deputy Housemaster of Wagner. In 2013, following the highly successful Horsebridge Exhibition in which pupils' work was displayed to a highly appreciative public, she became Director of Art, tasked with overseeing the delivery of her beloved subject across schools. In 2016, Alison became the Housemaster of Warneford and, more recently, the school's NEU representative.

Alison was much respected as a classroom teacher and in spite of the demands of her various roles – all of which she balanced with enviable efficiency – she never forgot the importance of delivering, day after day, focused and purposeful lessons. She drew the very best out of her students and an amble through Art would reveal a creative side to them often hidden from the view of other teachers.

Yet Alison knew that art came from the inspiration of seeing great art, as well as from the world beyond the school gates. She was incredibly generous in the number and frequency of the trips and visits she organized for the benefit of her pupils and, of course, she, her pupils and St Edmund's reaped the benefit. Her triumphant Horsebridge Exhibition opened a window on to the success of the school's Art department and the subsequent letter from its director expressed in glowing terms not only her surprise at the quality of work on show but also that of a flabbergasted public.

Alison brought to the role of Housemaster the same focus and

efficiency that characterized her running of the Art department. While she pursued pastoral concerns until satisfied she had got to the truth of an issue, she managed also the administrative side of the post with an organizational prowess that ensured deadlines were met and the smooth running of the school never compromised. The compassion and sense of social duty Alison felt and demonstrated was seen also in her personal life. In her last years at the school, she and husband Brian became committed foster parents who were determined to give others the chances and opportunities they deserved and that might, ultimately, help heal their wounds.

Alison retires from St Edmund's after twelve years of sterling and exemplary service. She goes with our very best wishes to others who will benefit from her generosity and keen sense of social justice.

Mr Matthew Whitman

## Nieves Luz-Mendez

Kelly and I took over School House in September 2017 and Nieves was there to help and guide us through our first year and we thank her for all the incredible support she gave us.

Nieves has a very caring nature towards the children here at St Edmund's and this was particularly apparent when any of the children became sick. We believe

Nieves may have been a nurse in her previous life as she was so compassionate and attended to all of their needs with unwavering dedication. Nieves loves to potter around in her allotment and, among her many talents, she loves to draw. I have been fortunate enough to see some of her art work and I can say I am very impressed. She truly is a lady of many talents!

Nieves will be missed by many people here at St Edmund's: the children, their families and her colleagues. We all wish her all the very best for the future and we hope she pops in to see us all now and again and to brighten our days with her legendary smile.

Mr and Mrs French



# Mr Hooley Looks Back on What Has Changed in 40 Years



Mr Hooley peeks back through time

*'Mr Hooley, you must have seen much change in your time at the school.' Yes and no, as you might expect'.*

First, a summary of how it was in September 1980 when Ed Southey and I started work in Junior School. Boys the only pupils; 70 boarders (34 in Big Dorm) and two matrons; formal breakfast, with boys laying tables and serving food; grey uniform plus Rubik cube; woollen blazers for Sundays and Speech Day; teddies on exam desks; hand-written school reports at the start of each term; daily Chapel, including Sundays. Half term was just a long weekend; cross-country running was offsite with one member of staff; salaries were paid a month in advance. Post-exam adventure and activity weeks did not happen. Year 8 was called the Sixth Form.

Important in encouraging self-reliance and responsibility were duties such as Post Monitor or Security Monitor. The post monitor's job was to cross the busy Whitstable Road and walk to the Rough Common junction to post the boarders' letters home. Telephone calls were seldom permitted; no computers, no internet, no mobile phones were in existence. Security involved a monitor checking the classroom block and changing room were locked, windows closed, toaster and lights turned

off in School House. Nowadays, understandably but regrettably, such responsibilities at Junior School age conflict with our twin obligations of safeguarding and accountability.

Educated myself at a boys' public school and a men's college at Cambridge, I feel that the 1980s change to mixed education has proved to be a civilizing influence and that over the years an increasing inclusivity and acceptance among the pupils of diversity are features to be proud of.

Latin and, when we could squeeze it in, ancient Greek took up five periods a week plus two evening prep times, there being first two, then three members of staff teaching this centuries-old core subject. Common Entrance exams marked the transition to Senior School, increasingly a worry for parents only two years after taking up St Edmund's at Year 7 age. When David Gahan asked me to teach maths I was aghast; it was my worst subject at school. 'That's why I chose you,' he replied. 'You will understand how your pupils find it so difficult and will know how to help them.'

Curriculum aside, often it was events that had no direct bearing on school that had an important influence on children. As a resident housemaster in School House I always had dogs; they were as effective as staffed pastoral care in curing homesickness. There was a day girl in the pre-prep called Chantal, who was scared of dogs. Every morning, when I walked past with Lona, my deerhound, she would hang back, wanting to smooth her but at the same time too anxious to step forward. I would stop and talk for a moment. It took an entire year but one day Chantal inched forward and hesitantly put out her hand to stroke Lona. The smile that followed when the dog did not pull back signalled a success as important as any exam result: the overcoming of fear.

One highly dangerous and dramatic incident stands out from the early years. The sudden, explosive arrival of a hearse, backwards and at high speed through the fence alongside the asphalt play area, would have maimed or killed children playing there, had it occurred two minutes earlier. A released convict, celebrating freedom with a pub crawl, had chanced on the vehicle as he tottered drunkenly past a funeral at St Dunstan's Church. Seeing the key in the ignition he fired up the hearse and drove at racing speeds up the hill before losing control and executing a 180 degree spin backwards into the school. Lucky too that the pupils weren't there to hear the stalled driver's language!

## *What has stayed the same?*

The basic, important things. Food and warmth, society and socializing within school, two-way trust being earned between pupils and staff, a sense of helping pupils – young beings with L plates, as previous Master, Robert Bacon described them – pass the tests of life. Meanwhile, for the teacher, there is the bonus of seeming to remain ageless because the pupil age range stays the same. Former Chaplain Roger Ellis remarked that a teacher with good rapport needed a mental age not much older than that of his or her charges; I leave it to the reader to decide on that. Teaching is a job that repays staying in one place for longer than is usual in other jobs, as pupils need routine and security. (That's my excuse, at any rate.)

In life, many will encounter setbacks and reversals, but no matter what life brings, nobody can subsequently remove a happy childhood. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside so many friends, colleagues and parents, all helping to nurture those happy childhoods.

Mr Thomas Hooley

## Jane Vafidis



Jane joined St Edmund's Junior School in 2005 where she spent 15 years working tirelessly to ensure the very best for the children. She brought her two sons Thomas and Corin to the school and embraced St Edmund's as her extended family. As we looked at our respective timetables one year, I remember her saying to me, 'Well, it's just like having 35 of your own children.' To me this seemed horrifying; to Jane, it was quite normal.

Formerly an English teacher and teacher of the deaf, Jane brought a calm and no-nonsense approach to the classroom. She was a great leveller: the voice of reason and reassurance. Children were always in safe hands with Jane. Her calming assurance left pupils feeling secure and able to conquer new heights. Her kindness, diplomacy and constant encouragement led them to believe in themselves. Parents also valued Jane's sage advice, knowledge and experience in the field of SEN.

Jane's creative talents were not confined to the classroom. She was instrumental in the success of many Junior School's productions: *Bugsy*, *Annie*, *Mille* and *My Fair Lady* (to name but a few!). Jane's dedication to St Edmund's (not to mention her fierce competitive spirit!) is best illustrated by her role as Head of House. She led Becket to victory on numerous occasions and encouraged the children to

raise money in support of The Hospice in Canterbury. Together with the Junior School Parents' Association, she orchestrated the annual House celebrations, complete with inflatables and, latterly, the Christmas Jumper Competition. These events injected fun and laughter into the children's yearly calendar and they will remain her legacy to them.

Jane invested a huge amount of time, loyalty and dedication to the St Edmund's cause. She would, without fail, go above and beyond what was required. It is a real shame, given the circumstances, that she was not able to say a proper goodbye to the children that she cared so much about. Our sincerest love and thanks go to Jane for her commitment, friendship and patience. We send her our collective best wishes as she moves on to her next challenge.

Mrs Alex Ward

## Viv Rose

Viv Rose has worked at St Edmund's for over 35 years. She will be remembered by all those children who have been through the Pre-Prep School as our wonderfully friendly and kind lunch server. She always made lunch times a lovely experience for the children and staff. She also chose a child each year who had beautiful lunch time manners to receive the Rose Cup which was named after her. We will miss her terribly and wish her a very well-deserved rest in retirement.

Mrs Julia Exley





## Adrian Stones



Adrian served as Deputy Houseparent at Choir House for five years and in that time became a very popular and important member of the staff team. The boys were particularly fond of Adrian's Hornby miniature train set, which he often set up during Choir periods. Adrian's love of Nottingham Forest FC and the England cricket team also made him a very popular member of the Choir House community. Finally, Adrian's being a lay clerk in the Cathedral Choir meant that the boys had someone to relate and look up to, which proved an invaluable aspect of his work. Adrian was also an integral part of the Junior School English and History departments. His sense of humour kept staff and children on their toes, and he will be greatly missed by all.

Mr Joe Pellet

## Ed Southey



Ed Southey joined the staff of Junior School in September 1980, after four years teaching at the Hill School, Westerham in west Kent. Appointed to take charge of JS Games – all boys at the time – Ed also taught History and Geography, and subsequently for a while some Maths and English.

From this start Ed coached at least one sport in every term from joining until finishing full time work in 2019, the main sports being football, hockey, rugby and cricket. Though rugby has never been played within the author's memory in Senior School, it enjoyed some success in Junior School, particularly in the mid-1990s, when there was an unbeaten St Edmund's team for one season.

In 1987, Ed married Alison and subsequently their two sons, William and James, entered the school, going through Junior and Senior Schools. In 1990 Ed and Alison travelled to Brisbane in Australia on a staff exchange to Anglican Church Grammar School, whereby in return Robert and Karen Paterson came to Kent for the year. Before the Australian exchange visit, Ed was non-resident Choir House tutor for ten years. Soon after their return from

Australia, he took over from Martin Taylor as Head of JS History, in which role he organized highly successful outings, notably to Sandwich and to the Mary Rose in Portsmouth and the Weald and Downland Museum in Sussex (Form 6), Chatham Dockyard and the British Museum (Form 7), and St Paul's Cathedral and the Museum of London (Form 8). The British Museum trip was a combined Latin and History departments event. Ed always took the trouble to invite and involve parents in these trips, fostering excellent relations and creating much goodwill towards the school.

Ed has always been an outstandingly popular member of staff. Even when cross he never lets his infectious sense of humour stay hidden for long and this combined with his great sense of commitment and reliability in school has earned him the respect of generations of pupils. In the course of forty years he has barely taken a single day's absence. Famously, in one harsh winter Ed was marooned overnight in stationary traffic on a snowbound stretch of the A2 trunk road between Canterbury and Dover. Unable to drive on till early morning he completed the journey home, only to take a quick shower and change of clothes, have a bite to eat, and then set off back for morning school.

Although Ed finished classroom teaching in 2019 he stayed on last year to take Games three times a week and now helps with driving on the scheduled school minibus runs between Dover and Canterbury. A great and dependable friend, he is also someone who never keeps still for long. He has the enviable knack of being able to sum up any situation effectively with a laugh and just a handful of words.

Mr Thomas Hooley

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Travel, in the younger  
sort, is a part of  
education; in the elder,  
a part of experience.

Francis Bacon

## Trips and Activities



Senior School	52
Junior School	70
Pre-Prep School	83

# Senior School



Finding some space



Going underground



Measuring up

## Malham

In March, nine Lower Sixth geographers travelled to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales for a weekend of physical fieldwork. Although our resident chef was unable to join us, all pupils took turns cooking and washing up in the bunkhouse each day.

On our first full day, we walked to Malham Cove, a curved limestone cliff some 80 metres tall and 300m across. The pupils learnt how it was formed through a unique series of glaciokarst processes, with waterfalls from post-glacial

meltwater creating the distinct cliff face and pavements on the top surface. Our walk that day revealed many more limestone features, including Gordale Scar. We spent the afternoon on our river study, taking data to test our hypotheses of downstream changes in Gordale Beck. The evening was spent writing up our fieldwork study.

The next day, our final, we drove to Ingleborough estate in Clapham where we met John, our guide for the day. He told us all about the limestone systems in

the area, of faulting and folding, of unconformities and of glacial scouring that left the landscape as we see it today. After donning boiler suits and helmets we were treated to an afternoon in the caves, learning about weathering controls and processes that form the magnificent underground scenery here. There were some challenging elements to the day and our pupils were congratulated on their bravery in the face of very small spaces and extremely unattractive outfits.

Mrs Victoria Burton







## Religious Studies Trip

Twenty-seven GCSE pupils, and staff, headed off to the Elmley National Nature Reserve on the 10th October on a mini-Buddhist retreat. Pupils were involved in various workshops, a guided meditation and discussions in the beautiful Kingshill Barn, with spectacular views over the reserve. The afternoon finished with staff and pupils spending time in groups of three exploring the nature reserve. By the end of the day, everyone was feeling very relaxed and the general consensus was that it should be repeated again next year.

Mrs Anne Gunn



The art of mindfulness

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## Library



Ms Sharon Scally

The Senior School Library continued to play an integral role in the academic lives of its pupils. As well as playing a vital part in the delivery of the Accelerated Reader programme, the Library also provided supervised study for the Lower and Upper Sixth

Form, stressing independent learning and research and encouraging students to develop the relevant skills. During lockdown, the Library continued as the school's learning hub, offering a wide range of online resources and support.

The Curiosity Shop lecture programme continued to be a popular element of what the Library offers. The year's speakers included Tanja Odobasic, whose informative talk about the Kent Refugee Action Network led to the Interact Committee organising a charity event to raise funds. Tanja also delivered a talk entitled 'Semester at Sea', which targeted those among our Sixth Form who were thinking of taking a year abroad.

Dennis Nigbur, Senior Lecturer in Psychology and also Chair of Faculty Ethics at Canterbury Christ Church University, delivered a thoroughly insightful session on the news, as seen from the perspective of social

psychology. Bill Gray spoke about Humanitarian Aid, which illuminated the logistical aspects of humanitarian aid provision. Nicole Brown spoke about ethics in research and academic integrity. Peter Shepherd, Vice President of Life Sciences Europe, spoke inspiringly on the Fourth Industrial Age and what this means for the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs.

Fernando Otero, University of Kent's Senior Lecturer in its School of Computing, delivered a fascinating talk that drew on the behaviour of ants to illuminate problems in computing. Marsha Marriner, from Whitehead Monckton, gave an informative motivational talk to those pupils considering a career in law.

In addition to a talk by the Chair of Governors, Air Marshall Chris Nickols, Dr Caiazza spoke on medieval visionary literature, as well as medieval hagiography, and Mr Whitman on Jacques Derrida and deconstruction.

## Blencathra

Fifteen Upper Fifth pupils set forth for the north on a brisk morning in November.

Our physical investigation was in the Easedale Valley, where we tested the hypothesis that glaciers in the last ice age flowed in a south-easterly direction from Easedale tarn towards present day Grasmere. As we walked up the valley, the pupils used opportunistic sampling strategies to locate and measure orientated landforms. We measured striations, Roche Moutonnees, glacial till

and both the main glacial trough and the hanging valley formed by a tributary glacier. We ate lunch by the waterfall, jumped on 'hummocky moraine' (a real thing) and braved stepping stones along the way. Most made it back dry and ready for the write up and analysis in the evening.

The following day, the geographers created their own Environmental Impact Assessment to assess the impact of tourism on the small 'honeypot' site of Grasmere. The pupils wrestled

with semantic differentials and were very brave completing their questionnaires with residents.

A trip to the stone circle at Castlerigg was a fitting end to a surprisingly sunny November day. More work in the evening and another long trip home made for an exhausting but useful weekend of fieldwork. The pupils should be congratulated. They worked hard both out in the field and in the classroom.

Mrs Victoria Burton



Local transport



Lily Pickles, Emily Burgess, Carl Le Hegarat



Alice Chester





## Finland

On 15th February, Mrs Burton and Mr Kincaid led a group of intrepid pupils to Finland for a school trip they would never forget. A few of the trip's many highlights appear below.

On our first full day, we split into two teams to learn wilderness skills with Anton, our Wilderness Leader, in the woods. We learnt how to feather wood and used axes to split it into kindling before our skills were put to good use in a competition to boil a kettle of snow the fastest. The afternoon was spent leading teams of huskies across frozen lakes and through the boreal forest.

The trip also involved trekking 20km in snowshoes and staying in a remote cabin in the woods, a trip on which we saw an Arctic hare and an otter. More strenuous was the cross-country skiing, which was a great way to see this beautiful country, especially in glorious sunshine. The hard work continued into the afternoon when we hollowed out our igloo (or *quinsy* as it should really be called) with Jack Hazard, Cyrus Cooper and Tom Balcomb doing the lion's share of the work. It took many hours of careful shovelling so as not to disturb the integrity of the walls or roof. That evening we sat in the quinsy on reindeer skins, singing songs, playing games, listening to Ella Wheadon's scary stories and

writing poetry. It turns out that Leo Song is a real poet on the quiet.

Snowball fights proved a continual feature of the trip and it wasn't long before it became clear that individuals cultivated different approaches to them. Tom was a master of the long-range lob into a crowded space; Carl Le Hegarat worked fast, took no prisoners and aimed for the head without mercy; Mr Kincaid and Emily Burgess were snipers, and Alice Chester mostly sat down and hoped the snowballs would go over her head.

On our penultimate day, we set off in a blizzard for some ice fishing, with our penetrating auger to drill into the frozen lake. Anton had promised us that his groups always caught the most fish and collectively at least we were not disappointed. Caitlin Pachelides had one hooked within moments. Cyrus provided Anton with his record for the season but sadly Jack was left with his head in his hands. Carl buried his disappointment in a splendid custard pancake at lunchtime before we headed out for some serious sledging. The last night was spent in the Sami style

hut with a central fireplace, eating a reindeer and lingonberry feast. We gave awards and Lily Pickles and Cyrus won the coveted Really-Should-Have-Been-Born-Finnish prize.

It was an amazing trip and one that left everybody with memories to last a lifetime.

Mrs Victoria Burton



Tom Balcomb, Mrs Burton, Jack Hazard

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## Sport 2.6 Challenge

Deep into lockdown during the Summer term, pupils and staff completed the 2.6 Challenge, an initiative designed to raise money for charities affected by the postponement of the London Marathon. Our St Edmund's spin on this was to complete each week for six weeks two physical challenges involving the numbers 2 and 6.

Charlie Gotke (L5) was the overall 'winner' with his vast number of challenges, which included a 26km run and a 26km static bike ride, as well as keepie uppies with foot-, tennis and hockey balls; the splitting

of 26 logs and the delivery of hundreds of serves, forehands and backhands.

The most impressive challenges were completed by Gabriella Scott-Kilvert (L5) and Rebecca Reynolds (U5) for their respective and weekly 26 walks-on-hands in a row and 260 netball shots!

The most inventive challenge went to Ali Scott-Kilvert (L6) for potting 26 pool balls, laid out in the shape of 26 and without a single miss, while the most dangerous challenge went to Max Lester for six back hops on his bike.

Our staff 'winners' were Mrs Burton, for the amazing distance she covered with her walks, and Mr Comfort, for his incredible weight-lifting challenges! Our parent 'winner' was Akita Veldman, who stuck religiously to her fitness regime.

A huge thank you and congratulations to all who took part in this challenge: The Rainbow Trust was very grateful for the £258 we raised.

Mrs Helena Millard

## Shakespeare Masterclass



Simon Paisley-Day and A-level Literature students

In November, Upper and Lower Sixth students of A-level English Literature were treated to an excellent and illuminating masterclass on set text *Measure for Measure* led by renowned actor Simon Paisley-Day.

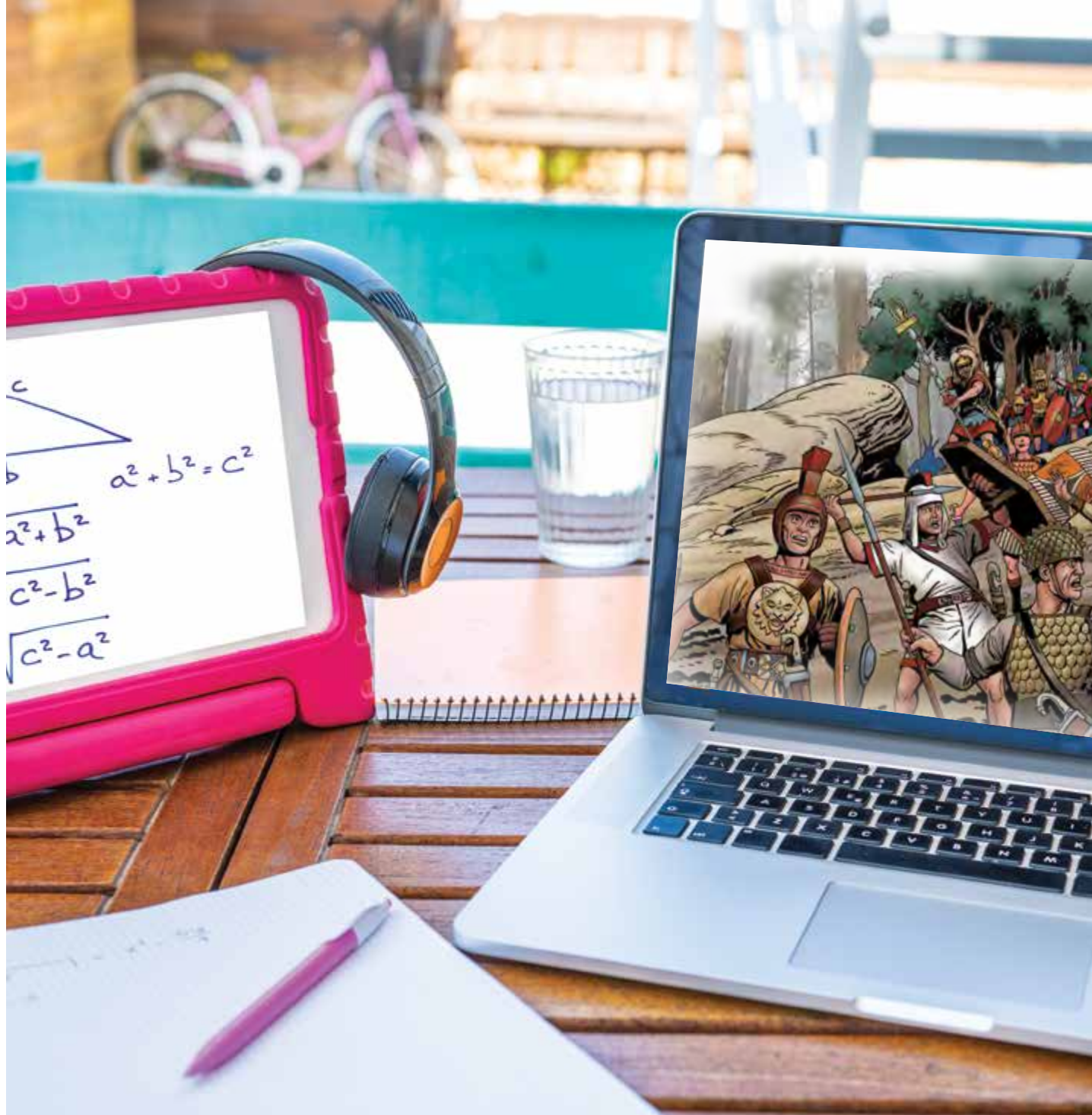
Simon took the students through readings of various extracts from Shakespeare's tragicomedy, showing just how revealing pauses and stresses

can be in the development of character and the creation of dramatic effects. Pupils may have been a little nervous in the presence of an actor whose credits include a whole host of acclaimed theatrical performances, as well as the latest *Star Wars* film, but Simon proved adept at encouraging them to express characters' motivations and personalities through voice after cracking open the early modern dialogue to reveal the

psychology that animates it. The greatest revellers in the comedy were perhaps Lottie-Lou Smith and Liura Fathuhulla, whose alarmingly zealous Pompey reduced all present to giggling groundlings. Thankfully, Isabelle Matharu and Joseph Burton were on hand to restore some critical dignity – Mr Whitman certainly wasn't up to it – through succinct, rigorous and incisive comments that revealed highly sophisticated understandings of the drama.

It was a superb and revelatory afternoon that blended insight and hilarity. The event was appreciated greatly by staff and students, all of whom were very grateful to Simon for the light he shone on the play and the skill which he breathed life into the characters.

Mr Matthew Whitman



## Culture Club

The UK might have locked down during the summer but Mrs Shearer saw immediately an opportunity to unlock a treasure trove of culture to share online with St Edmund's Upper Fifth and Sixth Form students.

Beginning at the end of April with Mr Whitman's introduction to ancient Athens and the death of Socrates, the programme ranged widely through history and ideas. The Head, Mr O'Connor, delivered the fascinating history of the Battle of Teutoburg Forest which contained all the elements

of a Roman tragedy – hubris, betrayal, catastrophe – and Mr Clapp followed with a practical and theoretical session on Zen meditation. Dr E. Jones took pupils through the most beautiful equation in the world, underlining Bertrand Russell's observation that mathematics is an austere and supreme beauty, and Mr Comfort blended psychology, biology and economics as he shared the secret to perfect timing.

June began with Mme Micheloud's 'Warrior Women', a session that draw on literature, archaeology and history to explore the Amazons, the mythical enemies

of the ancient Greeks. Mr Whitman lingered with the ancients to introduce students to Stoicism, which looked at its development, as well as its key philosophers and their ideas, which was followed by Mr Mount's 'Catastrophic Collapse' – not Mr Whitman's fault! – which focused on the disappearance of civilizations. The programme finished with Mr Morrissey's lecture on the American Civil War, a session which considered the impact of military strategies and technology on the war itself, as well as the long-term effects of the North's victory.

Mr Matthew Whitman



## Lower Fifth Business Enterprise Day



During the Michaelmas term, the entire Lower Fifth devoted the day to thinking 'outside of the box'. The day began with an introductory talk by the course director Max Fever, who introduced the task and encouraged our pupils to think creatively and work effectively as a team.

The task this year was to construct an entire business plan for the newest (and most original) white-knuckle ride in the world. The challenge involved considering profit and loss, advertising, location and theme, alongside building a scaled three-dimensional model and delivering a five-minute presentation to peers and seven guests from different industries within Kent.

The pupils were then treated to a glimpse into the future by former parent and industry specialist Clive Triance. Clive's knowledge of the future of business was incredible and his

words on how A.I., robotics and cashless societies will change the job market were full of energy and inspiration.

The pupils worked throughout the day with our guests, deciding on roles and meeting deadlines (including working through their lunchtime for some!). All the presentations displayed ideas, skills in modern foreign languages and demonstrated clearly that the pupils had learned from the talks and advice given. A winner was selected but to quote one of the pupils, 'It was the journey that was important today.'

Mr Leigh Millard

## Burning Bright

In October, 49 of our GCSE and A-level Artists, accompanied by Mrs Slater-Williams, Miss Passmore, Mrs Heavens and Mr Whitman visited Tate Britain.

The group enjoyed a visual feast of painting, printmaking, assemblage, sculpture and installation pieces in the Tate's main galleries and the day

finished with highly informative and engaging guided tours of selected artworks that set pieces in their historical contexts and provided a crash course in how to read art.

Additionally, pupils had the opportunity to visit the wonderful and dramatic William Blake exhibition. As pupils study Blake's poetry as part of GCSE English Literature – he appears also at A-level as a critic of John Milton –

the trip provided an opportunity to view Blake's illuminations and to see for themselves just what a unique and innovative artist he truly was.

It was a very successful trip and greatly enjoyed by all involved.

Mrs Alison Slater-Williams



# Italy

The Classics department's biennial Rome trip took place in the October half-term. A 4am start meant that we were in the centre of Rome by lunchtime and after a short siesta we were on our way to the Colosseum. And so began five incredible days of sightseeing and indeed eating. We walked all around central Rome by day visiting the Forum, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona and crossing the River Tiber to Vatican City.

We caught a bus to the Catacombs and took the suburban train to visit the amazing and extensive archaeological site of

Ostia Antica. We also had a coach trip to the Bay of Naples where we climbed Vesuvius and had a guided tour of Pompeii. Each night we tried out a local restaurant and managed to eat our way through copious amounts of pizza, pasta and ice cream. It is always such a pleasure to take this trip – everyone always wants to return to see even more. Indeed, pushing through the crowds at night to throw our coins in the Trevi Fountain was a must!

Mrs Anna Heavens



Iris Mickleburgh and Amélie Newies find their focus





## British Biology Olympiad



Upper Sixth biologists compete

In February, nine Upper Sixth biologists took part in the British Biology Olympiad, an international Biology competition for Sixth Formers. The competition attracted 9,520 pupils from 668 schools worldwide.

Tim Smith and Eloise Newman-Brown both received a Bronze

medal, placing them in the top 25% of pupils. Lucy Bullows, Emily Collard, Jaya Lorne and Ellie Horder were highly commended and Alexandra Millard was commended.

Dr Gemma Jones

## UKC Microscope Visit

In September, St Edmund's Biologists were able to use the electron microscope at the University of Kent. Pupils saw how specimens are prepared for viewing through the microscope, including the use of a diamond microtome to cut the specimens into 10nm thicknesses. They were then able to view real life structures on the microscope and saw some exciting research into cancer cells and drug resistance.

Mr Charlie Mount

## British Biology Challenge

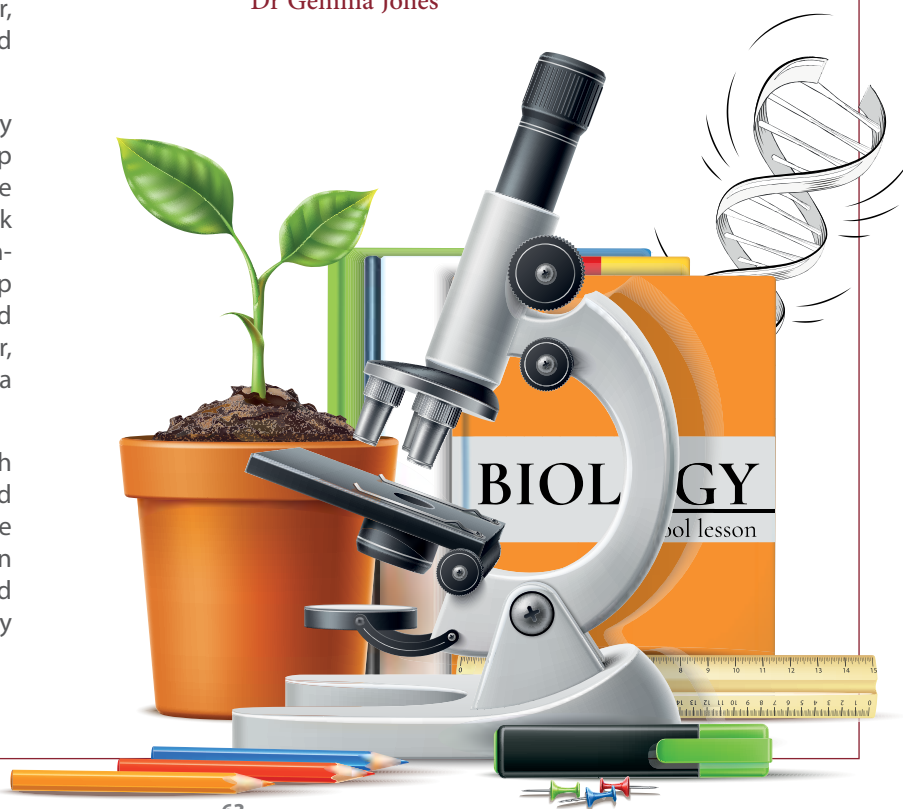
In the Lent term, Lower and Middle Fifth biologists participated in the British Biology Challenge, a competition featuring 3,695 from 367 schools worldwide. The awards available included gold, silver, bronze, highly commended and commended.

It was excellent to see so many of our junior biologists pick up awards. Winners among the Lower Fifth pupils included: Patrick Sutton and Thomas Pennington-Arnold (both silver); Sunip Gurung (highly commended), and Jens Chappell, Isabel O'Connor, Charlotte Richards and Orla Wanstall (all commended).

Winners among the Middle Fifth participants included: Josie Head (gold); Cyrus Cooper and Katie Head (both silver); Ella Wheadon (bronze), Georgia Duddy and Izzabella Riches (both highly

commended), and Clemente Zapater Gimenez, Grace Wilson, Lucy Walker-Reid, Alice Horder and Joseph Henry (all commended).

Dr Gemma Jones



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## The Upper Sixth Lounge of Culture

Upper Sixth Literature students met virtually in May to talk about the books and productions they had been reading and watching while caught between the jaws of lockdown.

Isabelle Matharu began with an overview of, and an excerpt from, Lee Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone*, a fantasy novel that draws on Russian history and folk tales, which invited links to Eliot's use of myth in *The Waste Land*. Lottie-Lou Smith spoke about the National Theatre's version of Shelley's *Frankenstein* and the powerful performances of Benedict Cumberbatch and Johnny Lee Miller, as well as the ingenuity of the staging. Lottie-Lou had spotted the references to Milton's *Paradise Lost* (a set

text) and happily explained their relevance to the story before Lawrence Wake gave an informed overview of the novel itself and the appeal of the Romantics. Alexander Castle introduced us to *Cry Freedom*, which tells the story of the friendship of Steve Biko and Donald Woods during the brutal years of South African apartheid, and reminded all of the value of remembering such courageous figures. Gemma Humphries, revealing an obvious sympathy for the American avant garde, shared with her fellow cultural loungers her experience of John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer* – impressively, Dos Passos' monumental USA was next on her list! – and made revealing links

to *The Great Gatsby* (another set text). Joseph Burton had been keeping busy with Iain Banks and Andrew Marr and his overview of the latter's *History of Modern Britain* led on to a discussion of post-war Britain. Lawrence transformed the focus from history to classical literature by talking about Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, thereby prompting a debate on the alarming nature of the ancients' gods. The meeting ended with a quick assessment of the A-level texts: *Gatsby* proved a favourite among a sizeable portion of those present, while advice was generously offered to John Milton – if only he could have heard! – about how *Paradise Lost* might have been made a little better!

Mr Matthew Whitman





## Debating

Showcasing consistently confident articulation, methodical arguments and strategic rebuttals, St Edmund's School had another highly successful year of debating and public speaking.

The competition season began with the English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace, one of the oldest and largest debating competitions for secondary schools. In November, Lawrence Wake (U6), Isobel Wanstall and

Nathaniel Florence-Wratten (both L6) debated against Duke of York's School. Speaking for the motion 'This House would make voting compulsory', Nathaniel opened with a clear ideological justifications for

compulsory voting. Lawrence provided statistical data, academic research and examples and Isobel summarised the team's arguments.

The second round (January) was hosted by St Edmund's and





Lord Mayor Terry Westgate, Hattie Pickles, Katie Head, Beatrix La'Da and George Metcalfe

therefore came with the obligation to provide a swing team. Frankie Shepley, Lily Pickles and James Press (all L6) bravely stepped in to debate against Benenden School. They had never debated before but argued confidently, with frequent points of information from Frankie, and kept the Benenden debaters on their toes whilst impressing the judge with their research, outstanding organisation and methodical arguments. St Edmund's and King's were the successful teams. This was the first time St Edmund's had earned a place in the final for the South of England.

The final took place in February at Lingfield College, Surrey. Our team, along with Brighton College, was the first to debate. The motion? 'This House would introduce a universal basic income'. Lawrence Wake summed up the result and his feelings about it in his Head's Line report: 'Although I am standing here as a biased party, I can say that by objectively looking at the mark scheme the judges had to adhere to, we were the most consistent and practical team of the night. However, Brighton College's use of persuasion and extraneous rhetoric clearly impressed the judges. While this can be seen as a setback, it was an achievement to reach that stage in the tournament, surpassing

competition like the Duke of York's school and King's, and hopefully it is an encouragement to future generations to take up the mantle and reach greater heights.'

In the first round of the House Debating Competition, Terence Yue (U6), Frankie Shepley and Nathaniel Florence-Wratten debated against Baker's Fergus Jimenez-England (U6), Amélie Newies (U5) and Huw Gallagher (L5). In the second round, Wagner, represented by Lawrence Wake, Carl Le Hegarat (L6) and Katie Head (M5) debated against Watson's Isobel Wanstall, Lily Pickles and George Burton (L6). The debating standard was exceptionally high and the debaters' research and lucid, organised arguments, in addition to confident deliveries and convincing style, made decisions very difficult for our staff and pupil judges. The winning teams of the semi-finals were Warneford and Wagner Houses.

The final took place in the Theatre with Jasper Smallwood (L5) chairing the debate. Katie Head opened for Wagner in a speech characterised by clear reasoning before Warneford's Terence Yue provided key rebuttals. The standard was incredibly high, with some of our key debating winners, such as Lawrence and Nathaniel, competing against each other. This

posed challenges for the judges – Drs Caiazza and Sotillo – and whilst they deliberated, the Floor vote showed Warneford to be the winners. The judges felt, however, that Wagner ticked more of the judging rubric boxes.

St Edmund's was also successful in the English Speaking Union's Churchill's Public Speaking Competition. Two teams, comprising Fifth Formers Beatrix La'Da, Miriam Inglis (both U5), Hattie Pickles, Maurice Caldon (both M5), Katie Head and Jasper Smallwood, completed in the branch final at Canterbury Guildhall in the Lent term. Katie Head, the speaker for Team 1, gave a speech on human rights as a figment of the imagination whilst Miriam Inglis, the speaker for Team 2, spoke about the irrelevance of sexual orientation to religion. After eight rounds of public speaking, the judges awarded one of our teams the second place. The team – Hattie Pickles as Chair, Beatrix La'Da as Questioner and Katie Head as Speaker – received the runners-up trophy from the Lord Mayor. Beatrix was also awarded Best Questioner. All the pupils involved did a tremendous job and the judges commented on the high quality of debate and argument.

Dr Melanie Caiazza

# St Edmund's SHORT STORY competition

The St Edmund's 500 Words Competition encourages writers aged 3 - 18 from the whole school to create wonderful worlds in which readers can be lost.



## Senior School

### SHORT STORY WINNER JOINT WINNER

Jasper Smallwood  
(L5)

## The Reunion

The view through the icy glass had been the same for hours: a sick forest, brambles contorted around the starved trunks of trees and fungi sprouted at the woodland's greatest inconvenience. The further we drove into the forest, the more the frame of Tom's Ford Fiesta began to rattle. I feared the doors would fall off.

Raff, Tom and I had left home hours prior to attend a reunion of old friends from school. The idea of an all-expenses paid weekend away from work seemed appealing, so we packed what essentials we thought necessary and hopped in the car.

Out on the open road we were full of excitement and optimism. How naive we were then to believe this would be a normal weekend!

Rearing up to the opening of the forest, the oak trees guarding the woodland eclipsed the sun. The shadows they cast were gloomy and bitter. I felt as if we were being swallowed upon entering and the branches watched as we began our voyage into the sea of juniper. Our passage was overlaid with roots and shrubs that provoked a melody of sporadic thumps as we edged our way onward. The more we advanced, the colder it became. The setting we found ourselves in was what can only be described as that of a brawl of the elements. Plants fought for their lives in a bid to grow large enough that they might survive the coming months.

As we had become accustomed to the road and the forest whose trees were being devoured by the climbing nettles, the car hit something larger than a root. We had been brought to a halt. Starting

to panic, we thought perhaps we had taken a wrong turning or veered off towards the wrong junction.

Getting out of the car, Raff exclaimed, 'The car's stuck!'

'How can the car be stuck?' Tom replied impatiently. 'We bumped into a log, didn't we? Can't have done that much damage.'

'No, you don't underst –'

And with that he was gone! To begin with, Tom and I assumed he was playing some cruel joke, yet he never came across as the type.

Soon we realized the severity of our situation and our hearts began to race as we pictured our demise too, only we could be sure our fate would not be as swift and banal, but rather harrowing and gravely anticipated.

The roof began to cave inwards forcing me under the steering wheel. The beating of my heart was thunderous, and my legs quivered uncontrollably. Tears rolled down my knees that I held close to my chest in an effort to conserve the little space I had left so that I might find the final squeeze less arduous. The nails of thorn inched closer into my metallic coffin and I could feel my final, dying breath desert me.





## Senior School

### SHORT STORY WINNER - JOINT WINNER

Ella Wheadon  
(M5)

## Don't Turn Around

You walk through the streets. It's after dark, you know you shouldn't be out, but your shift ran late. This has happened several times; the experiences are vivid in your mind. That is why you know you shouldn't be out. The graveyard shift is better than this. When you walk under the streetlights they flicker. It's well known that they flicker when something passes under them. This is weird but not downright terrifying. What is, is the fact they flicker just after you walk under them, too. Whatever happens, you know you must not, under any circumstances, turn around or stop. This is far worse for you than you expected.

There are three routes back to your apartment. The long way, which you passed the turning for five minutes ago; your typical route and the one that goes past the cornfields.

Your typical route is closed.

You can't turn around.

You have to go past the cornfields. You drive past them on the rare occasions you leave your little town. No matter the weather, there is a breeze blowing through the field. It sounds as though it's whispering to you.

Sometimes you see a shadow passing through. It's a farmer, you tell yourself now as you walk the path next to them. You know you're lying to yourself: there aren't any farmers that work in those fields, haven't been for years. Don't think about that. You don't quite remember what happened to them anyway.

Your foot hits something. Don't look down. Don't stop. Keep walking. You reach for your torch, then think better of it. You remember what you had been told: they don't like being disturbed. They don't like being seen. You don't want to see Them. It's better when you don't. You don't remember who told you that, or why, but it seems relevant now.

Now you realise that while you have been caught up in thought, you're nearing the edge of the fields. Breathing a sigh of relief, you pray to whatever deity is out there, if there is one, that the last hundred metres will be safe.

That was a mistake.

You remember something your mother said once. Praying to God will do you no good if you are standing next to the devil. You always thought that was a metaphor, but now you're not so sure. You put your foot down into something sticky and feel it seep into your shoe and between your toes. You must not stop.

You are past the cornfields, but you know you're not safe. You won't be until you are on the other side of your locked door, but you know not to run. You see your house now. The lights are on, but you're sure you turned them off. Don't question it. It's best not to.

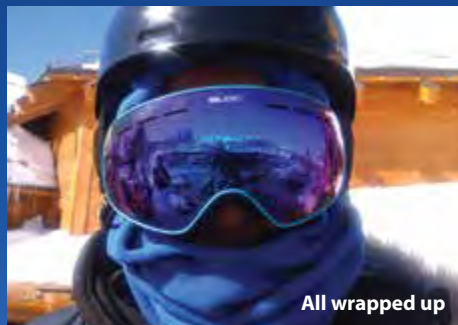
You close your door behind you and lock it. You lean against it in relief. You look down at your shoe.

It's soaked in blood.

# Junior School



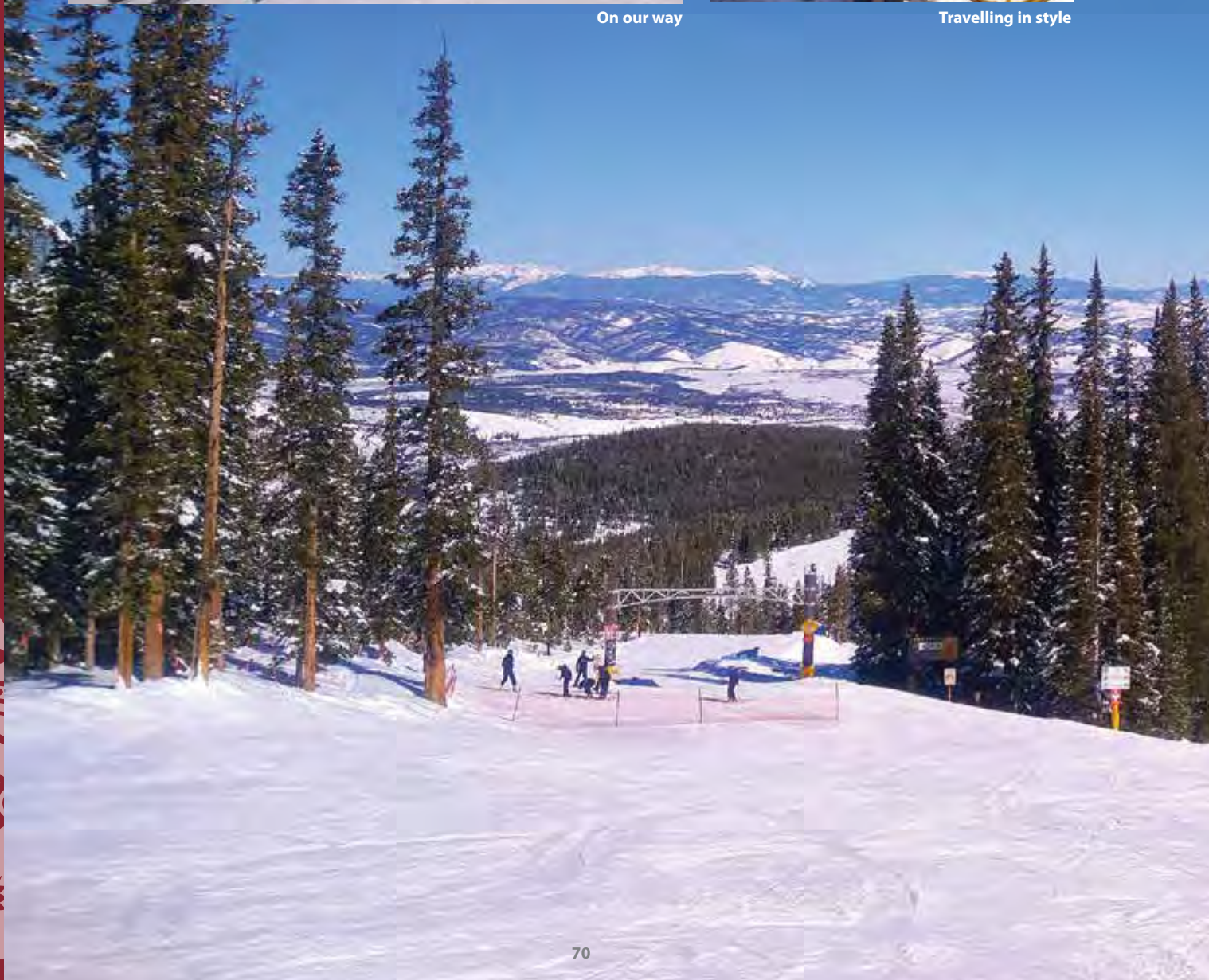
On our way



All wrapped up



Travelling in style





# Ski Trip

The Junior School ski trip, now in its fifteenth consecutive year, left early one Sunday morning in February for one of the greatest mountain ranges on Earth, the Rockies. Forty-eight pupils from Form 4 to Upper Sixth travelled to Denver, Colorado, the Mile High City and the resort of Winter Park for a week of skiing and activities.

After 15 years of successful trips abroad, this promised to be another enjoyable outing for both the children and staff.

Below, pupils and staff describe some of their experiences.

Mrs Linda Relf and  
Mr Chris Penn

## Day 1

It's snowing! Eight inches of powder snow overnight topped up the four metres they have had here since Christmas. The group

had an amazing five hours' skiing. In the afternoon the sun came out and we saw the Rockies at their best – an amazing sight!

## Day 2

We woke to fantastic blue skies and brilliant sunshine. The snow conditions were perfect!

## Day 3

Even though it was -9°C, the sun was shining and we all felt really warm. We were ready to ski the slopes. One of the most popular tracks was the Dilly Dally Alley, which everyone loved. Another favourite was the challenging Mary Jane, which consisted of steep slopes and woods.

## Day 4

We went adventuring today and skied to the furthest edge of

the resort. We pushed ourselves to our limits, conquering various double-black ski runs with ease and some finesse. From the summit, the views were unbeatable and the picturesque landscape was simply breathtaking.

## Day 5

Well, what a week!

Its true stars were the pupils. They gave their all to every challenge and maintained the school's high standards, learning the kind of resilience – a much overused word nowadays – not easily taught in the classroom.

Charlotte Richards,  
Alisha Davis, Orla Wanstall (all L5)  
and Alexander Castle (U6)





## Kingswood



Form 7 enjoyed a trip to the Kingswood Activity Centre, Ashford for a three-day residential trip, Adventure Choices.

After stowing their belongings into their dorms and making their beds, pupils began an adventure of challenge and risk. Activities such as the high-wire zip line thrilled pupils as they zoomed at breakneck speeds towards the safety of terra firma. After landing, Edward Underwood said, 'It was so fast and scary! Can I have another go?'

Other activities, such as building dens, completing the obstacle course and fire lighting, tested and developed pupils' teamwork and communication skills. For many, including a number of the teachers, the Leap of Faith was the most challenging activity. Climbing up a 25 metre pole with nothing to hold on to but small wooden hand grips is a daunting task. However, many overcame their fears and reached the top and even managed to grab hold of the trapeze and launch themselves into the air. Jacob Rigden commented that he felt invisible as he took the leap to reach the bar.

The pupils returned to school feeling as though they had been part of something special. Joseph Goodwin said, 'It was a great trip. It was really nice to be able to get to know the newer pupils who joined in September while taking part in fun and challenging activities.'

Mr Alastair McKean



## The Big Explore

In November, Form 8 pupils were taken to the Pine Calyx Centre in St Margaret's Bay to an event called The Big Explore. The objective of the event was to offer a day of collaborative, fun team-building activities to raise students' expectations of their own capability, give them new confidence, introduce them to new activities and develop their sense of well-being. During the day, pupils were involved in a series of activities including shelter building, fire lighting and a command task. Activities

challenged them both physically and mentally as individuals and as a team to overcome a combination of obstacles using communication and deep-thinking skills.

Ali Ismail commented, 'It was a great day. I had so much fun and really enjoyed the fire-lighting activity'. Tilli Perry added, 'The day was amazing! It helped me discover talents I didn't know I had.'

Mr Alastair McKean







Form 4 charge!



## Form 4 Trip to Bigbury Fort

In September, Form 4 learned all about life in ancient Britain. We have a marvellous resource lying right on our doorstep at Bigbury Hill near Chartham: the site of an ancient hillfort inhabited by the Cantiacii tribe in the late Iron Age.

The children visited this site, which is managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust, to learn about life in a Celtic settlement and to listen to the story of Julius Caesar's invasions in 55 and 54 BC. Everyone had lots of fun rebuilding and fixing the Form 4 palisade which has stood sturdy on the same spot for six years!

The children looked at and thought about the reasons why the Celts might have settled in that area and then took part in a mock battle on the steep hillside. During lunch, Form 4 contemplated the subjects that they had covered in the morning and realised they had done a little bit of Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, Design Technology and Drama. What a busy morning's work!

Mrs Lara Bradley





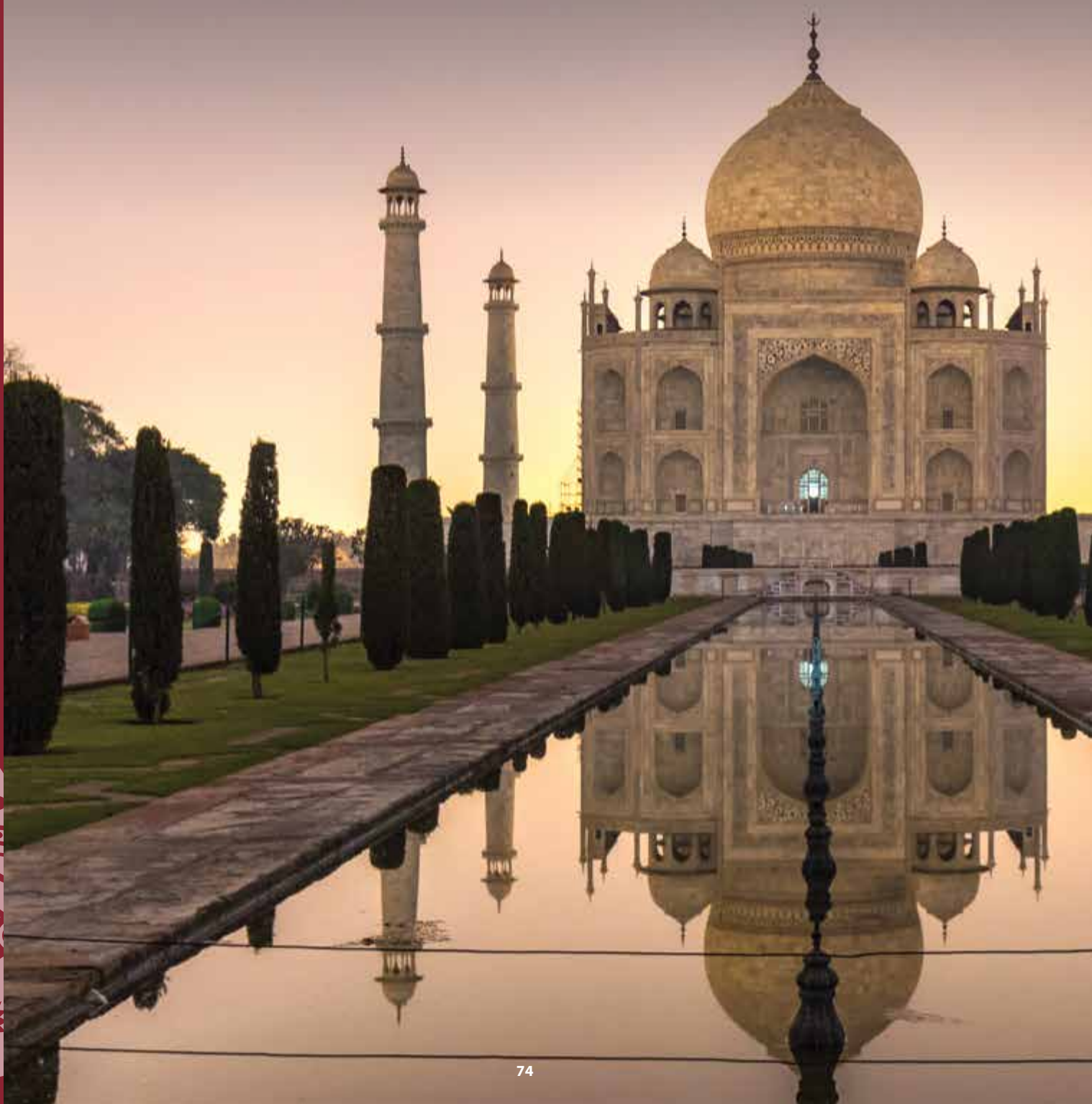
# India Day

Lockdown could not stop our India Day! During the Summer term, when Form 4 learn about India in Geography, we spend a day exploring many areas of Indian culture. This year India Day was a virtual event.

The day began with a live Teams lesson with Mrs Bradley and Mrs Norton. Pupils learnt about the Taj Mahal and then, using Purple Mash, wrote

postcards from there to family and friends. The day also included cooking naan breads, making coconut barfi, finding out about and designing Mhendi patterns and using paper craft to create lamps for the festival of Diwali. We also choreographed – online! – a traditional Indian-style dance.

Mrs Issy Norton





## St Edmund's and the Fairtrade Child

In January, the Fairtrade Club started on the year's big art project: the Fairtrade Child. This life-size cardboard and papier-mâché figure, entirely covered in Fairtrade chocolate wrapping, was inspired by the theme of sustainability and our responsibility to the world.

We took our Fairtrade Child to the annual Fairtrade Fair in Canterbury, displaying it alongside our 'Great Exhibition' of the Fairtrade work Lower School had completed over the last few years. It made us proud to remember all the children who have been involved over the years. I have to mention two of our most loyal Fairtrade supporters: Josie and

Katie Head, who were in Form 4 when we first started our Fairtrade events in 2014 and who are now in Middle Fifth. Thank you so much for your enthusiasm over the years and for wearing the Fairtrade banana costume to get the message across!

Our Fairtrade Club children performed two songs to Lord Mayor Terry Westgate and all the guests at the Fair. Their singing and drumming was very well received. We were given a certificate by the Lord Mayor acknowledging all the hard work Lower School had performed over the years. The children were fantastic and enthusiastically

answered questions from other visitors about their learning and work. It was a great community event with an important message about why Fairtrade matters.

Mrs Doro Thyssen



## Down on the Farm ...

In November, Form 4 visited Butser Ancient Farm. They had a super day and here is an account of their trip in their own words:

*When we arrived at Butser Ancient Farm as soon as I saw it I knew I was going to have fun. (Ben)*

*Eleanor was our guide. She brought us to see the goats first. It was mind-blowing! One of the goats had three horns but used to have four horns, it lost its horn in a battle! (Joran)*

*She led us to the Celtic houses and took us inside a yellow one and called it 'our home for the day,' so we went in, it smelt so smoky. (Eliana)*

*It was beautifully decorated on the inside with swirly, dotty patterns with a fire in the middle. (Lexie)*

*To keep food fresh it was hung up in the ceiling because it got smoked. (Alice)*

*She talked about the structure and what was the same about our house and I learned about planks in the walls of our house. (Alex M)*

*Next we went up a slope to the wattling station. So we could weave we used hazel tree which is the second most bendy tree, the first most bendy tree is a willow tree. Me and Alex M did a demonstration for the others then we all had a try. (Penny)*

*Then we went to the archaeological bit. We used scraping tools. We got very dirty and I found some mosaic that was made with little tiles. (Daisy)*

*After lunch we did some jewellery making. The silver wire was insanely easy to move and I made a nose ring that fitted perfectly. (Jeremy)*

*The Roman villa was so different to the round house. They had beds and loads of rooms. (Cesar)*

*In the Roman villa there was a massive mosaic face that was made the same way the Romans did 1600 years ago. (Robert)*

Mrs Lara Bradley



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## Roman Museum

As part of their work on life in Roman Britain, Form 4 visited Canterbury Roman Museum in February. Working in two groups, the children had the opportunity to walk around the museum and look at and explore some of the artefacts on show. This was followed by a hands-on investigative and dressing up session.

The children looked at the Iron Age helmet which is sponsored by St Edmund's School. Mrs Bradley was interested by some of the imaginative and creative suggestions from the children as to who might have worn this helmet and why it was found upside down in the ground containing the fragments of an Iron Age woman. An Iron Age mystery on our doorstep!

Mrs Lara Bradley



Roman soldier Cesar Ntamushobora

## Arras

In December, 37 Form 8 pupils spent the day in Arras. First, they visited their pen friends at Le College Paul Verlaine. Although many were shy at the start to converse in *Francais-Anglais*, the ice melted quickly and they

enjoyed going around Arras Christmas market together in the afternoon.

The pupils worked in groups to complete a quiz prepared by the French teacher, Monsieur Bertrand

Pichonnier. All children had a wonderful day and they loved the Ferris wheel, the ice rink and especially the food stalls!

Mme Agnès Villeneuve-Newies

## Back to School!

It was great to welcome Form 6 back to St Edmund's at the start of June. The school had not, of course, returned to normal but those pupils able to attend for a week enjoyed opportunities to socialise and to be supported by teachers in a structured educational environment.

In PE and Games, pupils were put through their paces by Mrs Relf and Mr Penn, who threatened them with the dreaded bleep test on the first day! Director of Studies Mr Comfort put on a special set of activities for 'Screen-Free Friday'. Pupils were able to participate in a creative writing workshop; a create-and-paint session, which

featured Airfix models, woodcraft construction models and origami, as well as birdhouses, piggy banks and candle holders; a competition to construct the tallest tower out of only lolly sticks and Sellotape, and Games on the AstroTurf.

Mr Ross Comfort

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# St Edmund's SHORT STORY competition

The St Edmund's 500 Words Competition encourages writers aged 3 - 18 from the whole school to create wonderful worlds in which readers can be lost.



Junior School (Upper)

**WINNER**

Leah Hodge  
(F8)

## Pendle Peaks

It is a normal night as far as the normal eye could tell.

But these aren't normal eyes.

The night sky is a mere ink spill dripping from the corners of the universe, speckled with luminous dots of pearly fire. But not even they can warm the frigid heart of the tempest or calm the coiling gasps of the gale erupting down from the Lord's fingertip onto the solitary Pendle Peaks.

Encased in the chaos of the roaring blizzard, high on the peak, is a ring of tranquillity: water does not fall and breaths of the atmosphere cannot disturb the unsettling quiet. Not a sound tickles the eardrum other than the distant chanting of vocalizing females speaking in a foreign tongue with somber expressions on their fair features. Not a wrinkle on their lunar complexions; no exchange of glances but their mouths move in perfect unison. Their loose Stygian loose curls billow around their faces.

The women clutch each other's hands in a perfect circle. They seem to be concealing something within. Something distracts your attention from the curious scene.

A figure emerging out of the wilderness.

Squinting, you notice it is climbing the hill with supernatural haste. It doesn't occur to you until you stumble drunkenly over a protruding root that you are following suit. You are drawn to the women at the summit. Suddenly, all fear and reason pours out of your

head and you are left with sheer desire to be with them. This hunger devours you. You rip your pupils away to glance behind you, where others follow you. Five of them, all thundering up behind you as fast as wolves, the same unsettling flame in their eyes.

It is now a macabre game of chase. They want to beat you to them but no, you won't let that happen. You've never wanted anything more than this. It's incomprehensible; this pain!

You reach the top, panting and sodden, your sight clouded by the icy fog emerging from your chapped lips. Frozen to the spot and confused, you feel your eyelids gradually meet. But you're not tired. You're not executing this voluntarily. Your bare feet are separating from the dewy grass. Your spine bends to become as arched as the glowing crescent moon. You float. You float higher than the tallest fir. The women begin to change form, although your eyes are shut.

You see it in your mind like your dreaming. It's a horrific sight to behold. Their teeth retract into their gums and their hair falls to the ground. Their smooth skin wrinkles and turns violent crimson. Their pond-green pupils roll back to their skulls. You observe your limp, lifeless body follow suit. You feel a tingling in your veins – that tingling quickly develops into a burning hell fire. You smell the stench of burning flesh. You feel excruciating pain and then it gets more intense. But it never ends.

Not ever.

# St Edmund's SHORT STORY competition



Junior School  
(Lower/Upper)

**WINNER**

Ella Jones (F6)

## A Christmas Gift

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be homeless?

Well, I have a story to tell you. It all started one horribly dark, rainy night. Mum called me for dinner and I plodded down the stairs. I sat down at the neatly polished wooden table and peered at the plate in front of me. Spaghetti bolognese. I hated spaghetti bolognese - it was gross. I wanted to be a fashion designer when I grew up but my parents insisted I become a doctor. I twirled the meaty spaghetti round my fork until Mum snapped.

'Stop playing with your food! And I've had enough of you doodling silly dresses all day instead of focusing on school.'

After a very nasty argument, I was kicked out. My face was blotchy and red from crying as I crept along the high street. I was scared. I wished I was sucked into a black hole away from my sorrow. I found a shop doorway and sat down.

It was bitterly cold and I just wanted to be in the warmth of my bed. My stomach rumbled as the clock chimed midnight. The wind's coldness crept over my skin like a deathly hand. Would I ever fall asleep? This must be a dream. 'Wake up!' I thought, but it never happened.

This was my reality.

A new day dawned and I was startled as a car went through a puddle and splashed me head to toe. I was ravenous and pulled a

bag of crisps out of my bag. People walked past me. It was like I was invisible.

Soon my money was gone and I had no food or water. But I waited. All I did was wait. I waited for the joy of food or warmth. Then a little girl walked up to me and handed me a lollipop.

Her mother remarked, 'This is Sophia and she wanted to give you her last lollipop.'

Many weeks passed and I lost track of time. Time wasn't important anymore. It was nearly Christmas and as shops hung up lights and carol singers roamed the streets, I sat dark and alone on the floor. One day Sophia returned with a parcel.

'Merry Christmas,' she said.

She handed me the parcel and I tore off the paper. It was a tub of Heroes, my favourite chocolates. I opened the tub excitedly and inside amongst the wrapped confectionary lay an envelope. I tore it open. The note inside read, 'Would you like to move in with us? We have a spare room and it would be good to have some company. Love, Sophia'

I shouted, 'Yes please!' and started to pack up my belongings.

It was a short car journey until we arrived at their house. They showed me into my new bedroom. It was cosy and warm. Tears welled up in my eyes. My dream had finally come true. I got more than just a box of chocolates for Christmas that year.





## Junior School (Lower)

### WINNER

Alexander Strzeminski-Bowden  
(F4)

## The Boy Who Lost His Voice

Once there was a boy with shiny blue eyes and a mop of light brown hair. He was kind, thoughtful and sometimes mischievous. He was like any other boy, except for one thing... sometimes he lost his voice. And he lost his voice at the strangest times.

One day was particularly bad.

In the morning, the children were slowly filing into the assembly hall. There was chatter, chaos and a lot of shushing. Eventually everyone was sitting down in their seats and the spotlight was shining on the boy. It was his turn to read out the sports results for the week. He tried to speak but no sound came out. He felt like a huge tree in a meadow: all exposed! Everyone was sitting and waiting for him to start. He could hear some children sniggering but he couldn't utter a single word. His voice had simply disappeared!

During break, when the boy went to get his packed lunch, he saw his food scattered all over the floor.

A boy said, 'Hey kid, nice lunch box! I see you're a fan of Mickey Mouse!'

Yes, he did like Mickey Mouse and he had had his lunch box since he was 6 years old. He wasn't going to get rid of it now. He tried desperately to talk back, but he could not make a sound. He had lost his voice again.

The last lesson of the day was sport. The class walked to the AstroTurf.

'Good job on the sports result for the week,' said an older child.

The boy again tried to stand up for himself. He tried to talk back but his voice was nowhere to be heard. He was getting annoyed. Just then, he heard a voice inside his head.

A voice inside his head?

That was strange. He ignored it.

A million questions popped into his head. Why was he losing his voice so much? Where was it going? How on earth could he find his voice? He needed it to communicate with other people. He needed it to answer questions. And most importantly he needed it to stand up for himself.

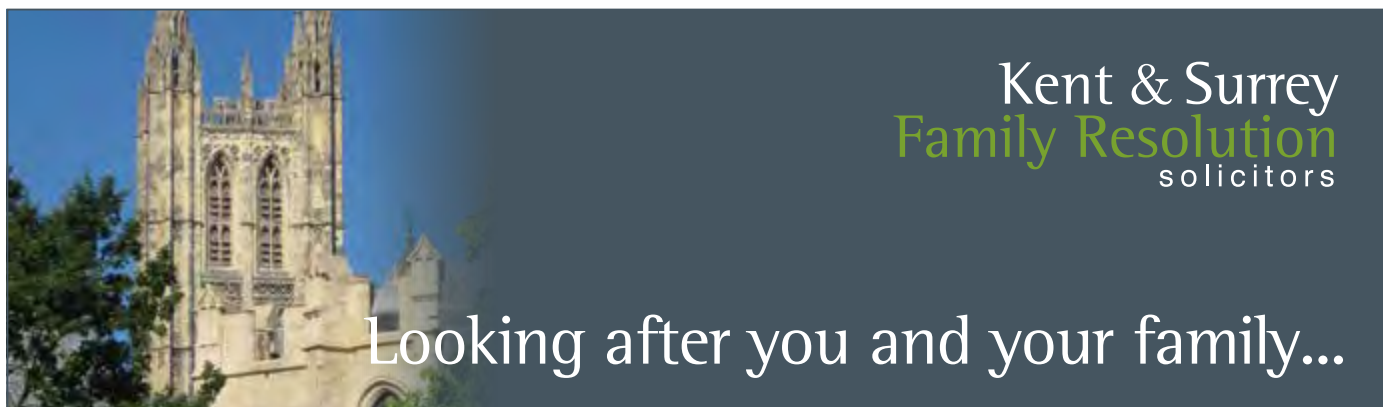
The next day was the same. At school, the bullies were waiting. Instead of making fun of him they were making fun of a new boy. The boy had to do something to help. Again he heard that strange voice in his head. It was getting louder and louder. He couldn't ignore it anymore! The voice was telling him to stand up for himself, to be brave and help the boy. The voice made him walk over to the bullies.

'Act your age and pick on someone your own size,' he said.

The bullies were very surprised. They didn't walk off but they did stop.

For the first time the boy realised the voice in his head was his courage and he had found it.

He knew he would never lose his voice again.



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# Pre-Prep School







Suria and Mrs Rachel George



Helena, Suria and Isabella



Alin

## Forest School

Every class in the Pre-Prep School takes part in Outdoor Learning sessions during the year. We are lucky to have such beautiful grounds with such a variety of flowers and trees. Mrs George is our Forest School trained leader and takes the Honey Bees to the Forest School site each week. The children take part in an amazing range of activities, including den making, outdoor cooking, toasting marshmallows over a fire and

blackberry picking. They identify different types of trees, observe seasonal changes and look for evidence of wildlife.

All the Pre-Prep children love being outdoors and having the chance to explore and learn in a natural environment. All areas of the curriculum can be taught and experienced in our school grounds, such as Literacy (writing poetry about the sights and sounds of the outdoors); Art

(taking rubbings of leaves and bark); Maths (measuring tree trunks); Science (recognising the flora and fauna); Music (creating rhythms with sticks); Geography (looking over the city of Canterbury and identifying famous landmarks), and History (considering the old school buildings).

A super year of Outdoor Learning!

Mrs Julia Exley



## Fired-up with the Dragonflies

Xiaocan from the Dragonflies Class wrote this report after a wonderful afternoon in the Senior School Science Labs.

*First we went to the Science Lab and met Dr Horn. He gave us some safety glasses and a lab coat and I felt really excited.*

*Next Dr Horn showed us some gun powder, it was black. When we tried to light it, it failed because it needed air to work. When we blew air through a tube it lit up like dragon breath.*

*A little while later we sprayed some fire with chemicals and the fire changed colours. Copper made it green, sodium made it yellow, lithium made it red and calcium made it orange.*

*After that Dr Horn showed us how rockets work by filling a bottle of water with air and it flew across the string!*

*Then we went outside and Dr Horn gave us some sparklers, the iron made them sparkly. Finally Dr Horn lit some fireworks and we had to tell him what chemicals were in them by looking at the colours.*

*It was amazing!*

## Sensory Walk with the Crickets



Beau and Alice

As part of their topic work, the Cricket Class excitedly set off on a cold and frosty morning to Whitstable on a sensory walk. They looked at beautifully decorated shop windows and visited a number of local shops to explore their senses.

In the fabric shop, the children used their sense of touch and sight to look for buttons, braiding and materials. The children watched materials being measured and paid for them at the till. In the sweet shop, Honey Kanes, Sarah

helped the children use their knowledge of numbers to weigh out different amounts of sweets. There were many colours and textures and many types of hand-decorated chocolates too. In the florist's, Jane At Graham Greener, the children were shown the flowers, foliage and spices used to make wreaths and bouquets. They selected different flowers to buy, handled Christmas decorations and smelt candles.

The next shop we visited was the Cheesebox. As we entered the shop, Tom greeted us with different cheeses to taste and smell. We chose cheeses we liked the taste of to bring back to school. Our final destination was the Beach Café, where we warmed up by drinking mugs of hot chocolate and talking about our walk. Back at school, we shared the different foods we had bought on our trip and wrote an account of the morning. What a great experience to use our senses!

Mrs Anna Purnell

## Little Sticks

The Dragonflies and Crickets had a wonderful time at Polo Farm playing 'Little Sticks' hockey with Annie, Jaynie and Lewis. They took part in a fun agility warm up, jumping over sticks, scrambling through tunnels, balancing along beams and bending to touch cones. 'I really liked jumping over the hockey sticks, it was really fun and I went really high!' said Imogen. Everyone was very speedy!

Then we learnt how to hold our sticks properly and dribble the ball in a controlled way in and out of the coned course. 'We liked the dribbling and the passing. We learnt lots of skills,' said Niyam, Luca and Zachary. 'I could use these skills when I play football too,' added Niyam.

Finally, the children played games, using the whole of the sports hall, giving lots of space for running, tackling and passing! 'My favourite bit was the match the end because there was so much space and you could run around as much as you liked!' said Poppy. There were some very gutsy performances on show!

Thank you to Annie, Jaynie and Lewis for a really fun session.

Mrs Anna Purnell



Dragonflies and Crickets display their skills

## East Kent Ploughing Match

The Ladybirds set off in the minibus, very excited to be going on a trip after having learnt about harvest. They wanted to see lots of tractors and some ploughing. The class was delighted to see an enormous combine harvester and to sit on a tractor.

We were very glad we took our boots as the weather wasn't kind

to us and there was so much mud! After a quick packed lunch, we decided to come home as we were soaked and muddy. Nevertheless, the children enjoyed their trip and talked about it for a long time.

Mrs Julia Exley







Studying each other

## Wingham Wildlife Park

The Ladybirds excitedly set off on their trip to Wingham Wildlife Park led by Miss Ashenden, the Nursery manager. Although not that warm, it was a dry day and the children managed to see many animals and often very close. The children loved all the different

types of animals and noticed the different habitats that had been set up for each one to live in. They spent a long time looking at and talking about the meercats and penguins. A highlight was going through the dinosaur enclosure. Yes, I thought they were extinct

as well; but no, they moved and made lots of noises! We had our packed lunch accompanied by some peacocks and also played on the brilliant adventure playground. The Ladybirds had a great day and were very well behaved.

Mrs Julia Exley

## Australian Bushfire Charity

In January, the Dragonflies learnt about Australia as part of their 'Around the World' topic. This coincided with the devastating bushfires which displaced hundreds of people and endangered the indigenous wildlife. The children were so moved by the news reports that they decided to raise money for the Australian Bushfire Charity.

To raise awareness of the charity, the class presented an Australian assembly to the other Pre-Prep children, reading stories and information reports about the bushfires, singing 'Kookaburra' and showing their wonderful Aboriginal art. The children also organised a Cake Sale and designed promotional posters in their Computing lesson and placed them around the school. They also spent

an enjoyable day making their own cakes, including koala cupcakes and kangaroo cookies (using an Australian recipe) to sell to their friends and family. The Australian Cake Sale was enthusiastically supported by the other Pre-Prep classes and many parents in both the Pre-Prep and Junior Schools. The hard-working Dragonflies raised £330.

Mrs Elisabeth Sherwin



Noah and Hamish



Setting the recycling bar high with Mrs Doro Thyssen

## Science Week

During the excellent, informative, and fun-filled Science Week, pupils took part in a variety of different tasks and classes.

Mrs Thyssen visited the Pre-Prep School to talk about the importance of gardening and recycling. The children learnt where seeds come from, how to plant them and how to help them grow. They also had a look at lots of items in Mrs Thyssen's shopping basket and discovered how far they had travelled to our supermarkets. Mrs Thyssen also spoke about Fairtrade.

The Pre-Prep pupils also had fun exploring a wide range of different pets at school. They were visited

by Logan the tortoise, Angus the budgie, Cocoa the guinea pig and Mickey the hamster. The children were thrilled to find out about these different pets and developed their knowledge through lots of questions. That same day, the Pre-Prep visited Mr Buckingham and his two beautifully behaved and incredibly friendly French Bulldogs, Penelope and Carlos. Some of the children had emailed photographs of their pets from home and we took time for each child to show their photos, talk about their pets and answer questions their peers asked. We thoroughly enjoyed looking at the exciting animals brought in by Sarah from Zoolab

and some children were brave enough to touch them too. Sarah was very impressed with how much we knew about endangered animals and the ways that we can protect the habitats of these precious creatures.

Senior School Biology teacher Mr Mount came to visit the Pre-Prep children and, very excitingly, brought skeletons with him! He showed the children the skeleton of a rabbit and they observed the big back legs, the size of the skeleton and the flat, plant-chewing teeth. He then asked volunteers to 'excavate' skulls that he had buried in a big box of sand. The children





Mr Mount holds the crowd



Nyan



Georgia

used their science skills to look carefully at the teeth and decide if the animal was a carnivore or herbivore. Using this information, and the size of the skull, the children correctly identified a goat, a dog, a cat and even a fragment of sheep skull. Mr Mount said he was thoroughly impressed with the well-behaved, interested and enthusiastic scientists. The children also learnt how to keep their bodies healthy through exercise with a Sporty Circuits morning with Mrs Millard. The children then had a chance to meet some sporting heroes from St Edmund's Sixth Form and to learn about their training routines and healthy diets.

The third day was ELECTRIC! We had a super electricity demonstration from Dr Horn and the Physics department also lent us lots of fun equipment to make our own circuits and buzzer games. We enjoyed experimenting with materials that conduct electricity in the classroom, exploring magnetism and investigated which materials were attracted to magnets.

We were very lucky to have a drama session with the fantastic Ian from Kic Theatre. Ian worked with each class teacher to explore areas of science the classes were particularly interested in. The children learnt about amazing

scientists and inventors and the Dragonflies discovered more about the invention of steam engines and the discovery of medicines.

Day four was all about potions and experimenting with chemical reactions. Mr O'Connor from the Senior School Chemistry department visited to conduct experiments by mixing liquids to change colours. We then returned to the classroom to try our own chromatography experiments and to make our own experiments with chemical reactions – mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda was particularly thrilling!

Mrs Elisabeth Sherwin



Noah

## Dragonflies: Locked-Down but Still Learning!

The National Lockdown did not stop the creative Dragonflies! They embraced the challenge of learning at home and the children (and their parents) worked hard to complete their Maths and English activities, as well as finishing our class topic 'Space' by researching the moon landings and learning about star constellations. When given the challenge to research moon buggies and design their own model buggy, the children seized the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and ingenuity.

Mrs Elisabeth Sherwin



## Honey Bees at Tyland Barn

The Honey Bees' first topic of the academic year was 'Magnificent Minibeasts' and to support their learning we went on a trip to the Kent Wildlife Trust's headquarters at Tyland Barn, Maidstone. The children had a fabulous day of wonderful hands-on learning about every type of minibeast, from learning about compost heaps and how important worms are to finding out about where bees live and how we can protect them. We went on a minibeast hunt around the fabulous site and ended up with a pond-dipping session where the children were amazed at all the small creatures they could spot. A most wonderful day that I am sure they will remember for a long time!

Mrs Rachel George



Suria, Joanna and Margot

## Dragonflies at Dover Castle



All for one!

As part of their topic 'Turrets and Tiaras', the Dragonflies visited Dover Castle in September. The class met Lady Eleanor de

Montfort, sister of the King of England and former owner of the castle. She greeted us in character and full medieval dress and many

of the children immediately curtsied! This pleased her very much. The children were duly knighted and then explored the castle with her; she took us to all the rooms and secret chambers and she explained how medieval people used to live and work in this fascinating castle. We enjoyed exploring the kitchens and bedrooms, and were fascinated with the plumbing! Lady Eleanor encouraged the children to play in the castle grounds and, after a quick lunch, we explored the castle once more, looking for all the defensive features that we had been learning about in class, excitedly marking them off in our own *I-Spy* books.

How lucky we are to have such wonderful castles in Kent!

Mrs Elisabeth Sherwin



## The Lonely Scarecrow

The Dragonflies wrote their own play for the Harvest Festival this year – The Lonely Scarecrow. The children worked together to devise the plot and the characters, bubbling with ideas and suggestions. They then enjoyed creating costumes and props. Their story centred on a scarecrow who took his job scaring the crows (and mice) so seriously that everyone thought he was mean and the poor scarecrow didn't have any friends. In the end, the scarecrow explained to the animals that he was just trying to protect the corn so that all the children could have cornflakes for breakfast. The mice and crows learn that the scarecrow isn't mean after all and they help him harvest the corn.

The class enjoyed rehearsing the play, fine-tuning it and finally performing it in the Chapel as part of the Harvest Festival. The play ended with all the characters presenting Chaplain with a box of cornflakes! Chaplain was very surprised to receive 16 boxes of cornflakes but said the Catching Lives charity would be very grateful.

It was great fun and the children learnt many lessons from this project, such as collaborative learning, team work and the importance of charity.

Mrs Elisabeth Sherwin



Suria, Joanna and Helena

## Medieval Day



A stitch in time with Hamish

A variety of beautifully adorned princesses, knights and kings arrived at school on Monday 15th December: it was Medieval Day for the Dragonflies!

The children started their day learning how to use a quill, creating wonderful pictures and beautiful calligraphy. The children then enjoyed practising fencing and needlework. They also made their own pomanders using oranges and cloves to ward off the plague.

The highlight of the day was our medieval banquet. Minstrels provided music as the children prepared and cooked pottage, supplemented with chicken drumsticks, traditional fruits and water instead of ale! The banquet table was decorated with beautiful holly and ivy centrepieces made by the children. Everyone enjoyed sampling the pottage and, to Mrs Sherwin's delight, the children spontaneously took it in turns to stand and propose toasts. Finally, the day was concluded with wonderful performances music and dance, including some of the country dancing the children had been practising in their weekly dance lessons.

What a splendid way to conclude our Turrets and Tiaras topic – and what a wonderful way to bring history alive!

Mrs Elisabeth Sherwin



Poppy and Aine



## St Edmund's **SHORT STORY** competition

The St Edmund's 500 Words Competition encourages writers aged 3 - 18 from the whole school to create wonderful worlds in which readers can be lost.



Pre-Prep School

**WINNER**

Niyam Patel  
(Dragonflies age 7)

### The Winning Header

Two days before the big cup final at Wembley Stadium, I woke up and ran downstairs feeling excited as we had worked really hard to get there. I was a midfielder and I was the captain of Manchester United. I led the team through the Europa League Tournament. I could feel butterflies in my tummy because we had come very far and this was the main part of our journey. We were all very nervous about the result of the important match as we all wanted to win and lift the big, shiny trophy.

I walked out of the long tunnel then I held my mascot's hand and I looked up at the clean white arch hanging over the carpet-grass. As I stepped onto the clean pitch and shook hands with the referee I held my breath as the referee flipped a small coin. Our striker passed me the ball from the middle and the final started. Arsenal scored an amazing free kick but we were threatening to score. I was very frustrated as the goal was unexpected and we should have been winning. The referee blew his whistle ending a challenging first-half. I walked into the dressing room hoping that my team mates also wanted to score the next goal.

The game continued after a strict word with the manager Alex Ferguson who told me that I needed to lead the team better. We played good football which made an Arsenal defender foul

one of our wingers in his own box. I anxiously stepped up to take the penalty and smashed it into the top corner beating the diving goalkeeper easily. Alex Ferguson jumped off his seat clapping and cheering us on. Then he made a substitution bringing on another striker in the eighty-fifth minute. The scores were still tied with one minute to go even though we were really pushing for the winner then the sub crossed the ball into the crowded box. I pushed through the tough, strong defenders and jumped up to head the ball. My stylish, wavy black hair swished in the air as I pushed the ball past the tall goalkeeper into the back of the net. I was shocked as the shortest player in the box had scored a header and proud that I had lead the team to victory.

The final whistle blew. The game finished. Man Utd won the cup and I was the captain who led the team through the ceremony and to receive our winners' medals. We then stood on the top tier of Wembley Stadium and were given the beautiful Europa League Cup. The heavy trophy felt cool in my hands as I lowered it carefully, ready for the famous lift-up. I was excited and felt so proud that I was going to lift the trophy. I couldn't hold my excitement in as I raised the trophy and all the Arsenal players looked disappointed. I was happy and proud of myself and the team for winning the cup.



The aim of art is  
to represent not the  
outward appearance  
of things, but their  
inward significance.

Aristotle

## The Arts



Senior School Art	94
Performing Arts	100
Musical Notes	106

# Senior School Art

Fine Art GCSE and A-level



Sophie de Giorgio (GCSE)



Sophie Yeomans Attwood (A-level)



Emma Hockenhall (A-level)



Callum Robson (GCSE)





Hannah Whitlock (GCSE)



Francesca Fraser (GCSE)



Emily Collard (A-level)



Hasina Thapa Magar (GCSE)





Molly Suckling (GCSE)



Ewan Wood (A-level)



Ruth Metcalf (GCSE)

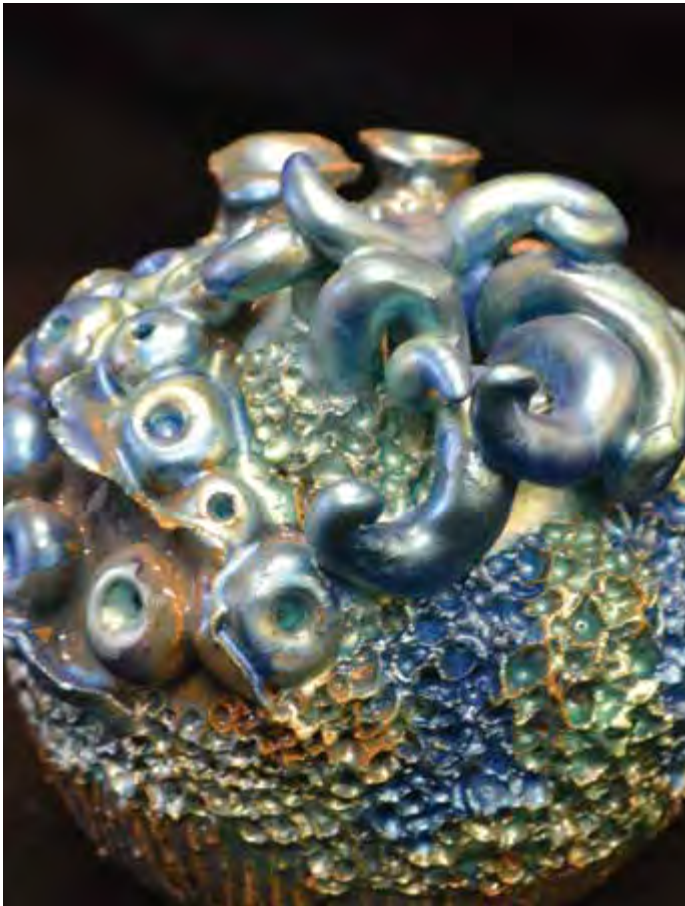


Amisa Kerung (GCSE)



# Ceramics

GCSE and A-level



Freya Reilly (GCSE)



Sophie de Giorgio (GCSE)

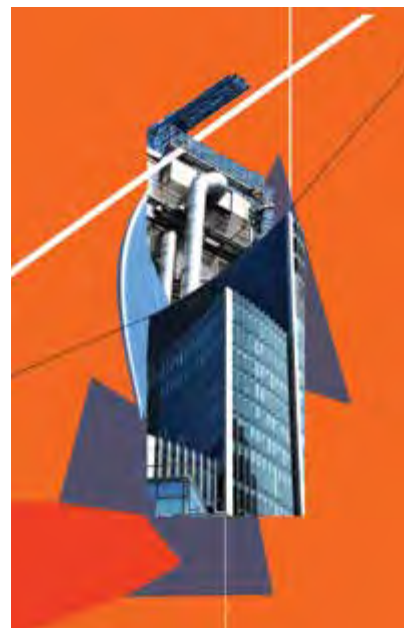


Esme O'Connor (GCSE)





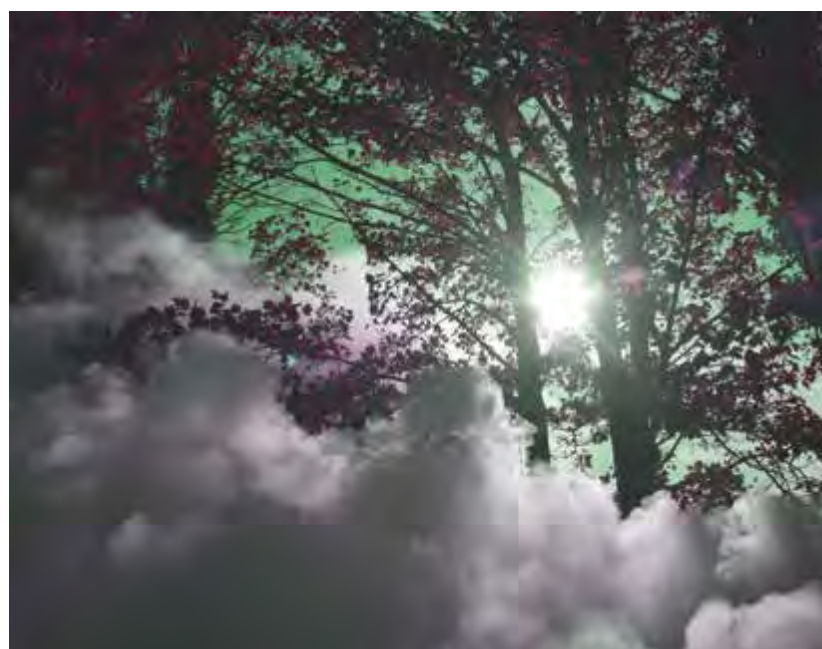
Sophie Yeomans Attwood



Rob Gain



Luca Beba



Jed Hunt

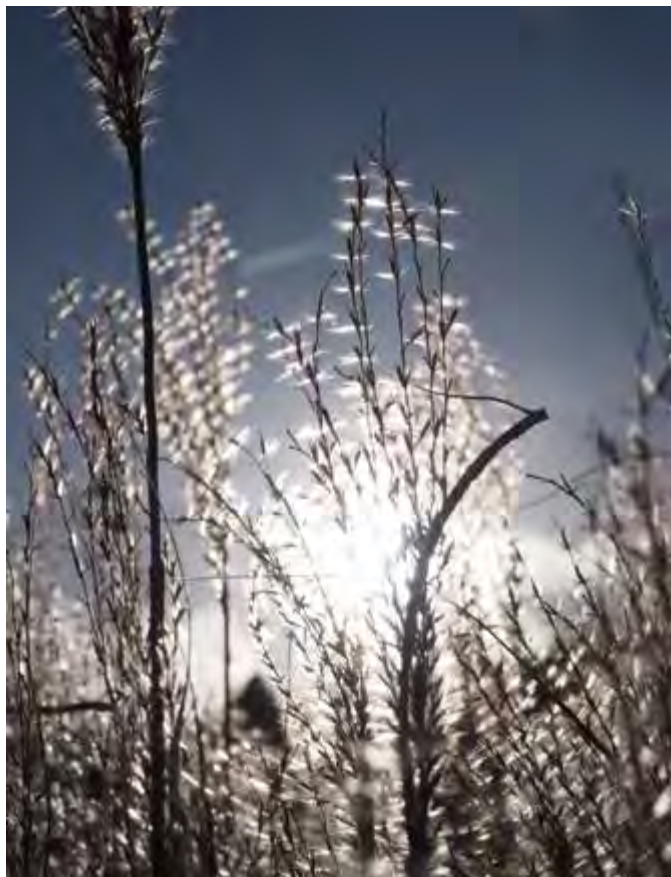


Seriosha Crowder





Luca Beba (U6)



Emily Collard (U6)

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# Performing Arts

## Chicago

"Pop! Six! Squish! Uh-uh! Cicero! Lipschitz!"

In hindsight, it was inevitable.

Given John Kander's foot-tapping jazz score, Bob Fosse's choreography and our own Mark Sell's total dedication, we should have known 'We Had It Coming'. Some things just are: Christmas follows Halloween, mocks precede GCSEs, Mark Sell produces a show that leaves our jaws sitting on the floor. So it is at St Edmund's at the end of every Michaelmas term. Each year we think, 'Well, there's no way he can top that!' and 12 months later we're back uttering the same phrase yet again. But surely this year we have to stop. It is hard to imagine that any school performance could out-dazzle this year's Chicago. From the opening overture to the final bows this was a tour de force which 'Razzled and Dazzled' from start to finish.

It was clear we were in for a treat from the moment Isabelle Matharu (U6), as Velma Kelly, introduced us to 'All That Jazz'. What a voice! What confidence! What a show-stopper! The piano was certainly hot and by the end of the number the Theatre was decidedly noisy. And rightly so. The big dance number that announces the start of the show was simply stunning.

The ensemble dancers ranged from Lower Fifth to Lower Sixth – none older than 17 therefore – but you would be forgiven for thinking they were considerably older. Yes, you would expect energy and enthusiasm but not necessarily the precision, the confidence and the polish that we saw in abundance. Wherever you looked – whether it was front centre or at someone in the back corner – you found commitment,

character and assurance. These dancers knew what they were doing. They were clearly so well drilled that they must have been living, breathing and dreaming these routines for weeks. You cannot learn to dance like this overnight. I take my hat off – or would have, but there were no bowlers in this show – to Lisa Jayne Gordon, our superb Dance teacher and choreographer, who put these dancers through their paces. It was fascinating to observe the individual nuances that marked each dancer out, whether it be power, suppleness or precision; everyone brought a bit of themselves to the stage.

Every link in the chain was tight: the vocalists, the dancers and the band. And it didn't stop.

We moved seamlessly to the bedroom of chorus girl, Roxy Hart, played to perfection by Lottie-Lou Smith (U6). Quickly we learned that Roxy is not someone to mess with. She can manipulate husband Amos effortlessly (effortlessly portrayed in 'Funny Honey') and has no qualms in killing her lover when he doesn't respond well to being dumped. Here Amos, played by the talented Alexander Castle (U6), seems rather forgettable. He takes the blame for Fred Casely's death until he realises he is being duped by his two-timing wife. There's an exchange with the police but this is easily wiped from memory by the 'Cell Block Tango' that follows. Alexander was truly Mr Cellophane – transparent and unnoticed. Until, that is, he reappeared in Act II. His performance of 'Mr Cellophane' was utterly mesmerising and



utterly unforgettable. Alexander's accent was sustained, his swaying unbelievable in its rigidity and angle – was he wired to the stage? – he had us eating out of his hand and the rapturous applause at the end of this song was undeniably deserved.

Inside the Cook County Jail we are introduced to lawyer Billy Flynn, masterfully played by Rob Gain (U6). Rob's Flynn was charming and charismatic, with an air of sophistication that enabled him to manipulate poor old Amos as easily as he does Roxy, who is reduced in his presence to a mere – but brilliantly played – ventriloquist's dummy. Charisma also oozed out of Beatrice Paisley-Day's Matron 'Mamma' Morton. Newly arrived at St Edmund's Sixth Form, Beatrice made a memorable debut, belting out 'When You're

Good to Mamma' with sass and flair.

The tap dance that followed was spell-binding. Stunningly lit, the visual focus was on isolated tapping feet which remained in perfect synchrony throughout. For pupils to learn a routine this well – there was not a single mistake or mistimed step throughout the entire number – speaks volumes for the hours of rehearsal that these performers committed to in the preceding weeks and months.

I had thought I had seen the best already – and then 'We Both Reached for the Gun' launched the production into the stratosphere. It came as no surprise that the whole auditorium erupted into spontaneous applause at the end of this number: it had everything. A full ensemble piece, there was

dance, there was song, there was ventriloquism. This was a veritable *tour de force* where the leads shone and yet were eclipsed by something bigger and better: the whole as one. Everything was made to look effortless, undertaken with meticulously planned spontaneity. It was a joy to watch because it was so clearly a joy to perform and a moment of true theatrical magic. This was an unforgettable moment in the history of St Edmund's School drama productions and will live long in the memories of all those who were privileged enough to witness it live. Ask anyone who was there. Truly, an unmissable moment in an unmissable production of an amazingly challenging show. Pure magic!

Dr Cathy Sotillo





Oliver Futcher and Freya Reilly



Rob Gain dazzles as Billy Flynn

## 'Once in Royal David's City'

...stood a lowly cattle shed...

This year's Lower School Nativity told the story from a heavenly perspective. A very busy Master Gabriel is called away to an intergalactic conference of archangels when things down on Earth are developing. Luckily, he leaves his scholar, Young Angel Gabriel, in charge. Together with his fellow angels and the angelic choir, they monitor what is happening on Earth and, when necessary, even move Heaven and Earth to lend a helping hand. Our Lower School Nativity plays

wouldn't be the same without our dancing camels, sheep and stars. This year, we had a surprise visit from St Martin, St Nicholas and even some strange-looking pirates named Pirate Claus, Bauble, Blitzen and the twins Mistle and Toe. No wonder the stable in Bethlehem looked rather crowded!

This year saw all 71 Lower School children involved in making sure that Baby Jesus arrived safely among us. During the three weeks of rehearsals, members of staff were impressed

with how children became more and more involved in their characters. The dress rehearsal, when the children saw the story coming together and the characters coming to life, was a real turning point for many. I would like to say a massive well-done to Cora, as Young Gabriel, who was faced with a real challenge of taking the lead role in this play. Her stamina and energy in this must be commended.

Mrs Doro Thyssen



# Nativity



Jasmin, Amelia, Laurence and Imogen

On a cold, snowy night in the middle of winter, little Robin is shivering away and wishing he could be somewhere a little warmer. A little bird tells him of some exciting news about the birth of a very special king far away in Bethlehem and he is invited to join a flock of birds flying south to visit the baby. On their

way they meet shepherds, angels and wise men and come up with their own unique present for Jesus.

The children in the Dragonflies and Crickets Classes worked hard to put their play together and were delighted with the terrific response from their relatives and friends in the audience. Their songs and

dances were performed with great confidence and there was some super acting from all involved but in particular Bella, who delivered her lines with comic timing and amazing facial expressions. The Birds were bubbly and entertaining – each had its own personality, which was reflected in the fantastic costumes designed by Mrs Pickles. The Angels were graceful and elegant and the Kings and Camels were great fun. The high point of the show was the Shepherds' dance with their Sheep, which was performed with energy and flamboyance. The children's enthusiasm was infectious and the Shepherds and Sheep thoroughly enjoyed the rapturous applause at the end.

Well done, everyone!

Mrs Elisabeth Sherwin

## We Three Kings

The Ladybirds Class (Nursery) and Honey Bees Class (Reception) joined together for the annual Nativity play, *We Three Kings*. We were lucky to have Mr Payne playing the music whilst the children sang their little hearts out. The Three Camels were possibly the highlight this year, closely followed by the amazing Stars, angelic Angels and the Three Wise Men.

Well done, children for another amazing nativity!

Mrs Rachel George



Three Kings and festive friends



# Musical Notes



**Gemma Humphries and Mr Payne**

Looking back over an extraordinary year, it is clear that music permeates everyone's life at St Edmund's. It is part of the very fabric of the institution and we take pride in our sense of tradition as the constant wave of fresh talent emerges and delights us all. By the start of the lockdown in March, we were able to complete most of the key musical activities for the term but it did not stop there. Online tuition successfully continued throughout the summer and there were plentiful music competitions and performances to enjoy.



**Katherine Pennington-Arnold, Freddie Rupp and Mark Lower**





In September, the department got into full swing with its programme of daily rehearsals and events. The Music Scholar's BBQ allowed pupils, old and new, to get to know each other. Our long association with the Tippet Quartet continues and their input in rehearsals, demonstrations and workshops inspires pupils throughout the school on a regular basis; their performance in Chapel at the start of term was thrilling and inspiring to hear. St Edmund's musicians are well known in the local community and we were delighted that Jonty and Olivia Harris-Harding represented St Edmund's School playing at the Canterbury Festival Bursary Competition in October.

In November, the whole school came together as a community for St Edmund's Day. The Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, Cathedral choristers and Junior School Choirs joined forces at the Colyer Fergusson Music Building to enhance the service with choral items to celebrate the occasion. During the same week, we held the Senior School House Singing and Music Competitions, which featured superb performances of 1980s power ballads and fantastic ensemble pieces. In the Michaelmas Concert, musicians from the Junior and Senior Schools gave superb performances in the splendid surroundings of the Colyer Fergusson.

It is always a pleasure to see St Edmund's Musicians reaching out into the community and our very own Canterbury Jazz Trio – William Inscoe, Stephen Brown and Freddie Rupp – performed for a Christmas Fair at Macknade's in Faversham. Members of the Junior and Senior Schools also joined together to perform as part of the East Kent Schools Together's Big Sing and the St Edmund's annual Carol Service provided a wonderful end to the term and school year.

In the Lent term, the Junior House Singing Competition gave a chance for all four Houses to perform original songs. Dr David Flood was our adjudicator and he

commented on the energy and enjoyment each House displayed in its performance. It was a pleasure to see pupils coordinating their songs with movement, harmonies and other voice divisions which added variety and interest. Following the performances, the Musical Theatre Club singers performed 'Sparkle and Shine' from *Nativity! The Musical* whilst final decisions were being made. Well done to you all and particularly to Becket House on achieving first place.

Just before lockdown hit the UK in March, St Edmund's was able to deliver some very special performances in the Gala Concert in Canterbury Cathedral Nave. It was a stirring and stylish event and one that showed off fully the abundant talent of which the school is so very proud

When lockdown did begin performers were undeterred from making music. In the first half of the Summer term, Senior and Junior pupils were invited to enter a pop song competition. Former pupil and artist, Dan Caplen adjudicated for us and he was very impressed by the standard of the entries. It was a pleasure to hear a wide range of different ages perform. Zoe Rogers (L5) and Matthew Bawtree (L6) won in the Senior School and Daisy Baker (F7) was the winner in the Junior School.

We then held a Senior School Music Competition to provide further opportunities for both our instrumentalists and classical singers alike. It was a real pleasure to listen to pupils' performances and it felt very uplifting, especially given the circumstances. Even over the internet it was possible to feel a strong sense of communication from all performers to the listener. The Fifth Form winners were Maurice Caldon (solo), with *Adagio* by Vinci, and Orlando Barton Hodges (ensemble), with the *Robin Hood Overture*. The Sixth Form winners were Isabelle Matharu (solo joint winner), with *A Chloris* by Hahn, William Inscoe (solo joint winner), with *My Funny Valentine* by Rogers, and William Inscoe (ensemble) – *Satin Doll* by Ellington.



Fergus Jimenez-England



Thomas Young

A virtual piano masterclass with Julia Klimek from the Royal Academy of Music in London followed in the middle of June. Julia gave warm, encouraging and incisive comments to all our young performers from her home in Warsaw. St Edmund's pupils receive a great deal of musical input throughout the year and our Performance Consultant, John Harle, put Junior and Senior scholars through their paces as he listened, observed and gave useful advice on all aspects of their playing. Performers from Junior School included: Ami and Leonardo Watters (piano); Oliver Tesic (alto saxophone), and Thomas Young (clarinet). William Inscoe (piano); Ella Wheadon (alto saxophone); Billy Boarman Powell (oboe), and Stephen Brown (vibraphone) represented Senior School.

Many former St Edmund's musicians achieve notable success and it gives us great pleasure to report that former St Edmund's pupil, Tim Reynish (former Director of the Royal Northern College of Music) was recently awarded an MBE for his services to Music in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Renowned the world over for his work with orchestras and ensembles, Tim joined the RNCM in 1975 as a tutor for the Postgraduate

Conducting Course, before spending 25 years as Head of the School of Wind and Percussion. Tim spoke very highly of the influence that St Edmund's had on his achievement and we congratulate him on this fine and well-deserved degree of recognition.

Some of you may remember the talented organist and former pupil Charles Francis who left last year. Charles, currently studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, won the prestigious Dame Gillian Weir Messiaen Prize. This is awarded annually for the best performance by a student organist of a work by the French composer Messiaen. Charles won the £1000 prize ahead of fierce competition from more experienced musicians. We are very proud of this tremendous achievement.

Congratulations also go to current pupil Frederick Butler (F8), who was chosen as the Reserve Finalist for the *BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year Competition 2019*. This is the seventh year in succession that a Canterbury Cathedral Chorister from St Edmund's has been included in the Final. Frederick was a finalist last year, so we are particularly proud that he has been recognised for the second time.

Ami Watters (F6) received second place in the Kent Festival Piano Junior Classes. Ami was the winner last year so was only allowed to achieve second place this time around. We look forward to her performances in the senior classes soon. Huge congratulations also go to talented Junior School pupil, Yasar Zhao (F4), who won a special prize for his digital performances of Smetana and Martinu on the violin at the prestigious Berlin International Competition. This is an exceptional achievement.

Back in December, George Gannon (F7), also from the Junior School, was chosen to perform songs from *The Snowman* with The Kent Sinfonia at the Winter Gardens in Margate whilst James Hodgkinson appeared on national

television. James (F8) performed so brilliantly on national television he turned Paloma Faith's chair on *The Voice Kids*. It was also encouraging to hear that St Edmund's pupil Oliver Tesic (F8) recorded classic tracks during lockdown including 'Satin Doll' and 'Careless Whisper'.

In January, our organists gave their very own lunchtime concert in the Chapel and we look forward to the installation of the new pipe organ in the Michaelmas term 2020, where it will support daily services and nurture the talent of a future cohort of organists. Well done to all performers, new and old, that have participated this year.

Music scholar enrichment is available each term and in November our music scholars attended a performance of *L'elisir d'amore* by Donizetti. Upper Sixth Music Technology students were very lucky to visit East Wickham Farm studios, run by former pupils Joel and Liam Magill, and musician and actor Raven Bush. The Brass Day with Mike Lovatt in the Lent term was a particular highlight. Pupils from St Edmund's and Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys were able to enjoy high-level coaching from an eminent musician. Congratulations also go to all pupils who have been successful in their ABRSM and Trinity Music Exams this year. These world-renowned qualifications provide a musical benchmark of excellence and a large number of our pupils are the proud recipients of these awards.

I would like to finish by thanking our fabulous Upper Sixth musicians. You performed admirably and enriched the lives of many throughout your time at the school. We will miss you all and wish you every success on your respective future journeys.

Mr Spencer Payne



## A Wonderful Senior School Lunchtime Concert

Seven musicians from the Senior School performed in a beautifully varied and polished concert at lunchtime. George Burton and Matthew Bawtree performed 'Lady of a certain age' as a guitar duo, which displayed energy and good teamwork, evident from the unified sound they projected. There were two piano pieces in the concert; Sam May from Lower 6th gave his debut performance with Prelude No. 15 in D flat by Shostakovich.



'Like someone in love' by Van Heusen was elegantly portrayed by Will Inscoe from Upper 6th with its contrasting, reflective moments and stride bass style similar to Billy Mayerl. Gemma Humphries then performed the theme tune to 'Schindler's

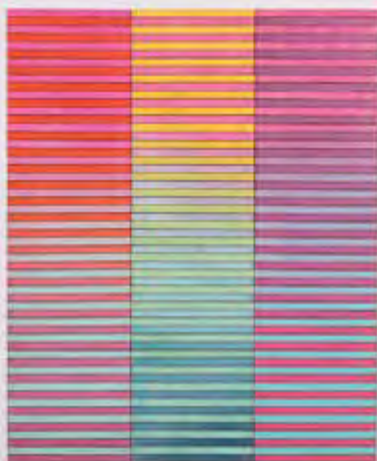
List' by John Williams on the violin. Its soaring and heartfelt cantabile lines taking us right into the upper ranges of the instrument.

Those old enough to remember will recall that it was used in the 1980s TV series 'Ever decreasing circles'. The second piano piece,

To finish, the St Edmund's Jazz Trio consisting of William Inscoe (piano), Stephen Brown (drum kit) and Fred Rupp (electric bass) sent us on our way with the foot tapping 'Poinciana' by Jamal. Their cool jazz sound provided the perfect finale to help ease us back into afternoon lessons. Well done to you all.

Spencer Payne, Director of Music

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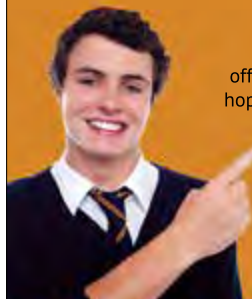


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# Michaelmas Concert

In the annual Michaelmas Concert, musicians from St Edmund's Junior and Senior Schools gave an immensely varied and enjoyable set of performances in the splendid surroundings of the Colyer Fergusson Music Building at the University of Kent. Just about every ensemble was represented across both schools. Notable solo performances were very well received, including Frederick Butler (F8; treble solo), Ami Watters (F6; piano), Thomas Young (F8; clarinet) and William Inscoe (U6; piano).

The East Kent Children's Orchestra opened the concert with their full-toned rendition of Beethoven's Egmont Overture. There were also performances by other Junior School ensembles, such as the Junior Strings, Musical Theatre Club and the Lower and Upper School Choirs. They were accompanied by the St Edmund's Jazz Trio.

The Senior School Symphony Orchestra opened the second half with 'War March of the Priests' by Mendelssohn and a Phantom of the Opera selection by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The Senior Strings, Brass Ensemble, Flute Quartet and the Chamber Choir all performed beautifully with control and poise. The concert was closed in style with punchy performances of three standards by the Big Band.

Mr Spencer Payne



Jeremy Isom and Ami Watters



Jonty Harris-Harding







Thomas De Berry and Stephen Brown



William Inscoe





## Carol Service

The St Edmund's annual Carol Service provided a beautiful end to a successful 2019. It was a service to remember, with music of the very highest standard, some touching moments provided by our soloists and younger pupils and the comfort of well-known and much-loved Christmas carols. Set in the Nave of the Canterbury Cathedral, and with a congregation of some 1450 people, the service lasted just over an hour and represented all parts of the school. Opening the service, James Hodgkinson (F8) sang the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' with confidence and poise. This led to a procession around the Cathedral into the Compass Rose area. Harry Sherwin, ably supported by acolytes Rob Gain and Joe Gordon (all U6), had the honour of carrying the school Chapel's processional cross.

The carols were accompanied by the splendid playing of the brass, consisting of professional and St Edmund's school pupils.

All of the school choirs were represented: Pre Prep, Lower and Upper School Junior Choirs, Senior School Chapel and Chamber Choirs, and our wonderful Cathedral choristers. William Inscoe from Upper Sixth wrote, and arranged two of the Carols: 'I sing of a maiden' and 'The Little Road to Bethlehem'. The former piece was also chosen as the winning entry in the Worcester College Chapel (Oxford) Carol Competition for composers up to 25 years of age.

The music was punctuated with well-articulated readings by Lola Burge (F7), Leonardo Watters (F8), Isabel O'Connor (L5), Jildou Chappell (U5), Frankie Shepley (L6) and Isabelle Matharu (U6) from the Junior and Senior Schools.

Through the generosity of those who attended the service, we were able to give over £1,600 to Catching Lives.

Mr Spencer Payne



Pre Prep stars





Oliver Futcher, Daisy Lord,  
James Wood and  
Stephen Brown



Dr Rowcroft leads the voices



## Gala Concert

The Gala Concert in the Lent term took place just before the national lockdown. The splendid surroundings of Canterbury Cathedral Nave always provide a magical atmosphere and this year we were treated to some very special musical moments from a number of the main school ensembles, choirs and soloists.

The Symphony Orchestra opened the programme with the majestic first movement from Britten/Berkeley's *Mont Juic; Suite of Catalan Dances*. Individual soloists then formed the core of the first half. Gemma Humphries (U6) played the first movement of Mozart's *A major Violin Concerto* K.219, with elegance and detail. This was followed by Fergus

Jimenez-England's (U6) flute solo; an evocative piece called *The Great Train Race* by Ian Clarke with its extended flute techniques and idiomatic styling.

The Chamber Choir then punctuated the programme with two wonderfully stylish pieces by Marenzio and Farmer from the altar steps. A vocal duet then followed with Eloise Newman-Brown and Matilda Trueblood (sopranos; both U6) singing the *Flower Duet* by Delibes in perfect synchronisation before Isabelle Matharu (mezzo-soprano; U6) sang a stunningly evocative piece by Saint-Saëns. To complete the first half, William Inscoe (U6) performed Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with panache and vigour, ably assisted by strong, rhythmic playing from the Symphony Orchestra.

The second half was introduced by the stirring English anthem, *Blest Pair of Sirens* by Parry, followed by Bob Chilcott's *Requiem*. In the latter, the choirs were joined by former pupils Annalisa Traill and Daniel Bartlette, who sang their respective solo soprano and tenor roles with aplomb and great sensitivity to the surroundings. The large chorus, consisting of the combined forces of the choristers, Chapel Choir, Choral Society, Upper School Junior Choir and Northbourne and St Faith's Prep School Choirs, made a splendid sound and supported the seven varied movements with their combined sense of teamwork.

Mr Spencer Payne



Molly McCabe and Billy Boarman Powell









## Canterbury Festival Bursary Competition

Over the October half-term, the school congratulated Jonty and Olivia Harris-Harding, who both represented St Edmund's School at the Canterbury Festival Bursary Competition. Jonty was a finalist in the Junior category and Olivia a Senior Finalist who competed for the main prize.

They played superbly, with Jonty (F8) wowing the audience with his range of expression on the trumpet and violinist Olivia (U5) beginning her programme with unaccompanied Bach, teasing out every nuance in the music and proving both her technical skill and expressive range.

She finished her performance with a punchy and spirited playing

of Astor Piazzola's 'Spring' from the *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*.

Both Jonty and Olivia displayed clearly their personalities, versatility and natural musicianship in a concert showcasing the very best of Kent's musical talent.

Mr Spencer Payne



## Christmas Concert with Hullabaloo

St Edmund's School Big Band, directed by Ian Swatman, was in full swing in its pre-Christmas performance.

In the first half of the concert, classic tunes such as 'New York State of Mind' and 'A Few Good Men' were included in a punchy programme of pieces, together with two superb vocal numbers performed by Isobel Kimber (L5), marking her debut performance

with Big Band. Jonty Harris-Harding (F8) and William Inscoe (U6) also played outstanding solos. Former pupil Cameron Molland even made an appearance, augmenting the band but also adding a touch of colour with his eye-catching Christmas jumper and trademark sunglasses!

In the second half, Hullabaloo, a professional quartet of sax, bass, guitar and drums, provided

a steady stream of hits and standards ranging from rock 'n' roll to the Beatles. They were joined by the St Edmund's Big Band for the final number, culminating in a huge sound. It was a great way to end and it was obvious to everybody that all of the performers were having a great time playing together.

Mr Edward O'Connor

## What a Voice!

We are incredibly proud of chorister James Hodgkinson (F8), who did amazingly well when he sang on the hit ITV show *The Voice Kids*. James gave a classical version

of the Liverpool supporters' anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

It was judge and singing star Paloma Faith who turned her chair after being impressed with

his rendition and then asked if he could sing 'Walking in the Air' from *The Snowman* so she could accompany him at the piano.

Mr Spencer Payne

## House Singing and Music Competitions

The House Singing Competition was an event to remember. The atmosphere in the Theatre was very special with each of the four Houses delivering powerful, convincing and memorable performances of 1980s power ballads to an incredibly supportive audience. Mrs Emily Renshaw-Kidd from Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys was our adjudicator and she offered a perfect balance of friendly criticism and praise in her summary.

Of course, there has to be a winner and this year Wagner took first place with their performance of 'Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now'. The staff was also on fine form, as were the two groups of beautiful ensemble items performed by Oliver Fletcher (U5) and Matthew Bawtree (L6), and Ruby Todd (L6), Gemma Humphries and William Inscoe (both U6).

The results for the House Singing Competition are as follows. Blasting out Starship's power anthem took Wagner to first place, while Watson (2nd), Warneford (3rd) and Baker (4th) all let down their streaked and voluminous hair respectively to Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer', Guns N' Roses 'Sweet Child o'Mine' and Bonnie Tyler's 'I Need a Hero'.

In the House Music Competition, Baker took first place and were followed by Wagner in second, Watson in third and Warneford in fourth.

Mr Spencer Payne





Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision.

Muhammad Ali

## Sport



Senior School

120

Junior School

131

# Senior School



## Football

### 1st XI

The 1st XI can certainly look back with pride at a season of spirited endeavour, technical skill, stoical resilience and impressive results. Pace was our biggest strength and we used it in devastating spells of scoring. The squad saw numerous changes after several key players left the school at the end of last year, their places being filled by a combination of raw talent and enthusiasm plucked from the pools of last year's 2nd XI and U15 teams. The facelift was completed with the appointment of Rob Gain (U6) as 1st XI Captain and his influence was at the forefront of the achievements that followed. Superb wins against a range of schools, including the scalps of Dover, Kent College, Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School, and a brilliant victory against the sporting leviathan that is Eton College (2nds), were the highlights of the season. With nine games played, 5 wins and a draw it is fair to say that a difficult fixture list was negotiated with style. However, I still feel that these results do not

fully do justice to the high quality and creative style that we played throughout the campaign.

Goalkeeper Rob Gain was a colossus between the sticks and he saved us on many occasions. His agility and shot-stopping prowess kept the tally down to 2 in our performance of the season. We won 6-2 against a strong C&CGS team in the cup. A period of devastating pace and accurate passing led to 3 goals in ten minutes after being behind, effectively finishing the game and eliminating the chance of a tense finish. Rob was ably supported by the ever-consistent back four of Emil Tivenan-Pedersen and Players' Player of the Year Jack Towns (both L6) and Jed Hunt and Charlie Allan (both U6), who were always there for us when the going got emotional.

We were at our best playing patient and flowing football from the back and through midfield where Callum Austin (U5) and Player of the Year Harry Lynch (L6) made the all-important link between defence and attack. Their work rate

and all-round ability, complemented by the dependable Oscar Hird (U5) in the middle, allowed the pace and guile of Max Carlin (U6) to score an outstanding 8 goals in the first six games. Max finished on 8 but his contribution as the lone striker was outstanding.

So, as the sun sets over the Jackman Field on another successful season at St Ed's, 1st XI stalwarts Rob, Jed, Max and Charlie move to pastures new and a fresh crop of talented players shall take centre stage in 2020. But for now, well done to the whole club on an excellent season.

Mr Leigh Millard

### 2nd XI

The 2nd XI football team experienced a transitional season as a host of debuting players stepped up to replace a core nucleus of former Upper Sixth stalwarts who had moved on to university. The season was characterised by gritty performances, reflecting the committed, hard-working attitude of





the players. The team lost numerous matches by close score lines; a 3-1 reverse against Eton College best highlighting the fine margins separating victory and defeat and the need to convert goal-scoring chances. Nevertheless, there are many positives to build on for the next season. Kumeode Lamai (U5) possesses electric pace and displayed great potential in attack; Alfie Atkinson (L6) demonstrated strong leadership and consistency at the heart of the defence; whilst Marcus Yanni (L6) regularly produced superb saves in goal. The team concluded their season with a brilliant 6-1 victory over Dover College. This was a deserved result and it was fantastic to watch the team perform with confidence and employ the quick passing practised repeatedly in training. It was also pleasing to see captain Joe Gordon (U6) score his first, and unfortunately last, goal for the side in his final game for the school. Overall, it was a tough but enjoyable season for the team, and I thank them for their effort and spirit.

Mr Jonathan Symaka

## U15

Football has always proved to be highly popular amongst our junior pupils, and this year was to prove no different from the norm. The turnout for trials and early training sessions was impressive indeed. The toughest problem for the coaching staff proving to be selecting a starting XI!

Our first match, in the cup, against Harvey Grammar School, gave us the chance to identify the most appropriate formation, and slot pupils into position based on their strengths. This led to a disjointed first half, in which we fell well behind. However, after half time, the best shape became evident, and, the boys began to play with confidence and fluidity.

This enabled us to begin our league campaign with determination, and, against a physical St Anselm's, we ran out worthy 2 - 1 winners. Midfield pair Maximo Garrido (M5) and Pedro Silvera Darias (L5) controlled the match throughout.

Confidence flourished and

significant wins against Eton and Claremont followed. The latter was a real snatch and grab against a very skilful team. The game was remembered most fondly for Pedro's long-range winner, which left our guests chasing an equalizer.

Our league campaign finished with a draw at Whitstable Community College. This was followed by a tough lesson at the hands of Lingfield, who combined both skill and athleticism to great effect to end our National Cup run.

However, the season finished on a high as we travelled to Dover College for our annual derby match. Despite an even first 15 minutes, our skill began to tell and, with Theo Bawtree (L5) causing havoc down the left flank, goals came thick and fast. Final score: 0-6; a fitting end to the season.

Mr Antony Jones



## Girls' Hockey

### 1st XI

The term got off to its usual start with the Plumtree Tournament at Sevenoaks School. The team began well, with a 0-0 draw against Sevenoaks and a 1-0 win against Bromley High. Sadly, the team lost 1-0 to Sir Roger Manwood's and was placed in the plate competition after losing on penalty flicks to Bromley High School. The team performed admirably against Kent College Pembury in the plate semi-final before losing to Kent College in the final.

A strong season followed with wins against King's Rochester, Sir Roger Manwood's and Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School. There was also a tight 1-1 draw with the Duke of York's Royal Military School before the season culminated in a superb 2-0 win over King's School Canterbury.

A special thanks must go to Alexandra Millard, Lottie-Lou Smith, Rowan Bayly and Jaya Lorne (all U6), who have represented the first team

for the last three years and now move on to pastures new. We wish them all the best and hope they continue to play.

Awards went to Rowan Bayly (Most Improved Player); Catherine Wanstall (L6; Player's Player and Wilkinson Cup for Female Hockey Player of the Year) and Amélie Newies (U5; Coach's Player).

Mr Diccon Stubbings

### 2nd XI

The second team had an encouraging start to the season after a productive day of pre-season training. The team fought hard and produced some great results against strong opposition. A 5-0 victory against King's Rochester featured a hat-trick from Olivia Ness (L6) and two further goals from Captain Daisy Lord (U6) and Isabella Obertelli (L6). A strong victory at the start of the season put the girls in a great frame of mind and they were keen to get more wins under their belt.

With a strong performance and an early goal against Ashford School, the girls looked like they were on the road to another win. Unfortunately, they were unable to find the back of the goal even with numerous opportunities and the team came away with a 2-2 draw. The girls continued to challenge their opponents and played some excellent hockey but were unable to make the most of their attacking efforts. The defensive line became stronger in each match and performed admirably.

The Mel Clewlow Cup gave the team their toughest challenge. In a pool of excellent first teams, the girls proved relentless in their efforts and stepped up to the challenge. On the whole, a great season with a motivated and determined group of girls.

Mrs Rebecca Lea

### U15

The season started with a handful of really keen hockey players,





who worked hard during practice sessions. They were joined after a week or two by other players who, although keen to play, did not necessarily enjoy practising! This can create a fractured team, but I'm pleased to report that during all matches the Middle Fifth girls pulled together and tried their best, whether winning or losing.

We had a mixed bag of results although the positives outweighed the losses. The team performed particularly well when away to Duke of York's, Ashford School and C&CGS, where passing, communication and a few goals to boot, demonstrated the talent we have. The girls took some blows too, but these players did not give up easily. They always persevered and, on occasion, came back with a fighting goal to raise spirits, exhibiting their resilience.

Lily Powell, Matilda Reilly and Anna McCabe developed into formidable forwards. Honor Hamilton-West, Emma Gurr, Izzabella Riches and Katie Head supported more than ably in midfield alongside Lucy Walker-Reid. Hattie

Pickles, Chloe Dont and Sneha Shrestha who defended impressively whilst Alice Horder protected her goal well!

*Mrs Cathy McCabe*

#### **U14**

This was a season of mixed fortunes with three superb wins and four defeats. Training night was always very well attended and the girls always showed persistence and excellent team spirit. Our first outing was to the U14 County Hockey Tournament at Sevenoaks School. Acquitting themselves admirably, the Lower Fifth girls overturned Colfe's School 2-0, which they followed with a 0-0 draw to Ashford School, a game which saw some excellent defensive work from Molly-Anne Burden, Charlotte Richards, Emmie Jackson and Isabel O'Connor. A further two draws against Sevenoaks and Benenden Schools left the pool places wide open, but a 0-2 loss to Cranbrook gave us 3rd place on goal difference. This was frustrating, as some brilliant attacking play from Lottie Powell, Dali Tabony and Abigail Stanfield

really should have sealed a semi-final place.

The midfield players were exceptional against Sir Roger Manwood's and Ashford Schools. Orla Wanstall developed an intelligent style of play, with Zoe Rogers providing pace and forward momentum. The versatility of Gabrielle Scott-Kilvert and Alisha Davis gave depth to the team, with accomplished tackling and accurate passing. Aimée Rose Hawksworth proved a force in goal throughout. Two well-deserved victories ensued.

Isobel Kimber and Pasha Bell impressed versus C&CGS with their persistent movement on and off the ball, which created space and scoring opportunities. Esther Kimani joined us for this game and her presence was appreciated in defence. A 1-0 victory was well deserved.

Congratulations to all on their hard work and determination throughout the term!

*Mrs Helena Millard*

# Boys' Hockey

## 1st XI

What promised to be a good season with a strong 1st XI only saw half a term's hockey due to the COVID pandemic.

The boys faced Sutton Valence School in the first round of the county cup – always a lively game – which went from end to end with each team scoring 2 goals in the first half. The second half settled down and Sutton Valence won 3-2.

The annual Frank Mason Tournament saw a tough group featuring St Lawrence, Rochester Maths, Ashford and Norton Knatchbull. An early lose to St Lawrence and 0-0 draws against Ashford and Norton Knatchbull meant whoever won between St Edmunds and Rochester Math would make the quarter final. Captain Rob Gain stepped up on a solo run and buried the ball in the bottom corner sending St Ed's through into the knock out stages. Unfortunately losing to our neighbours Kent College 1-0 in the Quarter Final.

The only other fixtures that were played were a sublime 9-2 victory over King's School Rochester and a 4-2 win over Sir Roger Manwood's School.

Special thanks must go to Upper Sixth players Rob Gain, Jed Hunt, Charlie Allan, Ewan Wood, Max Carlin and Harry Sherwin, who have represented the first team over the past few years and now move on to pastures new. We wish them all the best and hope they continue to play. Congratulations Charlie Allan on being awarded the Lendrum Cup for Male Hockey Player of the Year.

Mr Diccon Stubbings

## 2nd XI

This was an enjoyable, if short, season of hockey with excellent

attendance at training and a great deal of enthusiasm shown by the boys. Mr Stubbings put the lads through their paces as both skills and fitness levels improved steadily. Unfortunately, the COVID virus brought an abrupt end to the season.

Wins came against King's Rochester, with Roshan Limbu (L6) netting an impressive hat-trick in a 4-0 victory, and Ashford School. There was a 2-2 draw with Sir Roger Manwood's and a tight 2-3 loss to Rochester Math. Roshan, Jack Towns (L6) and Toby Paton-Smith (U5) were awarded colours as the outstanding players of the season.

Mr Simon Buckingham

## U15

The team responded well to an early training onslaught and felt as ready as possible for the first game at home to a strong Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School. The opposition proved better than us but that did not stop an encouraging first performance. Special mentions must go to Ernie Robertson in goal and Felix Preston (both M5) for his effort in the middle.

King's Rochester proved surprisingly tough opponents. King's passed the ball very well up to our defensive D, but were not good in front of goal for the first half. Ernie once again played well as did Caspar Barton Hodges and Theo Bawtree (both L5). King's proved more clinical in the second period and finished 4-0 winners.

A great performance away at St Lawrence College saw a fantastic victory over their second team, demonstrating a huge collective effort from St Edmund's.

Mr Leigh Millard

## U14

With a squad strength of merely 13, it was apparent early on, that this would be a truly challenging season.

A challenge which began with a journey over the road, to near neighbours Kent College. Not yet knowing our best shape, or even who would be best placed where, we struggled to match our host's organisation and physicality. That said, the team created a plethora of chances, which was a clear positive.

Buoyed by this, the team travelled to C&CGS and won an even encounter 2 - 1. Charlie Gotke skilfully ran midfield, as he would throughout the season, and Theo Bawtree scored the decisive winner.

Another even game followed, against King's Rochester. Sadly, it was a tale of our guests taking their chances and us, this time, failing to, resulting in a disappointing defeat.

Then came one of the best performances by a St Edmund's junior side in recent memory. Against the full strength of St Lawrence College, the team gelled perfectly. Solid goalkeeping from Pablo Relano Hernandez, combined with assured defence from Caspar Barton-Hodges and Max Murphy, frustrated our guests. Jamie Burgess, Theo Bawtree, Will Hosking and Charlie Gotke proved truly threatening in attack and created chance after chance, which led to a fine 3-3 draw.

There was much to be pleased with here and I expect we shall see the talent develop as these fine players progress through the Senior School.

Mr Antony Jones





## Badminton

St Edmund's have had a fun year of friendly fixtures with matches and tournaments against King's Rochester, Ashford School and Highworth Grammar School for Girls.

As always, our pupils play with enthusiasm, good humour and integrity. Our pairs experienced mixed fortunes but with Geri Ng (U6) as team captain, the charge was fast and furious with many astounded by her skill, agility and killer instinct. Haziq Fazal, Terence Yue and Linh Pham (all U6) were experienced, strong and consistent while Mekhail Laghari and Roy Yuen (both U5) added a calming influence over proceedings. Fergus Jimenez-England (U5) made the odd guest appearance too. Various combinations of these players challenged our opponents and resulted in many successful match

outcomes. Fantastic on-court communication, rapid decision making and fast feet led some incredible rallies.

Matches against Ashford School were fantastic and we came away as winners. Whatever the outcome, however, there was always a friendly exchange of snapchats once the hard work had been done! William Lu (U5) and Isaac Ng (L6) made their opponents work hard for every point in every game. Who knows what they might have managed with their own decent racquets! Alexander Falter and Carl Bender (both U5) were a superb addition to the team in the Michaelmas term. Lily Vigor (U5), usually found on the squash court, adapted brilliantly to this game and thoroughly enjoyed her outings.

The remaining pairings fought hard and 'hung tough' against some intense opposition. Kristina Rai, Hasina Thapa Magar (both U5) and Sajita Rai (L6) always had fun and were delighted in particular with their victory over King's Rochester's 4th pairing – no crumbling under pressure from these determined players! Annie Fu (L6) and Joseph Burton (U6) also stepped up to the plate when needed. They played with energy and spirit and I thank them for their generosity of spirit and intelligent play.

Well done to all for their energy, determination and enthusiasm for this great sport, not to mention the patience needed to navigate the M2 on a Thursday afternoon!

Mrs Helena Millard



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The U14 netball squad



Holding court

## Netball

### 1st VII

The team this year had great potential. With a number of strong players from Upper Fifth joining a talented Sixth Form cohort, it was a huge shame that the season was cut short as this could have been an exceptional season for the 1st VII.

In the first game, the girls played Ashford School, taking a strong lead from the start and going into half-time 22-9. This was a fantastic performance from a team just beginning its season together.





Ashford's final-quarter comeback was not enough to save them and they went down to St Edmund's 33-24. What a start!

Games against St Lawrence College are always tough, but such a strong team made anything possible. The game moved from end to end and some great turnovers were won in defence and centre court, giving St Edmund's some great attacking opportunities. At half-time St Lawrence were only two goals ahead. Some exceptional play in both attack and defence

kept the game very close. The girls battled on relentlessly and managed to win the final quarter, but unfortunately it wasn't enough and St Lawrence won the game 28-25. It was the team's only defeat of the year.

Outstanding winning performances came against King's Rochester (20-22) and Sir Roger Manwood's (15-14).

Representing the first team: Rebecca Reynolds (U5), Amélie Newies (U5), Isabella Obertelli, Mille Knox (both L6), Jaya Lorne, Lottie-Lou Smith and Isabelle Matharu (all U6). The team was captained by Rowan Bayly (U6).

Mrs Rebecca Lea

## 2nd VII

This was an unprecedented time, not just because of the coronavirus but because of the extraordinary weather conditions too. That said, our practices were held indoors and were well attended, particularly in the first part of the term.

We managed to play a handful of matches and in these the players always raised their game and committed themselves fully. Akoya Carthew, Olivia Ness, Isobel Wanstall (all L6) and Iris Mickleburgh (U5) defended the court, whilst Amy Lawrie and Molly McCabe (both L6) attacked well. Chloe Stanfield and Elizabeth Bourne (both L6) scored the goals!

These young ladies were great fun to have in my team and though not all the matches went in our favour, they persevered, smiled and, most importantly, enjoyed themselves.

Mrs Cathy McCabe

## U15

The team had a great start to the season with a close win against Ashford School that featured some great shooting from Aimee Qi and Sneha Shrestha (both M5).

Another close game followed, this one against Kent College. Play moved rapidly from end to end and the girls demonstrated strong movement and accurate passing, which led to numerous shooting opportunities. Unfortunately, the shots failed to go in and Kent College took the lead by 4 goals, finishing the game 12-8. The girls continued to play well in games against St Lawrence College and King's Rochester.

Mrs Rebecca Lea

## U14

Over the rather short 2020 season, these young ladies were simply fabulous. With natural talent in abundance and an enthusiasm and love for hard work, they were a joy to coach. Numbers at training were excellent and we were able to work on accuracy of passing, slowing our game down and moving forward for the ball.

The A team was the most successful St Edmund's netball team in terms of victories in the local area. With fantastic shooting from Abigail Stanfield and Isabel O'Connor, they were a force to be reckoned with. Zoe Rogers made huge strides forwards in her ability to read the game, making many an interception and superb pass, as did Charlotte Richards at GD. Esther Kimani earned colours for her defensive work at GK. Dali Tabony was difficult to challenge at C and Lottie Powell sustained her stabilising role at WD. Alisha Davis and Isobel Kimber were super subs for some games: Alisha used her brilliant tactical awareness to widen the game across the court and Isobel brought much verve to the team. The girls finished the season with an amazing 26-8 victory over Kent College. What more could I ask for? Congratulations to all!

Mrs Helena Millard

## Leather on Willow ... at Last!

It is one of the most iconic summer sounds in Britain: leather on willow during a game of cricket on a sunny day.

With social distancing observed, cricket returned to St Edmund's when Mr Penn, our seasoned former professional cricketer and teacher here for 20 years, ran a series of lunchtime one-to-one coaching sessions on the main school pitch.

Joe Gordon, our Upper Sixth star and Kent Academy member,

got to grips with his bowling technique in sweltering conditions with Mr Penn reminding Joe that being a bowler is a much tougher journey than batting (his batting session took place later the same week and was, of course, very easy!).

Oliver Millard (U5) worked hard on his batting and with the improvement shown has the ability to fill Joe's run scoring boots when cricket resumes. Will Surridge (F7) always gives his

all to every sport and he shook off the cobwebs of lockdown and began striking the ball well, despite his engrained hockey style (the sport in which he excels at county and club level).

Mr Penn, who was Kent CCC bowling coach when the county last won the national 20Twenty competition, was impressed by everyone's approach to training.

Mr Chris Penn



## Squash

This year has seen, on average, 18 pupils attending Squash Club with Mr Barnes on a Wednesday after school. The event of the year was our first visit to the Kent School's Squash Tournament at Mote Park in Maidstone.

We arrived at Mote Squash Club, having followed what some may describe as a scenic route, set up base camp and then worked out who was playing whom, on which court and at what time. Thomas Pennington-Arnold (L5) was first on court for the junior boys against Wilmington School, followed by Will Hosking and Alex Balcomb (both L5). With very little warm-up opportunity, the boys acquitted themselves admirably, taking advantage of their opposition's mistakes and putting up a decent defence. Sevenoaks and Buller's Wood were tricky opposition but the boys' positive attitude

was infectious and these games were full of good humour and celebration of skilful ball placement. Alex certainly made his mark on Court 4!

Two pupils in our girls' team had never been involved in a squash game, let alone a match. Mr Barnes and Mrs Millard were very proud of their attitude and both Anna Marrocchesi and Emily Seidel (both L6) won points from very experienced opponents. Lily Vigor (U5) was awesome and pitted her wits against the no.1 players from Sevenoaks, Invicta and Dover Grammar School for Girls. She was unlucky not to come away with a win as each game was very close indeed.

Our senior boys' team involved Frederic Golling, Tom Balcomb and William Hart (all M5). They were strong and agile and showed superb stamina against

Langton and Sevenoaks. Playing up against Sixth Formers from these schools was a challenge, but once again points were won. William Hart gave the Langton no.4 a real run for his money. There were some golden nuggets of rallies and full support from the viewing areas above.

Unfortunately, the season came to a rather abrupt end but we look forward to developing these promising players further.

Mrs Helena Millard



## Sport under Lockdown

The country might have stopped in its tracks in March, but that did not mean that sport, fitness and physical activity had to. In fact, lockdown provided a perfect opportunity for pupils to embrace fitness and skills challenges and to take charge of their own physical well-being, a doorway, it is often noted, that leads to sound mental health.

With this in mind, the Senior School PE department encouraged everyone to use their scheduled PE and Games sessions for some form of exercise. It was obvious that virtual learning would lead to pupils spending longer in front of screens, but this

inevitability could be remedied by regular physical activity.

To emphasize the importance of physical health, and to encourage physical activity, the department used an incredible array of online resources to set weekly quizzes, fitness tasks and skills challenges for Lower Fifth, Middle Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils. The tasks set were all adapted for limited space and included – to list only a few – warm-ups and sprint drills, fielding games and footwork drills, and specific, focused skills for tennis and cricket. Football skills were transformed by Mr Millard – of course they were! – into an inter-House competition. While many

of the tasks could be completed individually, others were designed to encourage family participation and to get parents and children working out together to maintain or increase fitness levels.

Blue cards were offered for participation and correct answers and Fifth Form pupils raised their tallies significantly. Among those posting higher scores were Patrick Sutton, Caspar Barton Hodges, Huw Gallagher and Jens Chappell (all L5), and Oseka Akande-Alasoka, Reuben Norton, Katie Head and Josie Head (all M5). Howzat!

Mrs Helena Millard



## District Championships

A bright, chilly afternoon in November saw a great turnout from St Edmund's School with almost 50 pupils taking to the cross-country course over the afternoon. The traditional circuit was followed, which meant a lap or two of the Kent College playing field before heading into Blean Woods. Luckily the mud was kinder than in previous years!

Runners emerged red faced, breathing deeply, with some smiling and others not! But once over the finish line the euphoria set in, with the realisation of the achievement. It is a huge achievement to take part in something that for some does not take place in their comfort zone.

There were some fantastic performances throughout the age groups. Teigan Sullivan (M5) showed her class in the intermediate girls' race by totally destroying the field and charging home in first place. Alexandra Millard (U6), in her first event of the season, was the clear winner of the senior girls' race. Zoe Rogers (L5) was 10th in the junior girls'

race and Ewan Wood (U6) 4th in the senior boys'. Harry Linch (L6), Jed Hunt (U6) and Matthew Bawtree (L6) also deserve mention for finishing in the top ten. Emma Gurr (M5) was 9th in the intermediate girls' race.

Daisy Baker (F7) finished 9th in a field of 60, and Joseph Gormley (F7) 8th in the boys' race. Adam Whitlock (F8), finished a great 4th and Tom Blunt (F8) 14th, running in the junior boys' event.

Congratulations to all who participated!

*Mrs Helena Millard*

## Cross-Country

### Kent Schools' Championship

Huge congratulations to all those who ran in the Kent Schools Cross-Country Championships at the Duke of York's Military School in Dover. It was a beautiful morning for running, albeit a bit chilly on the top of the cliffs! The Form 7 girls and boys were first off and included three St Edmund's pupils representing the Canterbury and St Augustine's team. Daisy Baker, Hetty Moran

and Joseph Gormley ran with confidence and should be pleased with their performances in their first experience of this event. On the reverse, this was Alexandra Millard's (U6) last experience of this event, one in which she has had great success over her time at St Edmund's. This year was no different and she won the senior girls' race by a clear margin, qualifying automatically for the Kent team at the English Schools' Championships in Liverpool in March. There were some brave runs from our other competitors too with Teigan Sullivan (M5) coming a superb 12th in her first year in the Intermediate Girls age category.

Well done to Jildou Chappell (U5), Emma Gurr and Daisy Marsh (both M5) in the intermediate girls' race and Adam Whitlock, Tom Blunt (both F8) and Theo Bawtree (L5) in the junior boys'. Zoe Rogers and Gabrielle Scott-Kilvert (both L5), who ran in the junior girls' race, and Ali Scott-Kilvert and Matthew Bawtree (both L6), who ran in senior boys', also deserve a special mention. All impressed greatly with their determination and grit.

Alexandra Millard went on to race in Liverpool at the English Schools' Championships, luckily escaping lockdown by the smallest of margins. Competing in this event for the sixth and final year, she ran strongly and confidently over the fast and fairly flat 4k course. A stunning 6th place resulted. Alexandra has had club success this year too, with a 5th place at the Southern Championships, earning herself a place in the U20 Women's England Cross Country Team in the Lotto Cross Cup in Belgium, where she finished in an incredible 2nd place. We wish her every success as she moves on to Loughborough University to further her academic and sporting career.

*Mrs Helena Millard*



# Junior School



# Football

## U13A

The U13A boys' team had one of its best seasons in recent memory and saw them remain undefeated for the whole term, securing a Molten League and Shapira Cup 'double'.

The season started brilliantly with two Molten League victories, first of all at home to Wellesley House (3-0) and then a magnificent effort at Junior King's (2-0) to come home with three more points and a 100% start.

Some of the boys then participated in the 6-a-side Shapira Cup, which was held this season at Wellesley House. It was a memorable afternoon of football which resulted in St Edmund's remaining undefeated all afternoon, including fighting back from 2-0 down at half time in the final against New Beacon School to draw level in the final seconds with Henry Goodwin (F8) scoring a bullet header from a corner to share the trophy! It was a terrific achievement from the boys and the first time in 10 years that St Edmund's had won the Shapira Cup.

After the half-term break, the boys faced what proved to be their toughest encounter of the season, earning a hard fought 1-1 draw at home to Junior King's. It was fair to say that we were 'holding on' at the end in what proved to be an important draw to keep us in the hunt at the top of the table. The season then came to its climax with two away victories at Wellesley House (1-4) and Northbourne Park (0-4), where there were wild celebrations at the final whistle!

It is hard to pick out individual performances in what was such a fantastic season. However, special mentions must go to Samson Buck (F8) on being the top scorer, Stanley Allom (F8) for his midfield

creativity and William Knoupe (F8) for his solid defensive work. I am extremely proud of the boys' efforts and it was a pleasure to watch them improve and play over the past two years. I am confident that they will become even better footballers in Senior School. Huge congratulations to all!

Mr Adam Southey

## U11A

This was a successful and enjoyable season for a squad of talented players with the potential to do really well in the future as they become physically stronger. Until near the end of the season, they were unbeaten in nine games with eight wins and just one drawn game – a thrilling 5-5 draw with King's Rochester after having been behind on three occasions. In the final two games of the season, we were beaten by a strong and skilful Kent College team which ended its season with a 100% record.

This group of players trained well and had a very good team spirit. Sonny Mortensen had some impressive games in goal and he kept us in many games this season. Eddie Florence (F5) was a tenacious defender with Rafa Barton Hodges and Freddie Post (both F6) strong in defence and effective going forward.

Captain and 'midfield maestro' Evan Gallagher (F6) was consistently effective and Joe Garrard (F6) grew in confidence playing on the right side of midfield with Ben Coleman (F5) also playing well in that position at times. Most of our goals came from Freddie Gourdie (F6), who demonstrated a sharp eye for the net. Many of his goals were individual efforts or came from accurate passing from Evan Gallagher in particular.

## U11B Team

This group of players enjoyed a good measure of success and grew in confidence as the term went on. They started the season showing a good level of skill and ability but were lacking in the physical aspect of the game and the necessary competitive edge. These aspects of the game were improved upon during the season and I am sure will develop in the future.

Captain Monty White (F6) was ably supported by Ralph Styles, Luca Routh, Piers Beck Evans, Richard Do Carleton-Moody (all F6) and Josh Coleman, Ben Coleman, Matthew Williams and James Sutton (all F5).

The C and D squads consisted of some enthusiastic boys who, although lacking in experience, were willing to learn and gave their best in games lessons and in competitive matches, where they enjoyed a fair measure of success.

## U9

This enthusiastic and skilful team enjoyed four wins in four games and scored a good number of goals. Robert Scholer (F4) played some very good football in the midfield, showing good skill and passing ability, and often linked up with Alex Morrissey (F4), who provided width and the ability to score goals. Morgan Tyler Abbott (F4) was also a threat to goal but played some games in defence. Joshua Robinson, Yasar Zhao (both F4) and Oscar de Varennes (F3) were reliable defenders who enjoyed going forward. Louis Adsett-Noble (F3) showed potential in the midfield and Ben Holcroft (F4) played with increasing confidence in goal.

Mr Edwin Southey



## Fun in the Sun

### Junior School Virtual Sports Day

The effort, commitment and support the children give never ceases to amaze us in the Junior School PE department. They always deliver and we never have to ask twice.

On 26th June, our pupils went a step further and will be remembered for participating in the first ever Junior School Virtual Sports Day, a day of sports-related and sporting activities.

We assumed that our mantra of discipline and fun, mixed with the day's activities, would result in an OK day. How wrong we were! What followed was an amazing show of participation and performances from children across the Junior School, as well

as their brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents.

The programme blasted into action with healthy breakfasts being prepared and photos of great dishes being forwarded to us, most of which were good enough to grace any top restaurant menu or television show. Promotional sports videos were put together with expertise and respect for Junior School Sport, whilst a visit back to the days of 'pop mobility' got those of a slightly greater age 'rocking and rolling'.

For the pupils at school, a healthy breakfast was on offer and the day's activities took place with the same commitment as

those not there. The children at school put together the online footage to demonstrate the physical challenges for the afternoon session.

We asked for videos, photos and reports of the day's activities and after a weekend of looking at every message forwarded, Mrs Relf and Mr Penn could report that well over 230 emails and videos were sent in!

Fun is always at the centre of our teaching, but we strive always for participation. So to everyone who got involved, thank you so much: we achieved it once again!

Mrs Linda Relf and  
Mr Chris Penn



## Boys' Hockey

### U13/U12

The U13/U12 boys had an enjoyable and successful term. With participation always high on our agenda, this year was the best in my 15 years at St Edmund's. We were able, for instance, to field as many as six teams on an afternoon against King's Rochester.

Monday afternoons were a hive of activity on the AstroTurf as the boys worked hard to hone their skills and fitness levels. It was really pleasing to see the overall improvement made by all the boys. The A team performed solidly throughout the season, playing six fixtures and the John Maylem Tournament. Unfortunately, the remainder of the season was cut short.

Of the fixtures played, the boys won against Duke of York's Military School, Sir Roger Manwood's, Chatham House and King's Rochester. In the tournament, they played seven games; winning four, drawing two and losing just one. In all, it was a successful season with lots of promise and

great progress made. Colours were awarded to Henry Goodwin (F8) and Will Surridge (F7) for their outstanding performances throughout the season.

Mr Simon Buckingham

### U11

The U11 boys had an enjoyable and steady term of hockey. Participation was excellent and St Edmund's was able to field up to six teams on numerous occasions. Friday afternoons buzzed with activity as the boys sharpened their skills and raised their fitness levels through hard work, drills and match play. The boys made excellent progress.

The team had a good season and won four of its seven matches. An 8-2 win against King's Rochester and a 9-3 win against St Faith's School were two obvious highlights of the season. Colours were awarded to Freddie Post, Rafa Barton Hodges and Evan Gallagher (all F6).

Mr Simon Buckingham

### U9

The boys made excellent progress with their hockey over the course of the term thanks largely to Mr Southey's Monday afternoon hockey club and the excellent effort put in by all on Friday afternoons.

Keen to capitalize on their abundant talent and equally keen to gain experience in the arena of competitive play, the U9 players pitched themselves against U11 teams. It was an extraordinary season that saw the boys draw one out of seven games and win six. Of the season's many highlights, the two that stood out most were the 3-2 win against Junior King's and the 6-0 drubbing of Ashford School. The season's results were an exceptional achievement and St Edmund's will be watching the progress of these boys with great interest.

Mr Simon Buckingham



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# Girls' Hockey

## U13 A

Following on from the success of last year, the U13A girls enjoyed another fruitful season of hockey. With only two girls remaining from last year's team, it was always going to be difficult for an inexperienced group. However, the girls exceeded expectations by only suffering one defeat on a week when the winter colds were doing the rounds.

In all, the girls played nine fixtures, winning six, drawing two and losing one. Although it was a good team effort throughout, two girls stood out. Daisy Holt, who was Player of the Season, was outstanding in goal and integral to the team's success, making countless saves in her own casual, unique style. Matilda Marriner was the team's play maker in midfield assisting and scoring numerous goals, giving the team good strength and depth.

The U13A squad was made up of Daisy Holt, Matilda Marriner and Holly Allom (all F8) and Stella Rogers, Abigail Beale, Daisy Baker, Robyn Davis, Camilla Boorman Powell (all F7).

Mrs Linda Relf

## U13B

The U13B team opened the season with a closely contested draw at Duke of York's Military School, followed by a victory at Dover College. The players' success away continued with a victory at King's School Rochester. Leah Hodge (F8) in goal played a key role in the team's achievements.

Selection was competitive throughout the season with girls being promoted to the A team and others joining from the C team. The squad struggled to maintain its winning ways against arguably superior opposition in the latter part of the term despite playing well.

It was a season of much promise!

Mrs Anna Wanstall

## U13C

There was much progress made by this lovely group of enthusiastic girls. The pace and drive of their game developed enormously, as did their attempts to pass the ball accurately to the right, take on an opponent with their 'V' drags and spread the ball wide.

Matches against Duke of York's Military School, Junior King's and Kent College were challenging, but positivity and team cohesion were high. Milly-Jay Reeve (F8) worked incredibly hard in all areas of the pitch, along with Rosie Peckett-Hill, Emma Cook and Maisie Wright (all F8), creating space and opportunities to pass. Tilli Perry (F8) and Adelina Harte (F7) showed great work ethic and used strong passing skills to push the ball forward. Superb defending from Sophie King (F7) saw many interceptions and displayed great teamwork with Roya Rahman (F8). Emily Jackson, playing in goal, kept goals against to a minimum. Toral Patel (F8) was busy in midfield and attacking play and fed the ball out to the wing and into the 'D'. Well done to all for the effort and commitment shown!

Mrs Helena Millard

## U13D

The D players had their most successful outing against Duke of York's Military School with a superb 1-0 victory. Setayesh Kalantari Khandani (F7) impressed with her attacking play, ably assisted by Olivia Standen (F8) and Lola Burge (F7) on the wings. Confident dribbling from Isabelle Nolan (F7) and sturdy defence from Lucy Hollingsbee (F8), Meena Hay, Ava Giffin and Omna Arora (all F7) prevented Duke of York's from scoring.

Throughout the season, the girls listened carefully to advice and tried hard to put techniques into practice. Their speed on the pitch increased and the effort to make the right tactical decisions was clear.

Matches against King's Canterbury and Kent College were

tough but there was no end of team spirit and commitment to trying their very best at all times.

Congratulations to all on the improvements made this season!

Mrs Helena Millard

## U11A

We started the season on grass, which is slow, requires decent stick control and power to propel the ball between players. We drew our first match against Wellesley House and this was a good indication as to the standard of play to come. Apart from the return match against Wellesley, all other games were held on Astro.

The girls worked hard on playing the ball out wide, looking up before passing or shooting and communicating with each other. This may sound obvious but although the girls were not quiet on the minibus, they seemed to be on pitch! Having said that, their telepathy worked. The girls won or drew all but one match, which is a great result across the season.

We played some strong opposition too. There were many highlights, but playing St Lawrence College on its new water pitch with a large crowd for the opposition is a favourite. Here, the girls demonstrated knowledge, skill and patience in their game and came away with a convincing win.

Lola Saunders, Riya Thapa (both F6) and Amy Hopkins (F5) played with increasing confidence and flair up front while Amber Wilkinson (F6) supported in midfield. Isla Berry and Ami Watters (both F6) developed into self-assured defenders with Violet Vant (F6) dominating goal.

A term of excellent hockey – well done, girls!

Mrs Cathy McCabe

# Netball

## U13A

During the term we had to contend with the wet, the wind and, to really shake things up, the coronavirus too! Although none of these had a major impact upon our girls and their netball skills, they did dictate practices and matches alike.

We did not give up lightly and the U13A team persevered, demonstrating a good standard of play. The girls were a keen team and listened well to instructions and generally lifted their game in matches. They lost only one match during the season and this was a real credit to them.

Matilda Marriner, Gabriela Nacif-Higson and Abigail Beale (all F8) defended well, whilst Robyn Davis, Daisy Baker (both F7) and Maisie Wright (F8) held their own in centre-court positions. Holly Allom and Daisy Holt (both F8) shot well at goal too.

It was a good term of netball despite the hurdles we had to cross. Well done, girls!

Mrs Cathy McCabe

## U13C

Our first competitive matches took place in mid-January and the C team players lost heavily in their season opener. They performed better the following week when we travelled to Junior King's, where they scored eight goals but could not, unfortunately, secure a victory. Their third match of the season was a much closer affair; the team drew nine all at Duke of York's Military School in a very enjoyable, competitive contest.

It was week four when the girls performed at their best and defeated King's Rochester 16-3. The shooters were superb, making the most of the opportunities the rest of the team worked hard to create.

In what was to be the final match of the season the girls worked hard and were rewarded with a 9-4 victory over Dover College.

Mrs Anna Wanstall.

## U13 D and E

The D and E team players enjoyed their season, making some excellent progress in basic skills and really getting to grips with new tactics and game play.

The teams worked hard on perfecting their footwork and getting ahead of the ball to create some great scoring opportunities. All the girls responded very well to challenges presented to them during each match and worked hard to improve.

Our most noticeable win of the season was against Duke of York's Military School, in which the girls won 6-5. Although game shifted rapidly from one end to the other, the midcourt was home to some fantastically thrilling play.

Mrs Rebecca Lea

## U11A

The U11A netball team got off to a slow start. However, the players practised hard and listened well during their training sessions and, as the term progressed, they showed a dramatic improvement, beating teams they had previously lost to.

What the girls lacked in height, they more than made up for in pure determination and a will to win. Such superb spirit meant they were unbeaten in the second half of the season. The team was made up of Amber Wilkinson, Lola Saunders, Jessica Reynolds, Ella Jones, Violet Vant, Ami Watters, Isla Berry (all F6) and Tabatha White (F5).

Mrs Linda Relf

## U11B

As a group, the girls from Forms 5 and 6 developed in all aspects of netball during the Lent term. Their handling skills were most impressive but their general attitude towards training was fantastic. Whilst the U11A played with success, the B team also played a big part in the overall development of netball across both year groups.

Olivia Wright (F5) led the way with her attacking play, whilst Megan Garton (F6), new to St Edmund's, gelled well with her new team mates. At Centre, Riya Thapa (F6) linked attack and defence and Lucy Standen (F5) improved with every match. Esme Thapa (F5) proved to be an agile and strong defender as Wing Defence and Amy Hopkins (F5) flourished at Wing Attack. Juliette Matharu (F5) played with sporting intelligence and proved herself a versatile performer. Maria Swash (F5) will develop quickly as an all-round player and quick mover around the court. The team will be hard to beat in the coming years!

Mrs Linda Relf





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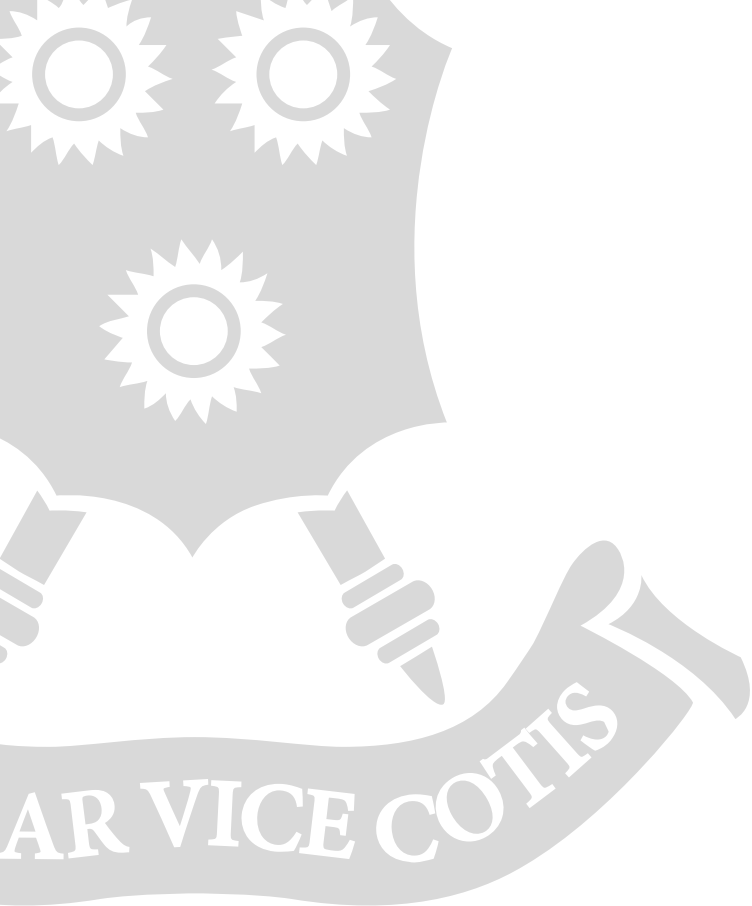
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