

ParkLife



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEAFORD COLLEGE

INSIDE



All the news from the Prep School

Data is a vital tool in the academic journey

Seaford is committed to helping pupils achieve their personal best

FLIGHT CHECK:
Breege Jinks, Deputy Head – Academic and Pupil Achievement, in discussion with pupil James Carter

At Seaford College, our aim is for every child to achieve their Personal Best, both inside and outside the classroom, and we are committed to using the very best methods to help them.

All schools have access to a range of National Attainment Benchmarking information that allows teachers and senior leaders to set target grades for students to aim for in all subjects at GCSE and A level. At Seaford College we are committed to understanding each child's educational profile in full, and use this information in a unique and sophisticated way across the Prep, Senior and Sixth Form, in a way that very few schools do, and certainly not to the extent that we do here at Seaford.

Firstly, the information or data allows us to group our students into Learning Pathways for each subject, enabling teachers to tailor their teaching approaches and speed of working in the most appropriate way and at the correct pace. Secondly, students are encouraged to aim for their individual aspirational targets through our Challenge Grade System by engaging with the interventions required to achieve success.

Thirdly, every student, along with their parents, is encouraged to attend an hour-long Pupil Achievement and Data interview with Breege Jinks, Seaford's Deputy Head – Academic and Pupil Achievement. These interviews are designed to show every pupil what they are really capable of, and give them the self-esteem and drive they need for the upcoming years.

Sharing data

Three categories of data are shared at the interview; the first is each pupil's **Baseline Ability**. Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT 4), Middle Years Information System (MidYIS), and A Level Information System (ALIS) tests are used at various stages of a pupil's development to give Seaford staff and pupils a realistic indicator of exactly how high a student can aspire and aim. By comparing the achievement of similar pupils in the past, each student can clearly see that aiming high is not beyond them although they may have to apply themselves more to do so.

The second is concerned with a pupil's **Current Achievement**. The data for this comes from a variety of sources during the school year, but also from Attainment Tests in the Core Subjects once a year to ensure that they are on track to succeed. Currently, students in Years 2-9 sit these GL Assessments.

The third area of data is perhaps the most interesting; **Potential Barriers to Learning** that can affect a pupil's ability to reach what

they are truly capable of. Seaford performs screenings for pupils during their academic careers which can flag up these potential barriers. Everyone's mind will spring to Dyslexia and Dyscalculia here but processing and working memory issues or a pupil's attitude to themselves and school can be equally difficult to overcome.

Speed of working or processing issues can be easily managed in the classroom by Seaford's Learning Pathways and the approach taken by our highly qualified and trained teachers. Working memory restrictions again can be managed using a number of different strategies that empower the students to minimise their effect.

"All of this information enables us to paint



“Using data is a wonderful way to give each pupil a fantastic insight into what they can achieve, if they apply themselves.”

Headmaster
John Green

a picture of the educational profile of each wonderful child at this school and identify their strengths, realistic targets and areas for improvement," said Breege. "A single assessment result may be a useful indicator for each child's future teaching, but once you pull in a number of different results together, you can really begin to understand what outstanding teaching means and the key role the student must play in their aspirational journey."

Mostly, though, the interview is there to inspire the pupil. "It opens their eyes to what they can achieve," said Breege. "Students appreciate that they may need to work extra hard to succeed by forging a strong partnership with their teachers. They see clearly that the high grades and future opportunities they can access make all that extra hard work worthwhile."

The Good Schools Guide has noted how well the data interview impacts on a pupil's self-esteem at Seaford College. "For some, it makes top grades suddenly seem like something attainable: one parent told us about her son, told by his previous school that he was a no hopper. His confidence soared at Seaford." This student won an academic prize in his final year at Seaford, and has since

gone on to a Russell Group University.

James Carter, in Year 9, thinks the data interview has made a huge difference to his confidence. "When I'm struggling with something, now I question things more and ask teachers why, because I know from my data interview that I am capable, and this is improving my results."

True measure

Seaford's Challenge Grade system was also born out of using data at Seaford College. "The Challenge Grades we set at Seaford are ambitious, but realistic," said Breege. "They are a true measure of what we believe a child can achieve, if they work hard." At each stage of a child's academic journey, baseline tests are used along with other concrete information that Seaford may have, to ensure the Challenge Grade is up to date. And the colour coded visual dashboard makes it very easy to see whether a pupil is currently on track, exceeding expectations, or in need of monitoring or potential intervention.

John Green, Headmaster at Seaford College, is highly focused on increasing academic success here at Seaford. "We are putting more and more resources into academic development, and ensuring pupils achieve their very best. Using data is a wonderful way to give each pupil a fantastic insight into what they can achieve, if they apply themselves."



Performing Arts

Seaford's Pirates rule the high seas

SEAFORD'S production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* was a huge hit. The show was fun and energetic throughout, with fantastic turns from the principals and the supporting cast. Sara Reynolds, Director of Performing Arts at Seaford, was thrilled with how the show went.

"I couldn't be more proud. The work ethic was incredible from the students and the staff that were involved, and the outcome was more than I could have hoped for.

"It is an enormous task taking on a show like the *Pirates of Penzance*, with a cast of over 60 students and a backstage team, and everybody put in a huge amount of work. It was a great learning curve for everyone involved and I think we entertained our audiences which is what we set out to do."



I was delighted to get the role of Major General Stanley because it was a fun part to play and enabled me to expand my acting skills. We got an amazing reaction from the audiences and that was wonderful after all the hard work that had gone into the production.

ZACHARY McARTHUR

The cast ranged from Year 7s to Year 13s and it was great to work with students from across the school. As one of the senior cast members I enjoyed working with the younger students and helping them backstage. It was a real team effort.

YOLANDA GUMPO



HONOURED: Lexie White and Hannah Wardrop preparing for their chance to shine

Pair thrilled to make professional debuts

TO make your professional debut in any walk of life is always a special moment but to do it while you are still at school makes it even more remarkable.

Well, that is exactly what happened for two Seaford students when they made their professional singing debuts at the Wantage Choral Society's 10th Anniversary **Come and Sing Messiah** event.

Lexie White and Hannah Wardrop were chosen to sing the Solo Alto and the Solo Soprano of Handel's *Messiah* at the charity concert. Both were accompanied by a choir of up to 120 singers, a chamber orchestra and performed in front of a large audience.

"When I first got the email asking me to sing at the concert I couldn't believe it," said Lexie. "To be chosen to sing the Solo Alto is an honour. I was nervous, but also very excited."

Wonderful experience

"To sing with a choir and a full orchestra was a wonderful experience and I chatted to the other professional singers to see how they prepared for the concert," said Hannah. "It was amazing to perform the Solo Soprano."

Sara Reynolds, Director of Performing Arts at Seaford College, was delighted for the two girls. "For both Lexie and Hannah, making their professional debuts is a huge moment and I am very proud of them," she said. "Both want to be professional singers so they will have gained a huge amount from the experience of performing Handel's *Messiah* and they fully deserved this opportunity."



Houses are in excellent order

THE 2017 House Music competition was an event full of fine music making. Each of the four houses was asked to prepare a programme including five entries relating to their house colour and the excellent preparation from each house shone through.

Mr Nick Smith, Director of Music at St John's School, Leatherhead, remarked that few points separated the winners of each section from the rest of the pack and gave incredibly positive feedback to every house.

As ever, music at Seaford is thriving and full of passion, and house spirit is surely swelling with pride at the fantastic offerings on show in 2017.



➤ **CORSICA** was the house with the most flair during proceedings, adding to the red mood of their offerings with balloons, streamers and flags, and their house song, *Ruby*, by the Kaiser Chiefs, felt worthy of a stadium crowd.

➤ **CHARMANDEAN** opened their proceedings with 'yellow and gold' offerings and the house was rewarded with three overall category wins: best instrumental ensemble, best vocal ensemble and best solo vocalist. These points gave Charmandean the final 'best overall house' result too. Mention must be given to Yolanda Gumpo, George Limpus, Elliott Trickey, Seb Limpus, Sam French and Munroe Graham for their fabulous input.

➤ **ADAIR** gave a truly spirited show of house pride. The best instrumental soloist was won by Annabel Jeffries, and she led many of the ensembles with maturity and style.

➤ **MILLBURGH** showed us their detailed and thorough preparation. The house song won yet again – they have had an unbeaten record for some years now and once again retained the award, with each member of the house giving their very best.

Personal Development

20 years on and girls' numbers still rising

THIS year marks the 20th year of girls at the school, and Seaford College is proud that over 30 per cent of the students are now girls, and this number is constantly growing.

Earlier this year, students from Seaford College attended the Women of the Future Ambassadors Conference at Bloomberg, in the City of London.

The aim of the conference was to provide students with mentors and role models, strengthening the pipeline of talent among

Britain's younger women.

"We must inspire and engage the next generation of female talent, to ensure the issues of today are not the issues of tomorrow," said Pinky Lilani CBE DL, founder of Women of the Future Programme.

"So often, talking to women from a wide variety of backgrounds about these experiences, can change career aspirations and self-belief.

"Suddenly anything becomes possible:

filmmaking, law, engineering and even racing cars!"

The event included talks from inspirational women from industries ranging from film and fashion to renewable energy. The talks were followed by a networking event with over 200 Ambassadors from industry where the girls gained invaluable advice and contacts for the future.

The girls from Seaford have since shared their knowledge and experience of the event with

other students in an assembly at Seaford, and the conference kicked off Seaford's year of celebrating 20 years of girls at the school.

The voice of the girls at Seaford is shared through regular Girls Council Meetings, and Head of Girls, Georgie Hegarty, believes the coming year will be their best yet.

"I'm really looking forward to celebrating 20 years of girls at Seaford, we've got lots of big plans including a big charity event in the autumn," she said.



INSPIRED: At the conference in London are, from left, Isabel Anderson, Jessica Randall-May and Daisy Hanbury

A GROUP of Seaford students enjoyed great success in the annual Young Enterprise challenge, winning Best Company in Arun and Chichester to progress to the Sussex final, where they narrowly missed out on a place in the National Finals.

Young Enterprise is the UK's leading enterprise and financial education charity, empowering young people to develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in work and in life, and more than 1,584 companies competed in the programme nationally.

This year Seaford students chose to set up a tie-dye company – To Dye For.

Business team love the colour of your money

Raising money

"One of the main objectives is to learn about business and increase confidence," said Joe Amin, Managing Director of To Dye For. "We raised money by selling shares in the business and then produced four main products. Along with tie-dyed T-shirts, socks and laces, we also made a do-it-yourself kit with instructions, bands, and a dye."

"Our main idea was to get colourful products that stand out," added Ylva Koch, Marketing Director.

The team divided the various roles among themselves and took their products to a number of events, including a Christmas fair, Lakeside 1000 and the local Graffham Fair. They even sold out of stock at a couple of events.

To support the business, they created their own website, social media spaces, as well as printing business cards and stickers to help

market the business. During the year they made £300, and almost doubled their shareholders' original investment.

At the Arun and Chichester awards they won not only Best Company, but seven other awards, including Best Branding, Best Business Plan, and Best Website. And by winning Best Company they qualified for the Sussex finals, where the competition was extremely fierce. All six companies had fantastic-looking stands and had developed some brilliant products, from revision guides and clip-on phone lenses, to marbled painted mugs and flower crowns.

To Dye For gave a great account of themselves and they were rewarded with two of the biggest awards, Best Branding, and Best Trade Stand, only narrowly missing out on one of the two Best Company spots that would

have taken them to the finals.

It's clear that they had a lot of fun, but also took a lot from the process.

"It's been really helpful for me, personally, approaching strangers and talking with them," said Joe. "We've been raising money for a rugby tour this summer and I've been going to potential sponsors. Young Enterprise has really helped with that."

Learnt a lot

Ylva also enjoyed the challenge. "I want to do marketing at university, and I felt I learnt a lot. Other than the marketing side of it, I learnt a lot about organisation and communication. We had a few struggles, getting everyone together for the meetings, but by the end it worked smoothly, with everyone aware of what they needed to do. I learnt so much, and had fun doing it."



“When you leave Seaford, you take the friendships and connections you made with you”

Alex's research visit rekindles great memories

OLD Seafordian Alex Macpherson, currently in his third year at Warwick University, was delighted to return to the school recently to carry out research for his dissertation project.

He is studying Computer Science and his dissertation focuses on the education technology market. He has been developing a system that's similar to Seaford's Firefly.

"I'm taking more of a graphical approach to it," said Alex. "A lot of the systems used by schools are quite limited in scope. The gap in the market I've identified is essentially being able to very quickly and easily show how a student is doing through the year, on a graphic that shows their performance. Rather than a student having to wait every term or every half term to get their Challenge Grades and results, they could get them as soon as their assignment is graded."

Alex returned to Seaford to test the system with teachers and current students, and he found the process incredibly useful. "The way the system's being developed, it's important to know that it's as usable as possible, being a system that's for teachers, students, parents and school admin staff."

Alex was at Seaford College from 2009 to 2014, and he thoroughly enjoyed

returning. "It's such a delight to be walking around the grounds again, bringing all the memories flooding back. It's great to see all the changes and improvements that Mr Green's making as well, like the new sports hall."

During his time at Seaford, Alex took part in the Young Enterprise scheme, and he found that incredibly useful in generating an entrepreneurial mind-set. "Doing the Young Enterprise really set me up for what I'm doing now. It taught us to think for ourselves, take risks, and not be afraid to go with our instincts."

'One of our best students'

Paul Bain, Director of Studies at Seaford, was full of praise for the former student.

"Alex was one of our best students when he was here, and it's lovely to welcome him back. The system he's come up with is fantastic, and I've no doubt he's going to be very successful in his career. As a role model for our students, it's brilliant to have someone like him back here."

Seaford College clearly left its mark on Alex. "I made so many great friends here. Seaford College isn't just a school, it's like a family of people. When you leave, you take the friendships and connections you made with you. It's made us who we are today."



LEARNT SO MUCH: The Young Enterprise team beside their To Dye For trade stand



Academic Enrichment



Demystifying the Oxbridge journey

SINCE John Doy became Seaford's Head of Academic Performance and Enrichment, he has put in place a number of strategies to help stretch the gifted students at Seaford College.

One of the areas he has been focusing on is helping those students with Oxbridge aspirations to learn more about the process and help them along their application journey.

Preparation starts earlier than you might think, with Seaford monitoring all students who may be candidates, all the way through their Seaford journey.

Variety of sources

In order to determine who would potentially be an Oxbridge candidate, Seaford College uses a variety of sources, including data and teacher testimony, as well as talking to the children and their parents.

"You have some students who've had that aspiration for a very long time, and there are other students who are mentioned by teachers but haven't given it a moment's thought, and their parents are surprised when it's mentioned."

The best way to prepare for something like Oxbridge is to start early, believes John. "You've got to be embedding those sorts of ideas and aspirations early on. In particular, we try to give

students guidance on the right courses, discuss whether the subjects they've selected in Year 11 are going to enable them to do those courses. So that when they hit Year 12 they're ready for the process."

John Doy has successfully been through the Oxbridge application process before, so he can share that experience with the students. He's the main point of contact, and can advise students, whatever stage of the process they've reached.

He arranges a number of events, like this year's visit to the Oxbridge conference at Epsom Racecourse, which was filled with events about different subjects, and panels that demystify the process further.

But he also sets up a mentoring relationship with students and their subject specialists, who point them in the right direction in terms of extra reading, and additional ways to stretch themselves.

He also took the students to the Oxford open day in the summer term and set up practice

It's about being able to think on your feet, to take yourself out of your comfort zone

John Doy

interviews with graduates in relevant subjects.

When it comes to the process of applying, John Doy believes that "the big discriminating factor is the interview. That tends to be the thing that people focus on, because that's the one thing that's pretty much unique about the application process. Having been through that, and successful at that, means I can share my experience with the students."

Oxbridge is obviously a label for those two universities, but John Doy believes that it stands for more than that.

"It's about being able to think on your feet, to take yourself out of your comfort zone, and think creatively. It's about the students being engaged with their subjects, intellectually excited about them. By doing that extra reading, even if they don't get their place at Oxford or Cambridge, they're absolutely going to have a much better shot of accessing the other top universities – the Russell Group universities. That's also something I try to impress upon them."



Old Seafordians

Golf day is a great success

THE Old Seafordians Golf Society held their annual golf day at North Hants Golf Club, with 24 Old Seafordians, three current students and four masters, including Headmaster John Green, taking part.

Seaford student Johnny Green amassed an impressive 39 points in the Stableford competition, with David Poulson and Matthew Rose the individual winners on the day.

"It has been a really nice day and any time you can get on the golf course and meet up with some Old Seafordians is lovely," said Old Seafordian Matthew Rose, who is now one of the world's most renowned operatic singers. "It only feels like yesterday that I was at Seaford College, and I had a really lovely time at the school."

"It was really nice to see the Old Seafordians playing some of our current students and masters," added Seaford College Headmaster John Green. "We are very lucky to have a nine-hole golf course at Seaford College, and with our new golf professional Jack Halsey doing an excellent job with our students, there is a real buzz about golf around the school."



PAR EXCELLENCE: Headmaster John Green with young golfers Johnny Green and Mollie Wheeler

Outdoor Education

Joe's passion earns conservation award

YEAR 12 student Joe Amin received Seaford College's first-ever John Muir Award from Jonathan Dean, education officer for the South Downs National Park Authority.

Participants in the award must discover a wild place, explore its wilderness, help to conserve it and then share their experiences. There are three levels of the award: Discovery, Explorer and Conserver. Joe received the Explorer Award after his work with Anne Dennig on a rare chalk stream at Botany Bay. The Botany Bay Conservancy is at the entrance to Seaford College, nestling in more than 450 acres of listed parkland.

Jonathan Dean's role is to encourage schools across Sussex and Hampshire to use the South Downs National Park for learning and said he was proud to present Joe with the award.

"Joe is a great example of the flexibility of the award and how you can take it in your own direction. Botany Bay is a rare chalk stream, which has eight indicator

WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE: Joe Amin with his award, presented by Jonathan Dean from the South Downs National Park Authority, and Headmaster John Green



species for a clean and healthy stream. Joe used his initiative and took two courses organised by the Riverfly Partnership to learn how to monitor the stream."

"I love wildlife and working outside," said Joe. "I like to see the progress I'm making in terms of conservation and making a difference to the environment. I enjoyed the Duke of Edinburgh Award and decided

the John Muir Award would be my next challenge."

Joe will continue the tradition at Seaford College of older students inspiring younger pupils and sharing their knowledge and experience by teaching Biology students how to monitor the stream. He looks forward to inspiring more pupils to participate in the John Muir Award.



Students reflect on a life-changing visit

HERE at Seaford College we like to create a culture where older students can inspire younger students with their knowledge and the experiences that they've had.

Earlier in the year, A level students Tom Hennessey and James Thompson took a lesson with the whole of Year 9, to tell them about their experience visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. The two students had the humbling opportunity to visit there late last year, after winning an essay competition for the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET).

Sharing their experiences

"I found out about the Holocaust from many different perspectives, including a Rabbi. After we visited Auschwitz we had a seminar afterwards and then wrote our reflections about the visit," said Tom.

"There is simply no other site quite like it. A feeling of death hangs over Auschwitz. Everywhere you look, the most sickening events in the human story come to life. Visiting the site gives no feeling of positivity. It can only evoke despair."

James added: "You can't get that experience anywhere else. No matter how much work in a classroom you do, how many books you read, it's



INTERACTION: Tom Hennessey in discussion with students

an experience that definitely changes you."

Part of the programme run by the Holocaust Educational Trust was for the winning students to disseminate the information that they learned back to their school, and James and Tom did so by delivering a lesson to Year 9.

"We used a number of different resources, including print-outs, as well as visuals on the board," Tom said. "We talked about how the people who perpetrated the acts have to be humanised. You can't just call them monsters, you have to reflect on the ethics of it. Who was to blame, the people who gave the orders, the people who carried out the acts, both?"

James added: "What we aimed to do was not only talk to the youngsters, but interact with them as well. Something

I tried to do was show how the people of an event like this are similar to the people of today; how there are people who hurt each other, and there are people who just stand by and let it happen, and I used the example of bullying. Whilst they're hugely different subjects, I think the ideas are still relevant today."

Positive feedback

The students had very positive feedback from the Year 9 students, and Head of History, James Gisby, was also full of praise for the work they put in. "They didn't just want to give a talk to the whole school, because people can stop listening. They wanted the pupils to get involved in an active way, and think about what their possible role could have been in the Holocaust."

Community

Students ensure elderly enjoy their Love Lunch

AS part of the school's Community Programme, Seaford College hosted their second annual Love Lunch for residents of local care homes just ahead of Valentine's Day. Minibuses brought 53 residents, carers and drivers from six local Shaw care homes – from Gosport to Crawley to Bognor.

In the warmth of the dining room they were welcomed by the girls from Mansion and Heden Court houses, offering them a cup of tea (or coffee) to revive their spirits. Once all the residents had arrived, they tucked into a traditional roast gammon dinner followed by syrup sponge and custard.

Attentive students

Betsy Vernon, a Learning Support Teacher at Seaford, was "so impressed with how caring and attentive the girls were, seeing them to their places, settling them in, talking to them throughout".

Yolanda Gumpo played the keyboard beautifully and sang a number of songs, and even encouraged one of the residents to get up and sing a song he had composed himself."

Another student, Lee Li, was photographer



SWEET RESULT: Andrea Aranda serves up fruit salad for the special guests

for the day. He went round introducing himself to the residents and taking a number of shots.

The Love Lunch replaced the Christmas Dinner that Seaford College used to organise for Shaw care homes as it was felt that while so much is happening at Christmas there is nothing during the wintry gloom of January and February. The residents had been looking forward to the lunch for many weeks.

Shaw care homes and Seaford College have now been working on inter-generational projects for four years. Every week several students go to visit residents in their Petworth and Pulborough homes and during Seaford's annual community Big Day Out students take out groups of residents to restaurants.

Angie Douglass, Hillside Lodge Manager, said: "Everyone's had a great day and once again Seaford College have done us proud."

“Everyone's had a great day and once again Seaford College have done us proud”

Angie Douglass, Hillside Lodge Manager

GOOD TO TALK: Yolanda Gumpo dispensing coffee and kind words to one lunch guest



FOLLOWING on from Joe Amin's success (see story left), Matt Gough, Seaford's Head of Outdoor Education, has been running the John Muir Award at the Prep School, in addition to Seaford's weekly Forest School activities. Several Seaford students have already received their certificates for the Discovery Award, as pictured above. Some of their projects included clearing and building paths, coppicing trees, building habitats for fungi and insects, litter picking and building squirrel feeding platforms.

Trailblazing bikers caught on camera



Seaford students continue to enjoy the ups and downs of mountain biking. The Outdoor Education department runs sessions on the school's own bike trails – created by Seaford students – as well as trips to well known local biking hotspots such as the Surrey Hills. Year 9's Will Greaves has been filming the exploits of his fellow riders as they tackle the school's trails and they can be seen on the college website. Several of the riders are pictured above at the Surrey Hills.



School trips



Skiers fall for the slopes

SEAFORD College took students from Years 9 to 13 to the French Alps for a week of skiing in the resort of Les Menuires which hosted the men's slalom alpine skiing at the 1992 Winter Olympics. The trip was for skiers of all abilities and each day on the slopes included a lesson in the morning and the afternoon. The students were able to take in the beautiful scenery on offer while enjoying a week of quality skiing.



Cadets enjoy watery adventure

It looks like the CCF Easter Camp was a lot of fun, full of adventurous activities such as canyoning, caving, kart building, and plenty of walking and team games. A fantastic way to experience such activities!

Charity

Quartet take on annual ride to original school site

ONCE a year, a group of Seaford staff and students undertake the ride from Seaford College, Petworth, to the site of the original school – Corsica Hall in Seaford.

This year, a group of four, including a teacher, parent, student, and old student, took on the ride over the South Downs, raising money for Walled Garden West's charity of the term, Children with Cancer UK.

"The day was fantastic," said Matthew Pitteway, Head of Boarding at Seaford. "Perfect weather, a great group to cycle with and apart from one puncture, no bike maintenance issues at all. The sun was out, the sea calm and the wind barely non-existent."

The group are pictured arriving at the old school building of Corsica Hall at 6pm, having set off at 8.30am.



Spreading the love around Seaford

SEAFORD College students sold 250 roses to fellow students and staff, raising more than £500 for the Boarding House Walled Garden West's charity of the term, Children with Cancer UK.

The flowers were hand-cut, wrapped and delivered around the campus by the students throughout the day, who also prepared handwritten cards, with messages for each recipient.

Head of Boarding, Matthew Pitteway, was pleased with the effort that the students put in. "They have taken up the challenge of delivering so many roses with great enthusiasm. Children with Cancer UK is the leading national children's charity dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer, and we're really proud to have supported them this term, and bringing a little Valentine's joy around Seaford College in the process."

Sweet result for fundraisers



THE Prep School raised a massive £478 for Comic Relief! This included a cake sale, Beanie Bradley's decorated hens' eggs and an incredible £106 raised by Steven Dandy and Patch Joynson from their 'guess the weight of the elastic band balls' and 'sweets in a jar' stalls.



Hats off to everyone



The sun shone on the Prep School's Easter hat parade, and the children had a wonderful time. The range of hats was incredible, making judging very difficult!

Distinctions for festival pair



CONGRATULATIONS to Isabella Hope (Year 7) and Sophia Johnson (Year 4) who took part in the Brighton and Hove Drama Festival, competing in monologue, poetry and prose classes. Both girls gained distinctions in all their classes: Sophia came third in her prose and her poetry class, second for her monologue, and first for her mime and received a medal; Isabella achieved third for her monologue and a first for her poem.

Rufus's big day at the races



RUFUS Uloth from Year 7 took part in the Lord Leconfield pony racing day at Ascot Racecourse, where he competed in two races on his ponies.

In the first race of four furlongs, Rufus rode Top Buttons and came a fantastic third – only being beaten by a neck and a head.

In the second race, of six furlongs, Rufus rode his pony Milkshake. This time he got off to a better start and was lying in second place for most of the race but finished fourth behind some small and very fast thoroughbred racing ponies.

Straight after the finish a girl in front of Rufus fell off and he managed to catch the loose pony and help the girl, and was later congratulated by the stewards for his gentlemanly behaviour.

Prep School News



SPRINGFIELD PILE ON THE POINTS

SPRINGFIELD won the House Music competition with the highest points total, including a narrow victory over Norwood in the house song. This was a very close decision, with both houses performing *Any Dream Will Do* from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – each adding their own touches of colour and drama.

The judges were hugely impressed with so many of the students, with one of the highlights being the Year 6 band and their rendition of the White Stripes' Seven Nation Army.

The overall individual winner was Lucas Valmas (Year 7) who sang Caro Mio Ben beautifully.



Everyone's on the go at Activity Morning

ALL of the children at the Prep School Activity Morning for prospective parents and pupils had a chance to try out fantastic extra-curricular activities while their parents had a tour of the campus and met the Head of Prep, Alastair Brown and his team.

Seaford pupils showed the parents around the Prep School and then took them on a tour to see the Senior School classrooms, the Music department, the Art & DT gallery, the swimming pool and the new Sports and Performing Arts Centre.

- At the cookery session, the children made a pizza in less than an hour – making the dough from scratch and choosing their own toppings. They then took their delicious pizzas home for lunch!

- At the Design & Technology activity, the children learnt how to make a boomerang. Many had never used the equipment before or had the chance to work in a DT classroom and they all enjoyed learning new skills and being creative.

- The children at the Forest School activity enjoyed the games and lighting their own fire. They loved learning about the woods with our dedicated Outdoor Education specialist, Matt Gough.



SEAFORD College enjoyed a whole week of activities to celebrate World Book Day, capped off with the Prep School Head, Alastair Brown, joining in with the costume efforts by dressing up as the famous red and white-striped explorer Wally on World Book Day.

The week began with a World Book Day Quiz at Assembly, with Norwood House narrowly winning.

Setting challenges

Prep School pupils were then set several challenges to complete throughout the week, such as reading as many different things as they could, from books to recipes. But the biggest challenge was for each pupil to produce their very own 'Top That Character' card. The task was simple – pick a character from a book, draw them, and then rank them in each of these key areas: Strength, Humour, Magic, and Brains. This really got the pupils thinking about different books, and they

Books get them all thinking

enthusiastically discussed their characters.

Some Prep School pupils also took their books with them to Forest School, for a spot of reading around the campfire. The activity was a big hit with the young pupils, particularly Sophia, in Year 4. "Reading around the fire makes you feel calm and makes all your worries go away, and it's fun!"

On World Book Day the book shop was open

for business, so the children could buy a World Book Day book with their £1 book token, and the teachers ran a variety of reading activities in their classes throughout the day.

Eleanor Jones, Seaford's Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator, planned a lot of the week's activities. "We've really gone for it this year. World Book Day has been going for a long time, and I think it's hugely important to make books the centre of what schools are about. At Seaford we are really keen to push reading and this is one way we can make it exciting for the children."

Headmaster John Green was really pleased with the enthusiasm of the students throughout the week. "As Sue Mordecai said at Seaford's recent Gifted and Talented Conference, after the age of seven we learn new words from what we read, which can be a real challenge with the 'Screenager' generation. We wanted to really encourage enthusiasm for books and reading."

Author Ali drops by



SIGNING IN: Ali Sparkes with Josh Rymer

THE brilliant and very funny children's author, Ali Sparkes, spent a day entertaining children and staff. She spent time talking about how she discovered reading and how she became an author. It was such a treat to have Ali at the Prep School and she happily took time to sign books for everyone who asked.

What's cookin'?



YEAR 5 enjoyed a great day out at Petworth House to learn more about life as a Victorian domestic servant. They toured the grand house and the kitchens, and the House staff were only too happy to answer the children's questions. They also had time to enjoy the beautiful gardens at lunchtime.

CHORISTERS ENJOY WEMBLEY EXPERIENCE

Seaford's Junior Choristers had a fabulous day at the Voice in a Million charity concert at Wembley Arena, where they were part of a choir of 6,000 singers. Backstage the singers also got the chance to meet the up and coming boyband Roadtrip. Here they are with the Seaford flag in front of Wembley Stadium.





Sport

More teams than ever compete for honours

Seaford sport has been flourishing this year, with an increasing number of teams across all age ranges, in all sports. Our hockey teams performed well across the Prep and Senior schools. Our U13, U14 and U15 teams all had very impressive winning seasons, providing Seaford with some outstanding talent for the years ahead. Our 1st and 2nd XIs are very young teams, but still managed to secure some excellent victories and performances, and more is undoubtedly to come from them next year.

In netball, Headmaster John Green has been “blown away” by the transformation in this sport at Seaford. Our U13 and U11 teams in the Prep School have been

undefeated, and the same can be said for our U15 team. At U14 level the A team has only lost two matches, and our 1st team have also had a remarkable season, including beating Hurst for the first time.

Rugby Sevens has also flourished, with tremendous performances across the age ranges, including our 1st Sevens topping their group at Rosslyn Park National Tournament, where they recorded a notable victory against Eton!

The U15s XV also reached the Plate semi-finals of the Natwest Schools Cup but narrowly lost 18-15 to Sir Thomas Rich’s School Boys who went on to win the competition.



Novice canoeists show their steely side in epic river race

LAST October a group of Seaford Year 12 students decided to take on the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race, a race that involves 125 miles of paddling and 77 portages (where you have to carry your canoe around obstacles).

It was a bold decision as none of the students had spent much time in a kayak before.

Their trainers, Charles Lunt and Bill Marks, warned them it would be a painful experience. At first the canoeists were falling in all the time. “But once we got our balance, we’d go three to four miles. And then we started to enter races, going 16, 24, 32 miles,” said Henry Lunt.

Overcame setback

Initially, there were six Seaford students involved in the challenge, making up three pairs. But, only a few weeks before the big race, injury struck, and Izzy Hart no longer had a partner. But, fortunately for Izzy, a student from Heathfield was in a similar position, lacking a partner, and so Franny and Izzy teamed up and became firm friends.

On the 14th April Henry and Cally Nugent,

Ethan Speller and Evie Marchant, and Izzy and Franny set off in their boats.

The students weren’t allowed to feed themselves whilst paddling, so they had to rely on their amazing support crew meeting them at portages and stops, giving them fluid and energy to keep them going. And, if kayaking for over seven hours wasn’t enough, at the end of each day they had to set up camp by themselves with tired arms.

“The support was really needed in the race,” Evie said. “We had to be fed at each portage, and you can’t touch the food with your hands, so it was vital we had that support.”

Finally, after four days, the three crews made it up the final stretch at Westminster, passing under Westminster Bridge to complete their epic journey.

Ethan found it tough, but also enjoyed plenty of high moments. “Definitely camping was quite a high. Each day was a challenge, so it was quite enjoyable finishing.”

“I’m glad I did it,” added Evie. “There were many times during training when we didn’t think we’d even get to the start line, let alone the finish line, so to get there was a really good feeling.”



Polo teams thrive in first competitive foray

SEAFORD College performed exceptionally well at the Schools and Universities Polo Association Senior Schools Arena Nationals polo tournament, held at the Rugby Polo Club. More than 50 schools took part, including Harrow, Uppingham, Marlborough College, Radley College and Stowe.

This was the first-ever polo tournament that Seaford College has

attended and both teams entered rose to the challenge, with one team winning their division and the other team coming third. The A team beat Rugby 3-1, Felsted 6-0 and then played the Seaford second team in their final league game to clinch the division.

Matthew Pitteway, in charge of polo at Seaford, said: “Polo, for the current Seafordians, began last summer when I took 20 beginners out for their very

first lesson at Cowdray. Following this, we had eight regular outdoor players and then, when we moved indoors, that core group became cemented.

“I am absolutely thrilled that in just over six months the pupils have gone from never having played to doing so well at a national tournament.

“The standard of polo was fantastic and we had to play hard every game to win.”

England contract for Fergus



HE’S FLYING: Fergus in action for Seaford

FERGUS Guiry will never forget the phone call he received in May. It was from Simon Amor, the England Rugby 7s Head Coach, offering Fergus a one-year professional contract with the England 7s squad.

Fergus, who has just completed his A levels, was spotted by the England coaching team playing for Seaford College at the Rosslyn Park 7s tournament. After impressing at a trial, Fergus received the dream call offering him a contract and he is now looking forward to joining up with the full England squad.

“It is quite surreal how quickly everything has happened,” Fergus said after hearing the news. “I was looking on my phone the other day and I found a picture of me and a friend with Dan Norton at the Twickenham 7s. To think I will now be training alongside him is quite surreal. You see all these big names on TV and to think I will now be playing with them is awesome.

“The England coaches told me to focus on my exams, which I did. The contract started at the end of June but I had the opportunity to win my first England shirt in Moscow at the beginning of June. I played in all three games on the Saturday before being concussed against France, and I scored my first England try against Belgium.”

Ed Bowden, the Head of Rugby at Seaford

College, said the whole school is very proud of him. “Fergus being awarded this contract is great for the school from a rugby point of view but he has also got things right in the classroom, which is very important. I am very proud of him and Fergus has worked very hard for this opportunity. As well as his rugby he has been a prefect this year and I know he will continue to be a very good ambassador for the school moving forward.”

Fergus was quick to pay tribute to the support he has received to help him get to the first stage of a professional rugby career.

“I started at Chichester Rugby Club, and then moved to Worthing, and I came here to Seaford College in Year 12,” he said. “In my first year at Seaford the coaches really helped me mature as a player and helped me play a bigger leadership role. I am really grateful to everybody who has helped me get to this stage of my career and I could not have done it without them.”

Headmaster John Green added: “To be selected for England is a remarkable achievement. Fergus is an incredibly talented performer both academically and on the sports field. We are very proud of him and in many ways Fergus stands for all that we try to achieve at Seaford – personal bests both inside and outside of the classroom.”



FastNet event gets bigger and better

SEAFORD College hosted their annual end-of-season FastNet netball tournament and once again the competition was a huge success.

FastNet is a faster-paced form of the sport that was launched in 2008 and features music, shorter games, rolling substitutions and power plays where double points can be scored.

Seaford College had five teams playing in the tournament and Portsmouth Grammar School were the eventual winners of the U16s competition, with Hurstpierpoint College winning the U18s competition.

“It was a busy day but a really good competition,” said Georgie Hegarty, Head of Netball at Seaford College. “Twenty eight teams were playing this year and the standard of netball was excellent. The tournament was bigger this year and I was really proud that so many of our senior girls were playing. To have so many schools coming to Seaford College to play netball was very satisfying.”

● The Seaford Diamonds netball team – winners of the Chichester netball league last year – moved into a bigger league at Worthing, where they have won Division 2, after winning 19 out of their 22 games.

A cricketing night to remember

CHRIS Adams, Seaford’s Head of Cricket, attended a very special dinner at Lord’s earlier in the year. Having played for England in five Test matches and five One Day Internationals, he was invited to the home of cricket for a unique assembly of all past and present England players.

“I was amazed by how many legends of the game were at the dinner,” said Chris Adams.

“It was lovely to catch up with so many people



I had got to know when I was playing professionally but hadn’t seen for a number of years.

“My table was very special, with Nasser Hussain on it. He gave me my Test debut,” said Mr Adams. “Jason Roy was also on my table and I had the privilege of giving Jason his first professional contract at Surrey. And it was Jason’s job, as the current England player on our table, to present us with the caps we were given to celebrate the evening.”