



*The*



*2018 - 19*



# The Phoenix

THE MAGAZINE OF PRIOR PARK COLLEGE 2018-19

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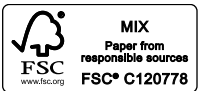
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## THE HEADMASTER'S FOREWORD

# Pass it on

Ashurbanipal, Assyrian Emperor 668-627 BC, was a highly capable general, a warrior king. We are told that he enjoyed the subjugation of myriad nations and peoples across Mesopotamia.

However, Ashurbanipal left an extraordinary legacy - one which is only fully being appreciated today. He inherited an empire in crisis, in a constant state of war and violence and he used his military effectiveness so that the empire came to know peace in the final two decades of his rule. During this time, Ashurbanipal built up one of the finest collections of art and literature ever assembled.

A man of great learning himself - able to speak in many tongues, he claimed that he even read texts from before 'the great flood' and his greatest passion was his royal library at Nineveh, his capital. He commissioned copies of literary works from the furthest reaches of the kingdom. Today, over 30,000 clay tablets and fragments of this library are preserved, including ancient hymns and prayers, medical, mathematical, ritual and astrological texts, letters and legal contracts

which throw extraordinary light on the richness of Mesopotamian society.

Ashurbanipal's greatest legacy is thus to bring peace so that a flowering of learning and education could benefit society. In building his library, Ashurbanipal declared a desire, not to destroy, but to enhance, to educate - to learn - to understand - to pass it on.

One of the great privileges of my life has been the study of history. Many have inspired me - passed it on to me - to love this subject for its own sake and for the precious skills it can teach; how to analyse and evaluate effectively, how to understand the context, to appreciate the forces that influence human decision making, how to understand humanity itself.

My A Level history master at school was the first to truly challenge me to

do this. My professor at university taught me about the craft of the historian as an undergraduate. I still recall my essay on the 15th century Spanish rulers Ferdinand and Isabella which resulted in him saying 'now you are thinking as a historian!' When asked 'what is my specialism as a historian?' I proudly state that I am a Europeanist, a lover of the culture and history of our own ancient continent. I have spent decades studying and teaching the history of France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Russia and many other European countries. I have been intrigued throughout by what survives and what changes in the acceptance that the world keeps spinning. History has also taught me to be in awe of the brilliance of humankind to be creative, to adapt and to survive.

At the end of the play *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett, Hector the

teacher reflects on education and its impact. He concludes that we are all part of the search for understanding and something deeper. Hector's final words are 'all you can do is pass it on, boys, just pass it on.'

Perhaps, like Ashurbanipal, or even my own teachers and professors, or the extraordinary teaching staff here in 2019 who constantly inspire, I pass on the desire to learn, to search for what is truly important and fulfilling; I pass on the hope that this school will continue to develop young people who will appreciate a lifelong love of learning and use this to the benefit of those around them.

'Pass it on, boys and girls, just pass it on.'

*James Murphy-O'Connor*





# JMOC's Farewell

BY MISS CHARLOTTE CUMMINS



*'Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.'*

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

One of my first memories of James is of him standing up in the Common Room Meeting at the start of the new school year and telling us about himself: historian, rugby, Ireland, music, art...but perhaps the thing that struck me most, and stayed with me, was his love of F. Scott Fitzgerald and particularly of The Great Gatsby.

For James, coming to Prior was not just about getting a new job, but about fulfilling a long-held desire to root himself and his family back into the school which had played such an important part in the Murphy-O'Connor story. It is no secret that James' father and uncles were students at Prior Park and that one of those uncles, Cormac, went on to become the Cardinal of England and Wales and Patron of the College. And it really has been a family affair. Emily, Joe, Sophie and Ben have all been marked with the Prior Park seal - so much so that Emily has returned to work at The Paragon.

James' faith comes from the heart. He stands by the values of the Church, very often when we are trying to make a difficult decision, we will stop and ask ourselves what the Christian response should be. It matters to James that Prior is a Catholic school. He has served on the CISC committee and with the diocese and I am sure that these experiences will continue to shape his vision of education as he moves on to Monmouth.

In the last few years, I have seen the energy James has poured into pursuing new ventures for Prior and how he spends hours each week meeting prospective parents and students. Along with other members of SMT, I have also shared some of the hard

times, when there has been sickness or death in the community, when something unexpected or difficult happens or when you just have to absorb someone else's anger or pain. Leading such a large community of people with so many different dynamics is never going to be an easy job, but James has done so with a great sense of service and generosity.

Leaving a legacy is something James has spoken to countless students about over the years. James, I wonder if you found the plan you set yourself ten years ago, if you knew then what you know now, would it be the same? For me, some of the highlights include: the Bury Sports Centre, the new spaces for the creative design faculty, the new space for the Sixth Form Centre, opening Arundell and Brownlow Houses as student numbers grew. And these are just the big projects. Perhaps the real legacy comes from the many thousands of students, staff, parents and guardians who have been changed by their contact with you over your years at Prior. We say that we aim to develop 'confident, capable, compassionate and independent-minded' young adults, and I know that when each U6 shakes your hand as they leave the marquee on Speech Day, we recognise them as part of your legacy going out into the world.

I'm sure that there is so much more that I could or should say - but I'll close with a Gatsby quotation 'Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.'. When autumn comes, you will be starting a new adventure in Monmouth, but I have no doubt that your time at Prior will always form an important part of your story. Thank you for all you have done and good luck.

# Staff Farewells



**RACHEL BIRD**

BY MRS SUE FORSHAW

Rachel Bird leaves Prior Park College after twelve years, during which time she has proven to be a highly motivated, professional and versatile colleague.

Having completed her degree in Modern Languages at Cambridge University and taught in both the state and independent sectors, Rachel was close to completing her studies for a Masters in Psychology when she applied for a job in the Modern Languages Department at Prior Park to teach French, later adding the teaching of German to her portfolio. After the birth of her children, Rachel returned part time and in 2014 she and Angela Spelman had a vision to bring Psychology to the A Level curriculum. Setting up a totally new course takes an inordinate amount of time and dedication, but Angela and Rachel set about the task, and September 2014 saw the first students embark on the A Level course. The first year was certainly a challenge as Rachel juggled the teaching of Psychology and A level French. However, Rachel was convinced that in teaching Psychology she had 'found her fit' and her passion for the subject was ignited. Rachel's outstanding dedication to her subject, and especially to her students, has been unquestionable. Her students will attest to the fact that she goes well beyond the call of duty, giving generously of her

time and expertise. Psychology is now an integral subject in the A Level curriculum and we cannot thank Rachel enough. Rachel now wants to spend more time with her children and return to part time work. We wish her all the best in her new venture.



**EMMA SMALL**

BY MR PETER STROUD

Emma joined the EAL Department in September 2017 as an EAL teacher, and impressed with the quality of her teaching right from the start. She helped the students with weaker English to communicate more effectively and adjust to life in a UK boarding school. She also prepared students for English language exams such as Cambridge First Certificate and IELTS. Emma accompanied students on various school trips, including the History Department's trip to Berlin, and the housebuilding project in Romania. Emma also ran several trips in both of the years she was at Prior, including ice-skating, London, Bristol, and Thorpe Park. In her second year, she took on the role of L5 assembly coordinator. She demonstrated a particularly high level of pastoral care, and left her mark on the boarding community, working first in Allen House and then St. Mary's. Emma leaves Prior Park for Taunton School, where she will continue with both the EAL and pastoral aspects of her career. We wish her well.



**HARRIET ROUSE**

BY MR TOM MAXWELL

Harriet joined the Theology department this year as a graduate trainee and it became immediately apparent that she is a naturally gifted teacher with a genuine love of her subject. Well-informed and interested in all aspects of Theology, Harriet soon established herself as an excellent teacher who has consistently challenged her students to perform at their best. She has initiated many fruitful class discussions, getting the students to think carefully about the topics they cover and has developed their interest in the subject. Harriet has contributed widely to life at Prior Park through being a resident tutor and knowing the school so well from her days here as a student herself. She has inspired many to study harder and particularly to see the Bible as the rich, complex source of revelation that it is. Harriet has been a greatly valued member of the Theology department, with her dedication to teaching and contribution to the effective delivery of the curriculum. She leaves us to join Monkton Combe Junior School, where I am sure she will make a great impact on her future pupils. We wish her and her husband, Alistair, every success and happiness.



**ROSIE MCNIFF**

BY MR ROLAND ROBERTSON

Once upon a time there was a specially talented and versatile music scholar at Prior Park - strong violinist and viola player, able singer in choir, good composer and pianist, A Level musician - with such a bubbly and enthusiastic personality I was sorry to lose her when her U6 Speech Day came around. I thought perhaps one day she'd make a great teacher - but off she went to uni, and then surprised nobody when she was snapped up by Snape Maltings for their arts admin programme. But lo, it came to pass that after all, she decided she wanted to share her musical enthusiasm with the next generation and her chance came to spend a teacher training year back at Prior Park. And so it has felt a happy and appropriate thing for us to have been able to help Rosie take those first steps, after all! Thank you, Rosie, for bringing us (once again) your characteristic enthusiasm, talent and energy, albeit for just the one year. We wish you every possible success in your new teaching post and we hope you'll keep in touch with Prior Park.



# Academic Staff 2018-19

**Headmaster**  
**Senior Deputy Head**  
**Deputy Head (Academic)**  
**Deputy Head (Pastoral)**  
**Deputy Head (Pupil Progress)**  
**Deputy Head (Operations)**

**Mr J Murphy-O'Connor** MA (Oxon)  
**Ms C Cummins** BA (Oxon)  
**Mrs L Stotesbury** MA (Cantab)  
**Mr S Cane-Hardy** BA (Cardiff)  
**Mrs S Forshaw** BSc (Brunel)  
**Ms L Blake** BA (Swansea)

**Mrs S Argent** BA Hons PGCE, Worcester, Exeter  
**Mrs K Ashby** BSc MA, Bristol  
**Mrs V Bailey** BA PGCE, St David's Wales, Exeter  
**Mr C Bartlett** BA, Keele  
**Mrs R Bird** MA Dip Psych BA Hons, Cardiff, Cantab  
**Dr J Blackwell** BA MPhil PhD, Birmingham, Colorado, Glasgow  
**Mr M Blaikley** MA, Oxon

History & Geography  
Physics & Mathematics Librarian  
Head of History  
Head of Psychology  
History, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

**Ms L Blake** BA Hons, Swansea  
**Mr D Bloomer** BSc Hons MBA ACMA, Bristol, Aston  
**Mr M Bond** BSc Hons, Bath & Royal Marines  
**Mrs K Bond** BA Hons MA, Loughborough, Bath Spa  
**Mrs A Bonney** BSc Hons MSc, Bath  
**Mrs L Bryant** BA Hons, Sheffield  
**Mr J Buckley** BA Hons PGCE, Reading, Bath Spa  
**Mr S Burt** BSc Hons, Reading  
**Mrs I Burton** BA, Royal Holloway  
**Mr A Bygott** BEd Hons, Exeter  
**Mrs C Byron** BSc Hons, Cardiff  
**Mr S Cane-Hardy** BA, Cardiff

Deputy Head Mathematics, Assistant Exams Officer  
Deputy Head Operations, Geography Physics  
PE & Sport, Clifford Housemaster  
Design Technology, Art and Design, Bath Spa  
PE, Head of Games  
History, Head of EPQ  
Art  
Head of Geography  
English, Brownlow Housemistress  
PE  
Mathematics, English Housemistress  
Deputy Head Pastoral, Head of Boarding, History  
Learning Development

**Ms J Caunt** BEd Hons MA Uni Adv Dip SpLD, Cardiff, Middlesex, Worcester  
**Mr K Chard** BSc Hons, Leeds  
**Mrs A Colquhoun** MA, Oxon

Head of Chemistry  
Theology, Head of Sixth Form (Academic)  
English  
Geography  
Learning Development

**Mr J Conlon** BA Hons, Warwick  
**Ms N Cordon** MA, Cantab  
**Ms H Cox** BA Hons Dip RSA MBA APC, Birmingham  
**Miss C Cummins** BA, Oxon  
**Mrs H Curie** MA MA PGCE, Oxon, Bristol  
**Mr S Dorey** BSc Hons, Bath  
**Ms K Duncan** BSc Hons MSc, Cardiff Metropolitan  
**Mrs J Eatwell** BSc Hons, Bath  
**Mr J Elliott** BSc, Bangor  
**Mr M Ewins** BSc Hons PGCE, Portsmouth, Bath  
**Mr R Faulkner** BSc Hons, Nottingham Trent  
**Mr M Fisher** MA, Oxon  
**Mr J Fitzpatrick** BA, Sunderland

Senior Deputy Head, Theology Librarian  
Physics, DoE, CCF  
PE, Head of Netball  
Economics and Business  
Mathematics  
Mathematics  
Head of Creative Design Faculty  
Classics  
Economics and Business, Careers Coordinator, Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Coordinator  
Deputy Head Pupil Progress, Chemistry  
Modern Languages Assistant  
Head of Physics  
Head of Modern Languages  
Theology  
Director of Sport  
ICT Manager  
Theology, PSHCE Coordinator  
Mathematics  
Head of Classics  
Independent Careers Advisor

**Mrs S Forshaw** BSc Hons, Brunel

**Mrs M Galache-Brown** BA, Madrid  
**Mr C Gamble** MSc Hons, Bristol  
**Mr J George** BA Hons, Southampton  
**Mrs H Goodman** BA Hons, Newcastle  
**Mr R Gwilliam** BA Hons, UWIC  
**Mr A Haines** BA Hons, Wales  
**Mrs K Harris** BA Hons, Birmingham  
**Mr J Healy** MEng Hons, Bath  
**Mrs S Hearn** MA, Oxon  
**Mrs C Hirons** BA Hons, QCD, Birmingham, Derby  
**Mrs S Holder** BA Hons, Falmouth  
**Mr D Holmes** BA, Loughborough

Design Technolgy  
Design Technology, Roche Housemaster

**Mr S Howe** BSc Hons, Hull  
**Mr P Hull** RFU L5 Coach, PT Instr, Royal Air Force  
**Mrs M Huntley** BA Hons, Bath  
**Mr J Jackson** BSc OLY, Loughborough  
**Mrs J Jones** BSc Hons, Belfast  
**Mr M Jones** BCom, Birmingham  
**Ms L Justine** QTLS, Besançon  
**Miss R Lampard** BSc Hons, Bristol

Examinations Officer  
PE, Director of Rugby, Burton Housemaster  
English  
PE, Head of Hockey  
Head of Mathematics  
Head of Economics and Business  
French  
Head of Junior Science, Chemistry  
Director of Drama  
Biology, Allen Housemaster  
Modern Languages,  
Fielding Housemistress  
Head of Learning Development, SENCO  
Head of Theology  
Head of English  
Music  
Head of Digital Teaching and Learning  
Design Technology  
Biology, Coordinator of Initial Teacher Training and Staff Induction  
Headmaster and Principal, Prior Park Schools  
PE, Head of Cricket  
Drama  
Music

**Mr D Langley** BA Hons, Manchester  
**Mr A Lovat** BSc MA York  
**Mrs A Mallon** MA, Edinburgh

**Mrs K Mason** BA Hons MEd NASENCO, Cardiff, Plymouth  
**Mr T Maxwell** BA Hons, London  
**Dr K McGowran** BA Hons MA PhD, Hull  
**Miss R McNiff** BA Hons, Southampton  
**Mr M Minghella** BA Hons, Liverpool  
Hope  
**Mr D Moore**  
**Mrs M Mudie** BSc Hons, Bradford

**Mr J Murphy-O'Connor** MA, Oxon

**Mr R Pandaya** BA Hons, Birmingham  
**Mrs S Peacock** BA Hons, Hull  
**Miss D Prosser** BMUS Hons, Guildhall School of Music and Drama  
**Mrs H Prynn** MA, Oxon  
**Mrs L Redman** BA Hons, Loughborough

Classics  
Head of Academic and Curricular PE  
Director of Music  
Theology  
Assistant Director of Music  
English, Baines Housemistress

**Mr R Robertson** MA ARCO, Cantab  
**Mrs H Rouse** BA Hons, Cantab  
**Mr D Sackett** BA Hons, Bath  
**Mrs C Saunders-Prouse** BA Hons MA, Bath Spa  
**Mrs S Scollo** BSc Hons MSc, Bath  
**Ms S Seville** BA Hons (Law & Eng Lit) BA Fine Art, Keele, UCE, Bath  
**Mrs L Seward** BSc MSc, Chichester  
**Miss E Small** BA, King's College

PE, Head of Tennis  
Head of Art and Photography

PE, St Mary's Housemistress  
English as an Additional Language  
Chemistry  
Deputy Head Academic, Economics and Business  
Head of English as an Additional Language  
Learning Development  
English  
Biology, Arundell Housemistress  
Head of Science Faculty,  
Head of Biology  
Modern Languages

**Dr G Smith** BSc PhD, Leeds  
**Mrs L Stotesbury** MA, Cantab

Classics  
Geography

**Mr P Stroud** BA Hons MSc, UCL, Surrey

**Ms N Thomas** BA Hons, Exeter  
**Miss K Thwaites** BA, Nottingham  
**Mrs K Trott** BSc Hons, Bristol  
**Dr R Trott** BSc Hons PhD, Newcastle & Reading  
**Mr E Valdueza** BVMSci Hons, PGCE, Universidad de León, Bath Spa  
**Miss H Walters** BA Hons, MSt, Oxon  
**Mrs H Watson** BSc Hons, Queen Mary, University of London  
**Miss E West** BA Hons MFA, UNN, Bath Spa  
**Mrs R Wilson-Brown** BA Hons, Bath

Art, Photography and Learning Development  
Modern Languages,  
Spanish, Coordinator, Assistant Housemistress  
Mathematics, Head of Sixth Form (Pastoral)

**Miss L Young** BSc Hons, Cardiff

# New Academic Staff 2019-20

**Mr Ben Horan**  
**Mrs Christi Brasher**  
**Mrs Christie Carson**  
**Mr Scott Edwards**  
**Miss Francesca Evans**  
**Ms Anna Gravelle**  
**Mr Andrew Watkinson-Trim**

Headmaster  
Teacher of Physics  
Teacher of EAL  
Teacher of Economics and Business  
Teacher of Psychology (Subject Leader)  
Teacher of Textiles  
Teacher of Theology

## Celebrations



Saoirse Bonney, born Monday 25 March 2019 weighing 8lbs 5oz



Mr and Mrs Holder, married on 25 July 2019



Allaya Mai Harwood, was born Wednesday 24 April 2019



Olly Trippera, was born Friday 28 June 2019 weighing 7lbs1oz



Rowan Marjorie Mallott, born Sunday 9 December 2018 weighing 8lbs exactly



# Speech Day

On a beautiful summer's morning, Speech Day began with Leavers' Mass, celebrated by Monsignor Jeremy Rigden in Our Lady of the Snows Chapel. The Gospel was John 14:23-26, 'The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.'

During his Homily, Monsignor Rigby talked about living in three relationships - with other people, with God and with ourselves. "Self-knowledge and awareness, understanding our flaws, quirks and weaknesses, is a sign of growing maturity, 'Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change...' This journey of inwards never ends." Following Mass, our leavers joined the Prior Park community in the marquee for a welcome by Chair of Governors, Mr Michael King, who thanked Mr Murphy-O'Connor for his decade of service to Prior Park Schools, and presented him with a painting of the College by local artist, Peter Brown.

During his address, the Headmaster asked our U6 leavers to "make decisions carefully, be positive in life and bring joy to others, know at some point we will all need to 'hitchhike' and rely on the kindness of others to go further down the road." You can read a synopsis of his speech in the Headmaster's Foreword on page 4.

Guest speaker was Nigel Redman, current Head of Performance and Learning at British Swimming, and former Bath and England rugby player. He spoke about 'Lifescrypt', thinking of the moments in your life that help define the character you are today. Mr Redman cited 5 May 1973, the day of the FA Cup Final between Leeds United and Sunderland, and Jim Montgomery's double save that helped Sunderland, the underdogs, win 1-0 - proof that goalkeepers can be heroes too. The other event he reflected on happened several years later when, aged 34, and recovering from surgery, he was called

by Jack Rowell and invited to tour Argentina with England. During the tour, Fran Cotton requested his presence at the British and Irish Lions Tour of South Africa. Mr Redman realised that his character had taken him this far and he was "prepared to give it my all." The tour was indeed a memorable one and the Lions won 2-1. Mr Redman's words of advice to our U6 Leavers were: "Be true to yourself, find that sense of purpose, be authentic, have courage. If you get it wrong - reflect, learn and move on."

In his last Speech Day at Prior Park, it was fitting that our Headmaster had the final words and, dropping his microphone Obama style, Mr Murphy-O'Connor announced, "JMOC out."





# Prize Winners

The A Level Prize	Edmund Mortimer, Rupert Carr	The Madden Cup for Boys' Hockey	Jake Brookes
The GCSE Prize	Jack Beeching	The Netball Shield	Hermione Scattergood
The SPF Salver for Boys	Gregory Harden	The Harrop Cup for Rugby	Toby Gerrish
The Rose Bowl for Girls	Katherine Mallet	The Prior Park Cup for Girls' Hockey	Evie Unwin
The EBVSM Award	Patrick Fulton	The Bisgood Platter for Cricket	William South
The Fane-Gladwin Cup	Beatrice Hudson	The Damian Timms' Tennis Awards	Molly Sell, Toby Gerrish
The Peter McClure Prize	Ana Teresa Madrigal, Anna Motylova		
The James Guest Memorial Cup for CCF	Janson Yuen		
The Best Recruit Trophy for CCF	Alexander Bolton (Navy), Elina Dickens (Army)		
	Max Hall		
The Semper Fidelis Sheild for Exceptional Contribution to the Contingent			
The Sketch Book Art Awards	Maya Reed		
The Genders' Form 4 Art Prize	Sophia Thorpe		
The 35mm Film Award	Leo McCurdie		
The Wells' Salver for Performance in Musical Theatre	Raymonda Jalloh		
The O'Donovan Cup for Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre	Cameron Wight, George Williams		
The Clarke Cup for Commitment to History	Delilah Rose		
The Curie-Feynman Cup for Sciences	Samuel Lawton		
The Pat McMahon Cup for EAL	Andrii Sendzuik		
The Tetrahedron Cup for Chemistry	Jago Deane		
The Debating Trophy	Fielding House		
The Norah Hodges' Prize for Music	George Williams		
The Prior Park Alumni Cup for Outstanding Contribution to Music	Katherine Mallet		
The Rotary Club (Alkmaar) Cup for Progress in Music	Beatrice Hudson, Vladimir Galkin		
The Rotary Club (Bath) Cup for Progress in Music	Maximillian Montanaro		
The Concerto Cup	Hermione Scattergood		
The Stuart Cup for Brass	Henry Sampson		
The Wiliamson Cup for String Performance	Cheuk Yin (Christie) Yau		
The Mostyn Thomas Cup for Boys' Sport	Archie Parson		
The Patrick Tobin Cup for Girls' Sport	Katherine Mallet		

HEADMASTER'S U6 ACADEMIC PRIZES	HEADMASTER'S L5 ACADEMIC PRIZES
Archie Ansell	Eleanor Dymond
Molly Sell	Katie Marden
HEADMASTER'S L6 ACADEMIC PRIZES	HEADMASTER'S F4 ACADEMIC PRIZES
Timur Boderenko	Eliza Ashbee
Hannah Lowrie	Louis Huyton
HEADMASTER'S U5 'CARPE DIEM' CUP FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT	HEADMASTER'S F3 ACADEMIC PRIZES
Thomas Nesbitt	Clementine Mortimer
HEADMASTER'S U5 ACADEMIC PRIZES	HEADMASTER'S L3 ACADEMIC PRIZES
Alice Hawes	George Campbell Jones
Alexander Martin	Hero Murphy

# U6 Achievements & Appointments 2018-19

HEADS OF SCHOOL  
Sean Barry      Eleanor Cogan

DEPUTY HEADS OF SCHOOL  
Vladimir Galkin      Delilah Rose

HEADS OF HOUSE  
Baines      Daisy Alston-Horne, Patrick Fulton  
Brownlow      Amelia Manning  
Allen      Matthew Roberts  
Arundell      Matilda Shelford  
Burton      Henry Gibbens  
Clifford      Gregory Harden  
English      Amber Matthews  
Fielding      Floral Hutchinson  
Roche      Hao Yu (Max) Wang  
St Mary's      Kristina Foo

INTERNATIONAL HEADS OF SCHOOL  
Patcharapol Manovilas

PRIOR PARK ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES  
Archie Ansell (Roche)      Evie Unwin (Arundell)

HEAD OF PEER SUPPORT  
Eva Hudson

SPORTS CAPTAINS  
Boys' Rugby      Andrew Reed  
Girls' Hockey      Katherine Mallet  
Boys' Hockey      Archie Parson, Tonir Tamang, Max Wang  
Netball      Hermione Scattergood  
Girls' Tennis      Molly Sell  
Cricket      William South

GENERAL SERVICE COLOURS  
*Awarded during the Leavers' Dinner 2019 to those students not holding official positions of responsibility but who have served the College with dedication and commitment.*

Allen      Janson Yuen  
Arundell      Hermione Scattergood  
Burton      Jago Deane  
Clifford      Leo McCurdie  
English      Lexi Straw  
Fielding      Molly Sell  
Roche      Max Wang  
St Mary's      Louisa Tobin



# A Level Results Day

Prior Park College is delighted with the performance of their A Level students with approximately two thirds achieving A\*-B grades.

High achievers this year include Sam Lawton, Maisie Honey, Ada Zhen and Riccardo Casonato. Our International students performed exceptionally well, particularly as these exams are taken in their second language; special congratulations to Kristina Foo, Patch Manovilas and Tina Zhen who received outstanding results.

The College is equally proud of its students who reached and indeed exceeded their own expectations - Toby Gerrish is the first from his family to go to university and will study Sports Analysis at Cardiff, where he will also continue his passion for playing rugby.



# Leavers' Destinations 2019

At the time of going to press, these are the known destinations of our A Level students. Many students choose to take a Gap Year prior to entering University, so they can get valuable work experience, travel or simply take a breather before deciding on their future study or career path.

## OXBRIDGE

2 students:

1 reading English Language and Literature

1 reading Biochemistry

## MEDICINE

1 student

## RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES

35 students

### Courses include:

Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Philosophy, Psychology, Economics and Geography, Sustainability and Environmental Management, History, Accounting and Financial Management, Law, Classics, Spanish, English, Neuroscience, Dentistry, Physics, Theology, Liberal Arts, Geology.

## OTHER UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Bath, St Andrew's, Plymouth, Royal Holloway, Nottingham Trent, Greenwich, Sussex, Goldsmiths, Cardiff Met, Liverpool John Moore.

### Courses include:

Chemistry, Hospitality Management, Computer and Information Security, Economics, Sports Performance Management, Business Management, Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Finance and Investment Banking, Architecture, Drama with Film, Philosophy, Human Biosciences.

## OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES

2 students

## GAP YEAR

25 students

## EMPLOYMENT

2 students

## OTHER

1 student - Flight School





# The Class of 2019

BY SEAN BARRY (U6 ROCHE) & ELEANOR COOGAN (U6 ENGLISH)

It has been a privilege to have been a part of this year's U6, and we are sure that each and every member will go on to achieve great things.

The Class of 2019 is a collection of immensely talented people, in all aspects of life. In sport, individuals such as Toby Gerrish, Archie Parson, Jake Brookes, Will South, Hermione Scattergood and Katie Mallet have all represented Prior consistently at the top level. Furthermore, the Class of 2019 includes individuals who excel in more individual focussed sports, Sam Lawton swimming at a national level, Harry Willis' international equestrian competitions and Molly Sell's achievements in tennis are just a few to mention.

On the stage, the Class of 2019 have certainly not shied away. Eva Hudson, George Williams, Megan Healy and Delilah Rose have consistently performed a wide variety of drama, from Greek tragedy to musicals and contemporary comedy.

Perhaps the Class of 2019's greatest contribution to Prior has been the musical endeavours across all of the platforms available to them. The Grand Leavers' Concert in July was no exception, with Surya Battenburg, Christie Yau, Beatrice Hudson, Hamish Page and Milly Manning being just a few among many to perform a whole plethora of music ranging from Pink Floyd to Opera in the Chapel. The Senior Chapel Choir, perhaps the most dedicated extra-curricular group at Prior, were led by many of the Class of 2019, including Cameron Wight and Katie Mallet. Their motivation to always be ready with a different 'set-list' every Sunday morning at Mass, not to mention many other different venues across the country, is highly commendable and the epitome of Prior Park's Christian ethos. A highlight for many of the U6 was the annual Band Night, both for spectators and performers. Cameron Wight, Raymonda Jalloh, and the rock band Crush, a group of U6 boys fronted by Henry Harford, are some of the many talented musicians who graced the stage of Prior's theatre in January.

Academically, Maisie Honey, Peter Phillips and Poppy Askham were three of many to receive extremely high grades at GCSE and, at the time of writing this, we look forward to further success at A Level. And of course, you can always rely on the dynamic duo of Patcharopol Manivolas and Vladimir Galkin to aid you with almost any mathematical problem! These are just a few of the Class of 2019's successes however many, many other achievements could have been mentioned.

We wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavours!





# ‘A Night Under The Stars’

BY MR MIKE BLAIKLEY

This year was our inaugural Upper 5 social. Themed as ‘A Night Under The Stars’, a constellation of glittering dresses and smart dinner jackets lit up Mansion Hall. The venue was transformed into a night sky filled with sparkling fairy lights, glowing helium balloons and flickering candles.

The evening showcased some of the amazing talent that the students bring to the school: Jonathan Lam playing a classical backdrop to the drinks’ reception, Freddie Osborne pushing the boundaries of a lead guitar solo, and the organisation skills of the committee members. The event was testament to the joy, laughter, and good nature of the students. They celebrated each

other’s successes, rocked out to the sounds of ‘Salty Dog’, and were brilliant from start to finish.

I remain in awe of the sheer volume of candyfloss that can be devoured by ninety teenagers, and how impressively those in high heels could navigate the Mansion steps, but Prior is all about an education for life and I have no doubt that these skills will be invaluable for the years of parties that lie ahead!

Upper 5 is such an intense year as students navigate the stresses of GCSEs, make decisions as to their Sixth Form options, and start looking beyond school to the impact they want to have on the world and how

they might achieve this. I have no doubt that in keeping with their choice of theme, these students will shine brightly in the world and carry that energy, joy and enthusiasm into their next adventure.



# GCSE Results

Prior Park College is once again celebrating some tremendous GCSE results, scoring a 95% pass rate on Grades 9-4 with all students achieving five or more passes.

Under the new numerical 9-1 grading system, students will need to have performed “exceptionally” to attain a grade 9. High achievers at Prior this year included Thomas Nesbit, Gabriella Doel, Tom Watkinson, Madeleine Robertson and Vincent Wang.

Departments performed well across the board with particular mentions for Drama, Latin, English, MFL, Science and DT, with many subjects achieving a 100% pass rate.

The College’s new Headmaster, Mr Ben Horan, commented: “It has been a pleasure to be here today to see and meet so many happy students and parents. I’d like to congratulate them and our teaching staff on an excellent set of results. We have some remarkable pupils and we are proud of them and their achievements. I look forward to welcoming our returning students to Sixth Form in September.”







# Religious Life

BY MISS CHARLOTTE CUMMINS

Together with our Clifton Diocesan family, Prior Park marked this year as a special Year of Prayer, and our new lay chaplain, Theresa Gibson, has already established a number of new opportunities for service and reflection in our community.

Our chaplaincy provision is going from strength to strength, and we are fortunate to have the support of a dedicated team of young Jesuits who kindly take a break from their doctoral studies at Campion Hall in Oxford to celebrate mass with us.

Last summer, our largest ever group of student volunteers participated in the Catholic Association Lourdes pilgrimage. As they explained during a whole school assembly on their return, the week lived up to the billing of 'work hard, play hard.' Fun and challenging in equal measure, their caring for the elderly, sick and disabled pilgrims led them to a deeper understanding of themselves, each other and God, and many new friendships were formed.

The importance of building a community of faith in action was highlighted again, when members of the College attended the National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in September. It is wonderful that we now have a time of Eucharistic Adoration in chapel each week, which the whole community is invited to

attend. Creating time for stillness and quiet in a busy week helps to give perspective on life.

At our annual Remembrance Sunday Mass in November, celebrated this year by Simon Gainé OP, we marked in a special way the centenary of the end of WWI by blessing a new memorial chapel for the fallen from the College. A poignant and specially commissioned sculpture by Mary-Jane Evans depicts 'falling leaves' imprinted with the names of lost students being gathered together. In the silence of the chapel, the ceramic leaves gently chime – a reminder of lives cut short.

Another opportunity to remember former students came with our first ever Founders' Mass and lunch, celebrated by Nicholas King SJ. Here we were able to thank and remember benefactors who supported the College at difficult times in its history. More established in our calendar and now a great tradition for many families, we also welcomed back large numbers of alumni to our carol service, the alumni mass and

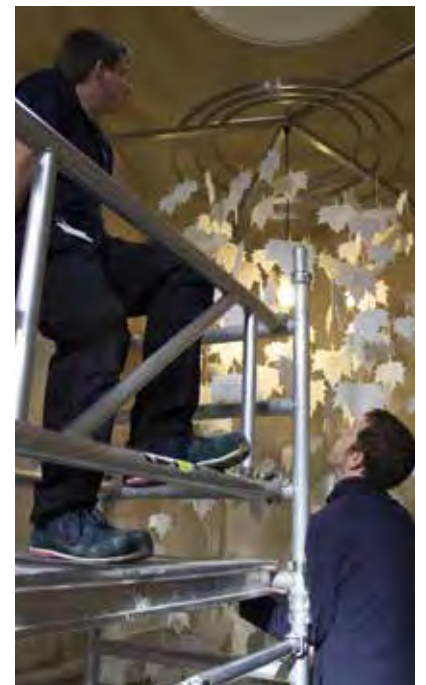
our Corpus Christi procession, where we were also joined this year by a group of Catenians.

Moving from the older members of our community to our youngest, there have been a number of opportunities for students in Baines and Brownlow to get involved this year. As part of our continued involvement in the Camino group of Catholic schools, we participated in the annual Camino mass at St John's in Bath and also welcomed a replica large Lampedusa cross which was on pilgrimage around the diocese. A group of Baines students attended the diocesan vocations roadshow in Trowbridge impressing all with their wisdom and the quality of their questions.

We also welcomed a group of Lower 5 students from Prior Park Gibraltar to join us in attending the Flame Conference at Wembley Arena. Students sharing their faith with their friends is the most powerful thing to witness. This is never more so than when candidates come forward seeking baptism, of which we have had two this year, and confirmation, kindly conferred by Bishop Declan in May.

One of our visiting Jesuit priests is in his first year since ordination and so it was very special to welcome him to celebrate his first ever Ash Wednesday mass with us. This launched us into an active Lenten programme of prayer, fasting and charity. We fasted on the second of our annual CAFOD days, and each tutor group collected goods to be donated to the Bath Foodbank at the end of term.

The year ended with an outdoor mass and barbecue for our boarders, to mark our feast day of St Peter and St Paul, and finally drew to a close with our Leavers' Mass on Speech Day, celebrated by Mgr Jeremy Rigden. Another group of alumni, including our Headmaster, were sent out into the world with a blessing and our hope that they will use what they have learned at Prior in the service of God and neighbour.







# Celebrating Young People Awards

BY DAISY ALSTON-HORNE (U6 ARUNDELL)

At the start of July, Amelia Manning and I attended the Celebrating Young People Awards in Soho, London. Million Minutes, the organisation which runs the awards ceremony, is dedicated to enabling and recognising the youth action and advocacy that generally makes the world a better place to live in, on a local and national level.

It is a Catholic organisation, so as a Catholic school, Prior were allowed to nominate students for different awards. The awards are dedicated to Catholics whose stories we got to hear on the day, such as St Josephine Bakhita, whom the award for 'celebrating human dignity' was named after.

St Josephine was an incredibly inspiring Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious sister who was active in Italy for 45 years, after having been a slave in Sudan.

It is such an honour that Milly and I were nominated for awards by the school and we had success on the day too! I won the 'Joseph Cardijn Award', which recognises young people who have stood up for the rights of students, and Milly was highly commended for the 'Jimmy Mizen Award', recognising the fantastic work she has done in commitment to the 'common good of young people'.

The awards ceremony was an incredible experience. We heard about the amazing work young people are doing across England and Wales for the Catholic community and beyond. One story that particularly blew me away was that of co-host of this year's ceremony, last year's recipient of the Pope Francis Award, Aaron Omotosho. He founded a project called 'Console Code' to empower underprivileged young people to learn about computer and coding, with some of its users having been offered apprenticeships and jobs in companies like Amazon and the BBC. Aaron also founded 'Help Manchester' which encourages young people in the area to support the homeless and vulnerable in poorer areas in the city.

This astounding achievement of such a young person is not isolated, and it was humbling and inspiring to hear the stories of many others like Aaron. Thank you so much to the SMT for nominating me and Milly and giving us the chance to attend the incredible ceremony.

# Charity

BY LEXY STRAW (U6 ENGLISH)

This year, the Charities Committee supported two causes, Jamie's Farm and Off the Record. Jamie's Farm provides week long residentials for vulnerable young people and has helped over 1,000 through their farming, family and therapy approach. Off the Record provide free counselling and youth support groups for young people. Both are amazing Bath-based charities that we have been really proud to support.

The highlights of this year's events include the Bath Half where we had fifteen staff and students from Prior running for the school charities, the Allen House 'Three Peaks Challenge' and the jam packed Charities Week at the end of the Lent term.

Charities Week was a week of cake sale after cake sale and the torturing of teachers for our entertainment. The week was filled with events put on by each House, including the 'Fill your guts or spill your guts' event where the Headmaster was asked the question, 'Why are you leaving Prior and how much more are they paying you?' to which he decided to eat the dog food instead of answering the questions, much to everyone's disappointment! We also had the Fielding 'Soak SMT' sponge throwing, the Allen vs Roche all day bike ride, leg waxing, English House car wash (in the pouring rain), the Clifford rowing challenge, Arundell's raffle and one of the most popular events... the GlambyFlo makeup sale! This week alone raised £2,000.

Huge congratulations go to Allen House who raised the most this year, with several members taking part in the Three Peaks Challenge, raising an incredible £5,000. £3,000 was raised through the Bath Half, so we had an overall total of £12,500. Many thanks to everyone who got involved in the Charities Committee 2018/19 - teachers and students alike.





# Three Peaks Challenge

BY MR ANTHONY LOVAT



Congratulations to the boys who took part in this year's Three Peaks Challenge on Saturday: Luke Singleton, Tom Gage, Mike Kihara, Timur Bondarenko, Joe Wallace, Jean Baptiste (L5), Alfie Maurice (L5), Max Hall, Tom West, Jack Beeching, Francis McCabe, Andy Yue, Isaac Song, Ivo Hui.

Special mention to Joe W, Luke S, Timur B and Michael K who completed in under 10.5 hours, and Andy Yue who conquered his fear of heights.

Particular thanks to Mr Lovat, Dr Blackwell, Mr Valdueza Garcia and Mr Stroud for their support.

Including a corporate donation, the boys managed to raise nearly £5000 for Jamie's Farm and Off the Record.



## International

BY PATCHARAPOL MANOVILAS (U6 ROCHE)

Our school has over twenty different nationalities, and it was a privilege for me to lead such a distinctive community this year. As always, our overseas students managed their way through a busy year, promoting different cultures at the school. Many events took place throughout the year but I would like to write about a few that I thought were superbly executed.

The year was kicked off by an amazing charity event, Russian Night, organised by our extremely talented Russian pupils (and a Ukrainian or two) with the help of Allen House. A series of fascinating lectures and presentations were delivered to the eager audience throughout the night, covering many aspects of Russian culture such as food, music and dance. The main idea of this event, though, was to break down the stereotypes that foreigners might have, and to look beyond politics and focus on the way our Russian students might like their country to be perceived. They raised around £150 towards the school's nominated charity. Well done!

The next highlight of the year is my favourite, the annual International Speaking Competition. As always, it was of the highest standard, reflecting the depth of knowledge and work

done in preparation for the event. This has to be one of the few events in the world where you can witness a Mexican, a Ukrainian and an Azerbaijani talking intelligently about Brexit. There were many well-presented topics from Chinglish to Greek Mythology, and even Why FRIENDS is the greatest sitcom of all time. The first prize in the junior section went to Jin and Tansy who gave an exceptionally well-researched talk on Women in Sport. For the senior section, the first prize went to Caroline and Anna for an outstanding spoof news report on the cleanliness of cutlery in our very own dining hall.

During Michaelmas term, 'Mexican Week' was held in order to promote aspects of Mexican culture and traditions. This was realised by our one year Mexican boarders under the organisation of Miss Small. The event celebrated a special festival in Mexico known as 'Día de Muertos', (Day of the Dead), which falls on 2 November every year, to remember those who have passed away. Our students hosted a Mexican food tasting in the mansion, providing teachers with an experience of different Mexican food and also stayed around to discuss their rich culture.



Chinese New Year 2019 was celebrated on 5 February, and the Chinese community gathered together to celebrate such a unique annual occasion with a nice Chinese-style supper, followed by a traditional Chinese film. Our Chinese students stepped out of their comfort zone and held a Chinese Tea Party in Mansion Hall, giving staff and students a rare opportunity to taste Chinese tea along with fortune cookies (which are technically not Chinese!)

Overall, this was another great year for Prior's international students, who are such a positive feature of life at our school.





## Gold

BY MR JAMES CONLON

This was an excellent year for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh programme, with 28 students signing up for the challenge.

Over the course of the year, the groups developed their navigation skills, refined route cards, considered menu plans and learned about dangerous scenarios on the mountains. These discussions were put into practice in the Brecon Beacons during the practice expedition in June. Heavy rain, dense fog on the peaks, and winds approaching 30mph made for incredibly testing conditions. Many lessons were learned about the need for proper waterproofing and the pegging down of tents.

After the tough weather in Wales, the groups were well-prepared for their final expedition in the Lake District in July. The planned routes were ambitious, involving four days of hiking, (including the three biggest peaks in the region), and three nights of wild camping. All teams enjoyed a pub dinner before meeting their assessors, finalising plans and saying sad goodbyes to their phones and warm showers.

Over the first two days of the expedition, it appeared that Prior Park had brought the weather from Wales along for a second round. The groups showed their skill in these tough conditions, navigating well to reach the peaks of Old Man of Conistone, Crinkle Crag and Scafell Pike on days one and two.

For the final two days, the weather shifted: suddenly views of the Lake District opened up and all groups could see the extent of their progress so far. Blisters and tired legs slowed movement, but students showed exceptional effort and determination and it was amazing to see their teamwork and support for each other.

The final day of the expedition saw several of the groups take on the difficult climb up Helvellyn, the final challenge before triumphant final steps to the finish line.

Completing the Gold D of E award is a huge achievement for any student. Alongside these two expeditions, each student has undertaken a skill, sport and volunteering commitment, and week-long independent residential.



## Silver

BY MR SEAN DOREY

This year the silver section took on the Brecon Beacons. These hills can represent a serious challenge. If the weather is good, the views from the tops can be spectacular but in inclement weather the navigation becomes difficult. It is fair to say that the participants saw all complexions of this intriguingly beautiful part of Wales. Robert Dymond summed up his experience in his usual voluble manner with the words "It rained!" Always one for a finely honed quip, Archie Watts commented, "My bag was heavy and the hills were big." Hannah Clements struggled to express her emotions: "I enjoyed most of it but the rain was cold."

It can sometimes take time for the participants to realise how much these adventures help them to develop into mature young adults. However, the fact that they are already discussing plans for their gold expedition in two years' time suggests that it was not an entirely terrible experience.



## Bronze

BY MRS MARIA HUNTLEY

A group of 41 Form 4 pupils took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this year. The assessed expedition took place in mid-May on the Marlborough Downs. The six groups developed effective teamwork over the two days, which was put to good use when one group saved a lamb caught in barbed wire. This of course, became the highlight of the trip.

The weather was clement, which helped to keep morale at a high, and each group showed strength and courage throughout the two-day walk. Pupils are now looking forward to completing their final requirements and are excited about receiving their certificate and badge at the start of the new school year.



This year saw our Biennial Inspection, led by Deputy Commander Cadets, Brigadier Mark P Christie OBE Late PARA. This is always an important event in the calendar, giving the cadets the opportunity to showcase their skills in the many areas in which they have worked particularly hard throughout the year.

Due to foul weather, we instigated the wet weather plan. Numerous stands were presented and the majority were fielded by our very own senior cadets who performed above and beyond. These senior cadets have clearly demonstrated the benefit of attending many of the leadership courses on offer to both our Army and Navy Sections. The Headmaster received a very respectable review and the contingent was complimented by the reviewing officer for a great showing.

The Contingent's Annual Dinner is always an impressive affair, with almost a hundred, staff, cadets and guests in attendance. This year's guest speaker was Shrivenham Station Commander Wing Commander Rob Hart, who spoke affectionately about youth organisations, the cadet experience and service opportunities. The dinner is a chance to thank everyone for all they do throughout the year, and the formality of the occasion makes it feel very special.

For most cadets, the most exciting part of CCF will be the training days and field camps. The sections have been busy both locally and nationally, on land and water. We spent a week at Land and Wave in Swanage for adventure training earlier in the year, predominately water-based, definitely very wet, windy, challenging, adventurous and arduous. Most recently, the Royal Navy section of the CCF visited Britannia Royal Navy College. As well as a tour of the college and a visit to the resident beagles, the cadets

took part in some team building exercises on the low ropes and had some time on the water in the Dart estuary. The army section has also been busy. During visits and trips to The Defence Academy in Shrivenham, we were provided with a wide range of expertise, not limited to leadership, command and technology. An additional highlight was the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) lesson, which is basically a computerised live firing range. The accuracy is first class, although the shooting was most definitely not!

If you would like to play your part in inspiring our cadets to become better citizens and have a better understanding of uniformed services, do get in touch.





# Eco Prior

BY POPPY ASKHAM (U6 FIELDING)

In the year that saw the UN's announcement that we only have twelve years left to tackle the climate crisis, and that brought us an inspiring new eco-warrior in the form of Swedish 16-year-old, Greta Thunberg, environmental issues also rose to prominence within the College, thanks to Eco-Prior's endeavours. This year's group, led by Mrs Colquhoun, John Hunter and me, was one of the most enthusiastic and well-attended committees in recent years, with U6 representatives from each House meeting up every week to discuss environmental issues and plan awareness projects. The energy and topical ecological knowledge which members brought each week meant that we were never short of ideas about how the school could improve. Discussions were always lively and optimistic.

Over the course of the year, Eco-Prior worked hard to raise awareness about pressing environmental issues including a poster campaign about palm-oil, a vegan bake sale highlighting the carbon footprint of the meat and dairy industries and a sobering assembly about the ecological impact of fast fashion. The committee and many other Sixth Formers also attended a number of 'school strike for climate' protests in Bath, participating in 'die-ins' and marches around the city and contributing eye-catching, handmade banners.

Aside from attempting to inform the community and taking part in grassroots activism, the group also collaborated with members of school management to work towards more long-lasting structural changes to the school – namely to improve upon the school's energy consumption, waste production and disposal.

It has been heartening to see the genuine concern about the state of our planet and the desire for radical change in so many students up and down the school over the course of this year. From the participants in the monthly strikes for climate change to the many contributors in our recycling projects, Prior students have shown a sense of compassion, urgency and moral responsibility that quite frankly would put many politicians to shame.

It is this year's Eco-Prior committee's sincere hope that we have left the College greener than we found it.



# Health and Wellbeing

BY MRS MELANIE GITTENS

A proactive approach to health education has been the catalyst for continued investment in Prior Park's outstanding pastoral care. The introduction this year of the Health and Wellbeing Centre (HWC) has provided Prior Park students with a modern and comfortable space where their physical, mental and emotional health will be looked after through outstanding care and, crucially, proactive healthcare education.

The HWC sits alongside our Houses as a place in the school where students can seek support for a range of issues. Students can use the wellbeing room to enjoy some down time in a busy day, or attend one of the wellbeing sessions that are run by our nurses or visiting wellbeing coach.

An important aim of the HWC is to strengthen the community and play a prominent role in the boarding life of the College. Each nurse is linked to one of the three boarding Houses and spends time each week visiting the House, speaking to students and meeting with House staff to ensure that all aspects of pastoral care are linked. In a boarding house this often focuses on how to get a good night's sleep, healthy diet and excellent hygiene. However, our health care is not limited to these areas, and students are now offered additional advice on managing stress and developing techniques for relaxation.

Each week, pupils can benefit from mindfulness and restorative yoga sessions delivered in the quiet space of the Wellbeing Centre. We base all our wellbeing education around an initiative devised by our Upper Sixth Peer Mentors and Prior Park's Six Pillars of Wellbeing: Activity, Sleep, Diet, Faith, Service, Kindness.



Alongside these sessions, Prior Park students are given a range of activities to encourage a healthy lifestyle, promote self-esteem and reduce harming behaviours. For students who need more specialist care, the HWC has a devoted counselling room. Our counsellors frequently speak in assemblies and provide all students with techniques for coping with stress and worry. Indeed, our HWC's major aim is to provide students with a range of knowledge that can help them navigate their school life and life after school, ensuring they are physically and emotionally healthy.







# Baines House

BY DAISY ALSTON-HORNE (U6 ARUNDELL)

This year in Baines has been absolutely jam-packed: from House Music to House Plays, the Spelling Bee to the 'Great Baines Bake Off' competition - there truly is never a dull moment in this House. I had the honour of witnessing the immense changes in every student over this year.

The transition from Junior to Senior school is huge, with some students feeling the jump more than others, and initially struggling with the longer and more busy days. I can confidently say that all of the students settled so well into Prior life, each giving into the local or wider community in some way. Whether it was in practical ways, such as the students who helped with research for the speakers in the debating competition, or those who represent Prior in a sports team every weekend, each student played their

part and did so with humility and compassion.

As Heads of Baines, Patrick Fulton and I are in a unique position to help the Baines students as we have been through what they are experiencing. We tried our best to use this insight to make the students' experience the best possible. Our goals this year were to be very approachable, as well as try to get the Year 13s more involved with the youngest year group in the school. I'd like to think that we achieved both, with many students allowing us to personally be there for them through some of their tougher times and allowing us to share in their happiest moments too. Moreover, we attempted to get Year 13s more involved by bringing them in to help judge the House Music and Debating competitions, as well as to help Patrick

and me deliver a talk on 'social media safety'.

I couldn't have asked for a more lovely and open group of students this year. Coming up to Baines House in break times didn't seem like a duty and tended to be the best part of the week. If the students carry on succeeding in the ways they have, then Prior is in luck, for there shall be some fantastic leaders coming through the school. Patrick and I are so proud of Baines this year and have absolutely no doubt that they will do brilliantly in Brownlow and beyond.

Good luck everyone - we will miss you all so much. Being Head of Baines has no doubt been the highlight of our Prior experience, thanks to all of you!

# Co-curricular

BY MS LOUISE BLAKE

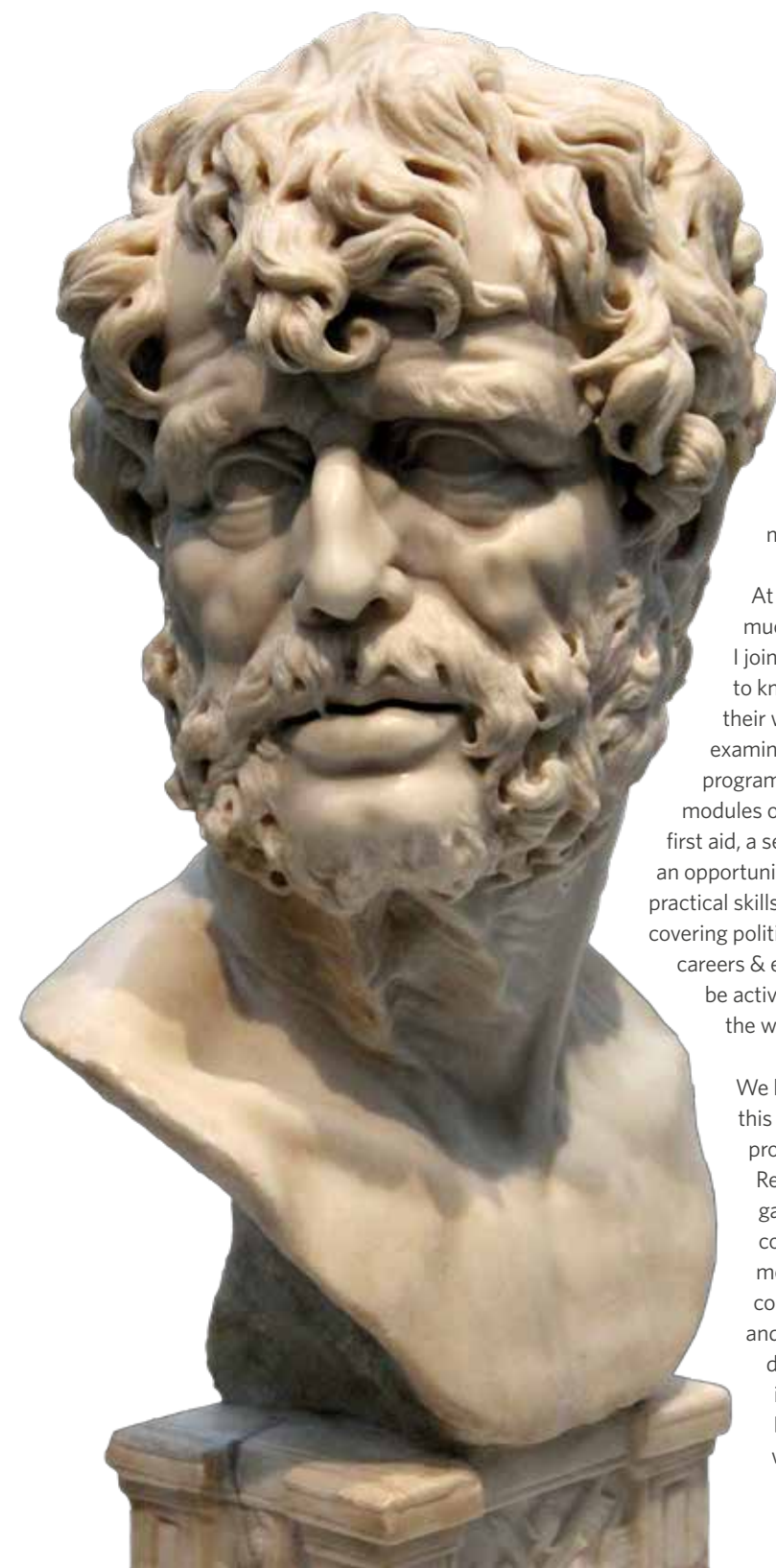
The objectives of any co-curricular programme are that it should be inclusive, provide opportunity, develop talents, is enriching, provides a global education, offers access to outdoor education, encourages personal and physical development, leadership and most importantly is fun! At PPC we offer an extensive range of co-curricular opportunities, from the 100 clubs per week to the varied Saturday Active programme for our boarders and day pupils. This year we have added Fencing, Robotics, Animal Husbandry and Craft Club, to name but a few. This programme will continue to develop in the next academic year.





# Academic Life

BY MRS LAURA STOTESBURY



One of the earliest examples of criticism of pedagogical practices came from Seneca the younger when he wrote, in his moral letters to Lucilius, "Non vitae sed scholae discimus," it is not for life but for school that we learn. The remedy for his aphoristically expressed cynicism has, in the past twelve months, become the focus of a new national inspection framework for schools. The intent of a school's curriculum has become one of the major contributors to the judgement of the quality of its education provision. Schools are not just about passing exams – so how do we measure up?

At Prior, our curriculum intent would appeal to Seneca. His much coveted 'Education for Life' has been a tag line since I joined the school; a curriculum providing students access to knowledge and skills that they can employ throughout their working and social lives, alongside an education for final examinations. This year we launched our new general education programme to the Sixth Form; Prior4Life. Students undertake modules on topics including personal finance, ethics, current affairs, first aid, a service project at a local primary school, and DIY. All provide an opportunity to discuss, debate and demonstrate newly learned, practical skills. Next year, Prior4Life will pervade the F4 curriculum, covering politics, big philosophical questions, health and wellbeing, careers & enterprise and world issues. We are preparing students to be active and engaged citizens who will have a positive impact on the world around them.

We have also revitalised our academic scholars' programme this year, building a stronger social network and offering a programme and culture that promotes a love of learning. Research by the Sutton Trust tells us students who visit galleries, museums and exhibitions, those who go to concerts, plays, join book groups and attend lectures, are more likely to attend a higher tier university, even when controlled for other key influences such as parental income and postcode. Knowledge begets knowledge. Students doing these activities become more knowledgeable, more informed. Contact with exhibits or attendance at a lecture by an eminent academic broadens one's knowledge of the world as it was, as it is and as it could be. There is value



in considering which skills our students require to become active members of the labour force, but not through the devaluing of knowledge. To that end, we have broadened our KS4 curriculum this year to include computing and business qualifications at GCSE but retained Latin as a core component of our KS3 curriculum.

For most academic scholars, the annual highlight was our trip to Bletchley Park. We were fascinated by the secrecy of the place, the role of women in its success, and the emergent technology that was used. Perhaps most exciting for a group of highly able students was the epiphany when they realised that cracking the enigma machine would have been impossible without mathematicians, linguists and engineers. No subject discipline trumped another, and having that synergy is when we as humans achieve great feats. My group were excited to find a 'Stotesbury' brick in the decoders wall – this prompted me to do further research and I was able to piece together a little of my own family's historical connections with Bletchley's heritage.

Our Academic Society lecture series continued this year with lectures on 'What's this Brexit agreement all about?' by academic, Damian Whittard. Admittedly, as I write almost a year later, we are none the wiser on what Brexit might look like, but it was great to see some of our youngest students leading the way in asking and answering questions

around the potential economic and social consequences of a departure from Europe. In January Professor David Thomas (PPA 1980) gave a mesmerising lecture, 'Art in Science' and, finally, JMOC gave his valedictory lecture 'What makes great art great?' This journey from medieval to modern was a perfect analogy for how we shape our students at Prior. They arrive with a simple view of the world around them and a desire to impress others. As they evolve, we see them refine their interests and mature in their thoughts and arguments. Ultimately, they are able to deal in the abstract and hypothetical, and are able to impress others, but it is the value they place upon their own worth that matters most.







Maths Miniature: watch it here at: [youtu.be/fp9xKPdaQT4](https://youtu.be/fp9xKPdaQT4)

Once again, the school's progress measures and exam results were impressive, and our leavers achieved places at a vast array of institutions that were commensurate with their potential and ambition. It always feels wrong to single out students, but twins Tina and Ada Zhen between them achieved straight As, and Ada and Maisie Honey both met their Oxford offers. At GCSE, students achieved extremely well and, as a result, a number of our internal students have been awarded academic scholarships for the Sixth Form.

2019 marked the launch of a new formal qualification at Prior; we entered our first cohort of students for the HSK examinations. Students from F3 and F4 sat exams that tested their proficiency in Mandarin and they gained credit towards funding for university study in China later in their academic careers. National recognition is not always easy to win so we were delighted that another of our students has secured an Awkwright Scholarship – Barnabas Pickford (L6) is to be heartily congratulated and we know that this accolade will support him in his applications to university and beyond.

It isn't just the formal qualifications and scholarships that our students have chosen to sit. A plethora of papers in Maths challenges, Olympiads and Kangaroos have enabled them

to achieve an array of certificates proving their standing nationally. In the Junior Maths Challenge, George Campbell-Jones was awarded a Gold certificate and best in school. In F3, Victoria Corfield, Jessica Lawton and Cailean Wilson attended the Bath University Maths Masterclasses where they explored abstract maths in a stimulating environment. Sciences, too, saw student success. In the Physics Olympiad, Samuel Lawton and Patch Manovilas won Silver Awards, Nigel Chu a Bronze and Vladamir Galkin was commended. In Chemistry it was Isaac Song who shone, being awarded Gold in the Cambridge Chemistry L6th Challenge. In the Biology Olympiad Isaac also won a Bronze award, and Charles Mullin a Silver Award which places him in the top 10% of the 8,000 students who took part.

Our Junior Scientists were also on a winning streak. After a successful showing at Bath TAPS into Science, several students elected to use their lunchtimes to work towards achieving the Bronze Crest awards. Alex Mould and Joe Spillsbury focussed on GCSE level microbiology, Archie Hally has been busy testing rocket flight in different weather conditions, whilst Freya Bradford and Alice Carr have produced their own bioplastic in the war against waste.



I enjoy seeing our students combining different disciplines to achieve success. Film making, creativity, sport, IT and maths were all on show in the film entered for the Maths Miniatures competition. This was an entertaining illustration of how one can use Pythagoras' theorem to measure how far away on a rugby pitch a penalty kick is taken. The film made the long list for the final and I'm sure it will feature in maths lessons at Prior for years to come. We have also had EAL students offering conversation classes to our MFL students, and maths and PE again combined in our final internal House competition of the year – the Inter-House Maths Challenge.

Our MFL students found themselves top of the leader board for an online competition 'This is Language', which helps students to practise their vocabulary and grammar. Individual students Alex Martin and Tom Watkinson were ranked first and second (of thousands) and overall the school was placed in the top 10 out of 700 schools.

At the Catentian Schools' Public Speaking Competition, Victoria Corfield and Joseph Spillsbury competed against students from Year 11 and Sixth Form, with Victoria achieving second place. Joe, the youngest student in the competition,

won notable mention keeping his speech current, including reference to the New Zealand Mosque shootings that had occurred just days before.

My philosophy of education is that we are to encourage young people to stand on the shoulders of giants – passing on to them the best that has been thought and said so that they can, in their own turn, move society forward. There is a legacy of wonder and awe about sciences, arts, humanities, linguistics that makes you more alive by just knowing things. Perhaps the main validation of the importance of these nuggets of knowledge and the reason why, as a society, we should value understanding more highly, is so that our pupils can, in the future, make their own discoveries and breakthroughs without having to start from scratch. Seneca didn't have it wrong – there are schools out there that are exam factories who believe that only an A\* is worth celebrating, and who will not invest in the person behind the achievements. We are not that sort of school, we firmly believe that it is possible as an academic institution to do both. An education at Prior Park is an education for life.





# STEM Day

In July, we welcomed over one hundred students from four local primary schools to participate in our annual STEM Day. The Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science departments worked hard to give the children an action-packed day. It included a maths treasure hunt, a tower engineering and robotics workshop, and finished with a BANG! with Mr Gamble's 'Phantastic Physics Show' (ably assisted by Miss Lampard).



# Computer Science

BY MR MARK MINGHELLA



## Chemistry



Congratulations to Alex, Victoria, Sam and Georgia who were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the University Challenge at Salters' Festival of Chemistry in May at Bath University.

The students competed against ten rival schools to secure first place in the afternoon session. The pupils were challenged to devise a 'recipe' to reduce the Doctor's Tardis to a specified operational temperature to avoid fusing and malfunction. The task stretched and challenged the team beyond the curriculum, and showed that they were able to apply foundation principles into unfamiliar contexts. They were congratulated for their team work, attention to detail, safety in the laboratory and the accuracy of their results.

Along with their certificate, Alex, Victoria, Sam and Georgia have been rewarded with personalised Prior Park lab coats, which has certainly set the trend within the department!

This year, we introduced a Computer Science and Digital Literacy curriculum into lower school and GCSE Computer Science in Lower 5. It has been an excellent opportunity to craft a curriculum to develop students' knowledge and understanding of what Computer Science is, as well as develop their confidence and competence in using technology to enhance their own learning.

Over the course of the year, students have had the opportunity to think closely about e-safety and cybersecurity as well as understanding how technology contributes to "Fake News" and the propagation of both misinformation and disinformation. One of the highlights was seeing students creating a social-media firestorm using the 'Get Bad News' website and trying to balance out their number of followers and credibility. Closely linked with this was a brief foray into image manipulation to see how easy it is to create fake images whilst exploring issues such as Photoshopping magazine covers.

With particular reference to Computer Science, students have had the opportunity to look at basic coding, algorithms, games development, binary, truth tables and circuit diagrams. To

finish the year, we've looked at the real-world impact of Computer Science by starting to examine autonomous vehicles, prosthetics, smart cities and the future of both employment and money!

The GCSE class has explored a wide variety of topics including hardware, software, cybersecurity and computational thinking skills. They took part in the national Cyber Discovery activities and have even visited Tesla. This was an interesting trip that allowed students to take a test drive in a Tesla, experiencing auto-driving and self-parking, but also having their questions answered by the Tesla staff. A highlight was being allowed in one of the two Model 3s that were in the UK at the time.

Overall, it's been a great start to embedding Computer Science and Digital Literacy, building on the foundations laid by the previous teachers. As time moves on, the curriculum will develop further as the College aims to pioneer digital technology in teaching and learning, ensuring students are fully prepared for the use and consumption of technology in the workplace and life.



# French Breakfast

BY MR ELÍAS VALDUEZA GARCÍA



In the last week of the academic year, Lower 3 French students enjoyed a French breakfast organised by the Languages department, where a typical breakfast from different French speaking countries was provided. Although the French ‘pain au chocolat’ was the most popular option, the pupils also tasted other specialities from across the Francophone countries and regions: maple syrup from Québec, pineapple from Guadalupe and waffles from Belgium. The traditional croissants were evidently well received too. Pupils ordered their breakfast using the target language, putting their knowledge into a real-life situation. Whilst filling their bellies, they raised their awareness of the Francophone world, completing a quiz using the information provided by posters that were displayed especially for the event. This was a lovely way to finish a hard-working year.



# L6 French Work experience

BY MANON ARMITT-GODDARD (L6 ARUNDELL) & HOLLY MILWARD (L6 ENGLISH)



Over the Easter holidays, both Holly and I and the rest of our French A Level class (Mimi, Mila and Max) were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to participate in a French work experience course in the city of Lille, organised by Halsbury Work Experience. Each of us was given a work placement, specially selected to fit our interests and needs. Joining us were around ten other students from schools across the UK.

I (Manon) was given a placement in a seafood restaurant in the heart of the city, ‘l’écume des mers’. The trip really allowed me to work on my speaking confidence and my listening skills. Serving customers and interacting with my colleagues was a great way to be immersed in the language. Of course there were some challenges to overcome, as expected when working in a foreign country with new people, but overall I think it was a positive and character-building experience.



I (Holly) was given the task of working in a Chocolate shop, ‘Au Chat Bleu’, also in the centre of the city, just around the corner from the lively city square. Although I didn’t interact

with customers much, I was able to spend most of my time with my colleagues and converse with them on a day-to-day basis, picking up various phrases and learning a lot through listening. The extracurricular and evening activities in particular were a great opportunity to increase my confidence and fluency. In other aspects of the trip, we both got great enjoyment out of the local activities and attractions on our doorstep. The hotel was a mere one minute walk from the town square, and restaurants and shops were in abundance. There was not a minute to be bored! Each and every one of us thoroughly enjoyed looking at the city’s architecture, for instance the iconic bell tower, Beffroi de Lille, which offered panoramic views. Our Halsbury group leader, Alex, who accompanied us on this trip, arranged many more activities for us.

Overall, we highly recommend this experience. There really is no better way to improve fluency and confidence than immersing yourself in the country itself, getting a real feel for the culture.

# Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi

BY MR JACK GEORGE

In March 2019, twelve F4 and three F3 students worked towards and eventually sat The HSK or Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, which is an internationally recognised professional qualification in Mandarin, written and administrated by the Chinese Government.

There are six levels of proficiency with Level 3 being of GCSE equivalent, and 6 being that of an A\* at A Level. It is an incredibly challenging qualification, and students have to demonstrate the maturity to work independently and push themselves as much as possible. All entrants passed Level 1 and a handful of very talented linguists passed Level 2.

Thanks to their hard work and determination, they now have something that will count towards fully funded university study in China and, also, an attribute that will make them truly stand out in their future professional lives.



# The South West Modern Foreign Languages Speaking Competition

Bravo to Victoria Corfield who won the non-native KS3 category at The South West Modern Foreign Languages Speaking Competition, with a speech about her hobbies. Hosted by Royal High Bath in March, there were fourteen other schools competing in Victoria’s category.



# Maths Olympiad

In May, our Head of Mathematics, Mrs Jones, received the results of the Intermediate Olympiad and Kangaroo papers;

## OLYMPIAD

Vincent Wang, Distinction – and placed in the top 50 students in the country.

## KANGAROO

Pink – Joshua Humphriss, Distinction, and Robert Dymond, Certificate of Qualification  
Grey – Daniel Liu, Certificate of Qualification

Congratulations to all!



# Extended Project Qualification

Prior Park students received outstanding results in the Extended Project Qualification.

Over the past few years, Prior has gained an excellent reputation in this Sixth Form-based qualification. It is a free-standing A2 qualification and its purpose is to stretch the more ambitious scholar. As such, it has become highly valued by top Universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and Warwick. This year, 23 students studied a diverse range of topics including, ‘Why did the Apartheid system collapse?’, ‘Can the Holodomor be considered genocide?’ and ‘The Works of J.R. Tolkien’.

Congratulations to all the students and our thanks to Dr Blackwell for co-ordinating.



# Inter-House Maths Challenge

In Mr Blaikley’s words, this competition combines “mathematical excellence with sporting prowess.” The 2019 winners - Burton House.



# Maths Inspiration

Our U5 top set mathematics students had a challenging afternoon at The Forum in March, when they visited ‘Maths Inspiration’. U5-U6 pupils from local schools attended the fun event and learnt about the maths behind puzzles, forces in circular motion and gambling!

The speakers included puzzle author Alex Bellos, who challenged the audience with some of his favourite maths and logic brainteasers from down the ages; Hugh Hunt from Cambridge University Engineering Dept who demonstrated the mechanics of lots of spinning things (think wall of death, ice skaters and boomerangs); and University of Bath’s Ben Sparks, who dissected the Sting song, Shape of My Heart, about a gambler finding beauty in the “hidden laws” of probability that govern poker.

Thank you to Mr Ewins and Mr Elliot for running this trip.

## An example question

A says that B tells lies,  
B says that C tells lies,  
C says that both A and B tell lies.

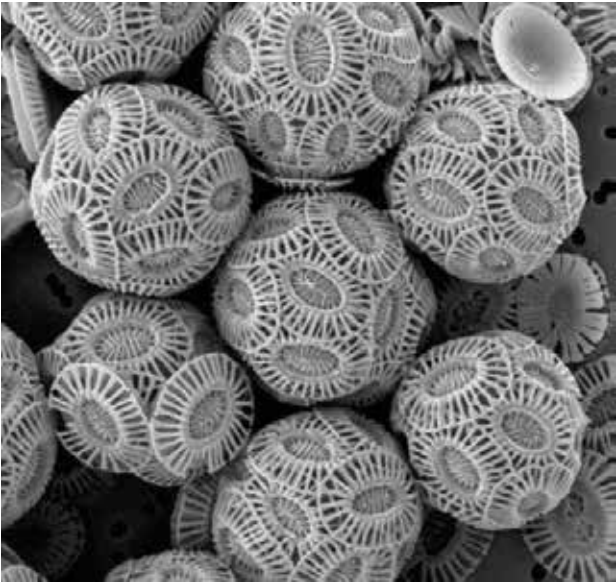
Who is telling the truth?

Answer on the back cover.

# Academic Scholars lectures

In January, we were delighted to welcome Professor David Thomas of Bangor University (Class of 1980) back to the College to talk to our Academic Scholars and art students about Art in Science. In a mesmerising lecture, Professor Thomas showed images where “beauty is more beguiling as the scale of magnification increases.”. The accompanying picture shows diatoms of chalk taken from the White Cliffs of Dover.

The Headmaster gave the June Academic Society lecture. Mr Murphy-O’Connor chose the title ‘What makes great art great’ so he could talk about one of his passions, Art. JMOC took our students through the centuries, discussing great works by Botticelli, Caravaggio, Titian, Turner, Manet, Seurat, Picasso and Lowry. He explained how the paintings were a record of their time, reflecting the technical advances of that time and, in some, the intrusion of modernity. Some of the artists were influenced by the democratization from high society to common man, social structure and the changes in societal views. Great artists are able to show human emotion through their paintings and can challenge the viewer on many levels. In conclusion, Mr Murphy-O’Connor declared that great art can also tell us about love, be it passionate, unrequited, unbounded or obsessive. He also encouraged students to spend more time looking at art and exploring galleries as great art will always unveil more, the more you look at it.





# Bletchley Park



Academic scholars had a day of code breaking in February as they journeyed up to Bletchley Park.

Bletchley remained top secret until long after the war had ended - it was the publication of a book in 1974 that lifted the lid on its secrets.

On arrival, our students were split into groups and took turns to explore the site, engage with the exhibitions on display, take part in a code-breaking exercise and, of course, see an Enigma machine!

The Enigma machine contained a series of interchangeable rotors, which rotated every time a key was pressed to keep the cipher changing continuously.

This was combined with a plug board on the front of the machine where pairs of letters were transposed; these two systems combined offered 103 sextillion possible settings to choose from, which the Germans believed made Enigma unbreakable.

Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman designed the Bombe machine, a set of three vertical drums that represented the three rotors in one Enigma machine that eventually helped to decode the intercepted German messages.

The impact of the work done at Bletchley was enormous - Winston Churchill described the codebreakers, and their success at keeping their work secret, as "The geese that laid the golden eggs and never cackled."

In the week that Turing was named the winner of the BBC series, 'Icons: The Greatest Person of the 20th Century,' it was a fitting time to visit Bletchley Park and marvel at the extraordinary accomplishments of Turing and his team.

# Parliament and the Supreme Court

In November, a group of thirty Prior Park Politics students made the trip to Westminster to visit Parliament and the Supreme Court to learn more about the heart of Britain's democratic institutions.

They were treated to a thoroughly engaging tour of the Sovereign's Entrance, the House of Lords, the Central Lobby and Westminster Hall, discovering key ideas about how the legislative branch of government operates in the modern world. The energetic guides were keen to make the purpose of Parliament clear - a place for the people's servants to take action in the public interest.

Crossing over Parliament Square in the afternoon, the students were treated to a series of intriguing legal conundrums at the UK Supreme Court. Sitting in the chairs used by the members of the highest court of appeal in the land, they discussed questions revolving around discrimination, human rights and the proper relationship between students and their uniform! It was a thoroughly informative and enjoyable day.



# United Nations Sixth Form Conference: Can War End War?

Also in November, we were joined by students from St Gregory's, Royal High, Ralph Allen and Writhlington for a United Nations Association Bath Sixth Form Conference.

The event began with a short Czech animated film, 'Attention' from 1959, which showed man and conflict through the ages, from cave man to nuclear bombs.

This was followed by a thought-provoking presentation entitled 'Can War End War' from guest speaker, Symon Hill. Symon is a pacifist, activist and journalist who became co-ordinator of The Peace Pledge Union in 2016, which aims to promote peace-building and non-violence, and remembers all victims of war through the distribution of the white poppy.

Students were able to discuss all aspects within their groups before reporting back with questions for Symon, including:

- How should we respond to terrorist attacks?
- Can mutually assured destruction help keep world peace?
- Can the UN, EU and NATO play a genuine role in peacekeeping?
- What can be done about the conflict in Yemen?
- What will the effect of technology be on future conflicts?

The final reflection was that change is possible - fight for peace and believe in it.





## BEING SHOT BY ALEXANDER MALLON

It all happened way too fast; I felt a surge upwards and then a stiffening click echoed through wherever I was. I saw only complete darkness, shielded from all light. I heard booms and bangs that would tear the ear off a human. After every boom, I would surge upwards again and again and again. Then after a final boom, I was launched into a chamber-like passage, unaware and unready. I was shot. No, I was not wounded but, I was the shot, I flew, too fast to realise what had happened. I soared among my brethren that flooded the air like glistening stars. I knew what I was but could not come to realise it, I didn't know where I came from but knew where I was to surely head. I saw a man, no more than twenty, ahead of me, straight ahead of me and now I knew my fate. Not to murder, but to be the murder weapon. And like I was launched, I found my end.

## YEAR 10 STUDENT

### CHRISTMAS PEACE BY HANNAH CLEMENTS

Wind gusting and howling,  
Rain hammering against the slushy soil.  
Gunshot echoing  
Sound bouncing from trench to trench  
Men falling  
Face first into the thick sticky muck.

Flashes of gunfire and bombs,  
Like lightning, soar across the sky.  
Darkness surrounding me like a blanket of sadness.  
Tears of pain freezing in the harsh winter.  
Cold numbing my hands to my pistol.

Death following me like a shadow,  
Every step heavier than the last.  
My nostrils filled with the stench of my rotting friends.  
Memories fading into one  
Fear extinguishes hope like a bullet shatters life.

Hatred fills my body like an illness plagues you,  
A need to kill the enemy pulses through my blood.  
My spirit gone out like a light;  
Leaving me empty.

Examples of student entries.

Copies of the War & Peace Anthology can be found in the school library.

# War and Peace Creative Writing Competition

BY MR CHRIS BARTLETT AND DR KATHARINE MCGOWRAN

This 2018 competition was organised to celebrate the work of creative writers of all ages, both within the Prior Park community and beyond. The theme of 'conflict' was conceived to commemorate the anniversary of the Great War, one hundred years after the guns fell silent, and encouraged participants to consider the monumental social, political and economic changes that the Great War brought, as well as the dramatic and often painful return from total war to peace-time.

A celebration of writing in all its many, wonderful forms, the competition encouraged submissions in every creative writing format, including:

- Prose – short-story, oration (e.g. debate speech), article
- Letters – a re-creative task
- Poetry
- Screenplay/Treatment
- Monologue
- Cartoon/graphic novel – including political cartoons
- Spoken word entries

included in the shortlist which was then passed to our judging panel for the difficult task of selecting winners in each age group.

Many of those shortlisted now appear in print in our War & Peace Anthology, which was published in March. Category winners, runners-up and those highly commended were invited to the College to read extracts from their work at its launch evening. It was a fitting way to commemorate the effort that went into the wonderful array of submissions received.

We look forward to further creative endeavors from such talented writers - young and old - in the future.



Entries were arranged by writer's age, with categories ranging from Under 10 years to Adult over 18. Stimulus material and sentence starters were offered to encourage entrants to think about the many aspects of war and peace, including women in the war and sounds of peace. Entrants were also encouraged to think about other 'conflicts' such as conflict in the home or conflict within oneself.

We were delighted to receive 120 entries across all age categories, which ranged from war diaries to poetry, short stories to graphic novels. Over fifty entries were





# Chalke Valley History Festival

BY JACK BEECHING (L6 ROCHE)

At 8:30am on a bright June morning, the Lower Sixth historians congregated around the coach that was to take them to the Chalke Valley History Festival.

From the outset, the atmosphere of excitement was palpable (although perhaps more at the prospect of missing lessons than historical discovery). What awaited us was a deeply formative experience; a day of historical lectures, trench warfare, code-breaking, sword-fighting, falconry and, of course, ice cream.

On arrival, we went our separate ways, attending lectures and events that piqued our interest. For me, the first of these was Life, Loss and Hope in Wartime Syria, presented by Rania Abouzeid. Her personal account of six years spent as a journalist in the war-torn nation, telling the stories of individuals encountered during that time, was a thoroughly engaging and moving experience.

Meanwhile, students also attended lectures on the plague, WW2, and the Crusades, before watching Max Hastings deliver his talk, Vietnam: An Epic Tragedy, a subversive

take on an American economic (and therefore ultimate) victory which provided food for thought.

Over lunch, in a desperate attempt to encourage engagement from us historians, Mr Bartlett offered us an unspecified prize if anyone could be bold enough to ask a question. Naturally, to no avail. We then diverged once more for the first bout of afternoon lectures, which for me meant the cheerily titled The Rise of America's National Security Ideology: Lessons from WW2 and the Cold War, presented by Chris Fuller.

Although I left unnerved about the likely escalation of civil liberties infringements in the near future, this lecture was a personal highlight of the day as it provided insight into contemporary American global hegemony, the precedent for which was set by Franklin D. Roosevelt, and motivated by insecurity about America's 'exceptional' status.

Finally, a number of us attended a lecture by David Reynolds about the relationship between the post Cold War 'Big Three', Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill. After years of painstaking research, Reynolds and another historian have pieced together, in great detail, the epistolary correspondence between these leaders, affording us a greater understanding of the nuances of their relationship.

Meanwhile, a few of the cohort attended Kate Williams' lecture on Mary Queen of Scots, which I'm told was greatly enjoyable. Aside from providing an extra boost to our A Level history studies, the CVHF also encouraged our own intellectual development; introducing us to new perspectives and thus broadening our own. According to one historian (who wished to remain anonymous), it was 'very fun'.



## The Lower Sixth Historians Baseball All-Star Game

BY MR CHRIS BARTLETT

On a steamy June afternoon, the much-anticipated showdown between the two Lower Sixth History classes took place on the makeshift baseball diamond of Monument Field. With Lower 6E having won previous inter-class contests this year, the boys and girls from Lower 6B were out for nothing short of full spectrum dominance over their rivals.

Some eager members of Lower 6B had pilfered the baseball bat from the History Office to sneak in much-needed practice before the game started, and the dangerous gambit certainly paid dividends.

Lower 6B leapt to an early 5-0 advantage as the team batted around in the first inning. Consecutive home runs for Archie Carr and Tom West set the tone for a slick display of power hitting.

Lower 6E, not to be outdone, started brightly with a home run for lead-off hitter, Archie Dutton, but there were significant weaknesses in the lower order, most of whom struggled to make contact or get on base. Not even the presence of a couple of ringers in the line-up could swing the tide in their favour.

Once the hard-throwing Archie Ewen ascended the pitcher's mound in the bottom of the second, the defensive strengths of Lower 6B started to dominate. With a formidable 11-3 deficit entering the last inning, Lower 6E could only muster a couple of runs before the final out was recorded, handing victory to their opponents.

It was a measure of sweet revenge for Lower 6B who can enjoy the much-coveted bragging rights for the remainder of their careers as historians, one shining moment in which the team came together to win it all.





# Debating

BY MRS JUDITH EATWELL

The 2019 debating season has once again challenged the intellectual abilities of the debaters and made us all reconsider our thinking on a variety of issues. In just two days, these House teams become expert in a non-curricular issue, present logical and cohesive arguments, defend their stance and then challenge the views of others.

The first debate saw English House argue that there should be a second Brexit referendum and Roche opposing this view. When this was posed we thought that, by the final, Brexit would be less relevant, so an early motion - how wrong we were! Roche won, arguing strongly how this would undermine democracy.

The next debate saw Arundell propose a tax on meat. Roche opposed such a move and managed to convince us meat consumption should be reduced by using other methods.

With the motion on curating the content of social media (in the news due to a recent high profile suicide and now anti MMR content), Fielding House argued it was not only possible, but that the platforms have a moral responsibility to do this, despite a threat to free speech. St Mary's successfully argued against Burton House that we should fear the advances in AI.

We were now set for the first semi-final which pitted Fielding against St Mary's - initially they were not thrilled at the prospect of arguing that the Me Too movement has done more harm than good, but they managed to convince us and perhaps also the opposition.

In the next semi-final, Roche opposed updating the treason laws to include betrayal in a very closely fought debate against Allen House.

The final saw Fielding (Flora Hutchson, Poppy Askham and Madeleine Robertson) vs Roche House (Luke Roberts, Jack Beeching and Matthew Streets) on the motion that schools and universities should be safe spaces. Fielding managed to convince the judges that this was not the way to protect young minds, and that we need debating chambers not echo chambers.

We, the judges, would like to thank all the teams, chairs and pupils who filled the round room and made this such an interesting and enjoyable weekly event in a very busy term.



# Library round-up

BY MS HELEN CURRIE & MRS VIRGINIA BAILEY

Lucy Mallott, our Librarian at Prior for six years, moved to pastures new following her maternity leave, and so we, both experienced teachers, took over as Prior Park librarians. We have been continuing the work of engaging Prior Park students in reading and keeping the Library up-to-date and exciting for the whole school community.

All L3 and F3 pupils participate in the Accelerated Reader scheme, which rewards them for completing books, and ensures that they challenge themselves in their reading. Plenty of prizes are awarded along the way, including pizza in the Library for the winning class.

Our students' interest in reading has also been engaged by visiting authors. MiKo Berry, an award-winning performance poet, first visited in October, returning in February to talk to the Sixth Form about struggles with his mental health and how poetry has helped him. In March we were delighted to welcome Holly Smale, author of the Geek Girl series, who worked with a group of F4s on how to shape a story, as

well as talking to all of Baines and Brownlow about the way in which her not altogether happy school days influenced her writing.

As well as the regular reading groups - one for Baines and one for Staff and Parents - the Library hosts a range of events. The 'Christmas Carol-athon' in the lead up to Christmas saw staff and students taking it in turns to read aloud sections of Dickens' Christmas tale each lunchtime. We celebrated Chinese New Year with Chinese poetry reading in February, held a 'Books that Changed the World' debate, a Sixth Form Reading Challenge, and a Summer Reading Challenge.

Another highlight of the year was our World Book Day celebration in March. This involved staff as well as Baines and Brownlow pupils, whose job it was to gather lists of staff's favourite books and then dash to the Library to find out more about them. Prizes were awarded to groups and individuals, and happy chaos



reigned for a time in the Library!

Throughout the year, the Library has focused on different issues that matter to our students, including prayer, mental wellbeing, the refugee crisis and LGBT matters. We look forward to arranging many more stimulating events and activities next year, ensuring that Prior Park library continues to be both a calm haven for quiet study and a dynamic hub, challenging our students and reflecting the wider world.







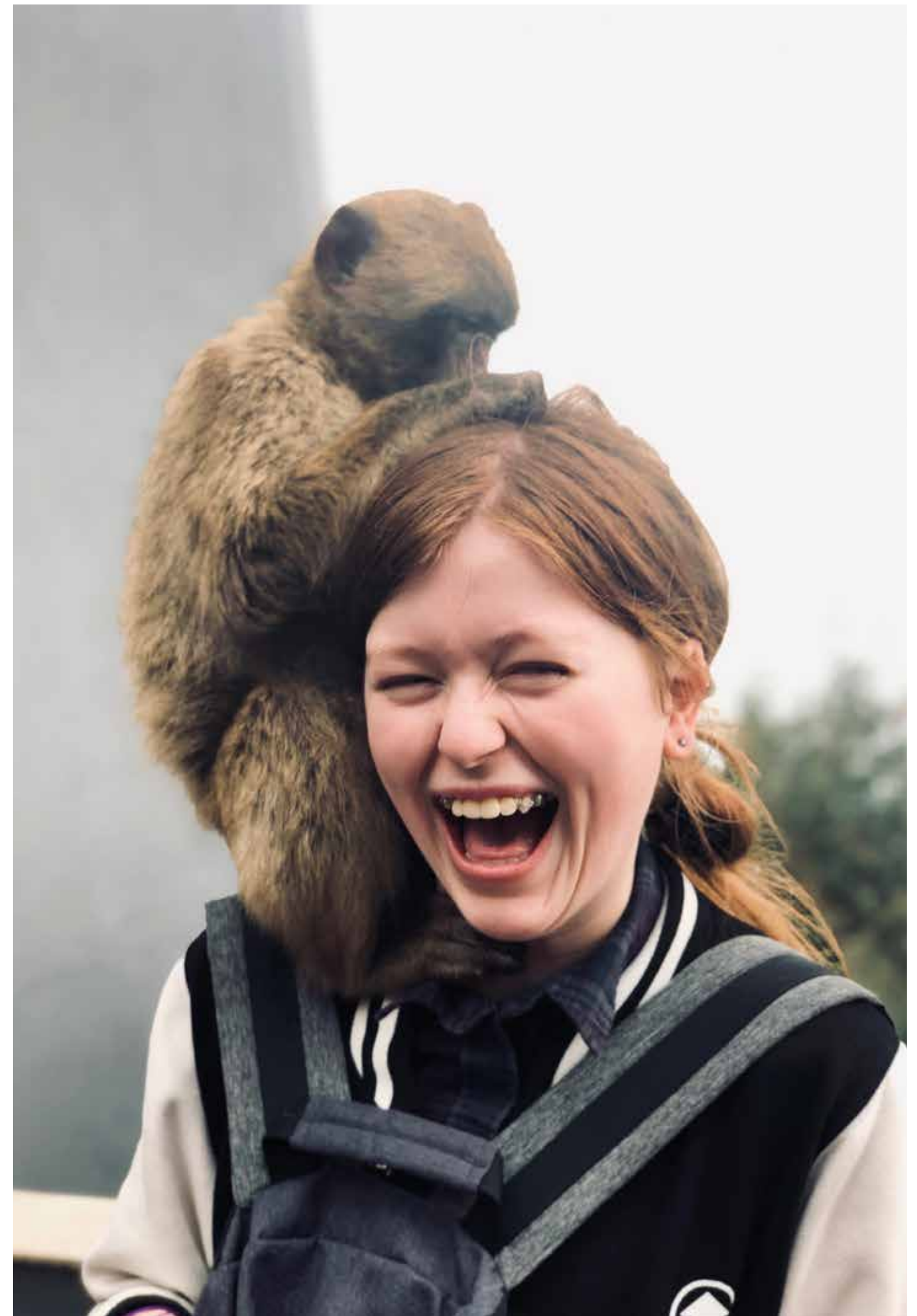
# Benalmadena

BY JAMES STREETS (L5 ROCHE)

At three o'clock in the morning on a rainy Sunday in February, 38 Form 4 and Lower 5 students met at school to head for Bristol Airport for a flight to Malaga on the Costa del Sol. This was the start of the 2019 Modern Foreign Languages Spanish Trip. We were happy to leave behind the dreary winter of England in exchange for a week of clear, sunny, yet windy, Benalmadena. Both we and the accompanying four teachers stayed in the Medplaya Hotel Bali, just a five-minute walk from the sea front.

Each morning, we attended four hours of Spanish lessons at the local language school, Colegio Maravillas. These lessons allowed us to develop our spoken Spanish, as well as increase our confidence and understanding of the language. In the afternoons, a variety of day trips and experiences had been arranged, which allowed us to further develop our conversational skills. These included a guided tour around Benalmadena, Flamenco dance lessons, an excursion to Mijas, a beautiful mountainside village 20 minutes from our hotel; and, on the final day, attending a paella demonstration. We also visited Prior Park School Gibraltar.

Overall, it was a fantastic trip and gave us all a taste of Spain. Muchas gracias to Mr. Valdueza, Mr. George, Miss Young and Miss Prosser who made the trip possible.







# Romania

BY HERO MURPHY (US ARUNDELL)

When I signed up to take part in the 2019 Romania Challenge, there were many things that I couldn't have predicted. I knew we were constructing a farm building; I hadn't appreciated the potential impact the whole scheme would have on the lives of those in the Roma communities. I knew we would be working with local children; I could not have imagined what an afternoon of happy chaos this would be, surrounded by some of the friendliest and sweetest children that I've ever come across. Overall, this trip offered so much more than I anticipated and the experience will not be forgotten.

The opportunity to visit some of the families that John, our project leader, and Attila, a local Christian leader, were striving to help was really eye-opening. To actually sit down in their homes and have conversations with these families about their situations was something I'll always remember. Despite the incredible hardship they faced, like the children, they were so welcoming and appreciative of our contribution to the project, which made it all the more important to us to complete the building work as best we could.

Although the most poignant moments of the trip were serious and emotional, there were also countless moments of fun. These included the football match against the locals (in which we ended up suffering a very fair defeat), the bumpy rides in the Land Rover Defenders, and the long trek up the mountain, made ultimately worth it by the stunning views.

To anyone who is considering signing up for this challenge – do it. I honestly had the best time, making some incredible memories along the way. While the learning of practical skills and the development of friendships was such a huge part of the challenge, the real stand-out element to me was being given the opportunity to help people in need. This is action I now intend to continue to take throughout my life.





# Berlin

BY GENEVIEVE COTTON (F4 ENGLISH)

On 26 October, the students of F4-U5 met at the school at 1am to make it to the airport in time for the 7am flight. Some time later we arrived in Germany.

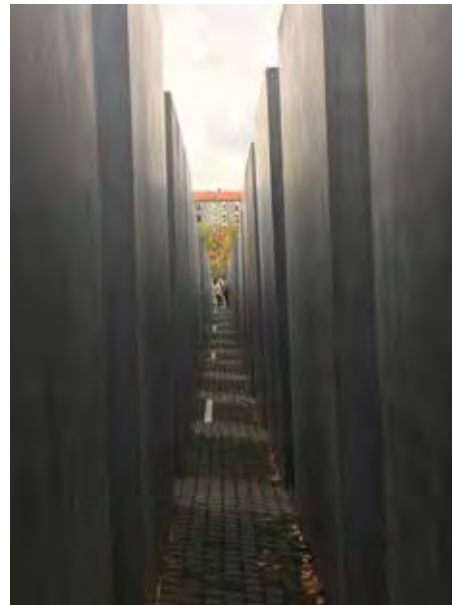
We left our luggage at the Citylight Hotel and got a train to central Berlin for a small tour, which included the university in which the books written by Jewish authors were burned. We also visited Hitler's bunker, before heading back to the hotel.

The next morning, we visited the remains of the Berlin Wall which was really interesting because there was only graffiti on the west side - the east Germans weren't allowed anywhere near the wall. We made our way to the Palace of Tears (Tränenpalast), a small museum that was originally the 'gateway' to West Berlin. It is called the Palace of Tears because many family members had to say goodbye through this building. We then made our way to the DDR museum. This was a small museum that represented households during the time the Berlin Wall went up and were in the style of the 70s and 80s.

On 28 October, we commenced the most miserable day of the Berlin trip. We went to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. It was fairly horrific as we saw the confined spaces that the prisoners were forced into. The Camp was large and eerie as we walked around the silence. The most horrific thing perhaps was the framed pyjamas that hung in the camp. These were donated by the few survivors of the camp. We then moved to go to the Stasi Prison Museum where we saw the prison cells, and the horrible stories that went with them, including the ways prisoners tried to kill themselves to avoid torture. When we returned to the hotel we had a fun quiz, which definitely lightened the mood.

On our last day we went to the Reichtstag Dome, the Brandenburg Gate and the Holocaust memorial site. The site was made up of concrete slabs that represent the Jews that died during the Holocaust. They started off really small but got bigger and bigger until some were 15ft tall. After lunch, we went to Topography of Terror, a museum that was all about the Nazis. We originally went around on our own but all the F4s ended up clumping together to listen to Mrs Wells explain the museum to us in detail, which was really interesting! Afterwards, we went to Checkpoint Charlie and bought some souvenirs before heading back to the hotel to get our bags and board a bus to the airport.

Thank you to Mr Bartlett for organising this trip (and the birthday cakes) and thank you to Mr Stroud, Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Wells and Ms Small for accompanying us on this amazing trip!



# Lulworth Cove

BY THOMAS ROBLIN (BROWNLOW)

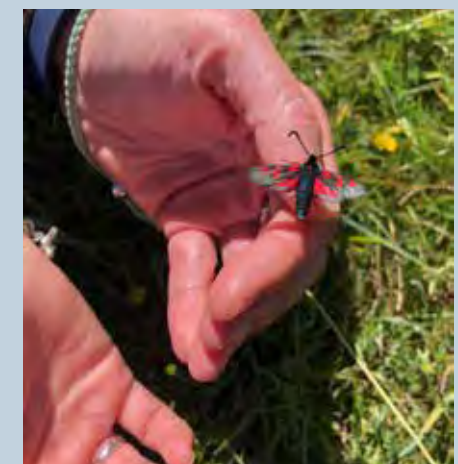
During our geography and biology trip to Lulworth Cove we did a lot of exciting things. When we first arrived, we went to the education area which contained five types of very old rocks, chalk, green sand, wealden, Purbeck beds and Portland limestone. We learned all about their history and how old they are and what they are formed from.

We then headed up a hill to see the Lulworth Crumple and were told how a land mass like this is formed. Then we went to Lulworth Cove and saw examples of each of the five rock types, and amazing turquoise sea. After, we headed to the central area and had a chance to buy some ice cream!

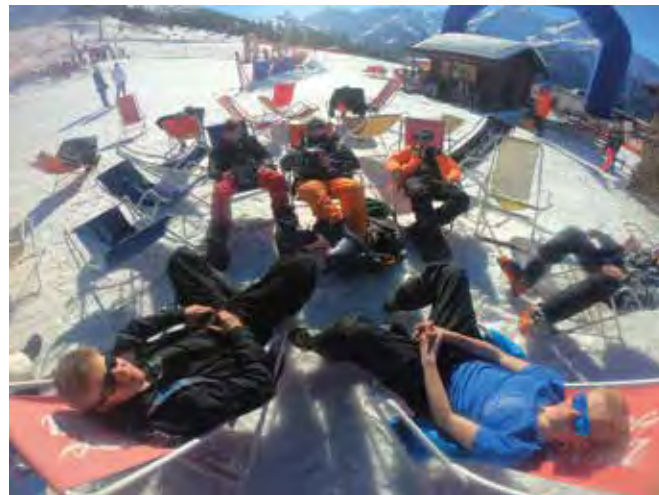
Walking down a long steep path to Durdle Door, we settled down on a beach to eat our lunch and take photos of Durdle Door.

We swapped to biology after lunch and we went to a hill overlooking the sea. Our task was to find, sketch, photograph and identify as many species of animals and plants as we could. It helped us realise there is a lot more to nature than meets the eye. The cows surrounding us seemed quite keen to join the competition.

The trip was a nice break after exam week.







# Ski Trip

BY MR TONY JENKINS

On 17 February, thirty-five pupils and four members of staff from across the school set off to Santa Caterina de Valfurva, Italy, for a week's skiing staying at the rustic Hotel Milano. The group would alpine ski between the two resorts of Santa Caterina and Bormio.

The first few days were spent with our superb Italian instructors learning to ski and getting to grips with the fundamentals of alpine skiing in the Santa Caterina resort with its wide forgiving slopes. After an initial ski assessment we formed three ski groups, the advance group fast and furious, our intermediate group graceful and stylish and the final beginners group: slow and steady wins the day.

With such favourable skiing conditions, injuries and illnesses were limited to minor falls or ski fails and the odd over enthusiastic ice skating fail – a satisfied group of staff and no doctors or hospital visits required.

Our advanced group, skiing with an abundance of skill and limited fear pushing boundaries, continuously tested themselves and their instructor. We would see them very rarely flash past in Red Arrow formation, only identifiable by the wide range of outlandish clothing colours. Both the intermediate and beginners existed alongside each other in harmony, although some of our beginners spent so much time on the floor initially I did think we might have been looking for a new tobogganing Olympian, not necessarily with a sled.

Each day we took lunches within resort rather than returning to our hotel. Throughout the week, there were après activities in the shape of ice skating, swimming, saunas or wellbeing relaxation, copious amounts of the strongest hot chocolate ever experienced with chocolate-filled cakes, pure excesses of "Choccywoccydoodah", pizza and more pizza! We must give special mention to the crêpe specialist in Bormio town centre - memorable and entertaining crêpes served with yet more chocolate.

It was a busy trip during which we delivered challenging, fun, safe skiing and après activities. With thanks to all staff who facilitated, staff who attended and special thanks to the 35 pupils who helped make such enjoyable memories.



# Skern Lodge

BY JACK GARDNER (BAINES)

While we were at Skern we did a wide range of activities from surfing to team exercises. The first activity my group did was 'high ropes', which I admit I found daunting and challenging. Some of the high ropes challenges include the 'Leap of Faith'. You have to climb up a thin pole and then jump off the top and try to grab onto a trapeze. Many people were amazing at this, scampering up with grace and ease before flying through the air like an acrobat. A small number of us, myself amongst them, managed a slightly shorter and less elegant 'Climb of Faith' to the halfway point.

In the evening, after dinner, we had activities as well but most nights it still didn't completely tire everyone out. Have you ever tried getting to sleep with lots of people singing the Wii song? We did. By the end of that trip I think that I knew that mind-numbing, repetitive, musically-limited tune off by heart.

One of my favorite activities was surfing: we were split into two groups and took it in turns to surf with surfboards and to kayak. It was great fun, even though it took me a while to be able to stay on my board without capsizing. By the time we got back to our rooms we were all sopping wet and freezing so it was a huge relief to be able to change into dry clothes (thanks for the packing tip, Mrs S-P!).

Another of the activities was tunneling, which consisted of crawling around in the pitch black in groups through small tunnels. In the tunnels we played sardines and we had a hunt for some treasure; no one found it although at one point someone found a safe. This turned out to be empty, which was a bit of an anticlimax.

When we had free time, we normally played sport, sometimes rugby, other times American football, which was a revelation to some people. Although we mostly stuck to the rules there were times when it was manic and anarchic.

On our last night at Skern we had a disco. Everyone danced, even the teachers. Everyone had fun, everyone got too hot, some of us tried to crowd-surf. After the disco we went for a short walk; we got an idyllic view of the bay as the sun was setting.

All in all, it was a very memorable and special trip; I'm sure that everyone will look back on our time there very fondly. Thanks to all the fabulous teachers, Mrs Mudie, Mr Jackson, Mr Bygot, Mrs Rouse and Mrs S-P, we couldn't have got through it without you!





# New York

BY LEXY STRAW (U6 ENGLISH)



The 2018 trip to New York was one of the highlights of every U6's time at Prior. It was probably one of the most tiring and hectic few days of all of our lives, being up at 7am and back by midnight each day and walking EVERYWHERE, we were all shattered by the end of it! But despite all of this we returned with incredible memories of all the many things we did.

A few of my highlights were the walk at sunset across the Brooklyn Bridge, which was stunning, and the Skyline walk, which was freezing but incredible! On the first day, also possibly the most hectic, we managed to fit in a tour of Wall Street, a trip on the Staten Island Ferry, a very windy visit to the Empire State and an extremely moving trip to the 9/11 museum and memorial, which was another highlight of mine and many others on the trip.

Some other highlights were the visits to see the Harlem Gospel Choir, the Nutcracker and Wicked performances and the trip to MOMA. Finally, walking through Central Park and ice skating (on Trump's ice rink!) were lovely and fun ways to end such a great trip.

Visiting New York at Christmastime was so magical and something we will all remember forever.





# Product Design

## A Level



# GCSE



- |                   |                   |                    |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Hamish Page     | 2 Leo McCurdie    | 3 Samuel Snow      | 4 Thomas Schofield |
| 5 Tommy Pollock   | 6 Billy Hayball   | 7 Duncan Hoddinott | 8 Lily Barlow      |
| 9 Joseph Johnson  | 10 Lara Dunford   | 11 Maisie Wilson   | 12 Oliver Tometski |
| 13 Oliver Yerbury | 14 Ruben Cardella |                    |                    |



# Visual Arts

1



2



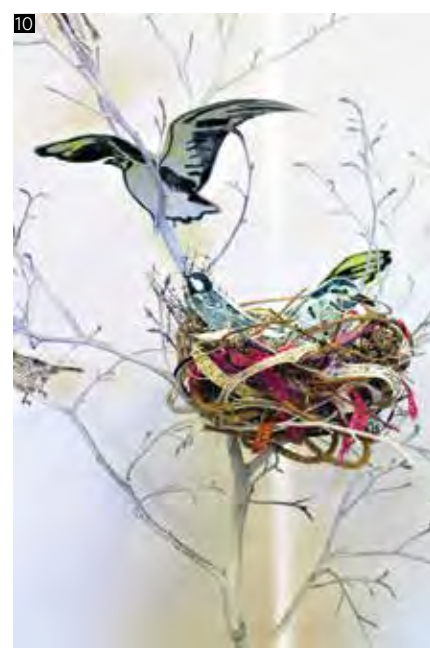
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11



12



13



15



14



3



7



6











# Blue Stockings

Blue Stockings by Jessica Swale follows the story of four young women fighting for education and self-determination against the larger backdrop of women's suffrage. Set in 1896 at Girton College, Cambridge, the play looks at the struggles, trials and tribulations of four young female students who study ferociously to match and indeed better their male peers, and the hurdles they have to overcome for the right to graduate.

The most vocal of the educational pioneers, Tess, an astronomy student played with vital energy, depth and intelligence by Kristel Langkilde, shows an astonishing determination to question the accepted norms of the day. Tess is ably assisted by her three comrades in arms, the less confident Celia, a performance by Alice Hawes that was wonderfully understated and judged, the headstrong Carolyn, performed with great gusto and confident comedic sense by Immy Brunt and the dutiful Maeve, played by Mimi Hasoon with maturity and a sense of inhibition.

However, this play is nothing if not an ensemble piece. The main antagonists of the piece were the young male

students of Cambridge University, who all struggled with the concept of female education. The leader of the pack was Lloyd, played by the ever watchable George Williams, who imbued his character with just the right level of villainous disdain. Ben Pearson played the 'love cheat' Ralph, who showed the pressures of parental expectation and societal demands with a touch of humanity. Quinn Portsmouth Layton, playing Edwards, allowed the audience to see the uncertainty and hesitancy of those that knew what the women were asking for was right but were fearful to speak out. Tim Bonderenko, playing the laconic and fashionable Holmes, maturely displayed the growing consciousness amongst the young men that things had to change.

The girls were encouraged and guided in their quest by the principle of the college, Mrs Welsh, who understood the politics of the situation but was also fearful of losing what had been achieved thus far. Megan Healy demonstrated the conflict at the heart of this character with a maturity and lightness of touch beyond her years. Scarlett England, as the more headstrong Miss Blake, wonderfully portrayed the passion and eagerness

of the revolutionary spirit of the early suffrage movement with great skill and judgement.

Mr Banks, the most supportive male lecturer at Cambridge, was well performed by Surya Battenberg as an understanding but ultimately constricted lecturer. Rosie Gelston, as the efficient and caring chaperone, Miss Bott, performed with authority and a small streak of kindness that the role demanded with her usual focus and complexity.

Toby Jefford, as the real life figure of Dr Maudsley, gave a wonderfully shocking performance, full of arrogance and certainty whilst speaking the most obnoxious and demeaning rubbish that perfectly summed up the blinkered poisonous attitudes of the day. Even the minor characters were wonderfully fleshed out by a talented cast of students. Max Montanaro as the desperate Billy, demanding of his sister that she return to the family home following the death of their mother. Anna Garland playing the laconic Professor Anderson, and Gabriella Chiu, as Professor Radleigh were both able to find detail and well-judged characterisations in these ridiculous figures.

The cast were expertly supported by the unflappable and completely reliable combination of Tom Barlow and Louis Wight as stage manager and assistant stage manager.





# Trojan Woman

At a time when our television screens are filled with images of terrorising war and refugees fleeing the horror of modern day conflicts, Caroline Bird's update on Euripides's anti-war drama is a sobering reminder of the consequences for the vanquished of any battle.

Set in a dysfunctional mother and baby unit, the wives of the defeated Trojan army await their fate. Bird's version looks at the divisions within the group of women. Hecuba, the former Trojan queen, played superbly by Delilah Rose with just the right combination of disdain and distress, still clings to the privileges of rank, and she and her daughter-in-law, Andromache, one of two parts played with equal strength by Eva Hudson, both treat the Chorus, a wonderfully tragi-comedic performance by Megan Healy, a pregnant woman handcuffed to a bed, with arrogant disdain. Suffering clearly has its hierarchies; and the tragedy is offset by wild comedy, as when the multi-skilled Andromache complains she is now enslaved to Achilles's son, "all because he'd heard about my salmon and hollandaise tarts". As Hecuba struggles to adjust to her new situation, her daughter-in-law must face the horror of the murder of her only surviving child, Cameron Wight as Talthibius, bringing an everyman quality to the part, ensuring we understand that horror and pain in conflict are always just one order away. At the climax of the play, as Helen, played with knowing innocence by Eva Hudson, convinces her husband, the victorious Menelaus, performed with real gusto by Surya Battenburg, to take her back, we are left to ponder how a play more than 2,500 years old can speak so readily to an audience of today.

This production, which was part of the A Level practical performance exam offering, portrayed the classical world whilst throwing the themes into a melting pot of riot shields, smartphones and tannoys. Every member of the cast should be rightly proud of the mature performance level and heart-breaking impact that they made upon an audience rightly transfixed.





# DNA

BY MRS SARAH PEACOCK

L5 and U5 students staged an incredibly powerful production of Dennis Kelly's modern classic, DNA, over three nights in November. Right from the emotive opening music and the first words "Dead? ...Like dead dead", DNA lured the audience into the desolate and distorted worlds of a group of teenagers who decide to cover up the death of their friend.

The actors conveyed the diversity of personalities – fluctuating from bravado to insecurity – with empathy and attitude. The production proved to be a convincing, thought-provoking and unnervingly realistic portrayal of the power of teenage group mentality.

The cast of ten actors gave dynamic and sparkling performances across all three nights. The professionalism and commitment they gave to their roles was highly commendable – numerous weekends and too many nights to count were dedicated to producing astonishingly intense and wonderfully gripping performances. Huge congratulations to the whole cast!





# One terrific Sister Act

BY MR DAVID SACKETT

The end of the Lent term saw the College's annual musical spectacular and this year was no exception with the production of Alan Menkin's smash hit, Sister Act. Even before we started rehearsals, I knew this would be a special show – the music is amazing, the plot has a powerful message with plenty of great humour and a cast of stars at our disposal.

The story revolves around Deloris van Cartier (Raymonda Jallah) who, having witnessed a murder committed by her then boyfriend and low life Curtis (Seb Morley), is hidden by the hopeless Police Chief Eddie (Max Hale) in a local convent led by the Mother Superior (Jess Cogan). Needless to say, Deloris' night club lifestyle does not suit life within the walls of the convent and tension is certainly palpable.

However, as Deloris gets to know and understand the Sisters, she sees she has perhaps more in common with them than she first realised.

The show affords great opportunities for a raft of different characters; the nuns Mary Roberts, Patrick and Lazarus (Maisie Wilson, Libby Blain and Daisy Sanders) have great

moments – Libby's exuberant vocals, Daisy's rap and the show stopping 'Life I've Never Led' from Maisie.

Cameos a-plenty from the boys as well. Seb's menacing portrayal of Curtis, where mid song he'd switch from Mr Nice Guy to a homicidal maniac within the blink of an eye, was powerful, and Max's incompetent but ever optimistic police officer took us into a colourful fantasy world. Of course, we mustn't forget the three gangsters played by Jack Moher, Henry Sampson and Oli Tometzki. There wasn't a night that went by where the audience didn't weep with laughter as they sang their way through their various plans to 'win over a nun' – hey man, we're smooth!

Jess Cogan played the increasingly frustrated yet eventually understanding Mother Superior. Her performance was not only strong but hugely believable as she both acted with real command and sang with power and conviction – a tour de force.

Although any musical is a team effort, the performance by Raymonda in the lead role of Deloris van Cartier will be one talked about

for years to come. It would be hard to deny that when Mrs Byron and I chose this musical we had Raymonda in mind, but neither of us could have anticipated the amazing performance she put in. She lived the role, she was Deloris! Her soulful singing style blew everyone away and her acting made Deloris all the more real. From rocking the night club to leading the nuns in rehearsal on Sunday morning without missing a beat to showing her vulnerability in the title song, 'Sister Act', this was Deloris in the most extraordinary.

As we look back on an amazing production, Mrs Byron and I would like to thank all who supported us. I must also pay tribute to Mrs Byron's incredible direction and wonderful passion in all her areas of the production. I also want to thank the band, who had to play an inordinate number of notes, and the backstage crew. I also make no apologies for highlighting the incredible Max Hall whose work on the production, especially the lighting, was unbelievably valuable.

So, I start where I finish, parodying Deloris Van Cartier – it's been incredible for all of us to have been part of one terrific Sister Act. Now where did I leave Audrey 2.....?





# Music Highlights

BY MR ROLAND ROBERTSON

## WASSAIL!

Every autumn, the musicians of Prior Park join forces with those of The Paragon School for a special concert in the remarkable setting of the Chapel. This year was extra special as we gave only the third ever performance of a new work by the leading composer Alexander L'Estrange: WASSAIL! And the composer himself joined us in the performance, playing piano in a lively little band, including the outstanding talents of Mr Sackett (percussion) and Mr Haines (Head of IT, on bass).

The College Orchestra opened the evening with Bizet's cheerful Overture to Dr. Miracle. Three impressive Junior Soloists then stepped up including our own Charlotte Gent (L3), who is making a great impression as a harpist. On to WASSAIL! Carols of Comfort and Joy. The combined Paragon and College Junior and Senior Chapel choirs truly filled the Chapel with glorious choral sounds, with foot-tapping accounts of this country's favourite folky carols and meditative and beautiful ancient tunes. Their impressive energy, rhythmic drive and rich harmonies truly set us up for Christmas.



## Jacobean Evening

A packed John Wood Chapel, beautifully candlelit, was the scene of the Jacobean Evening in late March, a cross-curricular celebration of great words and music, featuring the most beautiful and powerful English drama and music of the early 17th century. Performed by our outstanding soloists, as well as the College elite chamber choir, Schola Cantorum, fresh from their triumph in the MidSomerset Festival, the evening was expertly hosted by the Heads of Music, History and English, and accompanied by the dazzling skills of Prior Park guitar teacher Francisco Correa. The acting and musical skills on display were outstanding, including the haunting lute songs of John Dowland, performed with immense confidence by U6 baritone, George Williams.



## Summer Concert

The 2019 Summer Concert, held in May and in the very midst of the national exam season, was a chance for many new parents to sample the magic of PPC Chapel concerts, and for the next generation to shine. Many of our regular musical groups were sorely depleted by study leave, nevertheless we summoned a sparkling night's musical entertainment to the delight of our large audience.

Concert Band's Baby Elephant and Aretha's Respect set it all up, under their new director Miss Prosser, and Choral Soc's a capella songs brought a rousing conclusion. In between, Orchestra gave Warlock's evergreen Capriol Suite, and Strings (directed by our trainee teacher and former student Rosie McNiff), visited LaLa Land. Qtime Band had an immense hit with their Mexican Medley, and Qtime Jazz even more so with Country Blues; Junior Chapel Choir reprised their memorably contrasted MidSomerset pieces (Nunc Dimittis followed by a West African party song). Brilliant soloists, Seb Morley and Anna Motylova, gave us a one-sided crisis phone call followed by an exquisite Baroque recorder jewel.

Long live the irrepressible power of music, persistently springing up to lighten the summer heat and encroaching academic pressures.







# The Grand Leavers' Concert

BY MR ROLAND ROBERTSON

This year's GLC was a memorable continuation of this long-standing Prior Park tradition. Once again, soloists enjoyed the great opportunity of full professional orchestral backing by our own Prior Park Philharmonic.

Christie Yau's violin gave a stunningly confident start with Saint Saens Havanaise, and Katie Mallet was a model of refinement and control in Romberg's Flute Concerto. Hamish Page crowned his long service on trumpet with an impeccable account of the slow movement from Haydn Trumpet Concerto, and Beatty Hudson's Chaminade Concertino showed off her lovely flute sound and technical assurance. Sean Barry stepped up to the piano and gave us his own Muse medley before Vladimir Galkin stunned everyone with the extended flute techniques in Anze Rozman, Phoenix.

Fabulous summer weather blessed the interval drinks - where else can schoolchildren and parents share such a lovely setting?

The second half continued the impressive range of genres: Hermione Scattergood is the first Prior oboist to play the beautiful Vaughan Williams Concerto; Jack Moher

on violin introduced us to the world of computer game music with Michael Salvatori, Journey; fine Handel arias came from Millie Manning, soprano (Ch'io mai vi possa), and George Williams, baritone (O ruddier than the cherry), before a mesmeric performance by Cameron Wight, vocal/guitar (Andy Shauf, Martha Sways). Music theatre specialist Jago Deane chose appropriately Proud of Your Boy from Aladdin, and the inimitable Raymonda Jalloh was joined by Big Band for Feeling Good. Toby Wilson caught the leavers' mood of new horizons in Come Fly with Me; Surya Battenberg led his own band of Leavers for Pink Floyd, Brain Damage and finally Matty Shelford's Trio of Leavers sang how they had been changed For Good.

Another rich variety of talented musicians brought up at Prior Park - will we ever replace them? Join us next year to find out!





# House Music

House Music swept over Prior Park once again, with all its hype, the tears of joy and grief, its artistic peaks (and a few troughs) and most of all, the all-consuming fun and team spirit that have made it such an important landmark of our school year.

Judging this year was singer, beatboxer, arranger, teacher and producer Nick Girard. In his key summing-up speech, Nick steered the crowd adeptly through the facts underlying his judgements, bringing a wealth of professional experience to bear on his choices and pointing up valuable lessons for next year's event. Once again the fields were strong and competitive but this year Nick's cups went to:

Soloist: Katie Mallet, Fielding (Flute)

Group: Burton House (Mambo No5)

House Song: Roche House (Does your momma know?)

Overall House Music Champions: St Mary's House







# Band Night

Band Night rocked the Julian Slade Theatre in February and, once again, it showcased some exceptional musical talent!





# Music Results

The energy and ambition of music at Prior continues to bring exciting results. This year’s highlights included no fewer than seventeen Grade 8 successes, including eleven singers, and no fewer than four Diplomas, bringing the number of current students who hold Diplomas to six, one of whom holds two. These music exams were taken in all the usual instruments as well as rock drums, musical theatre, jazz sax, organ and music theory.

## MICHAELMAS 2018

ABRSM			
Hermione Scattergood	Singing	Grade 8	Distinction
Henry Sampson	Trumpet	Grade 8	Merit
Nicola Dove	Clarinet	Grade 7	Distinction
Niamh Preston	Clarinet	Grade 4	Pass
Olivia Lord	Singing	Grade 4	Pass
Samuel Humphriss	Trumpet	Grade 3	Pass
Archie Hally	Trumpet	Grade 2	Distinction
Giles Pickford	Violin	Grade 2	Distinction
Sky Ho	Theory	Grade 5	Distinction
Louise Cattnach	Theory	Grade 5	Merit

TRINITY			
Matilda Shelford	Singing	Grade 8	Merit
Hannah Clements	Flute	Grade 8	Merit
Amelia Manning	Singing	Grade 6	Distinction
Jack Kerrigan	Trumpet	Grade 6	Merit
Ralph Banks	Trumpet	Grade 6	Pass
Annabel Davies	Cello	Grade 5	Pass
Emma Hallam	Singing	Grade 3	Merit

## LENT 2019

ABRSM			
Sky Ho	Piano	Grade 6	Merit
Anastasia Carruthers	Saxophone	Grade 6	Pass
Jack Kerrigan	Piano	Grade 5	Distinction
Annabel Ney	Singing	Grade 5	Pass
Emelia Jones	Clarinet	Grade 4	Merit
Georgina Dutton	Clarinet	Grade 4	Pass
Alexander Fox	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Giles Pickford	Percussion	Grade 2	Distinction
Alexander Mould	Clarinet	Grade 2	Merit
Freya Bradford	Piano	Grade 1	Pass
Gabriella Chiu	Theory	Grade 5	Merit

TRINITY			
Maisie Wilson	Singing	Grade 8	Distinction
Surya Battenberg	Jazz Saxophone	Grade 8	Merit
Patrick Fulton	Flute	Grade 8	Pass
Maisie Scotland	Singing	Grade 5	Distinction
Ben Murphy-O'Connor	Drumkit	Grade 5	Distinction
Florence Dawson	Clarinet	Grade 3	Merit
Victoria Corfield	Guitar	Grade 2	Distinction
Fergus Sanghera	Trombone	Grade 1	Merit

### ROCKSCHOOL

Lola Evans	Singing	Grade 4	Pass
Johnny Dawson	Drumkit	Grade 2	Distinction

## SUMMER 2019

ABRSM			
Louise Cattnach	Flute	Grade 6	Pass
George Campbell-Jones	Horn	Grade 5	Merit
Bella Chicco	Singing	Grade 5	Pass
Joe Spilsbury	Piano	Grade 4	Merit
Emily Midwinter	Flute	Grade 3	Merit
Archie Hally	Trumpet	Grade 3	Pass
Daniel Corfield	Violin	Grade 2	Merit
Martha Dutton	Flute	Grade 1	Pass
Tom Finch	Piano	Grade 1	Merit
Elinor Hart	Piano	Prep Test	Pass

TRINITY			
Kristel Langkilde	Singing	Grade 8	Distinction
Amelia Manning	Singing	Grade 8	Distinction
Annie Carruthers	Singing	Grade 8	Merit
Barnabas Pickford	Singing	Grade 6	Pass
Georgia Hally	Cello	Grade 5	Merit
Georgie Dutton	Piano	Grade 5	Pass
Martha Dutton	Piano	Grade 4	Pass
Monique Theobald	Singing	Grade 4	Pass
Beatrice Howells	Singing	Grade 3	Pass
Samuel Humphriss	Theory	Grsde 2	Merit

ROCKSCHOOL			
Thea Sprawson	Drumkit	Grade 5	Merit

### LCM MUSIC THEATRE EXAMS

Jago Deane	Grade 8	Distinction
Sebastian Morley	Grade 8	Distinction
Jess Cogan	Grade 8	Distinction
Raymonda Jalloh	Grade 8	Merit
Ewan Hipperson	Grade 7	Distinction
Rosie Gelston	Grade 6	Distinction
Eleanor Brown	Grade 5	Distinction
Ruby Roberts	Grade 5	Distinction
Emma Hallam	Grade 5	Distinction
Hannah Lowrie	Grade 5	Distinction
Honey Hamilton	Grade 4	Merit
Amelia Cattnach	Grade 3	Distinction
Daisy Gallen	Grade 3	Distinction
Caragh Fletcher	Grade 2	Distinction

### MID SOMERSET FESTIVAL 2019

Junior Chapel Choir were awarded a Commended in the Choirs age 14 and under class	Hermione Scattergood came 3rd in the Opera age 16 - 19 class and awarded a Distinction
Senior Chapel Choir WON the Sacred Music Choral class and awarded a Distinction	Charlotte Gent awarded a Distinction for the Harp Elementary class
Schola Cantorum WON the Unaccompanied Madrigal Group and awarded a Distinction	Archie Hally awarded a Commendation for the Brass Transitional class
Nicola Dove WON the Woodwind Advanced class and awarded a Distinction	Georgia Hally awarded a Merit for the Cello Intermediate class
Kate Lord WON the Brass Transitional class and awarded a Distinction	
Sebastian Morley WON the Music Theatre Solo 14 years and under	
Sebastian Morley came 2nd in the Show Song 14 years and under	



# Sport Overview

BY MR RHYS GWILLIAM

At Prior, the students have excellent facilities in which to perform, and this is coupled with top quality coaching staff who are continually seeking to offer new opportunities to develop the students’ knowledge and ability.

Over the course of the academic year, there have been a huge number of highs and a lot of opportunities in both the main focus team sports and in non-focus sports. Six West of England finals have been the key successes, with the highlight being the 1st team girls’ tennis reaching the National Finals. Over 450 students across the school have made the most of the opportunity to represent Prior Park and compete for the school in nearly 700 fixtures in each of the focus sports of rugby, hockey, netball, tennis and cricket. There have also been athletics meets, basketball, badminton and girls’ cricket matches, swimming galas and the National Biathlon competition.

This year, several U6 students have committed to training and playing throughout each of the three terms during their final year, exemplifying everything that we as a department stand for. Jake Brookes, Toby Gerrish, Greg Harden, Molly Sell, Flo Hutchinson, Katie Mallett, Andy Reed, Archie Parson, Max Wang, Tonir Tamang and Will South have all done this.

It seems appropriate to further highlight three of these individuals. Playing three terms of sport is hard work in your U6 year, but to have the skill and ability to play 1st team in all three terms, whilst balancing the extra pressure and time commitment of training and playing at a top level of sport is difficult to achieve. This year three boys, Jake Brookes (two years of rugby, two years of hockey and two years of cricket), Will South (two years of rugby and hockey and four years of cricket, captaining the team this year) and Archie Parson (two years of rugby, four years of hockey and three years of cricket) achieved this feat. Between them they have played in excess of 300 1st team matches for the school – congratulations and thank you.



# Rosslyn Park

- U13:**  
Fraser Barker  
James Rutherford  
Raul Franco-Overington  
James Pitman  
Harry Sinclair  
Jack Gardner  
Oliver Kohut  
Daniel Harper  
Edward Johnson (Captain)  
Oscar Armitage  
Orly Sivell  
Giles Pickford



The whole 7's season was decimated due to bad weather and the new RFU regulations in terms of when tournaments can or can't take place. So the U14's were extremely unlucky and had no tournaments to prepare for Rosslyn Park. The U13's and U18's were slightly luckier with the U13's having two tournaments (The Downs and Clayesmore) and the U18's having three (King's Bruton, Colstons and Wycliffe). U18's won the King's Bruton Tournament and U13's narrowly lost the Plate Final at Clayesmore. So, with the most under-prepared Prior Park teams going to the National Schools Sevens Tournament, it was no surprise the teams started slowly at Rosslyn Park, but all showed real character as each team improved game after game. The U13's were the most successful in terms of results but all had an outstanding rugby experience!

- U14:**  
Stanley Pagett  
Stanley Muigai  
Jack Haythornthwaite  
Joseph Hardwick-Adams  
Oliver Gabb  
William Knight (Captain)  
Harvey Thompson  
William Howells  
Conor Quinn  
Jack Coplestone  
Robert Nesbit  
Felix Skelton



- U18:**  
Andrew Reed (Captain)  
Archie Ansell  
Archie Ewen  
Archie Parson  
Henry Sampson  
Jake Brookes  
Leopoldo Dell'anna  
Max Couling  
Rorie Thompson  
Suryavijay Battenberg  
Thomas Pitman  
Tonir Tamang





# Rugby

BY MR PAUL HULL

## 1ST XV

After an outstanding season last year, we knew this would be more challenging with ten new faces to the team. In the early games, it was obvious to the trained eye that the team were finding their feet in terms of game understanding and attack shape but showing enormous defensive skills. One game stood out. In the second game against Beechen Cliff; they ended up defending for 90% of the time and still only narrowly lost.

I constantly say to the students, "I am not that concerned about the wins or losses, more about the attitude and performance." I was happy with 80% of the season. The stats will report we had a poor season but if anyone watched the 1st XV, they would disagree. The team punched well above their weight and should have won at least five games - it was heart-breaking to see a team work so hard, play so well and not win.

Unfortunately, stats don't tell you the full story!

## SENIOR HALF COLOURS

Dodo Dell'anna & Rorie Thompson

## SENIOR FULL COLOURS

Jake Brookes, Andrew Reed, Archie Parson & Toby Gerrish



## 2ND XV

28 boys represented the team over the season, which emphasizes the depth of interest in the game in the senior school. The highlights were great wins against Monkton and Downside.

## U16

The U16's arrived with a positive attitude and an ambition to restore their reputation as a competitive team after a disappointing last year. With a more focussed approach, they finished with their most successful season to date - most notably a 29-15 victory against King's Bruton.

## U15

The 15A team trained hard and created a great team spirit. Big wins against Monkton and Wycliffe were just reward for the team and their undoubted talent; they were unlucky in several matches to lose, despite having played well. The U15B team continue to go from strength to strength. They have been the most successful B team for over five years now. They will keep their coaching team of Mr Elliott and Mr Jones next year, who have been with them since the U14's days.

## U14

The future is bright for the U14A. This year they focussed on the "one for all and all for one" approach and agreed on getting the small things right, as this will help get the big things right on the pitch; with this, the opposition teams found it hard to score or contain them. The U14B squad had a lot of students new to the game. Good team spirit and help from the more experienced players was essential and while no games were won, progress was made, with the team improving each week.

## U13

Unbeaten last year, the team turned up for pre-season and were no way near focussed enough - that mindset changed with an early new fixture against Millfield; after a very narrow loss, the group learnt a lot about themselves. They didn't have an unbeaten season but they still won 7 out of 10. Over 20 players represented the U13B team and everyone played their



part. Excellent handling, agile running, strong forward carries and some last- ditch tackles have characterised this team.

## JUNIOR HALF COLOURS

Jack Gardner, James Rutherford & James Pittman

## JUNIOR FULL COLOURS

Fraser Barker, Ed Johnson & Sacha Wakefield

## U12

Over 20 different boys have represented the U12A's, who only lost 2 of their 11 matches. This is a real team for the future, with strength in depth, focussed approach to training, and skill level to match. The 12B's had great wins against Millfield, Colstons, All Hallows and Monkton, with the best performance against Port Regis, where they defended for almost the entire second half!





# Girls' Hockey

BY MR JOHN JACKSON

## 1ST XI

Played 17 Won 4 Drawn 5 Lost 8  
Scored 17 Conceded 30

From the first day of our pre-season trip to Cardiff, I knew this would be a fun season. The size of our trolley proved that when we gathered supplies at Tesco - a great team is hungry.

This great team was immaculately led by Katie Mallet and Evie Unwin, who brought together a young side and laid a strong platform for next year. This season has had ups and downs. We have won, drawn, lost narrowly and lost heavily - with our best performances often against the strongest teams - but it has been fun.

Improved player - Jemima Thursz  
Coach's player - Amy Catt  
Players' player - Katie Mallet

## SENIOR HALF COLOURS

Maisie Honey  
Louisa Tobin

## SENIOR FULL COLOURS

Imogen Hurst  
Katie Mallet  
Evie Unwin

## 2ND XI

A determined and hard-working group of young women ably led by Flora. For several members of the team this was a third season of 2nd XI hockey. They saved the best to last with an exciting fightback at KES to salvage a commendable draw.

Most improved player - Molly Sell  
Coach's player - Flora Hutchison  
Players' player - Liv Jones

## 3RD XI OR PRIOR XI

The 3rd XI are full of enthusiasm, willing to work on all aspects and they stay positive. They were rewarded with a win against Monkton and a superb 2-2 draw against Cheltenham College.

Most improved player - Gabby Doel and Kristel Langkilde  
Coach's player - Phoebe Cooper  
Players' player - Maisie Wilson

## U14B

Credit to the U14B girls that have transitioned from junior hockey to intermediate hockey so well, and are now offering depth and giving selection headaches every weekend. The girls have applied themselves brilliantly throughout the season.

Most improved player - Flo Dawson  
Coach's player - Genevieve Cotton  
Players' player - Emma Hallam

## U13A

At times this team's play has been mesmeric and genuinely few teams have lived with us. However, our profligacy in front of goal let us down and cost us important victories. Fail, learn, practice and try again and success is inevitable, girls.

Improved player - Daisy Gallen  
Coach's player - Jessica Lawton  
Players' player - Tyla Werrett

## JUNIOR HALF COLOURS

Daisy Gallen  
Jessica Lawton  
Connie Osborn

## JUNIOR FULL COLOURS

Sophie Hunter  
Alice Watts  
Tyla Werrett - who as a Year 8 made her 1st XI debut

## U13B

What a great group of girls and the definition of a team. They enjoy each other's company, work hard for each other and have produced a successful season. Highlights were beating All Hallows 2-1 and beating KES on the final day of the season.

Most improved player - Amelia Cattanach  
Coach's player - Ella Brown  
Players' player - Jessica Metcalfe

## U12A

They give 100%. Even when the going gets tough, they maintain absolute enthusiasm. Highlights include wins against Monkton and Cricklade Manor and an excellent 2-2 draw against a strong Pinewood 2nd VII. The girls have made such good progress this year.

Improved player - Imogen Harvey  
Coach's player - Gigi Ifil  
Players' player - Ava Sullivan

## U12B

The U12B's have had a wonderfully positive attitude to training and match play, and everyone has made incredible progress. The highlights of the term were the 7-0 win against Monkton Prep and 2-0 win against All Hallows.

Improved player - Lucy Moore  
Coach's player - Ella King  
Players' player - Katie Lord

## JUNIOR C TEAM

Often being unable to field a separate U13 and U12 team, the development end of Year 8 and Year 7 combined to train and play as one team. As a group, their attitude and approach should be commended, and some of these girls will play for higher teams next season.

Improved player - Lola Evans  
Coach's player - Amelia Richardson  
Players' player - Esme Wetton





# Boys' Hockey

BY MR JOHN JACKSON



## 1ST XI

Ranging from Will Prentice (England U18), to senior club players, to players where hockey is their second or third choice sport – every single player added value to the group regardless of experience or ability. In that sense, it has been a thoroughly enjoyable, and rewarding season because everybody has improved enough to contribute to the 1st XI. Special thanks go to our leadership team of Archie Parson, Toni Tamang and Max Wang.

Most improved player - Seb Crawford  
Coach's player - Jake Brookes  
Players' player - Dylan Bunn  
Madden Cup – Tonir Tamang

Senior half colours  
Jake Brookes  
Greg Harden  
Will South



## 2ND XI

The 2nd XI, led capably by Andrew Reed, enjoyed an entertaining and positive season. They achieved a notable win against Dean Close and had chances to beat Millfield in an exciting 2-2 draw.

Most improved player - Barney Pickford  
Coach's player - Toby Wilson  
Players' player - Max Couling

## 3RD XI

The 3rds are a team of legends: they are courageous, joyous, talented and unbeaten - yes unbeaten!

Improved player - Oliver Yerbury  
Coach's player - Henry Gibbens  
Players' player - Jack Hannah

## 4TH XI

The 4th XI only played four games because of several cancellations. Thank you to the lads who turned up every week and were willing to commit.

Most improved player - Charlie Mullin  
Coach's player - Angus Young  
Players' player - Tom Gage

## U15A

What a season for U15A - the team has been superb! Goals have been scored, shots have been saved, the teamwork has been outstanding.

Most improved player – Louis Wight  
Coach's player – Oscar Talbot  
Players' player – Rob Dymond

## U15B

Improving throughout the course of the term, this team ended up reaping the rewards of their labour with two fantastic wins against Millfield and King's Bruton. Twenty players represented the U15B's and we hope that they will continue with hockey next year.

Most improved player – Fernando Gomez Llano  
Coach's player – George Jennings  
Players' player – Kit Schofield

## U14

This team really started to touch high performance this season. They 'bossed' the County Championships, and unfortunately narrowly missed out on the National Finals, losing in the semis of the Regional Finals to Millfield.

Most improved player – Stanley Pagett  
Coach's player – Jack Haythornthwaite  
Players' player – Will Knight

## U14B

This team were unlucky not to record more success, paying for a slow start transitioning from junior hockey. However, the improvement in their tactical awareness has been exceptional and the boys finished the season with two clinical victories over Queen's Taunton and King's Bruton.

Improved player – Luis Diego Rafael Alba  
Coach's player – Louis Huyton  
Players' player – Oliver Gabb

## U13A

U13 Avon County Champions and it could have been more for this talented group. Throughout the season, brilliance was so often followed by underperformance. There is much potential. We are looking forward to their reaction and progress to senior hockey next year.

Improved player -Fraser Barker  
Coach's player - Jack Gardner  
Players' player - Ed Johnson

## JUNIOR HALF COLOURS

Oliver Day  
Jack Gardner  
Danny Harper

## JUNIOR FULL COLOURS

Rupert Gage  
Ed Johnson  
Orly Sivell

## U13B

The 13B team have continued to improve every game, winning several fixtures and always showing a fighting spirit. I know many of the U13B team will be playing U14A hockey next year.

Improved player – Zac Passingham  
Coach's player – James Rutherford  
Players' player – Roger Cockhill

## U13C

A season that started slowly and finished brilliantly with a 2-1 win versus Cheltenham College. Plenty of faces represented this team with all contributing to a progressive and positive hockey term.

Most improved player – Ed James  
Coach's player – Jack Matthew-Jones  
Players' player – Archie Hally

## U12A

The U12A's played 21 games in an 11-week term, only losing 3 matches and scoring nearly 60 goals, with Toby Day scoring 20. Wins against Kingswood, Millfield and battling victories against Clifton College and Cheltenham College are exceptional highlights in an outstanding season.

Most improved player – Joshua Wake  
Coach's player – Toby Day  
Players' player – Valentine Roberts

## U12B

The 12B's are a tenacious and hard-working group, who have squeezed as much out of their season as possible. Victories against Millfield and Clifton College illustrate how well this side have gelled this season.

Most improved player – Joe Brickell  
Coach's player – Alex Mould  
Players' player – Will Hardwick-Adams

## U12C

Winning 4 out of 5 matches this year was a great return for this fun and improving group. A lot of them have the potential to play at a higher level. This was a really encouraging start to their hockey careers at Prior.

Most improved player – William Abercrombie  
Coach's player – Ignacio Gomez De Fernando  
Players' player – Daniel Corfield





# Netball

BY MISS KELLY DUNCAN

There is only one way to succeed in anything and that is to give it your everything, and I am proud to say that this is exactly what our girls did in netball.

## 1ST VII

The 1st VII team epitomised what it means to be a team, they gelled and had nine girls acting as one, all having the same goal and determination.

The girls had some highs, such as beating local rivals Royal High School, and some lows, narrowly losing to King's Bruton. The most admirable quality of this team is that when they didn't win, they got themselves back up again as a team and put in the work at training to make sure they went out stronger and better. The captain this year, Hermione Scattergood, led the team on and off the court, setting the example and working tirelessly.

## 2ND VII

The 2nds VII consisted of eleven girls, who made the most progress of all the teams, proven in their last game of the season. This team showed that individual commitment to a group effort is what makes a team work. They worked hard on the court and used every ounce of energy they had, which is why they produced some great wins.

## SENIORS

The 3rd VII and 4th VII were led by Mrs Trott and consisted of twenty-four girls. It has been a young group composed mainly of U5 and the most noticeable thing about them is their energy, athleticism and willingness to learn. As a result, the 3rd VII team has been successful, and the standard of play and tactical awareness has been higher than ever before. Four good wins and a narrow loss to King's Bruton were their reward. The 4th VII helped to raise the profile of netball against other schools as a regular competitive 4th VII team.

## U15

The U15s had mixed results. They applied their fitness and netball practice to their match play, showing that hard work does pay off. Highlights for the U15A included a significant win 22:6 win against Royal High School. The U15B's individually and collectively worked hard in game situations and rarely gave up even in the toughest of matches, including when they were 1:7 down in the first quarter to St Mary's Shaftesbury and fought back to win 13:12.

## U14

The U14s had a tough term of netball, but have great potential. Inevitably, the U14A and U14B team played some stiff competition and received some knockbacks, but the girls would always come back fighting, more determined and stronger than ever.



## U13 & U12

Now on to the juniors. Every girl played in netball matches this term, on several occasions. The Under 13's worked hard to develop their individual skills and team tactics. They had a challenging term with some great wins and performances throughout, including a one goal win against Colston's. The U13A team were one of the most successful teams and impressed throughout.

The U12's work ethic cannot be faulted, their spirit and enthusiasm for netball never diminished. Although their results didn't always reflect their creative, attacking play and determined defence, they never gave up.

Well done to all the girls in netball this year and I am looking forward to seeing what they can bring to the netball next year!

## SENIOR HALF COLOURS

Katie Mallet  
Louisa Tobin

## SENIOR FULL COLOURS

Hermione Scattergood

## JUNIOR HALF COLOURS

Suza Jolliffe  
Niamh Preston  
Honey Hamilton  
Sophie Hunter  
Lotte Greech

## JUNIOR FULL COLOURS

Jess Metcalfe  
Alice Watts  
Tyla Werrett





# Tennis

BY MRS SARA SCOLLO



The tennis season started early this year with excited Form 3 and 4s taking part as ball boys and girls in the Fed Cup at the University of Bath. It was amazing to have such a prestigious event on our doorstep and was an inspirational week for our students to watch top players courtside.

In March, our U13, U15 and U18 teams began the LTA National Schools Team Tennis competition. It was a confidence boost to get some early wins against tough competition, including Colston's and King Edward's. The U13's and U15's continued their form, winning their league convincingly, and have now reached the regional finals.

The U18 team won their qualifying matches beating Colston's, Cheltenham Ladies College and RGS Worcester for a place in the National Schools Finals for the second year running. This event was held in Nottingham and consisted of the top 16 tennis schools in the country. The Prior Park girls' team, consisting of Hazel Vernon, Alexia Nicolliou, Hannah Smith and Elina Pickerd-Barua supported by Sophie Hunter and Bea Painter, had a phenomenal week! They beat rivals Millfield 8-4, coming through some very close matches. In the Quarter Finals they faced former winners Eastbourne College who on paper were higher ranked. The girls played some fantastic tennis and secured another 8-4 victory. In the Semi Finals the girls faced Talbot Heath and lost closely 6-2. They finished fourth in the country, putting Prior Park tennis on the schools map.

As well as practicing and competing, another successful set of students completed the Tennis Leaders award this year, which is the first step on the LTA coaching ladder.

## SENIOR TENNIS

This year the senior girls' first team had a very successful season, winning all but one of their matches. The team was supported with some very impressive ladies in the younger years. They have demonstrated true teamwork this term and thoroughly deserve the fantastic results they have achieved.

The senior boys have played with heart, enthusiasm and character. They have chased down every ball, taken on and overcome some incredibly strong opposition and played, most importantly, with a smile on their faces. Prior were boosted by blooding some excellent young talent in Jed Platts, Seb Morley and Tom Reynolds, but it is the U6 in particular who are to be commended for their hard work.

## JUNIOR TENNIS

The U13 girls have also worked very hard this term and achieved an excellent set of results. There has been regular movement of players between the A and B team which shows the depth of players. The girls have only lost one match this term, an excellent achievement.

For many Lower 3 pupils, tennis has been a completely new game, so the progress made by everyone has been a testament to the hard work and positive attitude shown in lessons. The U12 girls have shown a high level of commitment to developing their own skills and technical understanding. This has allowed them to strive forwards during match play.

The U13 and U12 boys played some great tennis this term. There have been some stand out performances in both training and matches and there are some exciting players in both age groups.

## U15 & U14

The U15A team had a fantastic season winning 100% of their fixtures. Some great performances all round against some tough opposition. Whilst the B team were not as successful, they have made great progress since last year.

The desire to complete points with winning volleys has been the trade mark of the U14 girls tennis teams. The U14 A and B team have been tough to beat. With a win ratio of 85% for the A team and 75% for the B team, it is clear that the U14 girls are a determined group.

The U15 and U14 boys A team played some excellent tennis this season, too with many U15 players making their senior debut. Whilst slightly low on fixtures due to some untimely weather conditions, the boys' teams have fought hard.





# Cricket

MR RICHARD PANDYA

The curtain has closed on another cricket season at Prior Park College and, as ever, it has involved a storyline thick with drama, intrigue, suspense, cliff hangers and, luckily for all involved, a happy ever after ending! Thrills, spills and frills have been witnessed on our beautifully cut and rolled pitches, where boys and girls have played cricket with youthful abandon. Of course, cricket at Prior Park would not be complete without one of our sumptuous match teas in the Mansion and, when the sun is shining, surely there can be no better place to play this prince of sports.

We have enjoyed masterclass sessions from the ex-England cricketer Chris Lewis, ex Gloucestershire cricket players Chris

Taylor and Will Tavare and a mental toughness day with Steve Dent. New cricket facilities have continued to arrive, and trips to see a World Cup warm-up match and the U15 cricket tour to MCS were great successes.

Girls' cricket continues to grow, and it has been exciting and thrilling to watch teams in action from the U12's right up to the U15's. The U15A team winning against Kingswood was a highlight of the season.

Onto the results now, and we had a 48% win average from 60 matches across the board.



## SENIOR HALF COLOURS

Adam Wortelhock, Tom Pitman,  
David Aspray

## SENIOR FULL COLOURS

Will South, Archie Parson,  
Greg Harden

## JUNIORS

The U13's season was more of a sticky wicket at times, with the 13A team struggling to maintain consistency. Their win against Monkton was a nerve tingling match, with Milo Platts the man of the match. Ed Johnson and James Pitman have both impressed throughout. The 13B team won 4 out of 6 matches, with their win against Monkton also being one to cherish! The U12's enjoyed lots of success, with the 12B team gaining wins against Kingswood and Monkton Combe and the 12A team winning 5 out of 5 matches. Toby Day has been a rising star on the cricket pitch and his 64 against KES was a fine, mature knock against a strong bowling attack.

## JUNIOR HALF COLOURS

Milo Platts, Ollie Kohut

## JUNIOR FULL COLOURS

Ed Johnson, James Pitman

The 2020 PPC cricket season awaits...  
...'Middle please, Umps!'



## 1ST XI

The 1st XI had a mixed season. Some excellent wins and individual performances, coupled with some games which we threw away. Overall, though, I saw a team with lots of potential and a great team spirit. Will South scored his maiden 1st XI century against the XL club during Cricket Week. He finished on exactly 100 not out, which was a fitting end to a distinguished school career.

## 2ND XI & 3RD XI

The 2nd XI and 3rd XI recorded some fine wins, in what has now become a traditional fun/serious/play to win approach.

## U15

The U15's are indeed a happy bunch and with Mr Elliott leading the B team, it is no surprise that they are. Chasing down a target in 3.3 overs was a notable achievement by them! The 15A team have produced great moments this year, with Rob Dymond's 108, and Rosie Gelston's bowling in general, being two of them. They fought hard in the MCS tournament and were a credit to the school.

## U14

The U14's both delighted and disappointed in what has been a bit of a topsy-turvy season. 'This U14B team would beat some of the U14A teams of the past'. So said the 14B coach who was mightily impressed by them! The 14A team sometimes stalled between gear changes, but look out for some of these players coming through, there is definitely talent there.





# Academic PE

BY MRS LORI REDMAN



This year started with some excellent A Level PE results, which launched the subject into a confident new year.

There have been a number of trips, events and activities organised to support the development of our Academic PE students.

Our A Level PE students took part in the fifth A Level PE Revision Conference, hosted at and by the College, with over one hundred students attending from schools across the South West of England. Our highly inspirational guest speaker, Ross Howitt, engaged students in engaging revision activities, and offered wonderful 'top tips' to support their work leading into the exam season. Ross also hosted a revision workshop earlier in the year for our U5 students.

There were also trips to the University of Bath Exercise and Physiology Laboratories to experience elite performance sports science techniques for themselves. Another trip to the Bath Leisure Centre to investigate physical

activity and sport in the local community was followed by a visit to Entry Hill Golf Course to experience the psychological aspects of playing the game under different psychological pressures.

L6 finished the year by holding the inaugural 'Great Sports Debate'. They proposed and opposed the motion that 'VAR is ruining the game of football on the home and world stage'. Their audience was the current L5 GCSE PE students. Lively discussions abounded with arguments and counter arguments voiced articulately with evidence-based passion. The L5 students asked probing questions such as 'Has VAR impacted the game of women's football differently to men's football and why?'

As well as completing the academic elements to these courses, all of our wonderful academic PE students are regular members of our sports teams and, indeed, some perform at national level too. They manage their time and energy incredibly well, are incredible young people and a credit to themselves and Prior Park College.



## Prior Park Schools' Biathlon

What a privilege to have the new Pentathlon World Champ, Jamie Cooke, and World Team Silver medal winner, Joe Choong to help at our Schools' Biathlon in October. Both train at the elite athletes facilities at the University of Bath, where our event took place.

450 students from over twenty schools signed up for what has become one of the biggest schools' biathlons in the country. There were some fantastic performances in the pool and on the track, with many athletes qualifying for the British Championships as a result. Congratulations to all competitors!



## Sports Leaders

BY MRS LISA SEWARD

The L2 Sports Leaders have made fantastic progress over the course of the year. Students have applied their leadership skills in a diverse range of settings which included weekly leadership sessions at Threeways School, a Special Educational Needs school in Bath. The leaders have also planned, organised and successfully delivered a Sports Festival for thirty-five Year 3 and Year 4 students from The Paragon School. It has been a wonderful year wherein students have shown enthusiasm and progress every step of the way to becoming reliable and responsible L2 Sports Leaders.

BY MR MALCOLM BOND

The F4 Sports Leaders have, once again, been great fun this past year. They have all had opportunities to present and lead their peers and others in a wide and ranging set of locations from the Prior Park Schools' Biathlon at the University of Bath, to 300 feet underground in a complicated cave system in the Forest of Dean. The Level One course allows our students at least 1 hour of leadership (although many do much more) and requires them to plan and deliver sports or activity sessions. There have been circuit training session, sports sessions and even an organised Hide and Seek session. I hope the F4 students have enjoyed the year and learnt plenty. I look forward to presenting them with their certificates in the new academic year. Here's hoping the next batch enjoy the course next year and get just as much from it.



# Fisher Road Relay

2019 Fastest Times:  
Senior boys: U6 Burton – 14:48  
Senior girls: L5 Arundell – 18:25  
Brownlow: More (boys): 18:36  
Baines: Pope (boys): 18:26  
Fastest senior boy: Sean Barry 3:20  
Fastest senior girl: Louise Cattnach 4:13  
Fastest juniors: Josh Wake and Dom Morley, both ran 4:07

Mrs Wilson-Brown and Mrs Rouse deserve a special mention as they completed all four laps of the course!











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*11-18 Day & Boarding HMC Established Co-educational Catholic Senior School*

Answer to Maths question: B