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“
**We’ve taught them all
 we can, and they leave
 us as well-rounded
 young people, ready to
 contribute to the world.**”

Foreword

We finished this year, as is tradition, with our Leavers’ Ball. For many years now, it has been held at the Assembly Rooms in the city and was always a perfectly pleasant evening, with the Leavers, their parents, and their teachers getting together and celebrating the time that they have shared at the College. This year though, we were not able to use the Assembly Rooms. Rest assured, we were not kicked out for unruly behaviour. No, the National Trust have taken the building back into their ownership and aren’t having any hospitality style functions. When faced with this challenge, we were forced to come up with a new plan. In doing so, we relied upon the College’s freshly minted values:

We needed to explore all the options available to us, and to be inquisitive as to what might work. We needed to use our **Curiosity** to find an alternative venue in which we might host 250 people for a brilliant party. We needed

to display **Generosity** and give our time, energy, and love to a project like this. In our final decision, we showed our **Courage**, by using our own Prior Park Mansion to host the party! There would be few schools who would look to use such an historic building, twice scarred by fire, to host an entire departing year group of students and their parents for such an epic event. However, we know that first and foremost Prior Park is a family. We know that the fabric of our school matters to all those who have been part of our community and that they were always going to treat it respectfully – because they love the buildings, and they love each other. Writing about what was, essentially, a party may seem a peculiar way to reflect upon a year. However, Leavers’ Day summed up everything that is good about Prior Park. We started with a wonderful Mass, in which our Choir sounded amazing. The awards were given to students for achievements

across the entire gamut of all that we do at our school. The speeches were given by our Heads of School – who reflected with joy and love on their time with us. The Ball itself took place in our grounds, which looked idyllic, and with students, parents, and staff all coming together to celebrate the partnership that we have all worked so hard on for years. Prior Park is strongest when all those communities which make up our wider family come together. Most importantly though, Leavers’ Day showed our students ready to depart. We’ve taught them all we can, and they leave us as well-rounded young people, ready to contribute to the world around them. Our school has served them all well, and that is the reason why our school exists, why it has always existed, and why it will continue to thrive.

Ben Horan, Headmaster

U6 appointments

Heads of School

Henry Allen
Annabelle Goymer

Deputy Heads

Abdulaziz Amanullayev
Emma Kerrigan

Heads of House

Allen
Remy Lean Rachou

Arundell

Aisha Kareem

Burton

William Knight

Clifford

Ned Hannah

English

Abigail Jones

Fielding

Georgie Dutton

Roche

Ben Humphries

Baines

Sachin Padiachy
Sophia Thorpe

Brownlow

Tom Osbourne
Ellie Wylie

Head of Chaplaincy

Euan Hatvany

Head of Charities

Ava Marston

Heads of Eco-Prior

Hazel Chu
Seren Johnson Stefiuk

Heads of International Students

Alejandra Sanchez Baron
Wilson Tse

Heads of Peer Support

Seren Johnson Stefiuk
Jemima Shakespeare

Head of Student Socials

Nick Greene
Alix Williams



The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form team and I have had another fantastic year in the company of our lovely L6 and U6 students. The L6, including new joiners, got stuck into Prior life immediately and enjoyed the wide range of activities on offer. Sienna Tan set up and ran a new Model United Nations club, which was well attended. We look forward to competing against other schools next year. Other L6 students helped lead committees and activities as wide ranging as Eco Prior, Amnesty International, and Socrates Club.

Meanwhile, the U6 has their sights set on their futures beyond Prior. Many hours were spent crafting the perfect personal statement and selecting inspiring courses across a multitude of universities. We are proud of the many hundreds of offers they hold between them. Antoni Steglinski and Hazel Chu secured offers from Imperial College, London and Annabelle Goymer from Oxford. Nick Fourie will begin a prestigious degree apprenticeship with

BAE in the Autumn and Jess Lawton won a highly competitive scholarship to Rice University in Texas, where she will join the swim team. Many other students were recognised for their sporting prowess and their academic ability by their prospective universities.

Our General Studies programme welcomed inspiring, informative and entertaining guest speakers. Highlights included a return visit from war photographer, Rik Findler, and a life affirming presentation from the courageous Simon Lewis who contracted strep, followed by septicaemia, which led to him having all four limbs amputated along with facial reconstruction. Students learnt valuable lessons about resilience and staying positive in the face of enormous challenges.

We were delighted to welcome a new member to the Sixth Form team this year. Jemma Avent joined as Sixth Form Administrator but also helps our Careers Advisor, to support our students with their future

plans. On their final day of school before study leave, the U6 enjoyed the traditional Bubbles on the Bridge in the landscape gardens. That evening, we celebrated the end of their school journey with a lovely event at the Roman Baths. More bubbles were shared, canapés eaten and speeches delivered. It was a wonderful evening.

The final day of the school year saw us celebrate the class of 2023 in style. A Mass was followed by the presentation of awards and a lovely lunch on the lawn – which the rain didn't spoil! That evening, the sun shone on our marquee where, for the first time in many years, we held our Palladian Ball for leavers and their families.

The Sixth Form team wish all the leavers of 2023 the very best as they embark on the next stage of their journeys. Please do stay in touch and return often. Take our College values of courage, generosity, and curiosity with you on your onward journey.

Mrs Colquhoun

Class of 2023

It's been an eventful final year for the U6, with our journeys at Prior topped off with events such as a sensational House music, a fabulous rendition of Grease, an entertaining Band Night, and some very memorable leavers' events.

On behalf of the departing U6, we would like to thank all the catering team, estates team, tech team and staff. Thank you for helping to organise and run the Leavers' Day Mass, prize giving and Ball, which we are sure will be remembered by all of us for the rest of our lives.

We were the first year group to sit post pandemic A Levels, a notion that at one point many of us, I expect, would've seen as impossible! But we'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate everyone who sat an exam this year, be it an A Level, GCSE, AEA, IELTS, BTEC, or a music exam. We have complete faith in the idea that you will reap

the rewards of your tireless hard work over the past few months and years, and we wish you all the best when receiving your results.

The class of 2023 is also the first and last cohort to say that Mr Cane-Hardy accompanied them through all seven years of secondary school. Throughout our time at the Prior, he has worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the pupils here. The reputation of Prior being the best pastoral school in the area has not come from nowhere, it's from all his hard work, and the community are very appreciative.

To the rest of the school, we bid you all farewell! To our fellow leavers we wish you all the best with whatever your future plans are...

Henry Allen and Annabelle Goymer (Heads of School)



Academic Life

Academic life at Prior Park continued in full-force this year, evident in one obvious way by incredible numbers of students shaking my hand during assembly to collect prizes and certificates from academic competitions far and wide.

Our Physics department, for example, saw great success in the BPhO Senior Physics Challenge, with nearly our entire cohort gaining an award, and three students getting prized Silver

awards.

Chemistry, too, saw L6 students coming home with awards, with Harry Sinclair, Nerys Johns and Giles Pickford picking up the scientifically named but highly prized Copper award in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, a national chemistry competition for the very best L6 chemists in the UK, and Jessica Lawton gaining the impressive Silver award, placing her in a very select bunch of young chemists indeed.

It is perhaps the Maths department, though, that received an incredible volume of accolades earned by students this year, with a spectacular 102 awards from various national academic competitions. Some worthy of particular congratulations include Xinning Li, best-in-school and one of four prestigious Gold awards in the elite Senior Maths Challenge, and Simon Fu, best-in-school and one of a remarkable ten Gold's in the Intermedi-



ate Maths Challenge, the top national competition for maths students at U5 level. Simon also scored a Distinction in the McLaurin Olympiad, an invitational competition for the same age group. Along with his colleagues Peter Hao and William Wang, both scoring Merits, these performances place students in a tiny handful

of their peers nationally at the very top of GCSE level Maths.

Our GCSEs and A Levels didn't disappoint either this year, with 12% of A Level grades awarded at the highest level A* (over three times the national figure) and almost nine out of every ten A Level grades from A* to C. GCSE was a

similar picture, with more than one in ten grades at the top level 9 (well over double the UK average) and an exceptional 94% getting a good pass.

In an arguably more down-to-earth, but no less rigorous context, the full scientific method was brought to bear in the Human Sciences department on the procedure to

make the ideal cup of tea. Too milky, too dark, bag submersion profiles and even – disaster – the odd overflow! Psychology students took the opportunity to practise their psychological report procedure this year by using research methodologies to develop procedures to construct the perfect 'cuppa'. We will all know where to head next break-time!

As well as working hard on their own studies, our students have been instrumental this year in helping us with our academic outreach to the wider community, with several departments hosting large-scale, successful outreach events.

Our two STEM days

involved children from three local primary schools coming to Prior Park to take part in engineering tower-building workshops under the guidance of staff and students from our Maths department, and a bath-bomb-making chemistry challenge in the Science Faculty, with Prior students and staff leading the activities. Each day concluded with our now-famous Science Show, which saw a hovercraft race around the theatre and all manner of innocent fruit flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen by lucky volunteers. Each day finished on the cricket pitch, where one Deputy Head trod the line between braveness and stupidity and exploded a large dustbin of



coloured balls to bring the event to a dramatic close!

Our Head of Tennis organised four 'Introduction to Tennis' sessions with Years 5 and 6 from St Martin's Garden Primary School in sunny June.

The Visual Arts faculty welcomed Year 6 pupils from Castle Primary School to spend the day at Prior producing sketchbooks, learning new techniques and immersing themselves in the College's spectacular gardens, architecture and views. They also produced an ambitious panorama of the front view of the Mansion, which was an incredible ten metres in length.

Across all our outreach activities, our guests returned home full of pride and enthusiasm in what they had accomplished.

Creativity was further nourished in our Scholarship Programme this year, with Tom Brass, Creative Director at world-renowned animation and VFX studio Jellyfish Productions kindly coming to Prior to talk to our scholars and Sixth Form

students about his work. We were also lucky to hear from Phil Naidoo, who spoke with students on his return to the UK from Australia where he has been operating as a flying doctor, providing emergency medicine in the Outback, and Ambassador Martin Adamu, the current Nigerian Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, who gave students a wonderful insight into diplomatic life and was also kind enough to judge the semi-final of our House Debating Competition.

Such debate flowed freely in our academic societies this year, with Socrates Club discussion titles including: "What rights should 16-year-olds be allowed" by Luna Parsons, "Is Positive Discrimination Fair?" by Luke Stringer and Tom Roblin, and "Should we raise taxes on the rich to provide help for the poor" by Ethan Teale, Abdulaziz Amanullayev and Freddie Larbaestier.

As always, I could quite easily fill the entire magazine with more amazing things happening in academic departments at PPC, but

before I close I hope you will forgive me a few words on a newly contentious subject, at least in education: Artificial Intelligence. It's true that, on one hand, these machine-learning systems can potentially whip up an essay or assignment on any topic on command and so are seen with, I think, suspicion and a degree of terror by the exam boards. There's also great opportunity here, though, and I've encouraged departments to explore that. This year, for example, our Computer Science students embarked on an exciting project with the AI system 'Google Teachable Machine' to develop a machine learning model capable of recognising real apples and oranges. This hands-on experience of training their own AI model honed their analytical skills and encouraged them to explore the potential of AI in everyday life. Expect to be reading about many more examples of positive AI use in our curriculum next year.

Mr Gamble

Inspire Conference

In October, our Sixth Form, along with students from St Gregory's, were treated to a TED Talk inspired day involving a variety of guest speakers. BBC Points West's Alex Lovell compered the event, encouraging the students to engage by hosting Q&A segments with each speaker.

The first talk was from alumni Matthew Tobin and Matthew Mortimer,

who gave a presentation on 'Careers in Law'. Renée Jacobs, founder of social enterprise 'B in Bath', then gave a talk on creating inclusive spaces in the work environment. Alumna Kate O'Hara spoke next. Kate is Head of Diversity, Early Careers and Development at McLaren Racing. She gave advice on early stages of careers and career paths

that might surprise you. Fraser Doherty, founder of SuperJam and Beer52.com, returned to give a talk on Entrepreneurship.

The day drew to a close with a talk from Andy Torbet, underwater explorer, cave diver, BBC presenter, and stuntman, who spoke about 'Risk and Reward' and the importance of fear.



Science Faculty First!

This Science Faculty First brought together the departments of Biology and Psychology as our brave A Level Psychology students joined me in the Science laboratories to dissect the brains of deceased cows. Whilst not for the squeamish, this was a very popular and helpful academic activity, which aided student identification of white (aids myelination) and gray matter (consisting of neurons), and sub-cortical structures such as the hippocampus (responsible for memory), thalamus (relays sensory information between the body and the brain) and amygdala

(implicated in aggressive behaviour). This exciting, one hour lesson provided visual aids to underpin the students' theoretical learning of Neuroscience in the Psychology classroom.

In pairs, students learnt how to map the rostral (towards the front) and caudal (towards the back) ends of the brain, as well as to identify the structures underneath the brain's protective membrane. Students were able to carefully utilise tools such as scissors, a scalpel and mounted needle to undertake clean, coronal, and sagittal cuts. As the fun culminated, students were able to distinguish between

the two hemispheres of the brain (left and right) which are separated by the cortex (a band of neurons that separates one side of the brain from the other), to name and locate the sulci and gyri (which give the wrinkly cerebrum its large surface area). They also deepened their appreciation of how the cerebellum (which is affectionately named the 'little brain', as it dictates much unconscious learning that controls balance and movement) is connected to the spinal cord via the brain stem.

Miss Brough

EPQ

88% of our students were awarded grade A*-C

Congratulations to our sixteen U6 students who completed their EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). 88% were awarded grade A*-C.

Project titles this year included:

- Was Rudolf Kasztner a hero or a villain to the Hungarian Jewry during the Holocaust?
- What were the psychological and behavioural impacts of quarantine and lockdown on children and

adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how can they be reduced?

- To what extent did the activities of Cambridge Analytica effect the 2016 US Presidential Election?
- How significant was the contribution of the factor of chance to the lack of any fatalities during the successful water landing of Flight 1549? With an analysis of the engineering and physics behind the events of 15 January 2009.



Inter-House Maths Challenge

Perhaps there is no event that better sums up the values of Prior than the Inter-House Maths Challenge – well, at least so says the chief adjudicator! The challenge celebrates the curious mind – the desire to go beyond the syllabus, and push oneself into the abstract world of mathematical problem solving; it encourages courage, to pitch oneself against the mathematical elite of the school, and risk getting answers wrong; and it has generosity at its heart – generosity in the warmth and camaraderie of the competitors, of the enthusiasm and energy of the

staff, and in those who give up their time to come and support.

Somehow, the sight of each House charging forward to grab their next clue; the puzzlement in their faces when their answer is somehow flawed; or the awe as students demonstrate speed and accuracy, just works.

This year the competition was fierce as the seven Senior Houses pitted themselves against one another in the gladiatorial arena of the BSR. As with all good contests, there was sweat, there were tears, there was controversy, and there was the sight of pure fear in Mrs Jones' face as Alastair Yeung

sprinted at full pace directly towards her, knocking kids to one side, sending desks flying, in his utter commitment to get to the next question.

The contest was close. Fielding House very nearly became only the second girls' House to triumph, but in the end they fell just short of the might of Burton.

Mr Blaikley



Debating

This year, the news cycle continued to throw out interesting topics and we heard students debate the return of the Parthenon marbles, compulsory maths classes post-16, the abolition of the monarchy, and whether front-line public sector workers were right to strike. As ever, the standard was high, with students producing dynamic and passionate speeches, even when the coin toss had dictated they argue the 'wrong' side. Each House fielded an impressive team and competition was fierce!

By the time we reached the second round (and special mention must go to the Roche House team who, as best runners-up, compet-

ed brilliantly twice), there were four Houses left: the favourites, Fielding (Charlotte Bowler, Victoria Corfield and Sophie Gendle); a stellar team from Clifford (Alex Fox, Alex Mould and Henry Allen); and fine teams from Allen (Harry Adams, Billy Skiggs and George Campbell Jones) and Burton (Thomas Roblin, Peter Hao and Henry Nash). The quality was exceptional and some very effective succession planning has been evident this year, with younger and newer performers working brilliantly with more experienced students. In the end, and narrowly, it was Clifford and Fielding who faced off in an engrossing final, debating the motion, 'This house

believes that governments that benefitted from the slave trade should pay reparations.' Clifford took the title, but we are already looking forward to next year's competition and hope to see even more students taking part.

Dr McGowran



Bath Student Parliament

Bath Student Parliament is a democratically elected student platform that seeks to give students a voice and ability to enact change. I had the privilege to work with Euan, representing Prior. Initially, both of us were very enthusiastic about the possibilities of bringing positive change to the local region, with my plan of planting trees at schools and Euan's plan to expand and improve the availability of mental health support for students. However, both of us soon realised that our goals were far from achievable. Bath Student Parliament is currently undeveloped and unprepared to fulfil any political

tasks, with limited structure to the procedures and tools to achieve reforms. Nevertheless, it is not all negative. The Bath Student Parliament does achieve one of its most important goals, and that is to establish greater communication between the students of Bath. This communication is different from a regular interaction between schools. We did not see each other as sports rivals that need to be beaten in a fixture, but rather gained sympathy and understanding of each other's lives which either differed a lot or were relatively similar, depending on our schools. Our meetings would regu-

larly sidetrack into talks about school life, and from my perspective as a privately educated student at Prior, it was eye-opening to realise that there is a different reality beyond Ralph Allen Drive. I am grateful to the teachers and representatives that kept this venture alive. I am also thankful to Prior Students who elected and entrusted Euan and I to represent our school. I hope that as time goes on Bath Student Parliament will become more effective in achieving change for the students of Bath.

Abdulaziz Amanullayev

Park Life Magazine

The Park Life team decided not to have a theme for this year's magazine, instead wanting to create a project that allowed all voices to be heard and shed the stigma of prioritising 'serious writers'. Park Life magazine has always been for the students, by the students. The editorial team of Victoria Corfield and Thomas Roblin were aided by cover artist Sienna Tan and many

students whose articles and essays feature in the issue, covering topics spanning Prior's approach to climate change and historical essays on the Soviet Union. The idea of referencing the past and present embodied the approach to this magazine. The buildings that make up our school represent the past, whilst the present students that reside in them fill them with noise and life,

with each student creating their own sound.

With this year's magazine came the inception of Prior's very own podcast. Titled 'Fifteen On', it covers a new topic every episode, with students and staff discussing the worlds of sport, feminomics, and slang words! Helmed by Victoria, Thomas, and Niamh Preston, Fifteen On is available on Spotify and Apple Music.

Shine Awards

Park Life enjoyed another successful day at this year's Shine School Media Awards. Victoria, Sienna and Dr McGowran travelled to London to represent the school. Nominated in three categories, including Best Design, the school won the Best Audio category for its Fifteen On podcast and was highly commended in the Best Digital Magazine category. The judge for the audio category had this to say

about our podcast: "Fifteen On is a fascinating idea, as it can cover so many different subjects in one podcast. It's also the podcast with one of the best introductions, laying out very carefully what is going to be discussed and what you can expect to hear. This is one of the best presented entries; it's extremely well edited and tightly produced in a very professional way. The presenter could make this

her career if she wished to."

This is one of the best presented entries; it's extremely well edited and tightly produced in a very professional way. The presenter could make this her career if she wished to.



Library

Now that we have access to so many excellent digital resources as well as a new digital Library system, students don't always need to come to the Library in person. It's great to see, however, that so many of them do still want to come. Maybe it's the great view, the calm atmosphere, the beanbags or maybe it's the opportunity to use real books.

We've had visits from Computer Science, Biology, History and EPQ classes, giving opportunities for students to develop their important research skills. We continue with our Accelerated Reader programme for L3. This year's winners who earned the most book

quiz points were L3A who had pizza in the Library as their prize. F3 have had a year of Library lessons encouraging reading for pleasure – in pairs, in groups, alone, on chairs, on beanbags, even on the lawn.

There's always something going on in the Library. Ms Bailey hosts lunchtime Library Club every Tuesday for students to read, tell stories, create book art and enjoy many other book-related activities. The Socrates Club has been held here, as has Amnesty and Teachmeets, and we recently worked with the Pride of Edinburgh volunteers as well as students who volunteer simply because they

enjoy being here. Their help is much appreciated.

Despite our pride in the Library as one of the few completely quiet places in the school, we've rounded off the year with a lot of noise. In the penultimate week of term, the Librarians arranged for F3 to spend the day writing and performing poetry with MiKo Berry, a past European Poetry Slam champion.

Well done to Imogen Clack, Harry Durnley, Zara Whetherley, Sophie Napp and Hannah Hart for winning prizes in our Poetry Slam. Their bravery in performing and the way they managed to move and entertain the audience was really impressive.



Berlin

In the October half term, 50 of my classmates and I went to Berlin for four days to explore the city. Our first activity was a walking tour of Berlin. One of the most memorable landmarks of our tour was the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. It is situated on a site covering 19000 square metres. Eisenman (the architect who designed it) placed 2711 concrete slabs on an uneven wavy concrete floor to give the feeling of uncertainty. It is a very meaningful place of remembrance. After the tour, we had an evening meal at the hotel and ended the day with a pub quiz, with Leo's Ladies stealing first place!

Day two began with a visit to the DDR museum, which offers a unique look into what everyday life was like behind the Berlin Wall. For example, there was an elevator which shook as you descended and took you to a model of what a flat in Cold War Berlin looked like. Afterwards, we went to the Berlin TV Tower, which is 368 metres tall and was built between 1965 and 1969

by the government of the German Democratic Republic (East Berlin) to demonstrate communist power and act as a symbol of the city. After lunch, we went to the Topography of Terror Museum. The exhibitions within brought to life the horrors perpetrated by the Nazi regime across Europe. That evening we visited the Brandenburg Gate, which was illuminated to celebrate the Festival of Lights. While we were there some of the locals were performing on the street and we joined in with their music and dancing.

The next morning was a very sombre one as we went straight to the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum. The Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was built by the Nazis in 1936 as a detention centre for those perceived as enemies of the Nazi regime. More than 200,000 people were imprisoned and tens of thousands of prisoners perished there. For my peers and me, walking next to the remains of the gas chamber and reading the horrific stories of the methods of execution used

brought home the reality of the Holocaust, a lesson more impactful than any learnt in a classroom.

During the afternoon, to mentally reset after such a sombre morning, we visited the Berlin Olympic Stadium, initially built for the 1936 Games. Its overwhelming size gave an insight into Nazi architecture – during the games, the stadium could seat over 100,000 people! In the evening we went bowling, awed by the talents of Mr Cane-Hardy, and visited the Mitte area of the city.

Our final day was spent looking around significant historical places, such as the Berlin Wall. This was incredible to see as it showed not just the physical divide between East and West Berlin, but the divide between political ideologies. We also visited the documentation centre and the Stasi Museum. We then headed to the airport, where we all reflected on the day and how the trip had increased our knowledge for our upcoming History GCSE.

Elinor Hart (U5)



Granada

After Lent term had finished, there was hardly any time before we found ourselves back at school, ready for our trip to Granada, Spain. The pain of the 5:30am start was soon forgotten as the plane departed from Bristol Airport, leaving the single digit temperatures of the UK, to be replaced within 3 hours by sunshine, blue skies and temperatures that stayed around 25c all week.

Upon arrival, we toured the centre of Granada, familiarising ourselves with our beautiful surroundings. Later in the trip, we toured La Alhambra. The building we see today dates largely from the thirteenth century and was established as a palace and strategic fort by the Muslim rulers of Spain. It is one of the best examples of Muslim architecture anywhere. Given the name 'red fort' in Arabic, it was surprising to see how vast the red clay structure is.

One of the best ways to understand the layout and history of a city is on foot, and a specifically designed Treasure Hunt enabled us to

learn more. Granada is also a trading city, so naturally everybody was fascinated by the large number of local markets encased in the narrow streets with stalls containing souvenirs, local arts and crafts and jewellery. Among the hustle, these, along with other shopping opportunities were the source of many a gift to be taken home!

However, the trip was not all relaxation in the sun. Each morning was filled by the requirement to go to Spanish language school, where a local teacher put us to the test, speaking only in Spanish. It was, at first, a challenge to get to grips with the unfamiliar speed of speech and local dialect but language school did help us understand some of what our tour guide was saying, and work on our pronunciation.

One of the most enjoyable moments was being able to relax and sit in a beautiful square surrounded by pink blossom trees, fountains, and restaurants with views of the city all around us. Lunchtime here was very picturesque,

and we also got the opportunity to try traditional Spanish tapas. We tried many different specialties, including tortilla, croquetas de jamón and more.

Our trip to Spain would not have been complete without witnessing a flamenco performance and we were captivated by the swirling costumes, the intricately rapid and elegant movements, and the characteristic flamenco rhythm, played by a small, talented band. However, also on our list was Flamenco lessons for us! We didn't quite manage to summon the same amount of grace as the other dancers, but it was a lot of fun and laughs.

Our trip came to a close and we were boarding the plane home, coming back with great memories – all thanks to the support of our parents and the brilliant staff who made it possible.

Gracias!

Lydia Gillman and Violet Goymer (F4)



Barcelona

The Senior Chapel Choir crowned off their year with a five-day tour of Barcelona. The choir performed three concerts (and a flashmob), culminating in a performance to over 1000 visitors in the incredible Sagrada Família. This was a fittingly massive-scale final gig for the ten leaving members of the choir, for whom it was their last performance. The choir also enjoyed the culture (and July sunshine) of the district with visits to the

Salvador Dalí Theatre and Museu de la Música and were rewarded for their huge efforts across the year with a trip to a waterpark and daily house water volleyball in the warmth of the Mediterranean Sea (Burton v Roche rivalry is never far away!). Bravo to them all, bring on more singing next year!

Mr Nicholls



Lulworth Cove

In the summer term, pupils in Year 8, including me, went on a geography trip to the Dorset Coast. This trip was very interesting, and I really enjoyed it. But I didn't really like the 2-hour drive there and back, it made me feel a bit ill! When we arrived, we sat on some rocks while Mr Burt explained what we were going to do throughout the day. Then we went to Man O'War Beach. We did some science work there. It was quite fun as I was blowing into the sea water using a straw and my friend accidentally drank

some of it and it was quite funny. Then we went to the Durdle Door. It was so beautiful. And we had our lunch there. I had a delicious ham sandwich and a pack of crisps.

My best friend Owen kindly shared some snacks with me, he is so nice and kind. Then we did an activity when we sat near the sea and listened to the waves. It was so calming. After we went to Stair Hole. We learnt how Stair Hole was formed. It was also interesting to learn. At last, we visited the Lulworth Cove, and we went

to have ice cream. It was super yummy. I also bought some drinks and a squishy banana toy. My favourite part of the trip was when we were sitting by the sea having lunch near Durdle Door. It was very calming, and the view was so beautiful. I would like to visit Dorset again in my free time and explore more about this place.

Lucas Wong (F3)

Mandarin

The Mandarin F4 and L5 students visited our friends at the Museum of East Asian Art in January, as part of our celebrations of Chinese New Year. After welcoming Anna Peng and Celia Dominguez to speak about Revolution, Propaganda and Art in China at Prior Park College in the Autumn, we went to visit the exhibition and learn more about the museum's collection. Students received a personal tour of the exhi-

bition and the permanent collection, learning about the earliest evidence of globalisation, clues left in pottery designs and the development of printmaking. Afterwards, we went on a Chinese treasure hunt around Bath, spotting Chinese characters in use around the city, as well as getting bubble tea to keep our energy levels up!

Miss Main



Scholars

In March, our academic scholars travelled to London for a tour of the Palace of Westminster and a meeting with Bath MP, Wera Hobhouse. After lunch in Parliament, they walked the short distance

to Westminster Cathedral where they were given time to look around and see the impressive mosaic of St. John Henry Newman.

Newman was often a guest at Prior Park College, visiting his friends Bishop

Baines and Bishop Brownlow in the 1800s. The students also paid their respects at the tomb of Prior Park College Alumnus, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor.



Business

F4 Business students had a trip to Bath Soft Cheese Co. at Kelston Farm in January to learn about the highs and lows of running your own business.

Being in a room with so much cheese can be a little overpowering on the senses, but the students did enjoy the cheese tasting session! A big thank you to alumnus and entrepreneur, Hugh Padfield, for hosting us.



Design and Technology

L6 Product Design students had the opportunity to see the incredible showcase at the annual New Designers exhibition in London, which champions the UK's most innovative emerging designers. Students got to see over 3,000 exhibitors, conversed

with industry professionals, dissected the manufacturing process of visionary makes and gained invaluable experience by talking to lots of graduates about their journey. Lower 6 will now put their inspiration into practice and work the knowledge

gained from the trip into their design work to create some incredible products.

Mr Faulkner



A Level Biology

During the penultimate week of term, 25 of us went on a biology field trip to the wild, wild west – Broad Haven, Wales. We started the journey on Saturday morning and headed to Nine Wells for our freshwater ecology practical lesson. We spent the next few hours taking stream samples using the 'kick sampling technique' to observe the species diversity – with one group even capturing an eel! – as well as performing different chemical tests to determine the phosphate levels, pH levels, and more.

On Sunday, we took a little trip to Dale, where we spent the afternoon performing the mark–release–recapture procedure on (sea snail) *Monodonta lineata* which involved painting them with pink nail varnish! We also used the 'shoot the welly' technique to place quadrats and count the species diversity at different heights above chart datum. Waking up the

next morning, we prepared ourselves for a long day where we revisited Dale's rocky shores to continue our projects. Firstly, we returned to our separate quadrats, recounting the number of snails we had marked, before going off individually to continue under the watchful eye of our biology teachers. Finishing off late in the afternoon, we headed back to Broad Haven. The mood was dim as we returned to the hostel, with exhaustion kicking in. Still, Mr Lovat had other ideas and whipped out his guitar as the girls sang along to 'Sweet Caroline' whilst the boys enjoyed playing football on the beach. Joining them a little later, the girls ran into the ocean before attempting to play football against the boys. Ending the night on a good note, the girls beat the boys 2-1, with Dr Trott being the best goalie anyone's ever seen and Mr Lovat being a world class defender.

On Tuesday, we hopped on a boat for a trip around Skomer Island, a site of Special Scientific Interest which featured in David Attenborough's Wild Isles series. Jim was narrator on the trip and had an encyclopedic knowledge of the birds of the island, including puffins, Manx shearwaters, guillemots, and razorbills. He also introduced us to 'Stinky', a friendly Grey Seal that rested up on a moored inflatable boat, that allowing us a good view of this amazing mammal. Despite the turbulent sea, surprisingly no one threw up! That afternoon, we explored sand dunes and learnt about the process of 'succession' and observed the flora and fauna associated with this process. Concluding our field trip, we finished our projects the next day before heading home to rainy Bath!

Nerys Johns (L6)





Ski

Some seventy students and six members of staff departed mid-December for the 2022 ski trip. No tour is the same and this was proved by our second travelling group, now known to all as the Gatwick 4. Departure day is normally hassle free, but having been called to the boarding gate and with the gate about to close, we finally welcomed our missing four, casually appearing from their pre-flight shopping experience.

We eventually arrived at Hotel Baita Clemente, Bormio for six days of skiing. The beginner group mastered the travelator and nursery slopes, whilst the intermediate group hit the red slopes and the advanced group went right to the top of the mountain to navigate world cup runs and some testing icy conditions. Our biggest fallers during the first couple of days were

staff members, not on black slopes but the pavements of Bormio on route to the hotel after a day of skiing.

As the week progressed all made it up the mountain. Amongst the skiing and snowboarding, some of the groups played capture the flag followed by races down the fun slope. All groups participated in the big race day and after an initial practice, everyone was ready for the big race, which was accompanied by questionable commentary. The staff in attendance took most of the awards: biggest fall, biggest trip, and most days in bed with illness. However, the real winners, without doubt, were the students; each and every one of them shone throughout.

In the evenings, Bormio town offered plenty, the medieval resort always splendidly beautiful in the evening with light flurries of

snow. Café Mozart with its offering of crêpes, pancakes, gelato and hot chocolate, and La Stua Pizzeria provided tasty food and welcoming staff. Students also enjoyed a midweek relaxing break at Bormio Terme, which had several different pools with warm water and an indoor water slide – you might not have seen our groups descending but you could always hear us! We finished our week with a celebration at Oliver American Restaurant, an evening we will all remember fondly.

Our return journey was almost as eventful as our outward, a plaster cast temporarily removed and visas hidden by digital technology. Panic over, and with that we arrived back home in time for Christmas!

Mr Jenkins



New York

'Fun' is not the right word for the trip, NYC wasn't 'fun', NYC was an experience; a six-day realisation of what you've heard about NYC from television and movies. It was finally our turn for the leavers' trip, as exciting as it was, it signified the start of the end of our Prior journey.

Kennedy Airport is infamous for its border controls, and it didn't disappoint. There was a slight passport issue upon arrival and I was taken separately to another room. Although it only took two clicks to resolve the problem, the thrills woke me and the teachers up thoroughly after a long flight. "Thank you, Officer," I said.

New York was exactly how I imagined, fire escapes, eccentric habitants, and a road naming system that

took me days to finally understand.

The hostel was great, good enough for somewhere we would only sleep in at night. The sleep during the trip was surprisingly great, in a city that never sleeps. The packed and fruitful itinerary was perhaps the reason. The organisation by the teachers, of course, was the reason we had a proper taste of the Big Apple.

It was my 18th birthday on the second day of the trip. The top of the Rock and the Empire State Building wasn't entirely the birthday plan I had imagined. Unlike my fresh adulthood, the tops of the buildings were surprisingly calm and quiet.

We were reminded of New York's resilience when we visited the 911 Memorial. Seeing the not one but two

gigantic waterfalls put into perspective what 911 meant to New York. The exhibitions of recordings, photographs and videos gave me the chills. It hurts to think if I was inside the twin towers, what would I have done?

We also went to a Broadway show, Statue of Liberty, an NBA game, another NBA stadium, 5th Avenue, St Patrick's Cathedral, where Audrey Hepburn would go for breakfast, Wall Street, Central Park and countless tiny concerts each morning and night at the 102nd Street subway station, where our hostel was.

New York was an experience. Putting it into 400 words cannot do it justice. Go see for yourself!

Wilson Tse (U6)



Religious Life

It never ceases to surprise me how quickly the school year seems to pass and 2022/23 has been no exception!

The Chapel has been truly vibrant, filled with energy and joy. Mr Nicholl's hymn practices have borne fruit, with our community's voices filling this holy space. This year the Sixth Form once again took up the mantle to lead Wednesday Worships. With whole school Masses, boarders Masses, our Remembrance Mass followed by our Alumni Mass, there was a lot going on in the Michaelmas term. It concluded with our Carol Service, ending the term in the usual festive manner.

At the end of September, twenty-seven students and five staff slept under the stars for the 'Prior Park Sleep Out', raising funds and awareness for those struggling with homelessness in Bath. We were humbled by the students enthusiasm; their sense of service and courage sleeping in what turned out to be challenging conditions. This is set to become an annual event so look out for Prior Park Sleep Out 2023!

'Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes' were made and collected to be sent around the world to bring a little hope and joy to young lives at Christmas time. Our collections for the Bath Foodbank took place during both Advent and Lent. We participated in the two CAFOD Family Fast Days. We celebrated our Lenten Reconciliation Services with each year group and concluded the second term with our Lenten Service, where the Senior Chapel Choir accompanied us beautifully through the liturgy.

In March I joined staff and students who were visiting us from Prior Park Gibralt-

ar, in attending Flame 2023 at the OVO Arena, Wembley. This Catholic youth event, the largest in the UK, gathered about 8000 young people together to have a day full of faith, inspiration, energy and joy.

In the summer term we celebrated the feast of the Ascension with a whole school service. The following Sunday Bishop Declan came to Prior to celebrate the Confirmation Mass, confirming eight of our students. The sun always seems to shine for this occasion and 21 May was no exception!

On 29 June the Mansion steps filled with students and staff as we celebrated our much-cherished feast day outdoor Mass. As we gave thanks for Ss Peter & Paul, a magnificent view over Bath stood before us and the rain just about held off for this blessed occasion.

Throughout the year Day Retreats have taken place at the Marian Retreat Centre in Nymphsfield and Brownhill Monastery near Stroud. Students have involved themselves with Chaplaincy and the spiritual life of our community. It has been great to see growing numbers giving time to serve in the different ministries, sharing their gifts and talents.

The summer term ended with Canon Christopher Whitehead celebrating our Leavers' Day Mass. This year we say farewell to three of our U6 Altar Servers: Abdulaziz, Wilson and Alec. They have quite simply been absolutely outstanding in their service to Chapel. Whilst they will be deeply missed their legacy lives on, and I look forward to seeing them all when they return as alumni.

Mrs Tunbridge, Lay Chaplain



Chaplaincy

2023 has been another great year for Chaplaincy at Prior Park College. Our goal was to make Chaplaincy a more central part of the Prior Park community and set up various engaging events throughout the year. My highlights were, firstly, our first ever Prior Park Sleep Out which brought people of all year groups together to raise money for Julian House and the homeless by attempting to spend a night outdoors. This was an eye-opening experience, making everyone

more aware of how fortunate we are and appreciate the difficulties of the homeless. Secondly, we released a video in the later part of the year which aimed to engage the whole school in existential and spiritual thinking. This involved interviews with students, who were asked big thinking questions such as 'How many stars are in the sky?' and 'What is the difference between religion and faith?'. We found this to be an engaging video, which solidified the idea that Chaplaincy works for the entire

Prior Park community, not just those who are Catholic or even religious. I would like to thank Theresa, our Lay Chaplain, as well as my hard-working members of the Chaplaincy committee. I have greatly enjoyed being the Head of Chaplaincy for this year and hope that the committee continues to play a pivotal role in bringing together the Prior Park community next year.

Euan Hatvany, Head of Chaplaincy

CAFOD

In March, our Sixth Form students were invited to an insightful talk by Director of CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development), Christine Allen. Her lecture outlined the humanitarian work that CAFOD carries out around the world, from helping to tackle malnutrition in Ethiopia to providing Bangladesh with local farming expertise to combat

unpredictable weather and climate. After her talk, Christine was presented with a cheque for £1,000 by Ava (U6) and Mr Maxwell. The money was raised largely through Prior's 'Family Fast' days, when the school lunch is stripped back to something simple (pasta and tomato sauce) and the excess budget is set aside to donate to CAFOD.



Carol Service

One event hung over me in my first month as Director of Music – The College Carol Service. 'The highlight of the calendar', 'ALWAYS the most magical evening' & 'nobody does a carol service like Prior' were just some of the testimonies that haunted me in the preceding weeks. Thankfully, the talent of our pupils, and the ease of making 'magic' happen in our incredible surroundings shone through, and two packed congregations were treated to some very

special services. The long-standing congregational carols stayed reassuringly the same, including fearless 'Once in Royal' solos from Ava Goodman (F3) and Freya Downey (L3), and the ever-popular rendition of Stopford's 'Lully, Lulla, Lullay', – performed, this year by our U6 in the framing of a side chapel. The Senior Chapel Choir, Lower School Choir, College Brass Ensemble, Alfie Parkin (F4) (who provided organ music before the services), Euan Murray's

(L5) solo voice ringing out 'I look from afar' – all were on top form. Other musical highlights that supported the comfortingly constant traditional readings, expertly prepared by Mr Langley, included the spine-tingling 'My Lord Has Come' by Will Todd and a traditional Nigerian carol, complete with percussion, expressing absolute joy at the birth of Jesus Christ.

Mr Nicholls





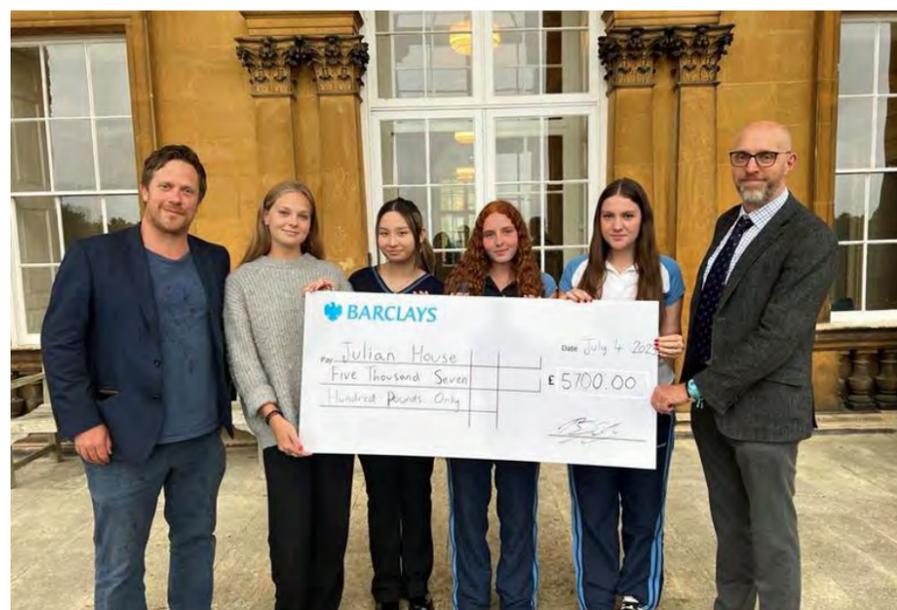
Charity

Charities is a club which is both teacher and student led and aims to spread information and knowledge about the chosen school charity, as well as raising money for it. The charity is selected at the beginning of the year by the whole student body, with suggestions coming from the Prior community. This year, the selection was Julian House, a homeless charity based here in Bath which was nominated by U6 student Ben Humphries, although many other charities had been suggested and considered.

The Charities Committee is an open club for any year group to join. They meet once a week to organise fundraising events such as

a Valentine's Day roses sale in February and a water fight in July, as well as the classic bake sales and non-school uniform days. Another aim of these meetings is to create assemblies which help to educate the school on what the charity does, why we are supporting them, and what the money raised will go towards. This year we were lucky enough to have representatives of Julian House come in to help with the assemblies and spread awareness for what homelessness is and how best to help. The school raised £5700 for Julian House.

Ava Marston (U6)





Prior Park Sleep Out

The Prior Park Sleep Out allowed students to experience as closely as possible what it feels like to be homeless for just one night. The event was kindly set up by Genesis Trust, a charity that helps with homelessness in Bath. At the beginning of the evening we listened to a talk from Sue Fourie, one of the life project managers at the Trust, who explained the Trust's message and importance. We then heard from Darren, a man who experienced homelessness and has been through Genesis' rehabilitation programme. He told us about his life and explained to us how his faith

and the money raised by Genesis helps him.

After the talks, we spent time as a group outside; we played some games and sat around a campfire. Mr Watkinson-Trim spoke to us all and gave us time to reflect and thank the Lord for all that we have. We then set up for the night ahead. We looked for areas that could bring us some shelter from the rain and, using cardboard boxes and the sleeping bags we were allowed to bring, set up our sleeping areas.

The U6 (Year 13) all slept out on the Mansion steps overlooking the amazing view

of Bath. It was very hard to sleep through the howling winds and the loud snores of Mr Watkinson-Trim, but it gave us an idea of what it would be like to sleep rough. Despite being a tough night that left us all very tired, we were able to make amazing memories with our friends, bond with other year groups and, most importantly, help raise £2,785 for this amazing charity. It has given us a new appreciation for how tough life can be, renewed gratitude for what we have, and we hope the money raised will help do good.

Sachin Padiachy (U6)

Pride

This year the Equality Committee took on its first ever whole school assembly, a huge step for the committee cementing its place as an active group. Within this assembly we continued the recently started tradition of distributing Pride flags to each of the seven Senior Houses, and added a brief quiz section as a fun, lighthearted way to engage and educate our audience. We were pleased to see how many students in the junior years not only participated but answered correctly.

The main segment of our assembly was dedicated to educating our audience about the importance of Pride, as well as historical facts, such as the use of the phrase "friend of Dorothy" during World War II, which would allow queer soldiers to discreetly identify one another. We also touched on the origins of Pride, most notably the first ever Pride riot that occurred on 28

June 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York, a known safe space for LGBTQ+ people. This very riot, led by Marsha P. Johnson against police who attacked the inn, is the very reason Pride is still celebrated today.

We also spoke about intersectionality and how different aspects of one's identity can overlap and create 'interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.' This could be due to discrimination of race, gender identity, sexuality, faith, etc, and we as a community should be aware of the advantages some of us may have due to intersectionality, while fighting to dismantle the disadvantages others may face.

Finally, we covered the link between homelessness and being LGBTQ+. 24% of the young homeless population (aged 16-25) identify as LGBTQ+ in some way, which is a significant number considering the UK's

LGBTQ+ population is only around 3-5%. Sadly, this is mainly due to intolerance from family members of young LGBTQ+ people. A study showed that of this LGBTQ+ population, 61% felt frightened or threatened by a family member before becoming homeless. However, charities such as our school charity, Julian House can give support and help to all within the homeless population.

I hope, with the right education, we as a school community can help to combat the hate and ignorance that causes discrimination and create a safe, welcoming world to those of all identities, not only for our generation, but for generations to come.

Sophie Green (U6)



Yoga

Yoga was reintroduced to Prior Park College this year, with sessions delivered by qualified Yoga Instructor, Miss Brough on Mondays after school, Saturday mornings, and in the evenings for boarders. In the face of a mental health epidemic

amongst our young people, committing to time on the yoga mat has many benefits including improving physical, mental, and emotional health, fitness and resilience. So far this has been a very popular activity with female students but has yet to be

considered as an option by males. All attendees can enjoy a hot chai at the end of every class. Snap up the places for next year quick as classes are limited to 12 yogis!

Miss Brough



Stand-Up Paddle Boarding

This year saw us double our number of paddlers participating in our SUP program during senior games. After initially starting off in the pool, students took to paddling on the river Avon, where they perfected their skills, both on and off the board!

Once initial paddle strokes were honed, students took part in various balance and coordination games which then extended to self-rescue techniques, rafting and racing. This year we expanded our fleet with the addition of our Mega SUP, the purchase of which was

kindly assisted by Parents of Prior. Measuring over 17 feet long and 5 feet wide, our current record for the number of people we can fit on it stands at 16. I'm hoping to break that next year!

Mr Faulkner



Astronomy

This year the club has been busy with a twin focus on the astronomical events that are 'up next' in the sky and more general investigations to expand students' knowledge. We have learned how to find a comet with binoculars, how to identify

features on the moon (with a massive moon-map photo donated from the shop display in Bath's Fat Face) and discussed the famous Drake Equation for calculating the probability of life on other planets. We are looking forward to our new

observatory, to be built up by the hockey pitches once we get planning permission. As always in astronomy, things are looking up!

Mr Watkinson-Trim



Golf

Our golf enrichment programme has grown this year with lots more girls picking up clubs for the first time, and what a talented bunch they are! All the students have spent many hours honing their skills on the driving range as well

as practising the arts of chipping and putting, learning not only how to hit the ball accurately but also the importance of resilience, determination, and concentration. This year we had the luxury of additional professional coaching from Meg

Rossouw, an up and coming professional on the WPGA tour, who has been incredibly impressed with the progress the students have made over the year.

Mr Ewins



CCF

Our Rowallan Cadet group met weekly, with their training split between Army and Navy syllabus subjects. The programme is designed to inform and develop leadership ability, prior to cadets making an informed decision to join either the Navy or Army Section. Fieldcraft remains a firm favourite, best explained as camouflage cream (face paint) and not being seen. On each occasion we are guaranteed to lose a cadet in the school undergrowth! Introduction to the Personal Role Radio was another highlight, though the clear favourite with most students was the introduction to the British Army ration pack and all its treats.

This year both staff and cadets from the Army Section took on the new Communication Information System, a syllabus that involved an intense weekend of instruction and learning systems such as the Portable Radio Communication 343 system and Portable Radio Communication 710 system. An extraordinary amount of theory

and practical information was absorbed by all who attended, and all successfully passed. The course also included a friendly flag semaphore communication competition between the Army and Navy sections, with the Navy Section narrowly coming second.

Our annual live firing event was held at Warminster, prerequisites included Skill at Arms (safe handling) and Basic Shooting (Air Rifle). We had our sights firmly fixed on shooting at distances from 100m to as far as 300m. Many targets were successfully 'hit' and some cadets were also successful or unsuccessful at hitting targets on other lanes. Congratulations to Ronald, interim champion.

Our Navy section continue to make a splash and has excelled yet again as a section. For the first time in many years, we welcomed the Try Dive to the school. This was poolside instruction on diving techniques and equipment, and it was great to see cadets breathe underwater and those that forgot to! This was a memo-

orable experience for those lucky enough to attend.

Navy Section Field events continued with an introduction to stand up paddle boarding, which included self-rescue, assisting others, and basic paddling techniques. A lot of splashing, fun, headstands, handstands and games took place on the inland waterways of the River Avon. All cadets in attendance successfully completed their Introduction to SUP. Cadets have also successfully optimised our fleet of vessels at Chew Valley - Laser Picos, Argos and Wayfairer were all utilised throughout the year. The cadets also experienced a weekend at Britannia Royal Navy College, Dartmouth, with nine cadets achieving RYA Level 1 awards and three achieving RYA YS2 awards. This training enables cadets to develop the skills needed to sail around a course and help them to understand the basic principles needed to become a confident sailor. Well done to all!

Mr Jenkins



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Bronze

DofE Bronze enjoyed a successful practice expedition across Cheddar, and assessed expeditions through the Wye Valley, and on both occasions students were lucky with the weather. Every student dealt with the challenges with resilience and showed strength beyond their years.

During the assessment, students completed approximately 25km over two days (with some doing a little

extra). Some forty students completed the expedition section, and they should all be proud of the attitude and perseverance they showed.

The final part of the year saw the students completing the evidence for the Volunteering, Physical Recreation and Skill sections, allowing Mr Cane-Hardy to award a plethora of certificates to many students.

One thing to note, our Bronze participants have

contributed just short of 500 hours volunteering, from helping people to working with animals – coaching, teaching and action in the community. The social value of these hours is £2,534.

Many thanks to the staff involved for all their help. The expeditions would not have been a success without you.

Mr Jenkins

Gold

Gold DofE has been a great success this year – with each of those taking part engaging in volunteering, physical, and skills components. However, the highlight of the award has to be the expedition. This year, after hours of meticulous route and expedition planning, our groups travelled to the Lake District.

On the first day of the expedition the weather was less than welcoming, with conditions quickly turning sour. Through high winds and pelting rain, we worked our way up the mountains.

However, over the next few days the weather cleared up to a mix of sun and drizzle, making for an enjoyable expedition.

Overall, I highly recommend the Gold DofE Award to anyone who wishes to demonstrate their curiosity and tenacity, through exploring new skills or developing existing ones, and by generously volunteering hours of their own time helping develop our communities. The expedition can be tough, especially if the weather does not comply, but it is an excellent test

of courage to step out of your comfort zone and is an amazing test of resilience and perseverance.

I would like to thank Mrs Colquhoun, Mr Lord and Mrs Trott for all they have done to support our Gold DofE, and give a special thanks to Mr Jones who has spent tireless hours making Gold DofE as enjoyable an experience it can be. We wish him all the best as he leaves us at the end of this academic year.

Thomas Roblin (U6)



Fisher Road Relay

Senior Boys

Burton House

Senior Girls

Arundell House

Baines House

1st Francis NEW L3 TEAM RECORD

Brownlow House

1st Rice NEW F3 RECORD

Imogen Davies NEW F3 GIRLS RECORD

Ossy Sloane NEW F3 BOYS RECORD

Special Mentions

1st fastest boy: Will Knight (U6)

1st fastest girl: Amalie Johnston (L3) NEW GIRLS RECORD

1st team: U6 Burton



Baines

This year, Baines has had a wonderful feel about it, with a great set of pupils and our lovely woodland setting inside and outside the building! Following the excitement of induction day, the pupils did a superb job of settling into senior school and it was great to see new friendships being made from the off. Our day out at the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Centre in October was a great way to round off the hustle and bustle of those early weeks in senior school. The activities were great, and I expect for most of the pupils, it was the first time they had tried archery and axe throwing! The wall climbing was also great fun and the pupils headed off for the October Half Term break knowing that they were bedded in and ready for the rest of the year.

The first day back saw an extraordinary Halloween party organised by the Heads of Baines from this year's Upper Sixth. Prizes were awarded for best costumes and a lot of fun was had. This eased us back in to the longest, darkest term, but the excitement of

the many clubs available at Prior and the anticipation of Christmas kept the pupils going to the end of the calendar year.

One of the great features of Baines is the friendly competition between the tutor groups. While this is played out on a weekly basis with the weekly quiz scores, and the half termly merit competitions, the first major competition which took place was Junior House Music in February. All the students ended up performing on stage and even those who were reluctant at first were singing their hearts out by the day of the performance. More impressive, perhaps, were the individual performers who commanded the school stage and their peers' attention with some very high-class performances.

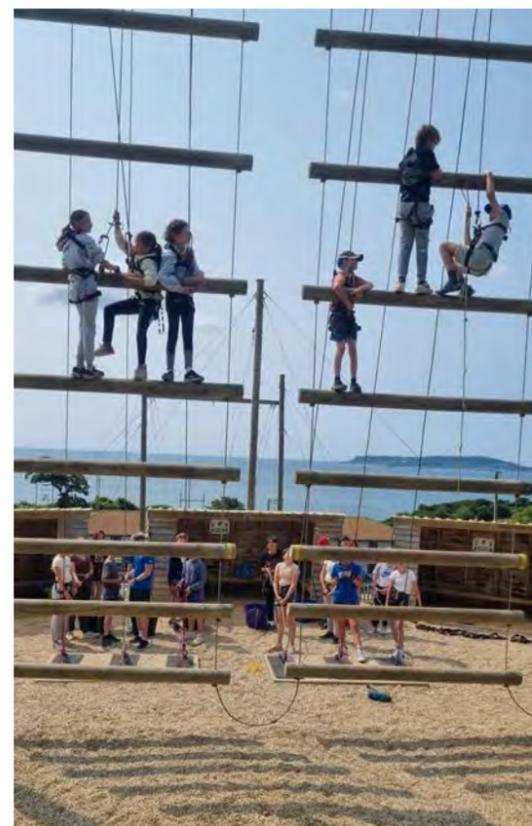
The inter tutor group rivalry continued with Baines House debating and the motion in the final – 'This House would abolish the monarchy' – was well contested leaving Mr Horan with a very difficult decision as the judge. The last week of term saw Sports Day,

another hotly contested competition between the tutor groups. The effort levels were sky high this year and for me the mixed relays provided the highlight with a very close finish which determined the overall result.

The end of the year saw the residential trip to Osmington Bay in Dorset. The excitement of the build up to the trip was not an anti-climax as the list of activities, which included abseiling, aeroball, orienteering, survival skills, the giant swing, the trapeze, and capture the flag, did not disappoint. The Teddy Bear competition on the first night meant that the pupils had a great chance to learn more about each other's background and life stories. Everyone returned tired but happy.

I really hope the Baines pupils enjoyed this year as much as the tutor team and I did, and we wish them the very best for the rest of their school careers at Prior and beyond!

Mr Healy





Brownlow

Taking on the role of Housemistress of Brownlow this year filled me with great excitement, but also a few nerves. But from the moment the Form 3 students entered Brownlow House on 6 September it has been an incredibly happy and busy House, full of endless chatter, competition over chess and table games, sporty activities outside, and the wonderful sounds of friendship. The joy of being Housemistress quickly quelled my initial nerves. This cohort was incredibly lucky to inherit the recently refurbished Brownlow House in what had been the cricket pavilion, and they have certainly made it feel like home. A big hit was the introduction of toast during Open House – the numbers attending this after school activity rocketed from 8 students to 45 as a result, so 'Toast Thursdays' have now become a permanent and much-anticipated treat in the Brownlow week. Toast-making skills have been honed and friends have bonded over the Marmite debate, although I'm not sure Lucas will ever forgive me for encouraging him to try it for the first time!

Much fun was had on the day trip away from school to Paultons Park in October. All who went, staff included, had a great time, with many enjoying the thrill-seeker rides, while others chose to spend their time in the more sedate Peppa Pig zone. A fun Christmas party involving games and some 'Carol-oke' organised by the House celebration team rounded off the first term. Junior House Music in February

was a fun afternoon with an amazing array of talent on display across the House in both solo and small group performances. More/Francis House won the coveted House Music Cup for the second year in a row, performing an energetic rendition of 'Don't Stop Me Now' by Queen. Juliet was a worthy winner of the Solo competition, and Lucas and Reuben's brilliant duet won them the Group prize. Since then, we have held the first Brownlow House Chess tournament, with Ava Morris beating off stiff competition from Alex Westwell to win the trophy; Rice cleaned up in the Fisher Road Relay; Alexander won the closely fought trophy for Sports Day; and the students proved what can be achieved when they work together as they were put through their paces on their Teambuilding afternoon.

A highlight of the year must be the Tutor group breakfasts in the summer term when Mr Bazell, ably assisted by Mr Langley, created a wealth of wonderful fruit smoothies which were enjoyed with croissants by each tutor group on consecutive Tuesdays. The year ended on a high with the inaugural Brownlow Tea party for parents, House staff and students, an event greatly enjoyed by all who attended and a lovely way to say farewell to a wonderful year group of students as they head off to their Senior Houses.

Mrs Goodman

Allen

This has been an eventful year for the gentlemanly wolf pack that is Allen House. A perennial highlight is House Music which involved such rousing speeches in the Allen prep room that the resultant exuberance led to George Campbell-Jones, affectionately known as G-Money by the Allen boys, being carried shoulder-high into the BSR. The entire show was stolen by Euan Redwood becoming a PPC legend by performing a highly skilled DJ set dressed as Ali G. The judge admitted that he didn't really know how to judge that genre of music – but, as with so much this year, Allen House were the real winners (if not technically on the scoreboard).

We were so buoyed by our musical excellence that we decided to stage an Allen House Charity Concert in the Chapel before Christmas. Acts included Francis Forsyth and Billy Skiggs on the guitar, the Allen Ukulele Orchestra and, of course, the Allen House Band – all winners.

Conor Quinn had an excellent final year at Prior Park College and contributed admirably to House life by expanding the Kanputat-Kerrigan-Quinn Cup football tournament into a huge 11-a-side clash on the astro-turf. We missed Charles Bibby who was out injured but although the actual games of football were won by Roche, I like to think that, as tournament organisers, Allen House were the real winners (if not technically on the scoreboard).

A very young House Mathematics Team finished third this year and I was very proud of the House debating team making it through to the semi-finals – eventually being knocked out in controversial style by a very strong Fielding team. The Allen House

boys were true winners (if not technically on the scoreboard). The cowboy-themed Allen House Dinner was a fantastic night of speeches, cowboy songs, Nerf showdowns, fine outfits, and a rodeo – as well as all the usual wolf paraphernalia.

We are very grateful to the PE department for accommodating us during the first few weeks of the summer term. This was to allow for the redevelopment of the new Allen House facilities which has transformed the look of the prep room. Sports Day and the Fisher Relay were two sporting occasions this year that we didn't technically win on the scoreboard, but I am very hopeful for the future as Form 4 won their age category, despite Alex Farmanbar being at a tennis tournament overseas, and Choy smashed the PPC record for the Form 4 200m. I am delighted that we brought home the House Basketball title this year – an event at which we are winners in every sense of the word.

So much of what is done here at school focusses on winning: awards, grades, prizes, trophies. These are important, and that validation is always welcome, but winning comradeship in truth and generosity of spirit has been what Allen House has done so well this year. We have started focussing this year on 'positive masculinity' – more traditionally known as 'gentlemanliness'. This isn't always recognised on a scoreboard but comes with a self-assuredness that, no matter what we win or lose, we're a very good House made up of very good people. I look forward to our 40th Anniversary year in 2023-24.

Mr Lovat



Allen Spirit of Prior Award

Billy Skiggs (L6) and Oliver Campbell (L5)

The Howler Prize (music and the arts)

Ayoola Omonipo (F4), Euan Redwood (L5), Long Yeung (L6)

Gentleman Award (acts of kindness)

Noah de Thierry (F4), Felix Terry (L5), Charlie Nicholas (L6)

Spirit of the Pack (strength of character)

Liam Oughton (F4), Richard Choi (L5), Francis Forsyth (L6)

Akela Academic Achievement Award (AAAA)

Will Wang (F4), Bosco Wong (L5), Oliver Seward (L6)

White Fang Award (physical endeavour)

Lut Choy (F4), Oliver Spizzirri (L5), Jerry Chu (L6)

'Dog'gedness (effort)

Ben Blazewicz (F4), Aiden Wan (L5), Johnny Lun (L6)



Arundell

The girls have had a superb year and they have danced, sung, run, jumped, played, acted, debated, and studied with huge enthusiasm and even bigger smiles. The girls have challenged themselves in all things and have blossomed.

The first main event of the year is always House music, and absolutely everyone got fully behind the Little Mix 'Wings' rendition. It was remarkable how the girls learnt the lyrics and dance moves in just 3 major rehearsals, and they performed brilliantly. We will come back strong again next year in our bid to win this most coveted of crowns, the L6 are planning already!

Christmas saw us ice skating at Victoria Park followed by a festive whole House meal at Giraffe. In the New Year we enjoyed the Swan Lake ballet at the Theatre Royal, and then in March stormed to the Fisher Relay victory, retaining the title against some serious competition from English House. This event has a special place in Arundell hearts, along with the now legendary 'Toast Tuesdays'. The girls took a full part in Charities week by running a really fun event showcasing the singing talents of the staff. A crowd pleaser so a definite one again for next year.

In May we had our House dinner and what a gorgeous evening that was. The girls chose the theme of masquerade, dressing in elegant long gowns, and then danced the night away in the beautifully lit Mansion foyer. It was a wonderful evening full of laughter, friendship and fun. It is at times like this that

we realise just how lucky we are.

With the U5 and U6 going on study leave in readiness for their exams, the younger girls threw themselves into Sports Day and gaining even more academic merits. It was with huge cheers that we won the Sports Day Shield and the House Merit Competition. Well done to everyone that did a great prep or asked a key question in class, as all these moments counted. We celebrated the end of year with a picnic by the Palladian Bridge whilst relaxing with some ball games and blowing bubbles, trying not to fall into the lake.

Our targets for next year are to aim high in Debating and to perfect our harmonies for House Music.

The year has indeed flown by, and I do want to say a special thank you to the U6 girls for their excellent leadership of the House. Every one of them had a part to play. At the helm Aisha, Annabel and Ellie helped to set the tone and ambition of the House and they did this with real flair. The U6 have all literally 'left their mark' by leaving their handprints on the wall in the snug. We will warmly remember the girls of 2023. I thank also the kind, dedicated tutors who give a huge amount of extra time to make sure the girls thrive.

Respite stellas is our motto, and we have many stars in Arundell.

Mrs Trott

Burton

I can't believe it's been a year since I took up my position as Burton Housemistress. The boys and tutors welcomed me so warmly and I'm incredibly grateful to them all for such a fun, happy and uplifting year.

We had a superb first House outing to see Bath Rugby play Gloucester at the Rec which, despite Bath's loss, was great fun. This was closely followed by our first House competition, House Music, which really set the tone for the year to come as, my goodness, we gave it everything! Dance moves, singing and costumes... they had it nailed, and our House Song, 'Treasure' by Bruno Mars was a big hit. Robbie's solo was incredible, and it was no surprise that it won the category. Our talented band which included Josh, Giles, Robbie, Ralph, Sam, Ewan, and Louis also got the crowd cheering with the belter 'Life is a Highway'.

The Michaelmas term ended with our Christmas Social, a mass game of hide and seek in the snow, followed by pizza and Home Alone in the theatre.

During the Lent term we kicked off our tutor group socials with outings to Bowling, Hondu Sushi, The Stable, and Dough. Tutor innings involved pool competitions, table tennis, pizza, and lots of loud music!

Charities week in the Lent term was a great success with our U6 organising a series of events, including a talent show, throwing water balloons at the prefects, and our traditional Burton Car Wash.

In the sporting competitions, the Fisher Road Relay was a big highlight. The U6 team of Robbie, Jack, Felix, and Will won the main race, which no doubt sealed our overall victory. I ran on the staff team, and Euan flying past me was the only time I've been

pleased to have someone overtake me in a race.

Our House Dinner in the Summer term was such a fun night of games, speeches, singing and most importantly, superb company! This was followed by our final House events of the year, watching Gloucester vs Somerset in the T-20 Cricket, and a super House afternoon with slip and slide, pizza, and music in the sunshine.

In winning performances, we shone bright in the Hymn Singing Competition, singing our hearts out in Chapel every week – we have a lot to live up to next year on the singing front! We reached the semi-final in Inter-House Debating. The team was led by Lucas and our debaters included Thomas R, Henry N, Joe S and Peter H. Inter-House Maths was a big success with our capable team of Peter H, Scott VD, Alastair Y and Thomas R storming the competition to get the win. This final victory in the House competitions sealed our success in the Overall House Competition to win the 'Inaugural Shield', the first boys House to win the shield!

On the last day of term, we said farewell to the wonderful Dr Trott, who has been Housemaster and, more recently, tutor in Burton House for 20 years. To honour Dr Trott's phenomenal commitment we introduced 'The Trott Cup' which was awarded in this first year to Thomas Roblin.

Finally, thank you to Will Knight for being an incredible and inspiring Head of House; the U6 have all been absolutely superb. To the amazing young men of Burton House, thank you and keep being you!

Mrs Bonney





Clifford

Clifford House has seen a variety of changes implemented this past year, with last year's U6 leaving, the new F4s joining, and our new Housemaster, Mr Pandya, joining the House, too. We also welcomed a new pool table, TV and sofas.

It has been great to get back to Clifford House traditions such as the pool competition and the table tennis competition, which saw two new winners being crowned 'champions' of Clifford. This year, Clifford House has adopted new values, Optimism, Courage, Idealism and Patience, taken from the great explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, an idol of Mr Pandya's. All the members of Clifford took these on with enthusiasm, using them in all aspects of school, from classroom to sports field. This helped to change the work ethic and attitude of the House, and in doing so helped us all to become better in events and competitions where we were pitted against other Houses.

A particular highlight of the year for Clifford was House Music, where we performed 'Party in the USA' by Miley Cyrus. Through all the House Music preparations, the House was bought closer together-

er, learning to perform the song as a team on stage to the rest of the school. Despite somehow not winning, everyone had an incredible time, and it is a memory we will not forget. Another highlight of the year has to be the House's victory in the Debating Competition. Led by Henry Allen, Alex Fox, and Alex Mould, they destroyed a strong field of competitors, including Arundell, Burton and Fielding, to win the trophy for Clifford for the first time since 2004, bringing much wanted silverware to Clifford in our quest to become better as a House. Lastly, the House Dinner was a fantastic event for all members of Clifford House, which saw a Hawaiian theme and a plethora of games. It was a great event to acknowledge members of the House's achievements, and a fun last event for the U6.

This year in Clifford marked a start of change under Mr Pandya, which I have no doubt will carry through in years to come, bringing Clifford to great status as the best House in the school!

Ned Hannah (Head of House)

English

English House has really thrived this year, in all aspects. We started the year off strong by winning sports day, ending Arundell's several-year long streak! Whether they were a sports person or not, each girl put in remarkable effort to lead the House to victory.

House Music is an event that English looks forward to every year. This year we performed 'Bang Bang' by Jessie J for our House song, which was great fun. Seeing the hard work all the girls put in, both inside and outside rehearsals, made me feel very proud. Although the House Song didn't result in a win, all the girls should feel very confident in their performance. We won the Group Song with our fabulous band, which ranged from L5-U6, who performed 'Man, I Feel Like a Woman' by Shania Twain. Hannah Wyatt also performed beau-

tifully, playing on the guitar and singing 'Cherry Wine' by Hozier for the House Solo.

My personal favourite event of the year was House Dinner, which was held in December. Being the first House dinner of the year, we had to set the standards high. U6 put together a 'Winter Wonderland' themed evening, which involved lots of glitter, fairy lights, and snowflakes. All the girls looked beautiful in their dresses, and we enjoyed spending time as a House in a different environment.

English came a solid second in the Fisher Road Relay in the Lent term. Everyone played their part and contributed in some way, whether it was participating in the fun run, time keeping, or running in the competitive race, so well-done girls!

English's annual Charity House Concert is an evening

full of talent and entertainment. From solos to tutor group dances, and to Mr Blaikley's amusing audience games, there is something for everyone to enjoy. English is brimming with talented girls and my favourite thing about the evening is watching the performers display their incredible gifts.

I speak on behalf of the U6 when I say how important English House has been to us during our time at Prior. A sisterhood filled with support from each other, amazing tutors and of course our incredible Mrs Holder. Being involved in a house like English is a truly honourable experience, one that I will forever cherish. I wish all the girls the best for the future and remind them to keep being the phenomenal people that they are.

Abigail Jones, Head of House





Fielding

Once school is underway after the long summer, Fielding House takes on a comforting routine of events which happen steadily throughout the year. It didn't take long for the new students in the House to integrate and settle, thanks, in part, to preparation for the House Music competition. Not only did Fielding win the overall competition, but we also won the cup for best House Song with 'Dear Future Husband', by Meghan Trainor. This was no small feat against such stiff competition. I want to mention the work put in by our wonderful U6, especially Emily Waters. They led the House beautifully in song and dance by gentle cajoling and with such good humour. I would also like to acknowledge Lola in L6 who sang our solo and Emma, Charlotte, Elina and Lola again for their beautiful rendition of 'Torn'. Both contributed in no small part to our overall success. One last mention must go to Hannah in F4 who, without a backing track, was the brave soloist at the start of our House song. She was also truly impressive.

The skating trip to Bath, the setting up of the Hutchison Christmas tree and Secret Santa signified the beginning of the House Christmas celebrations.

Lent term always denotes one of my favourite events, the Debating competition. Victoria (a debater since Form 4,) Charlotte, Sophie and Anoushka stepped up and battled their way through the various rounds to appear in the final once again, this time against a strong Clifford House team. Victory this year to Clifford, but the young women

of Fielding put up a valiant fight. The House of Bernarda Alba and Grease were also obvious highlights with stunning performances from many Fielding House students. The Fisher Road Relay featured right at the end of term and although Fielding came 3rd out of the 3 girls' houses, there was only a tenth of a second in it between 1st and 3rd places, and the Fielding students looked extra smart in their new running T-shirts.

The Fielding dinner marked the beginning of the Summer Term. It was a joyous occasion with a Mamma Mia! theme. The decorations, food, speeches, and the company made it such a wonderful occasion and to top it all off there was a disco in Mansion Hall, thanks to Lola and her mixing deck.

As I write this, I am still breathless from all the fabulous events of the last week: the House Maths Challenge, Sports Day, House Celebration afternoon, Grand Leavers' concert, my final assembly and the Leavers' Mass and Ball.

My final assembly was always going to be emotional. I am sad to be leaving the best job in the school, but I am also so grateful to have had 14 wonderful years walking alongside the young women of Fielding House. I am a very emotional ex-Housemistress after all the kindness and love that has been shown to me this week, but it has been my privilege and pleasure to be Housemistress to such wonderful young women. Thank you for everything et à bientôt, mes filles!

Mrs Mallon

Roche

September 2022 promised to be the start of a brilliant year for the House. Lead by a superb U6 year group that has been so passionate about the House throughout their time at Prior, I was excited to see how they would get on as the senior boys. I certainly wasn't disappointed! Early in the term we started our pool tournament, the arena that has seen many titans fall and several 7-ball losses. Some epic matches were played and with the favourite Ethan knocked out early on, it was all to play for. A huge congratulations to Nate for winning a tense final match.

House Music always produces memorable moments, not only on the day of the performance but during the rehearsals. The boys really got stuck into the songs, with Omi's 'Cheerleader' our House song. Stars really shone with Josh (U5) taking on the solo with Bruno Mars' 'Grenade', and the Group producing a stellar performance of 'Fairytale' by Alexander Rybak.

As a House with a mix of talents, it is always a joy to acknowledge the boys successes. In October we celebrated a tremendous achievement for James (U5) who represented Great Britain in the European Biathlon Competition. He came second in the individual event and achieved a team Gold. This is such an incredible accomplishment, with James completing all his training outside of school and around his studies.

House Dinner is always a highlight of the year, and a great way to celebrate together. We have built a tradition of keeping in touch with some of the old boys of the House, but this year was even more special. Our incredible Head of House, Ben, contacted several former Heads of House, to produce a video to celebrate the House's 40th Anniversary. It was great to hear of their stories from

their time in Roche.

We joined forces with the OddBalls Charity, run by one of our alumni, to create our House beanies. This was a great way to raise awareness of testicular cancer, and also get some brilliant House merch! We also extended the sale of these to the old Roche boys, and it is great to see them sporting their new hats around the world.

Charity has always been a big part of the work we do. Each year, Roche has run its own charities week. This year was incredibly successful, raising over £600 from our charity raffle, leg waxing, pancake making, and Christmas card sales. Following this, with the support of Will (U6), we had a big push on promoting men's mental health awareness. A big issue for many males is not being able to talk about mental health and we took opportunities to talk about this together as a House and sell badges to promote the discussion around the school. Other events took place through the year, including a cycleathon covering 1000km over two days. Roche was presented with the House Charity Shield at the end of the year for leading the fundraising for the school. As the only boy's house to win this twice since its commencement, it was a great reward for their continued hard work.

The House space was renovated during the Easter holidays which made it more inviting. Seeing its impact on the interactions between the boys has been great and it is certainly a space which we are proud to call our own. We look forward to welcoming parents and alumni into the new common room in the new year.

Mr Holmes



Multicultural Evening

The International Evening organised by the EAL department and the Heads of International students has always been a Prior tradition, and it made its comeback in November after the Covid hiatus.

Our culturally diverse peers, parents, and teachers from around the world came together for an evening filled with games, quizzes, performances and food representing a wide range of cultures.

Thanks to the efforts of parents and students, the food took centre stage during the event, featuring scrumptious dishes and snacks from various coun-

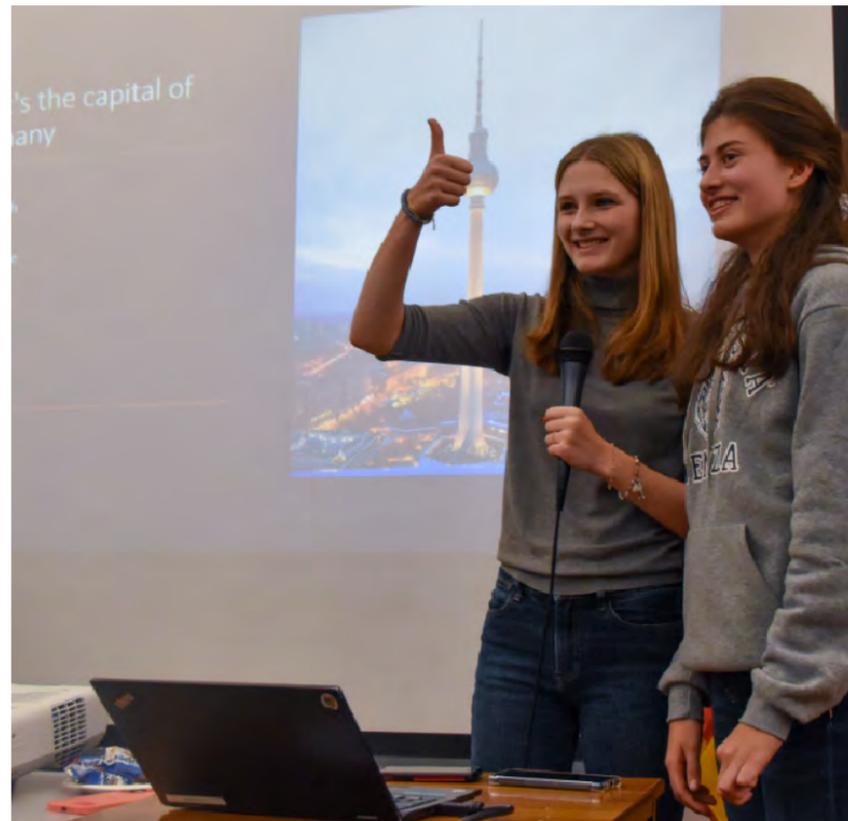
tries. We enjoyed delicacies like Pad Thai from Thailand, Vareniki with sour cream from Ukraine, and Soup Dumplings from China.

The presentations and performances deserve special mention as well. We were treated to engaging quizzes and captivating traditional dances and music performed by students representing their respective cultures. Notable performances included Madina and her sister Kainat from Afghanistan, who showcased traditional dancing and Peter and David from China who sang a Chinese song about resil-

ience, which they performed again during a whole school assembly. These performances not only showcased great skill and practice but also demonstrated courage. The night was a tremendous success.

In the Prior Park international community, we celebrate our cultures and strive for cultural inclusivity, to eliminate ignorance and barriers through quizzes, games, dances, cuisine – one quiz, one game, one dance and one bite at a time.

Wilson Tse (U6)



International Student Voice

Of all the highlights in the Prior Park calendar, this annual competition is always the event that I look forward to the most. This year, ISV was held at Monkton School in November, and I could not have been prouder of the three students that represented Prior Park.

Valeriia (F4 English) was the stand-out performer of the junior competition with her extremely moving, personal account of the war in her home country of Ukraine, and her coming to the UK as a refugee. She left us with a request: British people tend to avoid asking about topics that could be

upsetting, but Valeriia urged us to talk to her about her experiences: "People need to hear this", she insisted.

The senior competition was kicked off with a burst of energy from Isaac (L6 Clifford) who used his personal experience of studying at both Hayesfield 6F and Prior Park 6F to pose the question "Independent schools – are they worth the money?" His presentation was superbly delivered, and very insightful.

The highlight of the evening was without doubt Madina (U5 Arundell). She won first prize for her story of escaping Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, "Why I

left \$50,000 at an airport", which pulled no punches in its depiction of the brutality and terror that she so narrowly avoided. When Madina finished, there was barely a dry eye in the house. She then stood up again and delivered an off-the-cuff plea – with reference to the earlier speech by her 'sister' Valeriia – for people to ask about and talk about their experiences, and not to be embarrassed or worried about upsetting people who have escaped from war zones.

Mr Stroud



EAL Speaking Competitions

Throughout the year, the EAL department organises a series of speaking competitions for our international students in F4 – L6. Taking part in such an event is a big challenge, and we can only praise all the students for the effort they put into researching and writing their speeches and performing in front of their peers. The talks always cover a wide and interesting range of topics and this year's included 'The power of silence', 'The effects of parents being too controlling', 'Jack the Ripper', and 'Some parts of education are a waste of time.' Congratulations to all who took part and to the winners.



Short Stay Programme

Joining a school for just one, two or three terms has its challenges, and this is particularly true for those students who join part way through the year. However, Prior Park considers itself very fortunate to be able to welcome young people from many different countries, enriching our community, opening our minds, and widening our understanding of the world beyond Bath and the UK. We are very proud of our short stay students and are in awe of the courage they show every day, from the moment they arrive to the day they leave, and so this year, for the first time, we launched our Short

Stay Award in recognition of their participation in the life of the school and achievements during their time at Prior Park College.

To receive the award, students must also complete the International Diploma, which we launched last year, and which has become increasingly popular across the school. Students are awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold award, each reflecting a level of participation in, and contribution to, the school community.

Our school values are reflected in both the Short Stay Award and the International Diploma. Both programmes strongly

encourage students to adopt our values of **courage**, by trying new things and being brave every day, **curiosity**, by wanting to learn and understand more about our world and the people in it and **generosity**, by being kind and inclusive to people of all nationalities in our community, both staff and students alike.

We were very sad to say goodbye to some wonderful young people this year, but they should all be very proud of their achievements.

Mrs Carson



St Mary's

What an incredible year we have had in St Mary's Boarding House. We have seen some changes, but one thing that has remained the same is that St Mary's is a HOME to so many amazing young women. Alejandra and Alix were also wonderful ambassadors in their boarding committee roles.

We started the year with Mrs Wilson-Brown (and her beautiful baby bump!) in charge as House Parent. As usual, the returning St Mary's girls became firm and fast friends with the many new faces in the boarding house. Lots of fun was had as we all got to know each other better - usually with copious amounts of hot chocolate or Nutella crêpes.

At October half term, we said goodbye to Mrs Wilson-Brown with a baby shower organised by the girls before I stepped in as House Parent or "Housemama" as the girls called me. We were excited with the arrival of Alfred Wilson-Brown in November, not many babies have 67 big sisters!

Before we knew it, Christmas had arrived, and we had a fabulous pizza and pyjama party with a host of silly awards presented ('most likely to sleep through the fire alarm'). Sadly, we said goodbye to our Chilean boarding sisters with the wonder-

ful Kamli being voted 'Woman of the Term' by the House community.

The Lent Term arrived with new boarding sisters and a healthy obsession with netball. It was a fast term and before we knew it, we had voted Natalie as our second 'Woman of the Term'.

After the Easter break, we returned to beautiful sunshine in St Mary's. The addition of new sun loungers to our gorgeous garden was certainly well utilised during study leave. Our garden became the place to be for the remainder of the term where we held house meetings, pizza parties, water fighting competitions (sorry Mr Nicholls!) and, most excitingly, an ice cream party to celebrate the end of Emily's chemotherapy treatment. The house also participated in silly TikTok dances, which provided so much entertainment to all. The ever-smiling Greta was our final 'Woman of the Term'.

As we said goodbye at the end of an incredible year of so much fun and so many memories, there were quite a few tears shed. But as we always tell the St Mary's girls, friendships are made to last a lifetime, no matter the distance.

Mel Gittins

St Paul's

St Paul's has been a joyous place to be this year, with a great set of boarders supported by experienced resident tutors, Mr Edwards, Mr Lovat and Mr Holmes, and our visiting tutors, (sadly we say farewell to some), Mr Elliott, Mr Firmin, Miss Duncan and Justin. All are much respected and have contributed vastly, thank you.

Junior boarding was as busy and as entertaining as ever, and the boys immersed themselves into everything with energy, plenty of imagination and good heart. On quieter days, the boys remarkably entertained themselves. We have enjoyed many special moments from reading groups, and film club was fun, although selections at times were questionable.

The Senior House experienced a whirlwind of activity. Ordinarily, quiet time begins at 9pm, however we were on Chilean time and the period of 'la noche', where the house comes alive after 9. Boys, you brought so much energy and laughter; your humour, pranks, and seeing your relationships blossom was a joy to behold.

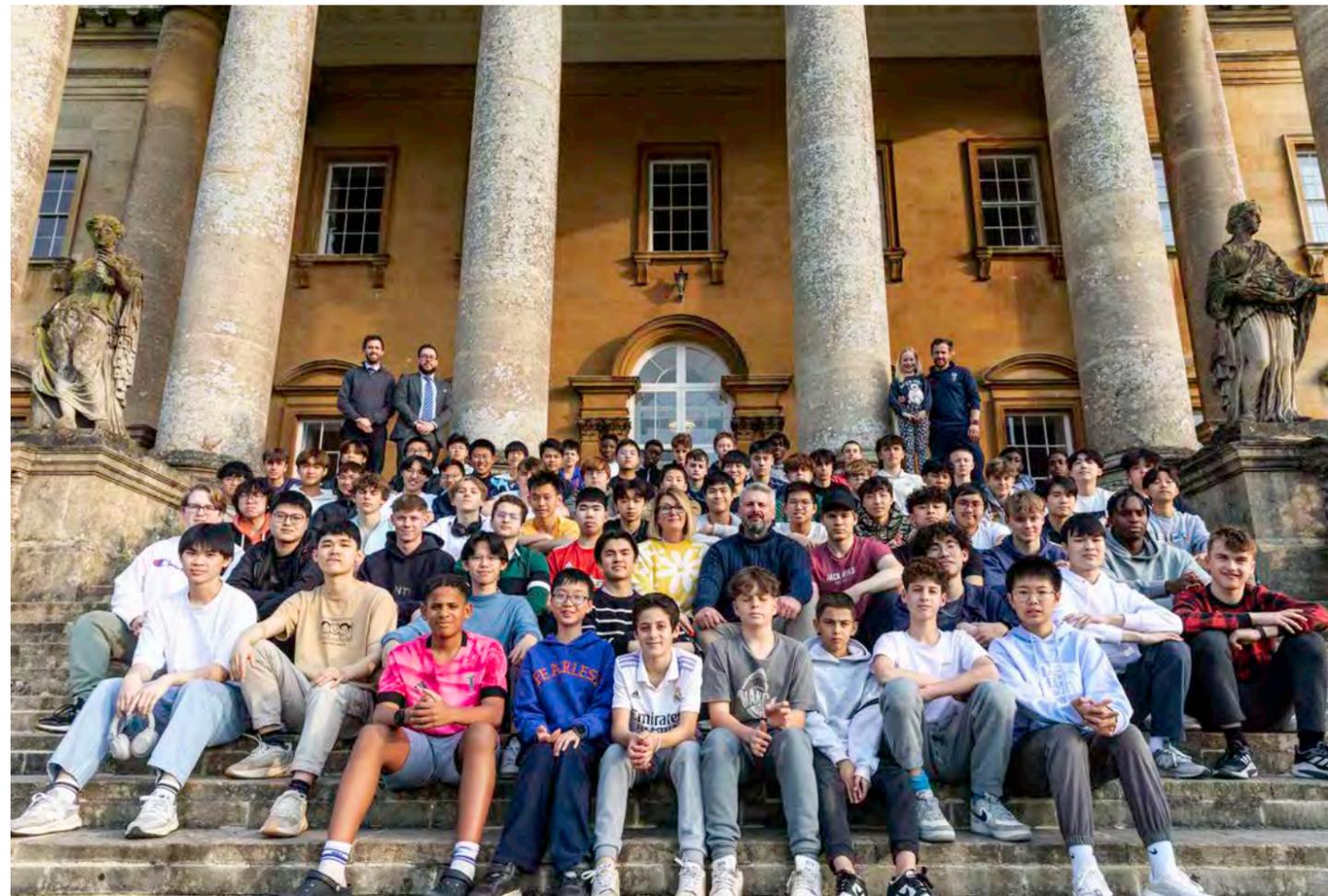
A daily highlight this year was seeing the excitement as boys came

to collect the many parcels delivered to school, some big and some small, before they suddenly realised they had to open their online purchase in the presence of Carrie! Oh, how we have laughed.

Our boarders have been to many social events outside school, some taking pictures and others turning to filmmaking to share their experiences.

Our senior members have remained strong and tight as a family community, and all are well respected – the younger boys look up to them with much fondness. Some of our U6 leavers have been boarding with us for seven years. Each and every one has been amazing and will be sorely missed; we will treasure memories of this group for years to come, from The Pink Panther's Kato type of ambush, to the impromptu WWE The King of the Ring single elimination events. It has been a pleasure to get to know all of you, and we look forward to seeing you grow and thrive as you progress through life.

Mr and Mrs Jenkins, House Parents



Visual Arts Showcase

The pinnacle of the Visual Arts' calendar this academic year was the Showcase Exhibition in November. The exhibition filled the whole of the Visual Arts department, presenting a superb array of A Level, GCSE and KS3 work across the disciplines of Art, Textiles and Photography.

An evening of education and celebration, parents and students were first treated to a fascinating presentation by alumnus Tom Brass, Creative Director of Jellyfish Pictures. A BAFTA-winning animator who has worked on numerous high-profile TV and film projects, Tom offered students a stunning

glimpse into digital animation and the creation of virtual worlds. After some presentations to new Art Ambassadors and GCSE prize-winners, the evening was spent talking art, viewing the exhibition with the help of student guides, and picking out early Christmas presents from the wonderful collection of prints made by the Art Society, with all proceeds donated to the school charity, Julian House.

Ms Seville



F4 Art and Textiles Exhibition

The vast array of creativity and flair from our F4 Art and Textiles students was on display as an exhibition of work opened to parents and students. Titled 'Inside & Outside: Inspiring Environments', the exhibition showcased a wide variety of artistic style and materials. To part-

ner the artwork, a written description of the exhibition described the creative journey the students had taken to deliver such excellent pieces.

"This collection of work is a culmination of skills learnt, creative independence and refinement, inspired by the theme 'Environments'.

Taking risks was encouraged, and the wonderful diversity of outcomes in this exhibition is a testament to students' eagerness to do just that."

Ms Seville

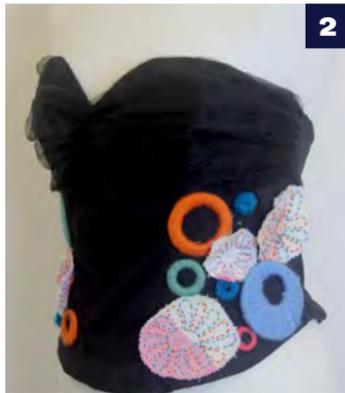


Eco-posters

Keen artists from L3, F3 & F4 participated in an inter-schools competition run by Go Green Widcombe to produce posters promoting energy saving. Helen Peter, representing Go Green Widcombe visited the Visual Arts Department to present prizes and commendations for many wonderful entries. Special congratulations to prize-winners Ruby, Charlie, and Owen.

Ms Seville

Visual Arts GCSE



- 1** Yici Liu
- 2** Chloe Stoddart
- 3** Chloe Ashbee
- 4** Charlotte Gent
- 5** Elizabeth Collins
- 6** Emilia Jones
- 7** Freya Bradford
- 8** Sofiyah Karimu
- 9** Chloe Ashbee
- 10** Sophia Wyatt
- 11** Yuan Wong

- 12** Milo Ward
- 13** Maia Masouleh-Spackman
- 14** Ava Sullivan
- 15** Alex Moir
- 16** Oliver Jackson
- 17** Arthur Hamilton James
- 18** Isabella Downey
- 19** Luna Lui
- 20** Sin Tung Lwong
- 21** Mandakh-Erdene Sainjargal
- 22** Martha Dutton



Visual Arts A Level



- 1** Eliza Ashbee
- 2** Veronica Wong
- 3** Selina Cheng
- 4** Orrin Mackay Hope
- 5** Wilson Tse
- 6** Florence Scotland
- 7** Fern Plaekchangwe
- 8** Eloise Sigournay

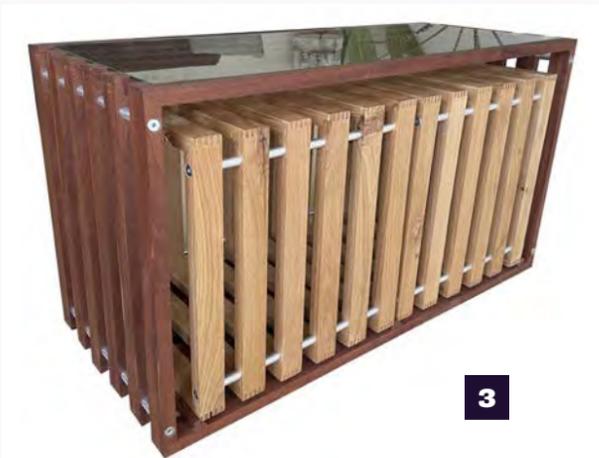
- 9** Alejandra Sanchez Baron
- 10** Olivia Taylor
- 11** Jessamie Walsh
- 12** Kitty Xu
- 13** Casper Summers
- 14** Imogen Burton
- 15** Islay Sage
- 16** Amelia Lavington

Design & Technology GCSE



- 1** Reuben Lewis
- 2** Samuel Marshall
- 3** Quintin Lee
- 4** Theo Ares
- 5** Charlotte Chow
- 6** Milo Johnson Stefiuk
- 7** Billy Clarke
- 8** Joshua Wake
- 9** Bea Howells
- 10** Louis Forsyth
- 11** Eugene Chan

Design & Technology A Level



- 1** Imogen Burton
- 2** Imogen Burton
- 3** Eliza Ashbee
- 4** Ewan Hipperson
- 5** Georgie Dutton
- 6** Georgie Dutton
- 7** Nicholas Fourie
- 8** Oliver Squires
- 9** William Howells
- 10** Harvey Thompson

House of Bernarda Alba

Mr Langley's production of Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* was the realisation of a project begun in 2020, with a different cast, and interrupted twice by Covid lockdowns. This play saw many talented performers make their debut in a school production. The students, no strangers to the confinements of house arrest themselves, showed skill and judgement in their interpretation of the play, which combines a tense domestic drama with a symbolic model for life in Franco's Spain.

Throughout, we were aware of the tedium of life in the house, punctuated by moments of fear as the harshness of Bernarda's rule became evident. Marina Franco Overington did full justice to the role and was a truly commanding and brutal matriarch. Equally impressive, albeit in a quieter way, were Amelia Cattanach and Emily Hickman as Poncia and the Maid, as they provided the dramatic commentary and kept the household ticking over. The daughters themselves, condemned to eight years of mourning,

and effectively immured in Bernarda's house – were brilliantly played by Emma Hallam, Victoria Corfield, Islay Sage, Clara Straw and Tammi Renee Lockey. This cast managed to convey the sense of pent-up frustration and the pressured dynamics of sibling relationships very effectively.

The household's various tensions built up over successive acts, and increasingly we were made to feel the pressures on the boundary between Bernarda's house and the world outside. The visit of Prudencia (a role shared by Bea Howells and Chloe Stoddart) gave us a sense of the other domestic dramas playing out in the village. Here the very effective and beautiful set (Dave Langley) and the lighting (Sophie Green and Max Hall) helped convey the sense of life outside and the ways it would increasingly disrupt the family. The growing tensions between inside and outside were also developed through sound, which punctuated the uneasy silence of Bernarda's house. Although we never see Pepe,

the object of at least three of the sisters' affection, we were made to feel his presence through the powerful language the girls use about him. The scenes in which the daughters stake their claims on him were particularly well-played. Lucy Moore, playing Maria Josefa, provided a poignant counterpoint to her granddaughters' pent-up longings in her own lyrical bids for escape.

The culmination of all of this came in the final battle over Pepe. The final act was notable not only for Emma Hallam's compelling portrayal of Adela, but also for the expert pacing of the action. The sense of tension was palpable and, as the tragedy unfolded, the all-female cast made us feel the effects of this tightly controlled, repressive society. This was underlined by Marina Franco Overington's commands at the end, as Bernarda orchestrates the cover-up, securing the family's reputation. Overall, a beautifully played, visually striking production.

Dr McGowran





Grease the Musical



Bookending a run of ten musicals produced by Colette Byron and myself are two productions of Grease. This second production was not only so much more than the first, but probably brought together one of the best companies we have ever had the pleasure to direct.

From the outset, this group of immensely talented actors showed what could be done with this musical. What impressed us the most is how comfortable they were with each other (not always easy for teenagers to be believable when so many are supposed to fall in love with at least one other character) and to add to that, this group was probably the quickest at learning dance moves – and remembering them. This allowed us to really push the boundaries, and the results were spectacular.

Danny (Robbie Nesbitt)

and Sandy (Lucia Haywood Rogers) led the way with strong singing and convincing acting. They were supported by the 'Greasers' – Ewan Hipperson, Ben Humphries, Ralph Banks and Giles Pickford, and the 'Pink Ladies' – Eliza Tjolle, Sophie Gendle, Sophie Hunter and Seren Johnson-Stefuik. The latter, as Rizzo, brought the house down each night with her rendition of There are Worse Things I Could Do.

Supporting these actors was a company playing many roles with multiple costume changes. Congratulations go to Daisy Gallen, Isabella Downey, Lola Evans, Jude Brayton, George Campbell-Jones, Justin Wong, Ella Brown, Joshua Frere, Hattie Coxall, Joachim Pickford, Alulla Schoeman and Reuben Ward.

The cast were accompanied by an amazing band led

by Mr Nicholls and included Ella King, Hannah Wyatt, Lilla Chicco, Mr Haines and Mr Dishington.

Tech support was from Talia Arnaout, Emma Kerrigan, Ruben Frere, Max Hall and James Partington.

There was never a dull moment. Every song had a highlight, but as we now look back after some Summer Nights, we can remember the Magic Changes that took over our lives for a few short months and, whether we are Dancing at the High School Hop or just Mooning around, we know we will always Go Together.

And thank you Colette for all the years of triumph and enjoyment. It's gone by faster than Greased Lightning!

P.S. Grease IS the Word.

Mr Sackett



Junior House Music

Baines Solo

Arthur B on trumpet performing 'Trumpet Tune' by Purcell.

Brownlow Solo

Juliet S singing 'When Will My Life Begin' from Tangled.

Baines Small Group

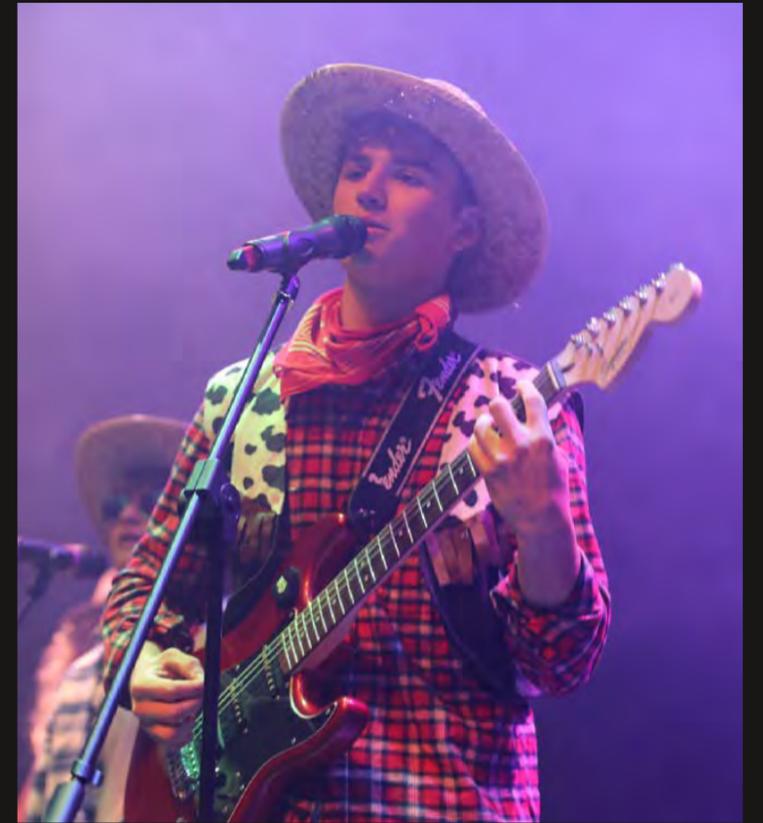
Milo C and Tommy R performing 'Great Balls of Fire'.

Brownlow Small Group

Lucas W and Reuben W performing 'All of Me'.

House Song

Francis/More tutor groups singing



Senior House Music

Solo
Robbie Nesbit (U6 Burton) performing 'When I Was Your Man' by Bruno Mars

Group
English House performing 'Man, I Feel Like A Woman' by Shania Twaine

House Song
Fielding House performing 'Dear Future Husband' by Meghan Trainor

Overall winner
Fielding House



Christmas Concert

The timpanists dream – ‘Also Sprach Zarathustra’ by Strauss – otherwise known as the opening chords to 2001: A Space Odyssey (go on – sing it in your head now before I move on, you know you want to!) heralded the opening of our 2022 Christmas Concert. The evening was an opportunity to showcase some of the winners and other highlights from the recent House Music competition – Robbie Nesbitt (U6), Lola Evans (L6) and the bands from Roche and English Houses re-polishing their performances for the occasion. The concert was also the perfect chance to feature our College chamber ensembles, directed weekly by members of our fantastic peripatetic teaching staff. String Quartet and the African Drummers

– performing on both African drums and Taiko pipe drums, were both on fine form. The Wind Ensemble pivoted our evening into the festive spirit with a whimsical arrangement of ‘Deck the Halls’ before the audience kept the blood circulating with some rousing renditions of ‘Good King Wenceslas’, ‘Jingle Bells’ and ‘We Wish You a Merry Christmas’, all accompanied by the College Orchestra. Our festive audience participation also featured two multitasking members of the Senior Leadership Team – Mr Ho-Ho-Horan and Mr Candy-Cane-Hardy, centre stage on sleigh bells! All in all, a fantastic conclusion to a busy first term of music-making.

Mr Nicholls



Scholars' Concert

After a stunning early evening view over Bath with drinks on the Mansion Portico, and the awarding of Scholars' badges, the concert began in earnest with a confident trumpet solo from Bob Horner (L3). Other highlights included performances from two scholars new to the college – Imogen Clack (F3) on the cello and Nicholas Wotton (F4) on the clarinet. Charlotte Gent (U5) stunned with

the serenity and poise of her performance on harp, and the evening concluded with our two U6 scholars, Emma Kerrigan and Sophia Thorpe, demonstrating the progression and standard of music-making that can be achieved by committed Prior musicians during their time at the College.

Mr Nicholls



Salisbury Cathedral

Our Senior Chapel Choir saw bumper audition numbers this year, swelling in size to over 40 members. This was just as well, considering the busy year of events that lay ahead. The choir continues to provide musical support to our chapel services, including Remembrance, Confirmations and Leavers' Mass. December saw the choir complete a joint

concert with The Handful Chamber Choir in St Mary's Bathwick. This was closely followed by a trip to Salisbury Cathedral in January. The choir were treated to a guided tour, including viewing the Magna Carta. We then rehearsed and sang the service of Evensong – a sung service which forms part of the rhythm of worship that has been performed daily

at Salisbury Cathedral for over 800 years. The choir were rewarded with pizzas in Salisbury, after the service. They also received a letter of thanks and a return invitation from the Dean, who complimented their 'impeccable diction and emotional connection to their singing'.

Mr Nicholls



Band Night

Late March saw the Julian Slade Theatre turned into its version of the O2 as seventeen acts filled the bill at this year's Band Night.

Codex covered The Strokes' Bad Decision, Havana was performed by Last Minute, and No Doubt's Don't Speak was performed by Silver Lining. Two bands, Peter & David and Raulen House Band added to a first half which was brought to a close by Participation Award (the Staff Band).

The Second half was kicked off by the emerging talent, The Tides, led by Elina and Emil, who also performed a duet of Let it Go by James Bay. JOS, Broken Elbow, Fin'n'Joe and Lola added their voices to a range of songs including Rufus Wainwright, Lana Del Ray and Oasis.

Our U6 performers, Hannah, Emma, Ralph, Robbie, Seren, Emma and guest Carlos featured in a range of duets, trios and the occasional super group. The headline act went to Rubix, in their final appearance seven years on from their debut. Robbie, Ewan, Ralph, Louis and Henry set the theatre rocking one last time with hits from Green Day, Wheatus, and The Eagles.

Mr Sackett



Summer Concert

A fabulous evening's entertainment awaited all who attended our Summer Concert in May. Near as it was to the King's Coronation, much of the musical offering was somewhat regal, beginning with a triumphant Crown Imperial (Walton) from the College Orchestra, followed by a peaceful rendition of Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Greensleeves, both pieces having been performed in the 1953 and 2023 coronation services. The Senior

Chapel Choir performances included Byrd's Ave Verum in the 400th anniversary year of his death, followed by the String Quartet's arrangement of Hallelujah. Three Lower 3 trumpeters performed a rousing Brass Suite before some energetic Djembe Drumming by the percussion ensemble. The Schola Cantorum sang some a capella items including the timely Now is the Month of Maying by Morley, and our newly formed Jazz Band played their first official

concert, with some great solos in C Jam Blues and Cantaloupe Island. The final part of the concert featured the Lower School Choir, who performed three highly contrasting pieces, Britten, Chilcott and Susie Hare. Juniors and seniors joined for a finale performance of Pompeii by Bastille, complete with audience off-beat clapping. All in all, a wonderful celebration of music at Prior.

Mr Dishington



Music Exam Results

Michaelmass 2022

Adrian Shum	Piano	Grade 8	Pass
Selina Cheng	Violin	Grade 6	Pass
Alfie Parkin	Piano	Grade 6	Distinction
Juliet Stanbridge	Singing	Grade 4	Pass
Carley Hung	Double Bass	Grade 4	Pass
Lexie Weber	Flute	Grade 3	Pass
Thomas Catlow	Piano	Grade 2	Pass

Lent 2023

Emma Kerrigan	Singing	ARSM	Distinction
Ralph Banks	Trumpet	Grade 8	Pass
Sam Burton	Drumkit	Grade 7	Merit
Justin Wong	Piano	Grade 7	Pass
Anoushka Campbell-Jones	Violin	Grade 5	Pass
Joachim Pickford	Trumpet	Grade 5	Pass
Bob Horner	Trumpet	Grade 4	Merit
Arthur Bridges	Trumpet	Grade 3	Merit
Stan Shaw	Trumpet	Grade 3	Merit
Casper David	Alto Saxophone	Grade 3	Merit
Hannah Hart	Piano	Grade 2	Pass

Summer 2022

Ewan Hipperson	Music Theatre	DipLCM	Approved
Emma Hallam	Singing	Grade 8	Distinction
Eleanor Brown	Music Theatre	Grade 7	Distinction
Lucia Hayward Rogers	Music Theatre	Grade 6	Distinction
Imogen Clack	Cello	Grade 5	Merit
Juliet Stanbridge	Singing	Grade 5	Merit
Hannah Talbot	Singing	Grade 5	Distinction
Sofia Hull	Music Theatre	Grade 4	Distinction
Freya Downey	Singing for MT	Grade 4	Pass
Alfred Parkin	Cello	Grade 4	Merit
Reuben Ward	Violin	Grade 3	Merit
Miles Chu	Alto Saxophone	Grade 1	Merit
Thomas Catlow	Flute	Grade 1	Merit
Melia Harward	Singing	Grade 2	Pass
Milo Ward	Drumkit	Grade 2	Merit
Ossy Sloane	Guitar	Initial	Merit

Mid Somerset Festival Results

Senior Chapel Choir – The Brassknocker Cup
Distinction, Winners of the Free Choice Class, Distinction in the Sacred Music Class.

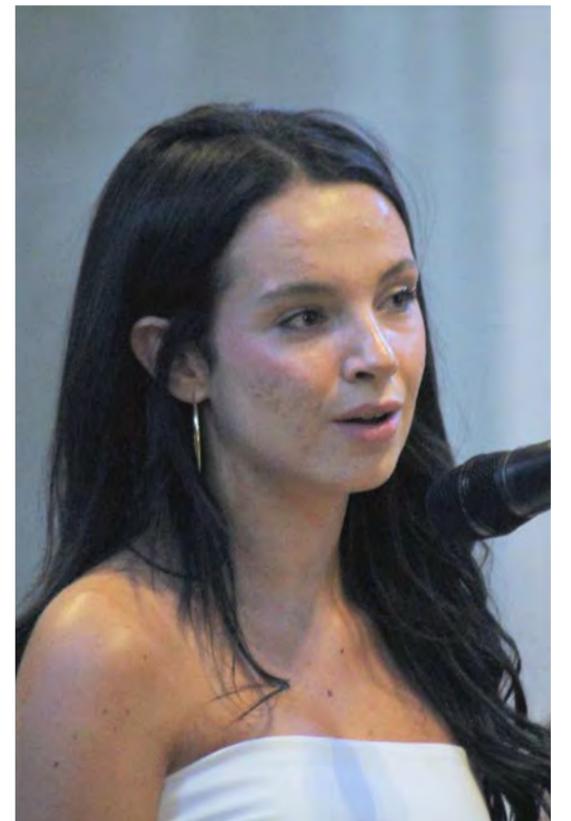
Emma Kerrigan
Winner of the Oratorio & Sacred Music Class

Brass Group – The MSCF Salver
Winners in their Instrumental Class, Distinction

Schola Cantorum
Commended

African Drummers – The Harold Browne Cup
Winners in their Instrumental Class, Distinction

Junior Choir
Commended



Grand Leavers' Concert

A packed chapel was treated to a set of the finest performances from our leaving U6's particularly grand set of Grand Leavers. The solo performances, accompanied by a professional string orchestra, were all of the highest calibre and were utter testament to the hard work and dedicated study that the performers have shown to music over the years, and the resulting joy that it brings them and all those around them. Seren Johnson Stefiuk, Ben Humphries, Robbie Nesbitt, Emma Kerrigan, Emma

Hallam, Ewan Hipperson all wowed with the raw emotion in their vocal performances. Ralph Banks took to the rostrum to conduct his own composition for orchestra, whilst Hannah Wyatt showed her versatility with a performance on Spanish guitar. Our two leaving A Level musicians also impressed with their skill in instrumental playing, Ralph performing a movement from Hummel's Trumpet Concerto, whilst Emma Kerrigan performed the entirety of Vivaldi's virtuosic violin concerto 'Winter' – a

piece that demonstrates her extraordinary ability for a musician of her age. The evening concluded with the solo performers and other U6 choir members joining with the orchestra to sing Sullivan's haunting 'The Long Day Closes' – a finale that left many a damp eye for performers, audience, and Director of Music alike! To our U6 who have given so much to the College through their musical talents over many years we say, 'Thank You'.

Mr Nicholls



Rugby

My first year here at Prior Park College as Head of Rugby has been a very enjoyable one. Within no time at all, I realised each year group had great numbers of players wanting to play rugby. I was able to put two teams out for every year group, but I was more pleased with the quality and enthusiasm that the students showed towards the sport. It only took a week for me to realise that I was going to be very happy with my decision to move to PPC.

The Michaelmas term started off with a block fixture against Monkton, which provided good competitive games across all year groups. The 1st XV game was a screamer but unfortunately, we were kept up over the line in the last minute of the game to miss out on the win. The 1st XV went on to enjoy good wins over the likes of Wycliff, QEH, Clayesmore, and a Millfield development side on the Sir Gareth Edwards pitch. A special mention to the F4 A team who played some fantastic rugby throughout the term, only losing one of

their 10 fixtures.

In the 7s season it's always difficult to get the right balance between the boys playing hockey and sevens. The enthusiasm towards rugby was once again outstanding and we were able to get three year groups to tournaments across the southwest. This was good preparation for Rosslyn Park National school Sevens, where we had an U5 VII and 1st VII compete well but just missed out on qualifying for the next day. F4 VII continued their 15 a side form, going undefeated through the first day. Only the winning side, Eton, were able to beat them in the semi-final group stages.

We had plenty of successful stories in rugby away from Prior Park. Prior has 18 players from F4 to U5 in Bath and Bristol academies. Will Knights (Bristol), Will Howells and Stan Muigai (Bath) have competed in the U18 Academy League and enjoyed some great individual performances.

One of my individual goals was to start girls' rugby at Prior. In the summer term we had more than 20

L3-L5 training. The plan is to continue training throughout the year as an activity and my goal is to take a sevens team to the Rosslyn Park girls festival in 2025 – watch this space!

I said to every team after my first week of coaching that the future is bright for Prior Park rugby, and that wasn't a lie. I look forward to the challenge of fulfilling the school's potential.

Mr Baxter

Half colours

Sacha Wakefield, Ethan Teale, Nick Greene

Full colours

Will Knight, Cam Smith, Stan Muigai

Player's player

Sacha Wakefield

Most improved

Henry Barker

Player of the Year

Will Knight



Hockey

It was a pleasure to start at Prior Park in January and, with my first season over, there are several highlights. The girls' hockey season was a successful one with so many playing and representing the school. The big successes were the U14s and their qualification for Nationals where they finished a very respectful 3rd place. A very well done to the team, and to Georgia Doel, who captained it superbly. The U12 and U13 teams showed a great level of improvement and development throughout the term and had some great results. The first team worked incredibly hard throughout the season and produced impressive victories against the likes of Monkton, Downside, and Clifton High School. A special mention goes to Annabelle Goymer who captained the team with

a cool, calm and collected manner. A new first team should hopefully start next season well, following their pre-season tour to Gibraltar.

The boys' hockey saw a mixed set of results, but all involved in matches and training sessions throughout the season have shown a welcoming and can-do attitude.

The highlight of the boys' season was the U13 team winning both regionals and putting in a very strong performance in the county qualifiers, putting the school in a great place for the future. A special mention to Reuben Frere who captained the team with a very mature head and showed an excellent level of commitment, going the extra mile for the team.

The boys first XI have been great to work with and I have thoroughly enjoyed

coaching them. With no pre-season and a change of coach, the boys have done a great job of adapting and welcoming me to the school. Hockey has had its ups and downs and we struggled with consistent performances, but we did improve and managed some excellent results against Clifton College, Collegiate, Wells, and Downside. A special mention goes to Jack Webb for his captaincy, and to Oliver Squire, who stepped in as an excellent skipper in Jack's absence.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the success of Jack Webb, who has achieved the honor of representing his country this year, and will play in the European championship in July. Congratulations and all the best for your hockey career, Jack.

Mr Milne



Netball

This year, I was particularly impressed by the number of students getting involved in one of the thirteen PPC teams. Although we were, at times, halted by ice or snow, the students remained determined and enthusiastic until the end of the season, showcasing great resilience and drive.

The 12As brought lots of talent, notably Sophia Brown, who won the award for Coaches' Player, and Alice Rolfe for Most Improved. With wins against St Mary's Calne and an excellent effort in the KES U12 Netball tournament, this team will undoubtedly be one to watch next year. The U12Bs also won against St Mary's Calne and demonstrated significant progress throughout the season. Isla Pellow and Elen Dixon contributed greatly to these victories, earning Coaches' Player and Most Improved respectively.

The U13As won against Monkton Combe, RHS, and Clifton High. They also impressed in the KES U13 Netball tournament, holding their own against tough competition. Lexie Weber earned the award of Coaches' Player and Imogen Davies earned Most Improved. The U13B squad had wins against St Mary's Calne, RHS and Clifton High. Noteworthy players included Zara Whetherly and Lily Fitzpatrick, who were awarded the Coaches' Player and Most Improved awards this year. The U13C squad played several brilliant matches,

particular thanks must go to Juliet Stanbridge as Coaches' Player and Meryn Astill, lauded as the Most Improved.

Mrs Redman skilfully guided the U14A team through the season, every member improving their play and taking home wins against Downside, Wells, Warminster, and Clifton High. Isla Townend earned herself the award of Coaches' Player with Violet Goymer, who showed great improvement throughout the season. The U14Bs with their coach Miss Bloomfield secured similar wins, surviving the bitterly cold outdoor courts on multiple occasions. Charli Gittens and Layla Wakefield were awarded Coaches' Player and Most Improved.

The U15As faced much tough opposition, however this only made them up their game and secure wins over Downside, Warminster, and Clifton High. It was always a pleasure to watch them play. Phoebe Tombs and Jemima Banks showed particularly impressive skills, landing them the awards of Coaches' Player and Most Improved. The U15Bs also did a phenomenal job this season with Miss Khan. They walked away with a trail of wins against most of the schools they played. Many thanks to Freya Preston (Coaches' Player) and Emily Johnson (Most Improved) for their excellent contributions.

Senior Netball was similarly successful. The newly

formed fourth team epitomised resilience and teamwork. Victoria Corfield was awarded Coaches' Player by Miss Brough, and Pia Warner de Waily earned Most Improved. Mr Bond's mighty thirds also didn't disappoint, putting in an excellent effort on court and taking home wins against Downside, Warminster, and a hard-fought draw against King's Bruton. Ella King (Coaches' Player) and Isabella Downey (Most Improved) were integral to their success. The second team went from strength to strength with the captaincy of Alexandra Doel (Coaches' Player), winning against Downside, Wells, and Warminster, and drawing against QEH. Georgie Dutton also put in a great performance and was therefore chosen as Most Improved.

The first team, expertly led by Jessamie Walsh and coached by Miss Duncan, played skilfully and effectively in every match, taking home several wins along with an impressive performance at the Collegiate Netball tournament.

Mrs Clark

Half colours

Ellie Wylie; Emma Cahill; and Eloise Sigourney (Most Improved)

Full colours

Jessamie Walsh



Tennis

The tennis season started early this year with our boys U15, and girls U13 and U15 teams competing in the school regional finals in Exeter. There were some great matches and our girls U15s, which included Gigi Ifill, Izzie Britton, Nehir Tuna, Alex Mori and Philippa Schonert went on to finish 3rd in the LTA National School Finals. Our boys U18 team qualified for the National School Finals for the very first time, finishing in ninth place. Eric Lorimer, Alex Farmanbar, Charlie Swaine and Arthur Atrill are to be commended for their competitive performances.

In January, our very cold and wet pre-season training didn't deter the girls from heading out to the Astro every Monday evening to work on their tennis, fitness, and competitive games of doubles champions. It came as no surprise then that when our tennis season started this summer term, and the sun finally came out, the girls were ready to go.

The U12s displayed great energy and footwork this season and made real progress with excellent fixtures against Stonar, Warminster, and Kingswood, to name a few.

The U13 teams have built on the strong foundation they developed last year and

boast wins against Kingswood, Wells, and Warminster. The U13 Girls A team won their LTA school team tennis match against Clifton College to secure a place in the county finals which will take place in September. I am excited to see how this year group progress.

The U14 A team has gone from strength to strength with an unbeaten winning record this year – huge congratulations to them all. The U14 B team remained cool, calm and collected despite challenging fixtures and they have made steady progress.

The U15 girls secured convincing wins over Kings Bruton, Clifton College, and Warminster. They worked well together as a team and the commitment they have shown to fixtures is commendable. It will be exciting to see them transition into the senior teams next year.

Our senior teams, despite mixed success in fixtures, have maintained a positive and upbeat approach. The girls 1st team had impressive wins over Kingswood and Monkton, and will draw extra strength next year from the L6 players returning to the team.

It has been a great summer of tennis and it's been wonderful to see so

many pupils playing tennis with their friends during their lunch breaks, in games fixtures and tennis clubs, making use of the tennis opportunities we have available at school.

Finally, our staff and students mixed doubles tournament in the last week of term created much excitement. There were some fiercely competitive and close matches – the tournament winners were Mr Cane-Hardy and Mr Baxter.

Mrs Scollo

Junior Half colours

Connie Forsythe, Amalie Johnston, Lexie Weber, India Murray, Charlotte Abercrombie.

Junior Full colours

Hannah Talbot, Hannah Hart, Imogen Davies, Yasmin Banks.

Senior Half colours

Eloise Sigourney, Sophie Hunter, Lottie Grech, Euan Hatvany, Nick Fury, Ben Humphries.

Senior Full colours

Jemima Shakespeare, Alex Doel, Abdulaziz Amanullayev





Cricket

A recap of the season should start with the U12s and U13s, who have shown tremendous potential. Special mentions go to Alby Jackman, Jack Wheeler, Jake Slemen and Jacob Faulkner – great work lads. The U14s have been well captained by Will Taylor, and it's fantastic to see his development. The 15s, led by Josh Knight, recorded some solid wins and will be targeting senior teams next year. The seniors have a talented squad, and after a mixed start, it was good to see them playing well, particularly the 1st XI during Cricket Week. Thank you to Ethan Teale, Henry Allen, Ned Hannah, Ben Menko, Louis Huyton and Ralph Banks for their contributions to Prior cricket. And now it's over to the 1st XI skipper, Ethan Teale, for his take on the 1st XI season.

'This year's 1st XI has had some ups and downs. We started the season very well, with a landslide victory over Collegiate. Our game against Clifton was cut short after a downpour of rain, which was unfortunate as an exciting game was unravelling. A loss to a strong Beechen side was followed by a match against Monkton. Losing the toss, they batted first, and whilst we put up a decent bowling performance, their total was too high for us

to reach and we ended up losing by 50 runs. Next came Downside, which saw a solid bowling performance from Prior to keep them to a mere 111/9. Ollie Kohut and Wilf Everritt opened well, chasing down most of the runs themselves. Our final match before Cricket Week was disappointing. After a fantastic opening bowling partnership from Ethan Teale and Will Goymer, Wells were 19/5 off 7 overs. A strong middle order partnership got them to 70 all out. This was by far our best fielding outing, but it wasn't followed by our batting, as Prior Park were bowled out for 50!

We began Cricket Week with matches against the Alumni and Collegiate (round 2). Both matches were led by Ned Hannah, and with two strong victories it was a wonderful way to begin the week. This winning streak continued into the XL fixture, as Prior really came together as a team, batting and bowling well. We then faced our toughest opponent, the MCC. A strong batting performance saw them set a total of 308 before declaring and putting us into bat. Unfortunately, it wasn't our day and we were bowled out with 7 overs remaining.

Over the course of the

season there were many standout performances. Wilf Everritt had a superb season with the bat, scoring several 50s. Ollie Kohut had a great season with bat and ball. Josh Baldwin hit 84 runs off 59 against the XL Club and Ethan Teale a magnificent 92 against Collegiate. With the ball, Prior was led by Will Goymer, Ethan Teale and Ollie Kohut, who pieced together many good spells and led the team to some successful performances. This was backed up by Connie Osborn and Ben Menko, two fantastic bowlers who 'steadied the ship' in many cases. Lastly our vice-captain Henry Allen, who provided the alternative of spin, grabbing many wickets, including 3 against Clifton and 5 against Kingswood. He was also a strong voice in the field, showing his knowledge and expertise in cricket. Well done everyone!

Mr Pandya

Full colours

Henry Allen, Ethan Teale, Ned Hannah, Ben Menko, Ralph Banks

Half colours

Louis Huyton, Wilf Everritt, Ollie Kohut, Connie Osborn, William Goymer

Elective Sports

Miss Duncan

Basketball

It has been a very busy year for our basketball team and the basketball programme continues to grow with lots of new faces as well as the experienced players step-

ping up. We had an U16 and U18 team this year and they played some strong schools and got some great results against Cliton College, Monkton, Lords Bishops

Wadsworth and Wycliffe. We awarded full colours in basketball for the first time to the following students: Marco Chan, Alec Chiang and Carson Hung.



Swimming

We are working hard on the swimming and had a great Swimming Gala against Monkton, where our juniors were able to showcase their talents and show off all their hard work. We would also like to recognise Jess Lawton, (L6E) who recently came 15th in the 100m fly at the Junior Europeans. A phenomenal achievement, so well done Jess!



Badminton

Badminton is going from strength to strength, and the students are impressing throughout the term. We had some matches against Wells Cathedral and Monkton, with the students playing a mixture of doubles as well as singles.

Cross Country

Finlay D (L6) and Amalie J (L3) competed in this season's Regional Cross Country event at Clifton College, where Amalie finished 3rd and Finlay 4th.

In the Regional rounds, both students did very well with Amalie finishing an impressive 23rd and Finlay

qualifying for the England Schools Race later this year.

We had a team enter the Inter Boys Race (F4 – U5) at the Kingswood 'Off Road' Race. Archie, Theo, David, Jude and Edward all participated in the Team Event and were placed 2nd. A special mention must go to Archie E

(F4) who finished an impressive 2nd overall in the race, a great achievement.



Football

The 1st team had a strong start to the season with a match against the Argentinian touring side Palermo Chico. The boys showed great character and deter-

mination. Following that, the students kept training hard throughout the week and had a competitive fixture list against schools such as Downside, QEH,

and Clifton High. We had teams from U18s through to U12s and it was great to see them get involved in the Saturday matches.



Athletics

There has been many amazing athletics achievements this year – the main event was the BANES Athletics Championships held at Bath University. We had some strong performances on the day and all the students that

represented Prior Park did very well.

It is important to acknowledge some other great achievements on the track:

Charlie Staddon won Bronze in 110m hurdles at

the English Schools' Championship.

Competing in his first international competition at Loughborough, Euan Murray became Paralympic National Junior Athletics 200m Champion.



Equestrian

Our small but dedicated equestrian team, made up of Esme, Holly, Hannah and Seren, had some notable success over the past year competing for Prior Park College. Esme (U5) and her horse Minnie competed in the NSEA Eventing Qualifier

at Rectory Farm and won the 90–95cm class, allowing her to compete at the Final Championship at Hickstead.

With wins and places across all the major equestrian disciplines, including dressage, showjumping and eventing, the girls and their

four-legged sidekicks have been real ambassadors for the school. We wish them well for future. Thanks also to Miss Underwood for her support for the team.

Ms Sandberg



Guest coaches

The sports department welcomed several guest coaches over the year, including:

Tom Dunn, Bath and England rugby player worked with the 1st and 2nd XV on line-out and scrum skills.

Olympic gold medalist, Jason Gardner, gave a talk to our sports scholars before moving on to a practical strength and conditioning session in the sports hall with sprint testing for some students. Nico (U5) record-

ing the quickest time.

Rugby World Cup winner, Lewis Moody worked with our L5 and U5 boys on tackle technique, decision making and mindset.





Sports Day winners

<i>Baines House Garrick</i>	<i>Senior Girls Arundell House</i>
<i>Brownlow House Alexander</i>	<i>Senior Boys Clifford House</i>

Academic Staff List 22/23

Senior Leadership Team

Mr B Horan	Headmaster
Ms E Sandberg	Director of Operations & Finance
Mr C Gamble	Deputy Head Academic
Mr S Cane-Hardy	Deputy Head Pastoral
Mr M Bond	Assistant Head (Co-Curricular)
Mrs I Burton	Assistant Head (Pupil Intervention)
Mr K Chard	Assistant Head (Director of Studies)
Mrs R Lennon	Assistant Head (Tracking)
Miss N Cordon	Assistant Head (Teaching & Learning)
Mr D Sackett	Assistant Head (Wellbeing)
Miss E Wickham	Head of Compliance

Teaching Staff

Mr R Archer	Head of Chemistry
Mrs V Bailey	Librarian
Mr T Barrat	Head of MFL, French
Mr M Baxter	Head of Rugby
Mr G Bazell	PE
Mrs J Bendry	SENCO Learning Support
Mr D Bloomer	Science
Miss S Bloomfield	Classics
Mr M Blaikley	Second in Mathematics, Assistant Exams Officer, Associate SLT Data
Mr M Bishop	Head of History
Mr M Bond	Assistant Head, PE and Sport
Mrs A Bonney	Housemistress – Burton, PE, Science
Ms H Brough	Psychology, Science
Mrs L Bryant	History, Head of EPQ
Mr J Buckley	Coordinator of Photography
Mr S Burt	Head of Geography
Mrs I Burton	Assistant Head, English
Ms W Callen	Careers Advisor
Mr S Cane-Hardy	Deputy Head Pastoral, Head of Boarding, History
Mrs C Carson	EAL
Ms J Caunt	Learning Development
Mr K Chard	Assistant Head, Head of Chemistry
Mrs O Clark	MFL, Spanish
Mrs A Colquhoun	Theology, Head of Sixth Form
Ms N Cordon	Assistant Head, Geography
Ms H Cox	Learning Development
Mrs H Currie	Librarian
Miss K Duncan	PE, Head of Netball
Mr R Dishington	Music
Mr S Edwards	Economics and Business
Mr J Elliott	Mathematics
Ms F Evans	Head of Psychology
Mr M Ewins	Mathematics
Mr R Faulkner	Head of Design and Technology
Mr R Firmin	History
Mr J Fitzpatrick	Economics and Business, Careers Coordinator

Mr R Francis	Mathematics
Mrs M Galache-Brown	MFL Assistant
Mr C Gamble	Deputy Head Academic, Physics
Mr J Gibbons	Head of Computer Science
Mrs H Goodman	Housemistress – Brownlow, Theology
Mrs K Harris	Theology, PSHCE Coordinator
Mrs S Hearn	Head of Classics
Mr J Healy	Housemaster – Baines, Mathematics
Mrs S Holder	Housemistress – English, Design Technology
Mr D Holmes	Housemaster – Roche, Design Technology
Ms K Hoodless	Textiles
Mr B Horan	History
Mr S Howe	Examinations Officer
Mr T Howes	Science
Mrs J Jones	Head of Mathematics
Mr M Jones	Head of Economics and Business
Ms L Justine	MFL
Mr M Kerr	Economics and Business
Mr D Langley	Director of Drama
Mrs R Lennon	Assistant Head, Head of Physics
Mr A Lovat	Housemaster – Allen, Biology
Mr X Lord	Science
Ms B Main	Head of Eurasian Studies
Mrs A Mallon	Housemistress – Fielding, MFL
Mr T Maxwell	Head of Theology
Dr K McGowran	Head of English
Mr C Milne	Head of Hockey
Mrs M Mudie	Biology, Coordinator of Initial Teacher Training
Mr M Nicholls	Director of Music
Mrs N Nugent-Willis	Science
Mr R Pandya	Housemaster – Clifford, PE, Head of Cricket, Head of Minor Sports
Mrs S Peacock	Drama
Ms A Pope	LAMDA
Mrs H Prynne	Classics
Mrs L Redman	Head of Academic and Curricular PE
Ms Riggs	Geography
Mr Sackett	Assistant Head, Music
Ms Sanchez Bermudez	MFL, Spanish
Mrs Scollo	PE, Head of Tennis
Ms S Seville	Head of Visual Arts
Mr P Stroud	Head of English as an Additional Language
Mrs K Trott	Housemistress – Arundell, Biology
Dr R Trott	Head of Science Faculty, Head of Biology
Mr A Watkinson-Trim	Theology, College Scholarship Coordinator
Mrs H Watson	Geography
Mrs E West	Visual Arts

Staff Farewells



Andy Haines

Andy first joined Prior Park College in 1998 as a teacher of Bass Guitar, a role he continues to hold. Shortly after his arrival, the Head at the time decided we needed an IT department and Andy was duly appointed to lead the way. His role grew and so did his team. IT started to expand as the school intranet was configured. Andy also had the unenviable task of working out how to put WiFi into 18th century listed buildings and guided all Prior schools from the dark ages into the super-fast fibre world of the 21st century.

Not satisfied with the newly formed empire, Andy found time to work on musical collaboration projects, especially with Mr Langley, who writes: "Andy can translate gobbledegook. He can take the most banal, unclear, random musical requirements, such as 'I'd really like it to be charging along' or 'can you do me some Scandinavian bleakness but with a nineteenth century bent' and produce the most wonderfully complex, impacting pieces of theat-

rical score. Our first show together was Berkoff's adaptation of Agamemnon and only Andy Haines would have had the gumption and the wherewithal to realise that snippets sampled from the first Matrix film soundtrack along with sfx from a couple of computer games, combined with a song from one of his favourite groups, 'Dead Can Dance' and a CNN news report about US military manoeuvres would make for the most thrilling theatrical introduction to a conquering hero returning to his homeland that I've ever heard. Utterly brilliant. I've used that track ever since in lessons when discussing montage and dramatic intent."

The end of an era has come. Thank you for everything you have done.

Mr Sackett and Mr Langley



Rob Trott

Rob joined Prior Park in 1990 from Epsom College. Impressing everyone with his professionalism and empathy, Rob quickly moved through the pastoral ranks at Prior, becoming firstly the Housemas-

ter of Burton in 1999, before he and Kate became residents of Prior when Rob took up the role of Housemaster of Roche.

At that time, Rob was a keen sportsman and very much part of the sports community at Prior. One dusty memory from the Rob Trott sporting archive was the time when he was in charge of the U15 rugby side and amongst his charges was one Ollie Robinson. Ollie's father, the England Rugby Team manager at the time, was watching from the sideline – Rob said he never felt so nervous refereeing a match!

CCF was another area that Rob excelled in. On one occasion, whilst demonstrating how to get over a wall safely, another teacher, Mr Pearn, decided to lean against him at just the right moment to ensure that Rob's wrist was snapped and broken. Not wanting the boys to be aware of the injury, Rob said nothing and carried on for the rest of the residency. On his return to Prior he had to have an operation to sort things out.

As Head of Science, one of his many achievements was running the Operation Wallacea expeditions. OW is a biodiversity and climate research organisation, which also encourages students to become more involved in local geopolitics and in supporting local communities. Rob has taken students to Indo-

nesia, Cuba, Dominica, and, next summer, Honduras. These trips will ensure those lucky students will have life memories.

Rob is an incredibly dedicated and professional teacher and what a kind and caring human being he has always been. 'Service' is a very old-fashioned word, but Rob is the best example I can think of for a living demonstration of that particular attribute. Service to his community, to his students, to his staff and department, and it is service based upon impeccable principles, standards and beliefs, backed up by a very honest work ethic and intellectual engagement with his subject.

Rob, you have been an inspiration to so many, you are adored by all of us, and you will be deeply missed. Thank you, and we all wish you the very happiest of retirements.

Mr Langley



Simon Cane-Hardy

Simon has been a superb Deputy Head, overseeing the pastoral focus of the school in his 7-year tenure. He has modernised our systems, developed new ones, and he has given great leadership. They say a leader needs both integrity and an awareness of

those they serve, and he has had this in spades.

He is a fair, calm man, and he has always had the care of the students at the heart of everything he does. He knows and considers each individual child, and he has made a huge difference to many young lives. The fondness held for Simon amongst all students at Prior is clear to see.

Simon has worked closely with the nine Heads of House, and he has always given support and timely, important guidance. Many of us have learnt our trade alongside him and we could not have had a better person to do this with. We will miss his wise counsel, warmth, and true friendship.

Away from his pastoral role, Simon maintained his desire to be in the classroom teaching history and contributing to the department. He is also a keen sportsman, a fine and competitive cricketer and tennis player, and is often on the games field watching the students perform in matches.

Simon leaves us this summer to take up his first Headship. Prior Park's loss is Gordonstoun's gain. Their motto 'Plus est en vous...' (There is more to you...) fits seamlessly with Simon's attitude towards education.

They are gaining an exceptional leader who will make Gordonstoun a better place to work and learn. We wish him and his family every success.

Mrs Trott



Dan Moore

Dan joined Prior almost 20 years ago as a professional glass blower and I have had the pleasure of working with him for nearly 9.

We shared the same vision to make DT a subject to be proud of, and soon student numbers increased and the department acquired investment in new machines, equipment, and staff. Throughout all this success, Dan was the glue that bonded the department together and made it work.

Dan has always been more than a DT Technician. They often only specialise in a particular field, but Dan has consistently changed and challenged himself to move with the subject, learning how to work with a wide range of materials and machinery.

Arguably Dan's biggest success from his time at Prior is how he developed into an outstanding teacher. He taught groups at Key Stage 3 and, like us, they all absolutely love him. Dan also taught elements of the GCSE and A Level courses and is particularly good at mentoring students through their final practical piece. When they got stuck, there is always one person they could turn to – Master Yoda himself – Dan Moore.

He is patient, kind and caring, and will go out of his way to help and support anyone.

Dan leaves us to fulfil his, and his lovely wife's, dream of living abroad, renovating a house in France and hopefully setting up a small B&B business. I'm not going to lie; we are gutted he is going but we wish him and Dena all the very best.

Mr Faulkner



Matt Jones

Matt joined PPC in 2017 and was allocated to Clifford House as F4 tutor – a wonderful tutor who puts the students at the very centre of all he does. He quickly earned the nickname Tigger due to all the energy and enthusiasm he brought. Clifford House values back in the 2017s were self-reliance, positive thinking and, my favourite one, leaving people and places better than you find them. Matt did this superbly as a tutor, and his annual outings to tidy up St Christopher's Church in Ditterage with his tutor group did not go unnoticed by the local community.

Matt has also been Head of Business and Economics, producing fantastic results in both; Head of Digital learning – he was

the driving force getting Microsoft Teams, OneNote and many other platforms underway at Prior Park.

He set up the first Business BTEC at PPC and was Lead on Gold DofE. Matt was also coach and referee to many rugby teams, and his water bottle management skills have been truly outstanding.

Thank you, Matt, for all you have done. Enjoy your new role at St Joseph's in Reading.

Mr Bond



James Buckley

James joined the Visual Arts Department in September 2018 as Coordinator of Photography and Teacher of Art. He quickly proved himself to be an enthusiastic, able, and affable teacher and leader of Photography, making it a popular A Level course in recent years.

He has brought a wonderful diversity of outcomes and creative processes to the subject, also enriching students' breadth of subject knowledge through organising talks with professionals and gallery visits. James has supported students throughout the Visual Arts Department to achieve an impressive level of success and has also been a popu-

lar tutor, most recently in Brownlow House. James leaves PPC to take up a post as Head of Art at Malvern College, Switzerland.

We wish James, and his wife Hannah, who is also starting a new post there, every success for this exciting new chapter.

Ms Seville



Celebrations

Top to bottom, left to right

Natalie Gordon married Oli Kershaw
17 December 2022

Alfred Francis Wilson-Brown
born 8 November 2022

Otto Walter Holder
born 21 May 2023

Fran Evans married Liam Fisher
29 October 2022

Theresa Gibson married Christopher
Tunbridge
20 December 2022



**For last year's words
belong to last year's
language and next year's
words await another
voice. And to make an end
is to make a beginning.**

- T.S. Eliot



Prior Park
College

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