



Seaford College

Prep · Senior · Sixth Form



Autumn Newsletter 2022

A round up of academic and pastoral news

Love to learn



Student voice has gone from strength to strength this term. The Year Group Council representatives were selected in September from Year 9-13, across the Middle and Senior School.

Each group of representatives were selected to appeal to the broadest demographic in every year group, so that they can reach the greatest audience.

All council members wear a badge to identify themselves as the 'School Council'. The reps meet in their respective common rooms once a week, listening to their peers and recording current issues. These notes are brought forward to the Year Group Council on the third Monday of every half term. Through discussion, the most relevant and pressing issues are carried forward to the School Council, which meets on the fourth Monday of each half of term. Each year group hosts a slot to debate the hot topics.

Raising the profile of our Year Group Council representatives and giving them weekly responsibilities helps them to take ownership of their roles. Speaking to peers as an MP would speak to their constituents introduces all our students to the concept of democracy and the rules of law, while developing tolerance and mutual respect. Understanding that there is a process to follow is an important lesson.

Members of our School Council would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and thank you all for your support.



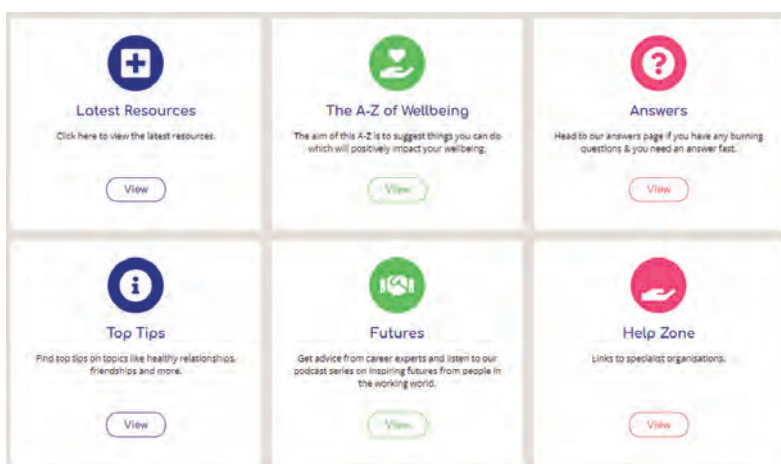


Student Wellbeing

Continuing to create an environment that nurtures student mental health and wellbeing is a key priority for us at Seaford College. As such, we have spent a great deal of time rolling out new initiatives this term, a selection of which are detailed below. This began with a session we gave to staff at Inset Day in September on 'Developing Resilience', a key focus to our ongoing wellbeing strategy.

The Wellbeing Hub

To help students develop emotional resilience, we have invested in The Wellbeing Hub, an online wellbeing portal and an invaluable source of information and support for our whole school community which is already being used in our PSHE lessons. All Seaford parents can access the Hub and details have been sent previously.



Student view of the Wellbeing Hub portal.

Parent Wellbeing Evening: Raising Resilience

Thank you to all parents who attended the 'Raising Resilience' Wellbeing evening. The evening was a huge success with the founder of The Wellbeing Hub, Alicia Drummond, exploring the 'Four Pillars of Resilience', the role of building resilience and how parents can create environments which give children the qualities and skills they need to overcome the challenges and vicissitudes of life. This followed a Senior School assembly with Alicia which focused on 'Why Wellbeing Matters'.

Please join us for our next Parent Wellbeing Evening with Alicia Drummond focusing on 'Worry, Stress and Anxiety', to be held during Children's Mental Health Week on 6th February 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm.

Parent and Student Voice

Following responses to recent parent and student voice surveys, we will be repainting and renaming the Pink House in 2023 - all suggestions for a new name are very welcome! Please do not hesitate to contact pinkhouse@seaford.org.

School Counsellor

Julia Hosp joined us this year as our new school counsellor: *"I offer a confidential and safe space for people to talk about their thoughts, behaviours and feelings. Working as part of the Pink House team this term, I've had the opportunity to get to know some wonderful young individuals, listen to their experiences, nurture mutual trust, be non-judgemental and above all build relationships with them".*



Student Personal Development and PSHE

Seaford College prioritises student personal development and wellbeing above all else. If a student is feeling strong, resilient, cared for and valued, they will excel in all areas of their life, both socially and academically.

In response to student voice last year, the Personal Development (PD) sessions moved to a more prominent space in the academic timetable with three over-arching themes: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. Students in Year 9 and 13 all participate in addition weekly carousel activities with subjects that complement the academic curriculum, while also supporting some valuable life skills for the older students.

Our students are always asking for more guest speakers. This term, we have seen Shannon Reddin return for the Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) assemblies across all year groups. Year 9 have listened to James Shone (pictured), the motivational speaker discussing his charity, 'I can & I am', as well as a Rob Higgs anti-bullying workshop. All of Year 12 participated in the online 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' course, which was a powerful reminder to all our new drivers to be aware of their responsibilities on the road in order to protect themselves and others.

This term, the programme has extended further in the boarding houses too. Mansion girls have been building relationships with the help of wellbeing expert, Lisa Nugent. Walled Garden East boys invited Ricky Cooper into their house for an evening to discuss masculinity in the 21st Century.



In Prep School, the students are also enjoying the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) programme, developing a social awareness of the world around them. For example, staff and volunteers from the homeless charity, Stonepillow, came into school to discuss the work that they do. Year 6 then followed this up by visiting the warehouse, and Year 8 prefects completed the learning journey by delivering all the food donations to the warehouse a week later. The Year 7 girls participated in a friendship building workshop, and all Prep School year groups have created posters in their classrooms to show this term's learning.



Co-curricular Programme

Seaford's co-curricular programme for the Spring Term was launched via parents in the Prep School and directly to students in the Senior School. We continue to expand and improve our offering each term following feedback from our students, staff and parents.

Cerebral Activities

For those students who wish to increase their confidence in French or Spanish, the Modern Foreign Languages Department runs a **French Film Club** and a **Spanish Conversation Club** for students in the Senior School. This is a great way to expand students' colloquial understanding of the languages and for students of different ages to support each other in French and Spanish.

The longer nights mark the return of **Astronomy Club**, open to all students from Year 7 upwards. Students will be on the lookout for stars, planets, meteorites and satellites as well as hosting talks on some of the strangest objects in our universe, from black holes to quasars. This term saw the start of the **Senior Science Club**. The club will be focusing on the CREST award which is a student-led investigative project, available to any age or ability. Participants choose topics they are interested in and set their own rate of progress. This can combine nicely with the Duke of Edinburgh award or a student's EPQ in the Sixth Form.

Students in Year 9 and 10 have the chance to sign up to the **Game Development Club** run by the Computer Science Department. Students will be taught how to use the Unity Game Development engine in our specialist Computing Lab, with students looking at the lifecycle of a game from start to finish. Our Media and Marketing Departments have joined forces and offer a suite of activities throughout the school. Year 6 to 8



students can take part in the **Prep Media Club**, Year 9 students are able to sign up to the **Media Production Club** and the Sixth Form are able to attend the **Media Clinic** to get ahead and get help with their assignments.

As part of our **Public Speaking and Debating Club** (pictured above), both our Year 11 public speaking teams won their local heats of the English-Speaking Union competition over the last week, competing against teams from St Wilfrid's, St Philip Howard, Davison and Christ's Hospital. Team A, consisting of Marcus Finger (questioner), Ellie Tate (chair) and Alex Slater (speaker), argued that we should consider building on Green Belt land but only do so by building eco-friendly hobbit homes submerged in the ground. The more seasoned Team B - consisting of Amelie Wright (chair), Amy Allison (speaker) and Sofia Mattinson (questioner) - argued

that single-use plastic bags should be banned in the UK, referring to the danger to wildlife caused by plastic pollution and the embarrassment of a developed country like the UK not yet having followed the example of developing countries who have been brave enough to take this step. Both teams now progress to the next round at The Bishop's Palace, Chichester in January.

Creative Activities

Greenpower continues to be a popular club which has offerings for every year from Year 3 upwards. Whether it's the designing, the making or the driving you are interested in, there is something for everyone. Year 6 have the chance to learn a new skill by joining **Macrame Club**. Students will learn to knot macrame and produce plant holders, wall hangings and other textile projects. This is a great way for students to show off their creative flair whilst also getting a great sense of achievement once they have mastered the knotting technique!

Outdoor Activities

We have expanded our **climbing** provision so that Year 4 to 6 have a dedicated club available to them. Students in Year 7 and 8 are able to climb together whilst those in the senior climbing squad can get together to master the wall on a Friday.



Sport Activities

Cricket becomes one of the main sporting activities on offer at 16:30 most days during the Spring Term, as we look ahead to the summer of cricket ahead. Alongside the girls' cricket and netball that is on offer during the activities slot, we will have **girls' rugby** on offer in the Senior School - the students asked and we delivered; the Spring Term sees the launch of a Prep School **Basketball Club** for the first time. This will give students the chance to try a sport which they may not have tried before.

Performing Arts Activities

As well as the normal dance troupes, choirs and bands, we offer an array of other activities within the Performing Arts area. **Music Technology Club** is now on offer to all students from Year 6 upwards, giving the students the chance to use the Mac Suite and recording studio in the Music School. Rehearsals for the senior musical, *Phantom of the Opera* continue as well as rehearsals for the Prep School musical getting underway on Thursdays and Fridays.

Want to know more?

Our full co-curricular programme can be found on Firefly. We always welcome suggestions and requests and although we cannot always fulfil requests, we will explore any potential opportunities. You can email activities@seaford.org to get in touch.



Celebrating a Positive Learning Attitude

We have been overwhelmingly impressed by the conduct and achievements of our students this term. To say that our Seaford community is full of compassionate, supportive and hard-working individuals is an understatement, as can be seen in the efficacious interactions that occur in the classrooms, on the sports pitches, in common rooms and boarding houses each day.

Over the course of this term, our teachers have awarded well over **30,000 positive behaviour points** to our Prep, Middle and Sixth Form students on our behaviour tracking system, ClassCharts.

Points awarded for good classwork/effort: 50%

Points awarded for Ad Alta characteristics: 30%

Points awarded for other reasons: 20%

Heads of Year continue to reward positive behaviour with goody bags, treats and/or reward vouchers after every two-week cycle. Conversely, for students who reach the threshold for negative points, a sanction is given in the form of either a HOY Detention or Conduct Detention. Where needed, other interventions are used which include placing a student on an Academic Support Report to promote a positive attitude both in and out of the classroom.

We closely scrutinise termly Academic Reports and as a result, we are sending 'Academic Achievement Certificates' home by post to students who are on track or above in all their subject reports for this term. Furthermore, those with near perfect Ad Alta scores will receive 'Ad Alta Achievement Certificates'. Students causing concern stemming from Academic Reports get picked up for further intervention by subject teachers, Heads of Department, Heads of Year, Houseparents and members of the Senior Team.



Love to learn



Boarding

Boarding has exploded in popularity since lockdown ended. We have had to create extra space for Year 13 boarders in the Mansion this year by moving Prep School boarding over to the Prep School building. The move has gone down well with the feedback being overwhelmingly positive.

Unlike in the past, the overwhelming majority of those staying over in the evenings choose to do so in order to develop greater independence, spend time with friends, take advantage of the wonderful activities programme or to receive guidance and support with their work.

Our boarders say: “They love boarding because...”

“It saves me lots of travelling time every day”

At this time of year, when it is dark on the way to school and on the way home, the lure of boarding is fairly obvious. Later wakeups, less time travelling on a bus means more time to do anything you want in the evenings. It is no surprise we always get more and more boarding requests in winter!

“I spend more time with my friends”

The opportunity to spend time with friends in the evening is a major reason why people board. The boarding houses become one big extended family and the opportunity to socialise and forge lasting friendships with people in different year groups is fairly unique to boarding schools.

“The breakfasts are amazing”

We have an amazing catering team at Seaford and they are so good at listening to student voice. With twice a term Boarders Council meetings providing an excellent opportunity to raise issues, the food served to boarders is always being looked at to ensure it is improving.

“I get academic support in the evenings”

The academic support sessions we piloted last year are proving incredibly popular as boarders have the opportunity to get help and support on all core academic subjects. We are increasingly finding that some students are staying over specifically to get the support they need in a specific subject and flexi boarding has also been more popular than ever this term.





Prefects

Our prefects are ambassadors for the school and epitomise the characteristics and behaviours we expect from all our students at Seaford College. We ask our prefects to uphold school expectations at all times while on campus and when on duty in prep sessions and at lunch.

Younger students look up to prefects as role-models and will often seek their advice, wisdom and guidance as experienced members of the Seaford community. They are integral to the running of our school, and they set the standard for all students to emulate across the College.

Prefect training sessions this term for Year 13 prefects have been aimed at developing the skills prefects need to be effective in their roles. One such session focused on the challenges that prefects might face when on duty and how they might respond to it. This included role-playing where they had to challenge Mr Arya for being on the phone and having his shirt untucked.

Through their roles and training, we hope our prefects recognise that educational establishments, workplaces and society as a whole need to work within a framework of commonly understood expectations. While they may have a different view on those expectations, those in leadership have the difficult job of ensuring they are met, and this requires consistency, empathy and a strong dose of charm.

Further prefect training programmes are planned for the rest of the year.



Showcasing Scholars

Academic Scholars

Prep School scholars have enjoyed masterclasses on great speeches throughout history, analysing the language, content and tone of Martin Luther King Jr and Winston Churchill. Scholars identified ways they could enhance their own oracy and how often content and delivery are equally as important. Next term they will have a masterclass on Aesop's Fables and Advanced Mathematics.

Middle School scholars have started to dive into their Scholars' Projects, having learnt research techniques and a mechanism to record research without noting down everything! Students have been looking at a variety of projects such as "Who is the father of history?", "How far does social class affect participation in elite sport?" and "Is mass cloning a good idea?". We look forward to extending these projects next term.

Many Year 13 scholars were put through their paces by mock Oxbridge and Medical School interviews before their real interviews later this month. Year 12 scholars have started to look at top universities, their requirements, and the difference in living costs between the North and South of the country.

Creative Arts

This term the Year 6-8 Scholarship group have been producing work based on current events such as the Queen's passing and Remembrance Day. In the run up to Christmas, they will be responding to a more festive theme by creating snow globes! Within these projects they have been able to explore their interest in a variety of media and have had their work displayed the Art Department to inspire others in the school.



Artwork by our talented Year 9 Art Scholars

Performing Arts

We have seen many spectacular performances from our scholars already this year, including during the Autumn Concert, the lunchtime concerts and the scholars' showcases. The ensembles, choirs, troupes and groups they belong to have married beautifully alongside solo works to prove that their individual efforts have been further enhanced by collaborative attainment. Many were involved in *'Find Me'* (our Senior play) and brought depth and pathos to an intriguing and thought-provoking theme. They are also heavily involved in *'The Phantom of the Opera'* rehearsals having led the way beautifully with excellence in auditions.

Sports Scholars

Sports scholars have this term had talks from Nick Easter (former Harlequins and England rugby player) and Alex Danson-Bennett MBE (former England and Great Britain hockey player). Our scholars and the wider College community got to meet two world class athletes who have played and coached at the highest level. It also gave them an opportunity to ask questions that relate to themselves, academic PE topics and gain an insight into what it takes to be a professional athlete. The coaching masterclasses were amazing, and the Q&A sessions explored some of the topics below. This was an invaluable learning experience for all scholars and staff. Other talks from the Sports Scholars Lecture series this term include:

1. *Reviewing Performance* with Andy Key
2. *Habits for Winners* with Jacqueline Weeks
3. *Master Your Mind* with Andy McBride
4. *Nesting Planning* with Marcus Sharrad





Eco-Schools

It is official from two awarding bodies: Seaford is truly an eco-school. This term, we were awarded the Eco-Schools UK Green Flag award (with Distinction) and won the Green Award for Environmental Achievement category at the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2022.

In addition, this term saw Seaford's inaugural Green Week which took place in lessons and across campus giving students, staff and parents an opportunity to get involved and make a difference. As part of this, many departments included a focus on environmental and sustainability issues in their subjects.

Our Green Week was planned to coincide with the COP27 Climate Conference that the students learnt about through a whole school assembly presented by staff and students. Specialist outside speakers came to the College and presented topical subject matter to year groups. The week finished with a **green non-uniform Friday** with donations given to two environmental charities - WaterAid and Sussex Woodland Trust.

Our three eco-councils continue to build on achievements from last year with their themes this year being:

- **Prep School – School grounds**
- **Middle School – Waste and water**
- **Sixth Form – Global Citizenship**





Charity

Seaford College has raised £10,000 this term for charitable causes. Well done Team Seaford!

Key charitable activities at Seaford this term included:

Cake Sale in Year 9-13: £550 raised to support locally established charity – **Children on the Edge**

Own Clothes 'Green' Day: £700 to be split between **WaterAid** and the **Woodland Trust**

'Find Me' ticket sales: £1,540 raised for **Young Minds**

Foodbank Children's Lunchboxes: £6,000 raised (and still rising) for the 250 lunchboxes made for the **Petworth and Midhurst Trussell Trust Foodbanks**, plus 3,265kg of food and toiletries donated directly to the Chichester warehouse through our Reverse Advent Appeal.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal: 105 boxes made across the Prep School and the Eco-Committee for **Samaritan's Purse UK**

The final week will also see the Christmas Jumper Day raise monies for **Save the Children**, and the Carol Services at Chichester Cathedral on Friday 16th will donate money to **Cancer Research**, as voted for by the students.



Love to learn



Promoting Literacy

Seaford College Library has a new look this year, along with a new librarian, Miss Bayley, who we welcome to the Seaford team.

Miss Bayley currently holds dedicated library lessons for Year 7 to 10 students in conjunction with their English teachers. Sixth Form students can also use the library as a dedicated workspace throughout the day. Students have been excited to see all the new changes made to the library this term, including the wonderful book-inspired desk wrap designed by Mrs Grantham-Smith from our Art Department. Students have really enjoyed guessing the many different book characters which has, in turn, ignited a passion for reading.

Students from all year groups have enjoyed competing against their peers with the new quick thinking, logistical games the library has on offer during their break and lunch times, throughout this term.

In a drive to improve literacy across the school students, Year 7-10 have been engaging with the Accelerated Reader program during their library lessons. All students have completed the Star Reading test which provides them with a reading age, reading level and reading target for the year. Students have fully engaged with the scheme and have been recognised and rewarded for their fantastic efforts in reading this term.

Students celebrated National Poetry Day in the library with some Poetry Open Mic sessions during October. Students found some fantastic poems to share, and some were even inspired to write their own poems and take up the mic to perform them. The event was a great success and students have requested for its return next year.

For further information, competitions and events happening at Seaford Library, head over to our Firefly page here: <https://seaford.fireflycloud.net/library>.





Achievements Outside the Classroom

CCF

The Adventurous Training Camp took place in Jersey during the summer holidays. This proved to be a great success; cadets threw themselves into a range of exciting activities including coasteering, water sports, climbing and abseiling, as well as some interesting and informative military history visits learning about the occupation of the island during the second world war.

The first major event of this academic year was the Biennial Inspection, last conducted in 2018 and twice postponed during the COVID years. The day was a resounding success, the Reviewing Officer was Cdr Andy Harcombe RN, one of the Squadron Commanding Officers from the Commando Helicopter Force based in Yeovilton. He observed several training serials, led by our SNCOs, and then a timed run from the cadets that had just completed their Field Gun training; an activity that was so well received that the CCF intend on giving it a permanent place in the programme.



The other very high-profile event was the Seaford College Remembrance Parade back to its traditional scale and attendance levels for the first time in three years. The new Year 9 cadets were given a crash course in drill and standards of dress, and the more experienced cadets put in a huge amount of time and effort helping deliver this training, as well as preparing for their more complex roles; learning arms drill for the 'Guard', and rehearsing for the precision of the Standard and Wreath Laying parties.

Other significant events included:

- The Year 12 cadets were in school before term started to begin their instructors training so that they could deliver lessons to the junior cadets.
- Many of the new Year 9 then kick-started their field craft experience with a 24-hour basic training package in the school grounds, which included sleeping out under bivouac sheets and culminating in a paintball close quarter battle lane.
- The Royal Navy cadets had a field day in Guildford, conducting Powerboat training on the River Wey.
- The RAF took a few lucky cadets on a gliding experience day as well as the usual round of powered Flying Experience days.
- The Army Section conducted a tactical field exercise at Bramley Training Area.
- The term finished with a weekend of weapon training in preparation for the forthcoming round of live firing range days.

Outdoor Education (including Duke of Edinburgh Award)

The main DofE event this term was the D of E Silver expeditions in the New Forest. This was a resounding success with all the participants learning a great deal and stepping up in terms of navigation and expedition skills from their Bronze Award.

Other notable activities and events:

- The introduction of regular Saturday shotgun sessions at Hownhall Shooting whilst the Seaford Clay Range is out of action.
- Regular climbing wall and archery sessions.
- An outing to the Red Spider Climbing Centre in Fareham in preparation for the forthcoming inter-school competitions that will take place in the New Year.
- The exciting new addition of air rifle shooting to the programme, which has been popular across all age groups.
- The Prep School Bushcraft Club continues to be oversubscribed.
- The Prep School 'Festive Parent and Child Bushcraft' event due to take place on the 10th December.



Performing Arts

Many students across the College, including our talented scholars, have participated in a myriad of Performing Arts opportunities this term. We have been delighted to witness Drama Club, The Sunshine Singers Choir and a variety of dance styles from our youngest cohort, Year 1-5, and they merged these skills most successfully in their Nativity production 'Lights, Camels, Action'! Their group work in violin and ukulele are creating an uptake in peripatetic upper and lower string lessons, which is wonderful for futureproofing our magnificent string ensembles and orchestras.

Year 6-8 have already been flexing their performing skills in 'Tea and Tunes' and 'Dance, Drama and Doughnuts'. Both performances give opportunities for LAMDA students to show their endeavours alongside ensemble or solo work in Music and Dance. These opportunities to showcase work can be perfect for exam practice in grades or the development of skills on instruments or in the varied dance styles and always a spectacular hit with the audiences who attend. The Junior Choir has shone with some gloriously festive tunes in the Prep School Christmas Fair and again in the carol services at the end of term.

Our Senior School dramatists shone both onstage and backstage in *'Find Me'* whilst our dancers are working towards grade exams in Ballet, Modern and Tap and continue to excel in ensembles and troupe work. The orchestra is vibrant and taking great strides forward with some tricky repertoire, shining in all areas and styles. The Chapel Choir has a full cohort of determined singers, who work hard to blend seamlessly into their rich and full texture. Remembrance Day was a highlight earlier in the term, for both the Chapel Choir and Orchestra, alongside drum corps and I know Christmas will showcase some diverse and complicated repertoire for the choirs.

Ensembles in the Music Department pack every space and every available break and lunchtime. You can walk past a wind band in one room, a soul band in the next, a funk band alongside them and drum corps along the corridor. All this whilst *'The Phantom of the Opera'* is being practised for the Senior School musical production next term. Boarders utilise the facilities in the evenings and at the weekends to keep practice a regular occurrence.

The variety of styles of music, dance and drama on offer for the students to become performers are regularly enhanced by trips to theatres and workshops each term. 46 Performing Arts students are bubbling with excitement at the pending trip to New York City in February.

Seaford Sport

Cricket

For the second year in a row, Seaford College has been named in the Cricketer Magazine Top 100 schools and, as our girls' cricket programme continues to thrive, we are very proud that 3 students have been selected on the prestigious Southern Vipers Performance Programme, well done to Lottie Curling, Mollie Adams, and Keira Lewzey.

Equestrian

Seaford Equestrian had some amazing results at NSEA National Show Jumping & Jumping with Style Championships at Keysoe International, Bedfordshire in October half-term:

- NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONS in 90/95cm Show Jumping
- NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION in 90cm Jumping with Style
- NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL PONY CHAMPION in 110m Show Jumping
- RESERVE NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONS in 100/105m Show Jumping
- RESERVE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS in 1.20m Show Jumping
- RESERVE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS in 1.00m Plate Jumping with Style
- RESERVE NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONS in POINTS LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS for UK
- SEAFORD RIDER INVITED TO JUMP IN NATIONS CUP for ENGLAND



In November, we competed in the NSEA Eventers Challenge competition at Coombelands, Pulborough qualifying two teams and four individuals for the Nationals at Hickstead in May while our other riders gained much experience jumping these challenging courses.

Our equestrian teams are going from strength to strength and we're looking forward to competing to retain our titles as the top school in West Sussex at all levels in the NSEA County Championships at Felbridge Show Ground in December.



Golf

Golf has started very strongly this year with both 1st and 2nd teams getting through to the quarter finals of the ISGA league. Georgia Young in Year 9 has had a great finish to the year receiving the Most Improved Golfer award at Cowdray GC and the Sussex girls order of merit trophy. Mollie Wheeler and Joshua Greig - who left last year to study in America on golf scholarships in Oklahoma and North Carolina - have had great starts and have settled in nicely.

Hockey

This term has seen a rise in playing numbers with more girls' teams representing the College on Saturdays. There have been fantastic performances across the full age range, with our U13 girls still in the National Plate competition. Well done to Year 10 Tegan Lyne who is training on the England Hockey Pathway and to Year 11 Charlie Cook who has been selected for the England U18 playing squad. We are already looking ahead to the Senior Boys and Girls Barcelona Hockey Tour in early January to the Los Reyes Tournament.

Netball

Netball has had a busy term with the U14, U16 and U18 teams competing at the National Schools - Sussex Round, producing some excellent performances against strong opposition. The U15 and U16 teams are progressing through the rounds of the National SnS Plate and are growing in strength each round. The Senior College girls have enjoyed their usual off-season netball activities and an additional pre-season training evening every Tuesday. They have worked hard and have developed key skills ahead of the eagerly awaited netball season. We are very proud to say that three of our Year 10 girls are involved with the county and Surrey Storm Performance Netball Pathway. Well done to Lexi Cotterel, Phoebe Collins, and Eva Doubler.



Rugby

It has been another successful year for our Seaford rugby players and teams. We have had five boys represent Harlequins at U18 level in the Premiership Academy League and a large contingent of Seaford boys involved in the Quins DPP programme from U14 to U16, as well as five of our senior boys being selected for their respective county rugby programmes. Our 1st XV reached the last 16 of the RFU Schools Cup and, at the time of writing, our 2nd XV and U12A teams are both enjoying unbeaten seasons.

Sailing

Seaford students took part in the WSSYSA Regatta in September and had an excellent two days' racing at Worthing Sailing Club up against a lot of strong sailors, with six races sailed. Very well done to Henry Jones and Lucy Pitman, who are proving to be an excellent

team sailing together in their RS Feva XL, for winning the Medium Fleet, with three firsts and a second. Oscar Pitman was 4th in the Fast Fleet and 3rd in the Laser Radial, with a best race placing of second. Ed Gordon-Thomson in the same fleet was 12th (out of 17) with a best placing of 7th, having entered the final day in 15th place, and Ben Cotton 13th, with a best of 5th.

We are also proud that Henry Jones (Year 10), Lucy Pitman (Year 10) and Scarlett Gladman (Year 9) are now in the RYA Regional Training Groups for the RS Feva dinghy. The entry into these is very competitive, and in the RYA's own words, they are: "the best way for junior sailors to take that step up from racing in their club to racing nationally or even internationally."

Tennis

Seaford tennis is gathering momentum as we head towards the Spring Term. Saturday morning Tennis Academy has been in full swing since September and we are all looking forward to another great season full of recreational and competitive opportunities. We will be entering Senior and Prep School teams into national competitions once more and will have some great fixtures lined up. A special mention must go to Hayden Davey in Year 10 who is currently among the best players nationally in his age group.



School production: Find Me



The cast and crew worked incredibly hard to bring the true story of Verity Taylor to life, in the Senior School production '*Find Me*' by Olwyn Wymark. Theatre should be a humanising force, encouraging audiences and actors to think about the world in which they live and to strive to change for the better, and this production cast light on those suffering with mental illness, the impact on their lives and that of their family.

The story brings in to question how, why and what needs to be done to support those suffering not only with mental illness but issues with mental health.

For this production, we were proud to be fundraising for 'Young Minds' who want to see a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health, and all young people get the mental health support they need, when they need it, no matter what. Teaming up with this charity and performing Wymark's incredible play, we hoped galvanised the audience to raise their awareness and well-needed funds to support those in need.

Alice Monhemius, (Year 10) created the watercolour illustration that was used for the poster design and a student body ran all of the technical aspects of the production. Well done to everyone for a superb event.





Academic Support

Digital Accessibility

Use of assistive technology on iPads can be transformative for all students. There are certain accessibility tools, which can have a hugely positive impact which the Academic Access and Achievement Department encourages all students to explore.

Immersive Reader

For those unfamiliar with this tool, this not only assists with reading text online, PDF files and Word documents, it can also be used with presentation of information. Using this resource, you can change the spacing of text, change the background colour and even the line focus; effectively chunking information into more manageable amounts.

Dictation Software

A useful tool to use for taking notes at speed, or if you have an exam concession of a “scribe” for your examinations.

To enter text, tap the microphone button on your keyboard, then start speaking. As you speak, the text appears on the screen. To finish, stop speaking, then tap the keyboard button.

Accelerated Reader

Students in Year 3-10 will notice the Accelerated Reader icon has appeared on their iPads. This is a fantastic way to take ownership of your reading age and to improve your reading performance actively.

E-Platform Audiobooks

For those who find reading a challenge, we are fortunate to have a huge, online library of free audiobooks. A book of your choice can be downloaded onto your tablet or phone. This could be a fantastic way of accessing a book, during long car or coach journeys.

Apple have created a helpful one pager on how to reach all learners with iPad which can be found [here](#).

Research Support

Year 10-13 students can book sessions with the librarian for research and referencing help, either for coursework or EPQ help. Year 10 and 11 can book during supervised prep and Sixth Form can book whenever they have study periods. Please email gbayley@seaford.org to book.



Examinations Update

We wish our Year 11 and Year 13 the very best of luck for their mock examinations in January and February respectively (including those taking actual exams in certain subjects). Topic lists and the revision session schedule for Year 11 can be found [here](#) and similar is being put together for Year 13 and will be published early next term.

Love to learn

University Applications

A bumper year group has seen more university applicants than ever. As Seaford continues to grow, the task of managing the university applications doesn't get any easier. As always, applications to Russell Group universities have been very popular and we have more students than ever applying to the increasingly popular BUCS university groups for those going for elite sports programmes.

This year we have tried a couple of things to ensure the process is completed more quickly than in previous years. The actual form itself was completed before the summer and a personal statement masterclass was delivered by our own inhouse experts, including Mr Pitteway.

Since term began, there have been regular UCAS drop-in sessions in the workroom most evenings, and this has enabled students to discuss options and to work on their personal statements with dedicated staff on-hand to advise and support.

University visits have been possible (in person) this year following a break, and the opportunity to go and visit universities and speak to lecturers has really helped students make their decisions over which courses and universities they want to go to.

With travel restrictions now virtually behind us, there have been more students than normal looking at taking gap years. Structured gap years are looked on favourably by universities as they give students an opportunity to develop new skills, take on positions of responsibility or help put back something to benefit others. We encourage students who are keen to take a break before going to university to plan a variety of activities and to ensure that what they do enhances their desirability for universities and employers.





Careers Update

This term, most of Year 11 have had a careers interview, looking at the results of the Morrisby profiling test and considering options for Sixth Form and beyond. These interviews continue next term giving more clarity, especially in the light of mock exam results.

This year sees the start of ‘**Careers Teas**’ which replace the sessions we used to hold for Year 11 during PD time on a Monday afternoon. The approach is more informal with the emphasis being on the questions that the students might have and, as they are no longer part of the PD programme, they are open to all students from Year 10 to Year 13. There have been a number of offers from our parents to contribute to this as usual, for which we are very grateful.

In October we held our first Careers Tea in the Sixth Form Centre Café, with the theme being the ‘Law’. The two speakers, Paul Walker and Heather Greenwood (pictured), enlightened us on the difference between being a barrister and a solicitor and there was plenty of advice for routes into the career, especially as Mrs Greenwood lectures at the University of Law.

In November we held a second successful Careers Tea with the focus being on the Forces - Police and Armed. David McDonald from the Metropolitan Police spoke about his very interesting job and Sgt Tom Fuller came for his third visit to talk about the Armed Forces and the

RAF in particular. Also joining them was Marine Ash Goodwin who since leaving Seaford has really thrown himself into his career with the Royal Marines and spoke very enthusiastically about his time with them so far. The general message was that there are so many opportunities available, but do make sure to boost any application with a good range of co-curricular activities.

In January, the third Careers Tea will be about ‘Marketing’. We will have three speakers with experience of marketing sports, charities and our own school. This will be held in the Year 11 Common Room on 24th January.





Spotlight on Teaching

Did you know that, on average, teachers ask between 300 and 400 questions per day*? Asking questions is essential for us to check understanding, increase engagement and move students forward. It encourages independent and critical thinking. To have the desired effect, questions should be effective, well-considered, supportive and challenging.

Earlier in 2022, we ran an in-house developed training session for teachers where they were presented with results of a student voice survey on questioning, saw videos of Seaford teachers questioning in lessons and were given 10 actionable strategies for better questioning.

Student voice gave us unique insight into what students thought of the following:

- Why do teachers ask questions?
- Top reasons from students: “To check we understand and help me remember”
- What questions do you find helpful?
- Top reasons from students: “Questions that check we understand and remember”
- Why do you think students avoid answering questions sometimes?
- Top reasons from students: “They are afraid of being wrong or don’t understand the question”

Videos from Seaford lessons helped all teachers see effective questioning in action and discuss what worked well and explore how it impacted learning for all students.

Insights and techniques were shared with teachers to help us all develop how we question better in class and in particular:

- How to overcome silence when asking a question
- How to help students not just say “I don’t know” but to think about what is being asked
- How to support and stretch all students through questioning
- How to encourage students to take risks in the classroom and answer questions

**(source: High Speed Training – Effective Questioning)*





Seaford College

Prep · Senior · Sixth Form



Lavington Park, Petworth,
West Sussex, GU28 0NB
Telephone: 01798 867392

Admissions: jmackay@seaford.org

www.seaford.org

The Johnson Trust. Registered Charity No. 277349

@SeafordCollege

