



Mayfield

Mayfield Cornelian



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layfield School
ly Child School since 1872
The Old Palace





Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Cornelian magazine, covering the academic year 2022/23. I was delighted to join the school in April 2023 and quickly saw that Mayfield is a wonderful school, where the girls are fun, questioning and joyful.

I hope you enjoy reading all about an extraordinary year of achievement and success in this magazine.

Jonathan Forster
Interim Headmaster

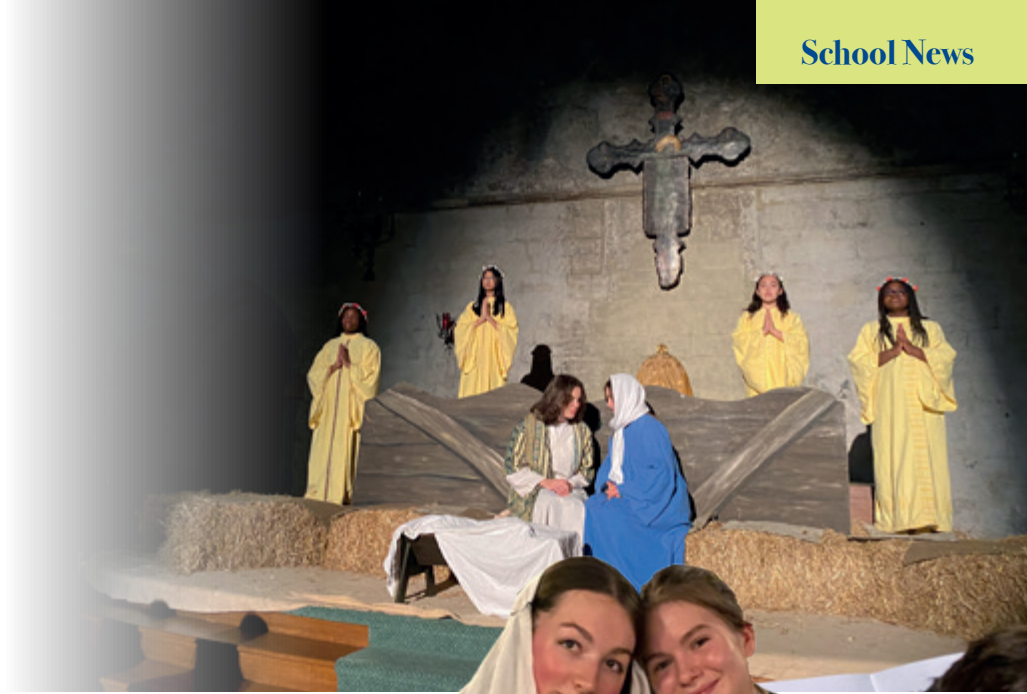
School News



Live Crib

Live Crib is one of Mayfield School's oldest and proudest traditions. Each year for over 60 years, the students have recreated the timeless story of Mary and Joseph, being turned away from the inn, and finding shelter in the stable - otherwise known as Mayfield's 14th Century Chapel.

Despite heavy snowfall, we were delighted to hold Live Crib on four evenings in December. Thank you to everyone who came along. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



Mayfield Day

On Saturday 24th June we hosted over 1,000 people in our marquee for our annual Speech and Prize Giving ceremony. It was a wonderful occasion, and followed by a delicious BBQ, before the girls took part in track and field events in the afternoon as part of our Inter-House Athletics.

A number of records were broken; Emilia in Year 8 recorded a 4.2m jump in the Long Jump, while Deborah, also in Year 8, equalled the High Jump record at 1.4m, before breaking the 100m record with a time of 13.72s. Many congratulations to Glennie, who were overall winners.

The girls also showed off their amazing baking skills in the Mayfield Day Cake Competition with their creations to celebrate the School's 150th Anniversary.





Foundation Day

On Foundation Day in October, we celebrated the first 150 years of Mayfield! Over the course of the day over 400 acorns were planted - one for every girl in the School.

We began with the unveiling of an awe-inspiring gingerbread model of the Old Palace, surrounded by a crowd of very smartly dressed gingerbread Mayfield girls. The project was the idea of the Head Girl Elizabeth and the model painstakingly created by our amazing pastry chef Megan. The gingerbread girls were painted by girls in tutor time and the best - or most interesting - versions put forward for display (the rest were eaten of course!).

We welcomed Fr Richard Finn OP for Mass and this was followed by a series of Inter-House competitions, including General Knowledge, Music and Hockey. It was a day filled with fun and laughter!



Mayfield shortlisted for ISP Award

Mayfield was delighted to be shortlisted in the Independent Girls' School of the Year category by Independent School Parent for the second year running. The purpose of the awards is to highlight the excellence of the student experience that the UK's amazing independent schools provide.



IWD 2023

International Women's Day (IWD) is held on 8th March every year to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness of discrimination and to drive gender parity. This year we held a special assembly to highlight some of these issues, featuring guest speaker OC Katherine Janikoun, Head of Product Engineering at Legal and General. During her talk on 'Working in the Male Dominated Environment of Technology' she gave great advice on how to hold your own in a male dominated environment and talked about inspiring women emerging in the world of technology.



GCSE results

This year, Mayfield celebrated an impressive set of GCSE results, with one in four of grades awarded being the top grade (grade 9).

Mayfield's Year 11 girls achieved exceptional results in Further Maths and IGCSE English, with over half being awarded the top grade 9. In addition, 43% of students taking History were awarded a grade 9. Students also excelled in Science, with over 25% of the cohort awarded a grade 9 in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Jonathan Forster said: "I am delighted by these exceptional results, especially so given our Year 11 girls' education was severely affected by the pandemic. There were 15 subjects where over half the students achieved an 8 or 9, including modern languages, creative and performing arts. These results are testimony to the hard work of our girls and the support and encouragement they have received from their teachers."

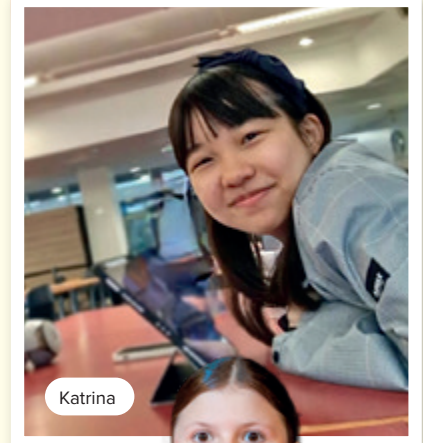
Katie and Katrina both achieved the top grade in all 11 of their GCSE subjects. Katrina, who is a regular at Mayfield's Algebra Club, said: "I was overjoyed when I received my results. I would love to say a big thank you to my family and friends for supporting me throughout, and to all the teachers who have helped me through my GCSE journey at Mayfield, always there to answer my questions and mark my essays. It's a lot of hard work, but I know it has paid off!"

Rosie, who won an award at last year's Model United Nations Conference in Poland for her debating skills and had a leading role in Mayfield's recent production of 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe', achieved nine grade 9s and two grade 8s. She said: "I joined Mayfield in Year 7 with a hunger for knowledge and an enthusiasm to learn. Throughout my five years at the school, I have been supported through my academics, encouraged to pursue a myriad of opportunities, and inspired by the excellent teachers and staff. I am thrilled with my exam results and I am also so grateful for the person Mayfield has helped me to become: a woman with an inquisitive mind, who can be empathetic but is also unafraid to take up space and share her views on the world."

Twins, Francesca and Sophie, who joined Mayfield in Year 10, achieved a clean sweep of grades 9-7 across all their GCSEs. Sophie said: "I'm so happy with my results today, and I'm super excited to begin my A levels. Apart from all of the support from my teachers, I think what makes Mayfield so special is the opportunities that it has brought me outside of my studies, like Model United Nations and Drama Club." Francesca added: "I'm very pleased to get my results today and I'm excited to be going into the Sixth Form at Mayfield, where I'll be studying Maths, Economics, Chemistry and Psychology. I'm grateful for all of the additional academic support outside of the classroom and have enjoyed being part of the sports teams."



Sophie and Francesca



Katrina



Rosie



Year 11



Elizabeth

A level results

In August, Mayfield celebrated another impressive set of A level results, with a 100% pass rate and over half the grades awarded being A* or A.

Mayfield's Upper Sixth girls secured places at prestigious universities throughout the UK and abroad, including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Durham, Exeter, Imperial, UCL and King's College, with three girls heading to North America to study, including Sophie, who was awarded a Rowing Scholarship by the University of Iowa.

In keeping with the school's educational ethos the girls are going to study a wide range of courses including Animation, Architecture, Engineering, Fine Art, Law and Politics, Medicine, and Psychology, in addition to traditional subjects such as English, Modern Languages and the Sciences.

The most popular A level subjects were Biology, Chemistry, Maths, and Psychology, whilst all nine students taking Ceramics achieved an A* or an A. These included Amelia, who studied Maths and Psychology alongside Ceramics. She said: "I found Maths the hardest subject at junior school, I never would have believed I would take it for A Level and that's all thanks to Mayfield. I am incredibly proud of my results and getting into the University of Cardiff to study Architecture."

Yueshi, a talented musician and international boarder, achieved three A*s in History of Art, English and History and will be going on to study History

at Oxford, where she has also been awarded a Choral Scholarship. Yueshi said: "I am absolutely thrilled with my results, and I would like to thank Mayfield for all the opportunities that it has offered to me along the way to cultivate my passions. I can't wait to embark on this new journey at Oxford doing the things that I love!"

Ines also achieved a place at Oxford, where she will be studying French and Beginners Russian. She said: "I remember being so excited when I first received my academic scholarship to Mayfield in Year 9, and it has given me so many opportunities as well as the confidence to apply to Oxford. I'm very much looking forward to starting university, and am extremely grateful for all the support I've received from my teachers, support staff, and peers during my time at Mayfield."

Charlotte and Mia both secured places to study Sciences at Imperial, continuing Mayfield's tradition of encouraging girls to forge careers in STEM, a traditionally male dominated arena. Head Girl Elizabeth was another to excel in STEM subjects, securing a place at Cambridge to study Engineering. She said: "I'm incredibly excited to be heading off to Cambridge to commence an engineering degree this October and I'm thrilled that my results have enabled me to get there.

However, these results don't even begin to demonstrate how much I've learnt during my time at Mayfield. Between the organisational challenge



Yueshi



Ines

of Live Crib and tackling 14 exams in the space of a few weeks, I believe that I am thoroughly prepared for anything that university might throw at me!"

Honestly, I can't express my gratitude to Mayfield enough, and I look forward to hearing about what the current Mayfield girls will go on to achieve next!"



Mia and Charlotte



Amelia

Class of 2023

University Destinations

Destination	Course
University of Bath	Sport (Sports Performance) Politics with Economics
University of Birmingham	Psychology Mathematics and Computer Science
University of Bristol	Psychology Film and Television
University of Buckingham	Pre-Med
University of Cambridge	Engineering
University of Cardiff	Chemistry Neuroscience Architecture English Literature Criminology and Social Policy
University of Durham	Psychology Criminology Modern Languages and Cultures
University of Exeter	Ancient History Psychology Classical Studies
Falmouth University	Fine Art
Hartpury University	Bioveterinary Science
Hong Kong	Medicine
University of Hull	Law
Imperial College	Physics Chemistry
University of Iowa	Liberal Arts
University of Kent	Psychology
Kent and Medway Medical School	Medicine
King's College London	Physiotherapy Economics and Management General Engineering
University of Lancaster	Business Analytics Fine Art

Destination	Course
University of Leeds	Art Foundation
University of Leicester	Business Economics Biological Sciences
University of Liverpool	Law with Politics
University of Loughborough	Marketing and Management Psychology
University of Manchester	Psychology (x2)
NYU	Liberal Arts
University of Nottingham	Modern European Studies Ancient History Architecture
Oxford Brookes	Anthropology/International Relations Psychology (x2) Real Estate Business and Marketing Management
University of Oxford	French and Beginners' Russian History
University of Reading	International Business and Management Classical Studies Law
Royal Holloway	Classical Studies
University of Southampton	Marketing
University of Surrey	Psychology
UCL	English Italian and Spanish
UWE Bristol	Real Estate
University of York	Philosophy/Politics Theatre Philosophy, Politics and Economics Environment, Economics and Ecology



Farewell to our Upper Sixth

At the end of June, we said a fond farewell to our Year 13 leavers. A Leavers' Mass and celebration was held, with speeches from Miss Beary and Group Captain Jake McAllister, father of Elizabeth, our outgoing Head Girl. Staff and students were joined by parents for a wonderful evening meal provided by our superb catering department.

Next up was the Year 13 Ball, held at One Warwick Park in Tunbridge Wells. This provided a fitting ending for a wonderful year group who worked extremely hard during their time in Sixth Form. We are very proud to be sending such strong, capable young women into the world. Wishing you all the best Class of '23!



“Work hard, play hard, eat cake and say your prayers”

Antonia Beary



In Loving Memory

Antonia Beary

14th May 1970 – 25th October 2023

On a wet November day we gathered to say goodbye to a truly remarkable daughter, sister, aunt, niece, cousin, friend and our Headmistress, Miss Antonia Mary Beary.

Antonia was the epitome of Mayfield. A woman of great faith and humility, she lived her life by the Cornelian principles and was gifted with the ability to recognise someone's capacity and potential and nurture it with warmth and genuine pride in each and every girl.

A student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Antonia was always destined to be a teacher, a leader and a campaigner of girls' Catholic education.

It was - of course - a time of grief. But it was also a time of community and a time of gratitude. From the moment Antonia's coffin came through the top gate on the Friday evening, until she was interred in the graveyard in St. Dunstan's after Requiem Mass on Saturday, Mayfield was at its inimitable best. We said our goodbyes to our leader, friend and mentor in style. And while it's true what they say - that funerals are for the living - none of us was in any doubt that Antonia would have thoroughly approved of every bit of it.



You never expect your employer to become your friend, but that's what happened to me. You never expect your place of work to become your home, but that's what happened to me. And it's all because of Antonia Beary.

I'll never forget the first time I met Antonia. It was at a lunchtime meet-and-greet for applicants in the Courtyard, and I was waxing lyrical to a captive audience about my experiences in Lourdes. In my enthusiasm, I didn't notice another person join the group. In my misguided confidence, I turned to the person and asked, 'sorry, who are you?' She took great delight in informing me that her name was Antonia and that she was the head. I learned two things that day: that Antonia Beary had a wicked sense of humour, and that it's a really bad idea to choose the egg mayo sandwich during a job interview.

A lot of my memories of Antonia involve laughter. She could find something to laugh about in almost every situation, and she always made sure I left her office with a smile on my face (and usually a bit of Sr Jean's tablet in my hand!). The rest of my memories tend to revolve around either champagne, or prayer. During the Covid lockdowns, when she was under such immense pressure, but led our school community with such grace, she always made time to come to the chapel and

pray the Rosary with me - and Tilly! And when we had prayed together, she always made sure to ask me how I was doing.

That was the thing about Antonia - she genuinely cared how people were doing. She genuinely cared about people. When I would go down to her house for a visit during her final months, she would always ask about the school, and how this teacher, or that student, was doing, and she would ask me to check in with so-and-so, or say a prayer for somebody. She was compassion personified, and she was love in action. She brought the Gospels to life, and she lived out her simple faith in a way I could only ever aspire to. Even in her illness, she found a way to grow closer to God, her faith strengthening even as her body weakened.

Antonia gave me a chance. She was my mentor, my supporter, and my inspiration. Above all, she was my friend. I'm truly grateful to her, for everything, and I - along with so many others - will miss her forever.

"This life is only a little dream that will pass away as a shadow! We are here today and gone tomorrow. What matters who is for us or who is against us? Let us only love and serve God." - Cornelia Connolly

Ronan Lavery, Chaplain

In the part of Cornelia's rule dealing with the governance of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, the ideals put forward for the First Prefect (Headmistress) are almost identical to those put forward in the 1863 Book of Studies for the mistresses teaching in the schools:

'They must regard them (the children) as the children of God, redeemed by His most precious blood, therefore as the most precious charge that the love of Jesus could confide to them, and they should cherish a truly maternal love for them.'

To Antonia, all were God's children, and so came under the same care, whether eight or eighty, student, staff or stranger; her concern for each was genuine, practical and comprehensive.

Life was for living, whether well or ill, and ideally, fun. Her headteacher colleagues paid tribute to her as the Honorary Treasurer of the Girls' Schools Association:

'A treasured friend, Antonia lit up a room with her wit and warmth and brought joy with her wherever she went. Her vibrant life, and laugh, inspired the best in us all. Whenever we think of Antonia we think of her bright smile, and as someone who lived her faith. We hope she would wholeheartedly approve of us still thinking of her smiling down upon us.'

Her annual participation in a pilgrimage to Lourdes was of major importance to her and one she wished for others; hence her request for a Lourdes bursary fund. To the end she loved and served her Lord with her whole heart. May she now rejoice eternally in his love.

Sr. Jean Sinclair SHCJ, Former Headmistress



After a suitably lengthy period studying at Cambridge, Antonia started her teaching career at the Leys School Cambridge, where she taught English. She then moved to Ampleforth where she focused on the pastoral side of school life in her role as the Housemistress of St Aiden's house. Further promotion to Head of Sixth Form at New Hall School meant she was in a perfect position to take on the role of Deputy Head Pastoral at Mayfield in September 2006. On arrival at Mayfield, having always been a 'Toni' to many of her friends, a bursar with the same name meant she became Antonia to most of the staff and girls here. Two years later, Antonia became Headmistress of Mayfield and the rest is history!

Her love for Mayfield and all its quiriness was legendary – over the seventeen years that she was here, she shaped and formed this school. Antonia was determined to put boarding back into the heart of Mayfield and during her time worked tirelessly to increase the numbers of boarders and improve the provision that the school offers through the now extensive extra-curricular and weekend programmes. She gave herself wholeheartedly to the community and involved herself in as much as possible, from watching sport matches, attending concerts and plays, supervising parties with local boys' schools, leading Lourdes pilgrimages, supporting the prefects with Live Crib and Muck Up Day and even one year lending a hand when we were short of an exam invigilator at the last minute! She was also a stickler for high academic standards, both in herself and others and during her time Mayfield's current strong position in school league tables was cemented. Her love of English and English literature remained with her throughout her life and even in the last few days we were testing each other by exchanging quotes from Lord Bryon to Margery Allingham! However, her love of a Cornelia quote was the most powerful of them all. No matter what the situation or occasion, there was always a fitting quote that firmly reminded everyone of the truly inspirational legacy that Cornelia gave the School.

Antonia lived her life through the school. An educationalist through and through she believed in every single one of the students who came through her care and she cared deeply for them. Over the years she has influenced countless lives. In particular, I was always impressed by how she always looked for the good in everyone; having a faith in them that at times they didn't have themselves. Antonia was always finding impromptu opportunities to inspire and encourage others to be themselves, but make that self what God would want one to be.

Antonia is owed an enormous debt of gratitude for her commitment to the whole Mayfield Community and right up until the end she remained invested in all Cornelians - celebrating their successes, taking pleasure in their joys, and supporting those in need. She leaves an outstanding legacy, which we all need to play our part in carrying on so the Mayfield she knew and loved can continue to go from strength to strength. *"I thought to live to complete my work, but it will be done by others."* (Cornelia Connelly)

Annabel Bunce, Deputy Head Academic



**Eternal rest grant unto her,
O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon her,
May she rest in peace.
Amen**

I did not know Antonia before she came to Mayfield, but looking back I think that there was not a great deal of time between her starting and me feeling that she had always been here. This was quite unusual, because as a member of the catering team, we were not usually aware of anyone starting in any other department.

When Antonia became Head a couple of years after joining us, she still retained her approachability. In lots of ways, I feel that she was an open book. The school community - whether student, parent, guardian, support staff, or academic staff - all mattered to her greatly. In fact, I used to joke that if we were to cut her in half she would have St. Leonards-Mayfield written through her middle, much like a stick of rock. Of course, now it would just read Mayfield.

When Antonia started at the school, she was accompanied by her faithful spaniel Humphrey and he was never far from Antonia's feet, except when a ball had been thrown. You saw Antonia and knew that he was within a short distance. I remember how lost she was when Humphrey died, and it took quite a while to not look for him whenever you saw Antonia. She later went on to foster two spaniels who had been abused, unfortunately the younger one died, but Tilly is now with a friend of Antonia's, living her best life. Antonia without a dog was just wrong. It is wonderful to know that Humphrey is with her now.

Antonia was always helping to serve drinks at functions. Personally, I remember this most especially at the support staff

Christmas party – absolute sacrilege if you had an empty glass, so she was always wandering around topping people up.

Her interest in you extended to your family. How she kept everyone and their families straight I have no idea, but she was very successful in this, and this made you feel even more valued as a colleague and friend. It was very rare to chat with no mention of family. I don't think there were many occasions when I passed Antonia's office that she didn't ask me in and check how everything was going for me and especially my parents, particularly once they moved to Norfolk. When Dad was taken to hospital with a chest infection, I was on my way there before I could draw breath with her complete approval, and again less than two months later when he had a stroke.

Being a little older than her, I had invited Antonia, along with a large proportion of the staff in school, to my 50th birthday celebrations. Unfortunately, she was not feeling great on the day and so she stayed away. I got home and found a lovely bouquet of flowers waiting outside my door for me, with a note saying how disappointed she was not to be able to attend. With my birthday being a few days before Christmas, she had made sure that the cold she was hatching was not passed on to anyone else, therefore hoping to keep everyone else fit and healthy to enjoy the festive season.

I know that she was most disappointed not to be there as I had a barn dance, so that Summer, at the end of year staff party, there was a barn dance held in the gym for us to enjoy!

Di Clarke, School Concierge

Staff Farewells

We said goodbye to a number of staff who retired or moved on to pastures new. We wish them all the very best for the next stages of their lives and thank them for all they have given to the School.

Niamh Green – Senior Deputy Head & Acting Head



Niamh joined us as Senior Deputy Head in September 2018 after four years as pastoral Deputy Head at Godolphin School. Resident on site, she had full responsibility for the pastoral and boarding side of school life. Whilst she technically started in September, with responsibility for a full educational inspection due only a few weeks later, she spent most of August prior to her official start date updating our compliance documentation

in order to make sure we were inspection ready. As an ISI inspector for over seven years she was in an ideal position to ensure we went into the inspection knowing what to expect and in the best position to articulate everything that Mayfield offers its students. She certainly hit the ground running, and this attention to detail and strong work ethic was a familiar theme throughout Niamh's time with us.

Scroll forward almost six years, and there was a sense of déjà vu. Clearly Cornelia had been praying hard that we would finally have our next inspection (18 months overdue) whilst Niamh was still with us. Whilst Niamh could have done

without an inspection in her final two weeks, with her military precision and determination she once again ensured we passed with flying colours.

Niamh has been the most supportive colleague, generous of her time and advice. The number of times I heard knocking at her door: those famous words "have you got a minute" are too numerous to mention and were often followed by the emergence of Niamh over an hour later. She has, as one member of staff eloquently put it, 'been our rock', playing a significant role in ensuring that we successfully navigated all the covid paperwork and ever changing guidelines, especially for the boarding pupils.

However, with Antonia's illness, Niamh's role took on an even greater importance to the School, as she became Acting Head for the academic year 2021 to 2022. She worked tirelessly to ensure that the School could continue to flourish despite the difficult circumstances in which we all found ourselves. She continually led from the front, and she cared deeply about the staff and girls in her care. We wish her all the best as she leaves Mayfield to join Roedean as Headmistress.

Annabel Bunce



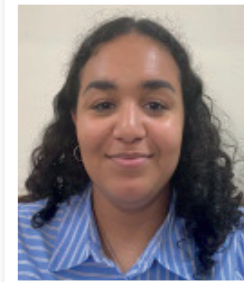
Emma Bell

Teacher of English



Jana Carpinato

Teacher of Mathematics



Rachel Elderfield

Graduate Teaching
and Boarding Assistant



Mark Rich

Head of Biology



Cora Saint

Director of Development

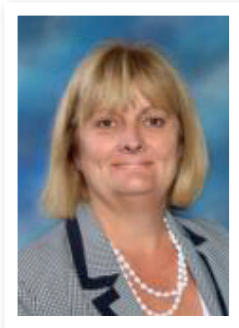


Karen Sunderland

St Dunstan's Housemistress and
Teacher of Religious Studies

We also said goodbye to the following staff, whose time at School exceeded 10 years.

Caroline Barry - Systems Director



Caroline started at Mayfield in January 2005 as a Teacher of IT, as well as immersing herself in the boarding community with a role as a tutor in St Dunstan's. When Caroline joined Mayfield, it's fair to say the IT infrastructure was in its infancy. Caroline embarked upon a process to revolutionise our IT infrastructure and make it fit for the age. Every single department within school benefited from her vision and hard work.

Having worked previously in industry with BP, Caroline was well equipped to project manage the detailed work she planned. She brought with her a vision and wealth of knowledge. Caroline led and built a superb team of professionals to support her. Each of these members of staff speaks genuinely about her knowledge, patience, empathy, compassion, warmth, vision, enthusiasm, hard work and kindness. All of her team were made to feel valued and important.

In recent years Caroline shouldered the responsibility of protecting the school from cyber-attacks. She also supported

and encouraged girls who expressed an interest in a career or degree in Computer Science or related fields. She has been an excellent role model as a successful woman working in IT in what is a largely male-dominated world.

In addition to all this expertise within the field of IT Caroline has an immense knowledge of child protection and pastoral care. She started working with me initially in St Dunstan's when I became Housemistress in April 2005. But by the end of that term, she stepped into the role of Housemistress in Leeds House whilst still taking responsibility for IT and teaching.

She made Leeds a home-from-home for the girls and very quickly became a respected member of the House team. This role lasted for 2 years and only came to an end as Caroline's time was now more urgently needed developing and expanding our IT systems. Thankfully though she found the time and returned to a boarding tutor role with me in St Dunstan's. I was immensely grateful to have her support and loyalty. As a member of the boarding team, she was very generous with her time and always tactful and discrete. Caroline was always available, supporting the girls and her colleagues to the best of her ability.

Claire Davies

Claire Davies - Teacher of Food and Nutrition



Claire joined Mayfield on 1st September 2004, coming from St Bede's in East Sussex. Claire was initially employed as a Teacher of Food and Nutrition and boarding assistant in St Dunstan's House. In March 2005, Claire was appointed as Housemistress, a role she held for 11 years.

Claire loved the variety of her roles despite it being challenging and exhausting at times. There were

a lot of fun times with the girls including several trips to France and a lovely Christmas weekend in Bath. The girls also enjoyed their outings to Canterbury Court, bringing Christmas cheer to the senior residents, and the Dunstan's House annual Christmas parties.

After 11 years as Housemistress Claire decided to step down and worked full time in Food and Nutrition, her last year as Head of Department. Claire was very proud to be able to successfully introduce A Level Food and Nutrition as well as GCSE Food Preparation within the Department. For the last 6 years, Claire worked part-time, thoroughly enjoying the role.

I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work with you in St Dunstan's boarding team. Your sense of humour made it fun to work with you. Your commitment to the School was very evident, whether campaigning for better outside night lighting for the girls to safely walk around the pathways or introducing a night caretaker to lock up the entire site. Working with you has been an honour. Thank you.

Caroline Barry

Sally Gerstmeier - Head of Drama Department



I first met Sally at Chatsmore School in Goring-by-Sea. The Drama dept at that school couldn't speak highly enough about Sally; they were full of praise and admiration for her abilities as a teacher. So, I was delighted when she applied for a position in the Drama Dept at Mayfield and even more delighted when she accepted, and what a find she was! From day one she fitted in, proving to be a dedicated, professional and enthusiastic

teacher with an excellent knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre both practical and academic.

Sally proved to not only be an excellent teacher and Head of Department but also an accomplished director as proven by the many and varied productions she has directed during her time at Mayfield. She always has an excellent eye for detail, brings the best out of her cast and crew but is never afraid to challenge them, whilst providing support and encouragement. Girls are always keen to be in a 'Gertsmeier production.'

However, her talents do not end at productions, she re-introduced the famous Caedmon society giving it a modern twist whilst building on the traditions of the original society. Under her leadership LAMDA teaching has gone from strength to strength, with girls gaining excellent results. Likewise, her GCSE and A level results are always impressive.

Sally has instigated and led many, many theatre visits and workshops, which have enabled the girls to reinforce and expand their study and love of drama and theatre.

Sally leaves an impressive legacy; she will be missed greatly by the girls, the parents, the staff and this old timer! I wish you well Sally, I hope your new school knows how lucky they are to get you.

Julie Upton (Head of Drama at Mayfield 2003-2012)

I've had the pleasure of working with Sally for the last five years. Sally's level of commitment to her job is unbelievable and she never settles for second best. While this can come across as her simply fighting her corner for her own benefit, this couldn't be further from the truth. The girls, in fact, are at the centre of everything she does. Sally wants them to love Drama as much as she does or at the very least recognise the benefits of the subject. She's 'raised the profile of Drama', to use her personal favourite phrase. Her passion, dedication and knowledge will be sorely missed by the School. She's had trouble letting go – in fact, her own husband has told her to do just that because she's spent the last few weeks and months poring over every detail to ensure that Victoria (our new Head of Drama) is in a position to support the girls as well as she possibly can. I wish Sally all the best at Lancing; our loss is most definitely their gain!

Dan Smith

Carol Jones - Matron



Carol worked in Gabs - or Connelly House as it was then - for 17 years. Her role as Matron was ever changing in that time. Originally Carol assisted in the running of the house, working alongside Housemistress Jo Roberts, living on-site with her husband Gary. She could often be found taking the girls shopping in Tunbridge Wells or for walks in Ashdown Forest.

When I came into the role (as Housemistress) Carol kindly said that she would do another year to help me settle and show me the ropes and every year since it has been 'just one more year', much to our delight. In that first week, when I thought I knew a bit about boarding and pastoral care, I quickly realised that running a boarding house was a bit different and Carol was there to hold my hand every step of the way. She worked every day and night for a week in the first week of term, whispering things to me that I should be doing and letting me pass them off as my own ideas, teaching me how to use the fire alarm and running

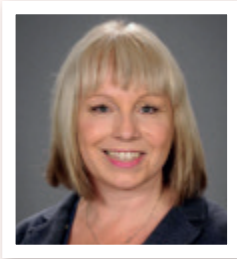
the fire drill. She taught me so much and pushed me to the front, giving me the confidence I have now for which I will always be grateful.

Carol is a master at detecting which girls have additional phones in the house and when they haven't handed them in! She mends and gets stains out of clothes, super glues things back together, and creates lovely crafty gifts to name but a few of the things she does on top of her usual work in taking girls to endless medical appointments and holding their hand when things go wrong. She is everything a matron should be and more.

Nothing is ever too much trouble for Carol, be it asking her to change her work hours to accommodate a girl's needs, a change in staffing or even walking my dog when I am out at a fixture all day. She is a rare find and one that will be missed enormously not only by me and the team but particularly by the girls. I know she is looking forward to spending her retirement with Gary and their two lovely dogs which no doubt will include plenty of fly ball and walks on the beach.

Pippa Whitby

New Staff



Deborah Bligh

Deborah is Mayfield's new Senior Deputy Head and Teacher of RS. She has 18 years of senior management experience in the Catholic School sector, having worked at St Richard's Catholic College, a leading Catholic school

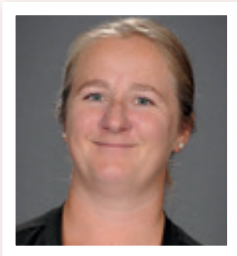
in the top 2% of all state schools in the country for value added. Deborah loves all things theatre! She also enjoys ski trips and walks in the countryside with her husband and two daughters.



Victoria Nash

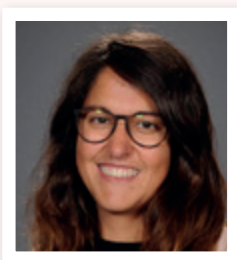
Victoria joins Mayfield as our new Director of Drama and Media. She arrives from Imberhorne School in East Grinstead, where she taught for 21 years. Victoria is mum to Oscar, Gabriel and Lorelei and enjoys family time with them,

walking in Ashdown Forest and immersing herself in nature as much as possible! She's a keen cook and enjoys treating her family to experimental vegetarian cuisine.



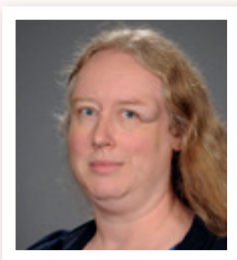
Laura Lewis

Laura is Mayfield's new Head of Biology. She has come from Kent College Pembury, where she taught for 13 years. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children. She loves travelling and spending time outside with her horses.



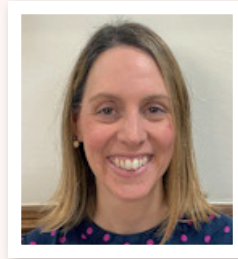
Clare Watson

Clare joins Mayfield as a Teacher of Religious Studies, having worked at Tonbridge Grammar School for 12 years. She studied Religious Studies at the University of Kent. During her free time, she enjoys running, reading, and spending time with her children.



Clare Vardon

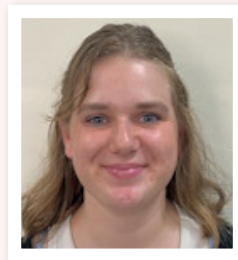
Clare is our new Head of Mathematics, having arrived from The Marist School in Sunninghill. Her hobbies include puzzles (Sudoku and crosswords) and music. She sings and plays both the piano and violin.



Rachel Lawrence

Rachel is the newest member of the English Department. Before joining Mayfield, she worked at Sir William Perkins's School in Surrey for 12 years. She has a degree in English from the University of Birmingham and completed her PGCE at the

University of Sussex. Her desire to be a teacher stems from a love of literature and an enthusiasm to impart this passion to her pupils. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her two young daughters, reading and long country walks.



Kathleen Krull

Katherine joins Mayfield as our new Graduate Assistant for St Dunstan's House and also helps in the History Department. Prior to joining Mayfield, she studied History at The University of St Andrew's. Outside of School she

likes to be active and enjoys the English countryside through running and has also recently been learning how to crochet.



Lily Martin

Lily is our new graduate assistant in Leeds House and helps out in the Geography department. She studied human and physical geography at the University of Reading and in her free time enjoys swimming and reading.



Zara Collier Baggs

Zara joins us as a Teacher of Economics and Business Studies, having studied History and Economics at Oxford University. She specialised in Medieval European History and Quantitative Economics. She enjoys reading and playing tennis and football in her free time.



Guy Whitby

Guy Whitby joins us as a Boarding Assistant in Gabs. He is married to Housemistress, Pippa Whitby

Curriculum



STEM

Isabella, Elizabeth and Megan win national engineering award



In April, three Sixth Form girls won a national engineering accolade for their plan to reduce carbon emissions and make Mayfield village more sustainable, placing second out of 140 Schools from across the UK in the ICE CityZen Competition.

Isabella, Elizabeth and Megan won the Silver Award for a plan they created to implement heat pumps in order to cut carbon emissions at School. CityZen is a UK-wide competition in which student teams learn about civil engineering by completing virtual game challenges.

They then take the lessons they've learned and apply them to their own civil engineering proposal and submit a video entry explaining their idea.

A level Maths Conference

In June, we were delighted to welcome students from Beacon Academy, Bexhill College, BHASVIC, Uplands Community College and Our Lady of Sion to our annual A Level Mathematics Conference. The focus this year was on developing problem-solving skills, which will be very useful at university and in the world of work.

The day started with an ice-breaking pairs game to encourage interaction between students from different schools and an introductory talk on why problem-solving skills are so important. Students then participated in a variety of workshops. Modelling and motion were the focus of the Mechanics workshop where students carried out experiments to calculate the effect of air resistance. In the Statistics workshop, they looked at the probability of winning Britain's Got Talent and why airlines always overbook their flights. A workshop on university admissions tests gave an insight into how they could help you transition into the next stage of education. All students had the opportunity to participate in a fun relay which enabled them to work interactively with other students. To round off the day we were very fortunate to welcome Ben Sparks as our keynote speaker who gave a thought-provoking talk on 'The Creation of Number'.

Here's what attendees had to say:

Joyce - *"Working with students from other schools led me to consider new perspectives in solving problems that I haven't thought of before, which was incredibly beneficial to aid to my preparation for Maths A-levels. I thoroughly enjoyed the lecture given by Ben Sparks - it challenged me to think about numbers in ways I have never considered before."*

Urenna - *"I specifically liked the university admissions talk as it helped me understand how universities utilise admissions tests to sort applicants."*



Year 8 get to grips with the digestive system

Our fantastic Biology Technician, Miss Wolmarans, made a brilliant model of the breathing and digestive systems to help Year 8s understand how different organs and systems work together. We then "fed" the model a very substantial meal washed down with plenty of water and fresh coffee. In a hands-on and very messy session, the girls learnt how each part of the digestive system works, including considering what happens to the waste!



Senior Mathematical Challenge

In the Autumn Term, Year 12 and Year 13 Mathematicians were entered for the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge, a 90-minute paper of challenging Maths questions. The Mathematics Department are pleased to report the following results.

Gold certificates

Victoria, Andrea, Abigail, Elizabeth and Sheraine.

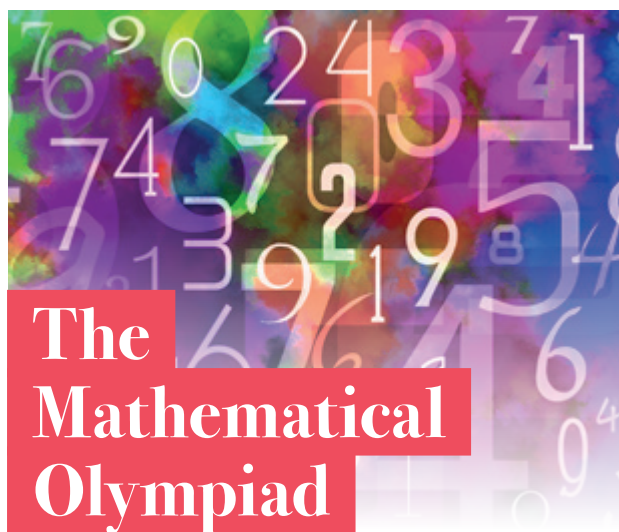
Silver certificates

Audrey, Joyce, Sabrina, Anabelle, Charlotte, Mia, Charlotte, Christina.

Bronze certificates

Imogen, Herlin, Rachel, Evangeline, Elizabeth, Sara, Carolina, Sherry.

Well done to everyone who participated.



The Mathematical Olympiad for Girls is a 2.5-hour competition consisting of five challenging problems aimed at girls and young women across the UK.

Congratulations to Elizabeth and Sherry from Year 12 and Charlotte, Elizabeth and Christina from Year 13 who took part in the Olympiad this year. The three Year 13 girls were awarded a Certificate of Merit. Well done girls.

Chemistry Olympiad

Congratulations to Upper Sixth pupil Mia for achieving the top Gold Award in this year's Chemistry Olympiad, putting her in the top 9% of the country's best and brightest Chemists. The Olympiad is designed to challenge and inspire and is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the field of Chemistry. Budding Chemists develop lateral and critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively, and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.



Biology Live conference

In November, the Year 12 Biologists travelled to the Dominion Theatre in London for the annual 'Biology Live' conference. They listened to a variety of lectures given by a wide range of professionals. Highlights included the talk, "A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived" by BBC Radio 4's Dr Adam Rutherford, as well as the interdisciplinary talk regarding anthropology and history by Prof. Alice Roberts on her book "Tamed". An interesting and informative day out!



Maths in Action

In the Autumn Term, a group of A level Mathematics students took part in Maths in Action, enjoying five captivating, informative talks on a wide variety of topics, such as mathematical biology, quantitative trading and magic! The talks gave a detailed insight into the opportunities provided by a mathematics degree, as well as giving helpful advice for tackling exam questions. The speakers were very inspiring, making for a fun day overall!

Annabelle

"It was great to see the many applications of maths in the world, from predicting changes in the stock market to learning the secrets behind magic tricks. I found the talk on using maths to model biological problems, like antibiotic resistance, particularly interesting."



Sister Jean's Maths Challenge

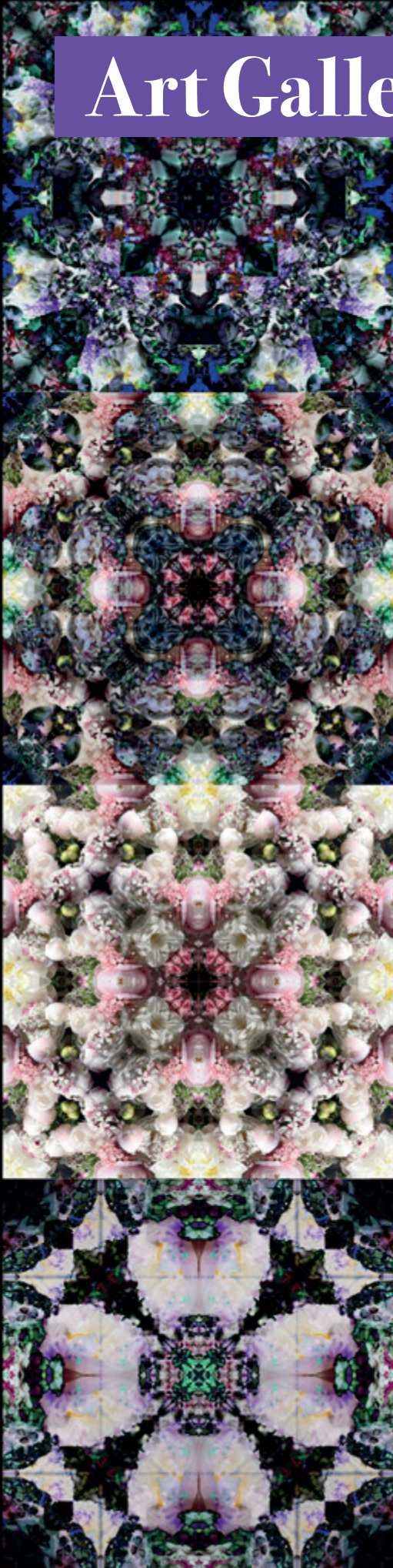
Girls in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 completed 150 questions over the course of the Autumn term as part of Sister Jean's Maths challenge to celebrate Mayfield School's 150 years at the Old Palace. In December, Sister Jean joined us to give out prizes to winners in each year group.

Physics breaktime talks

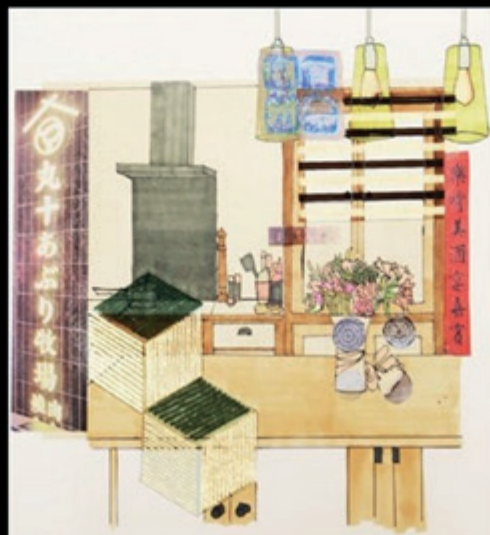
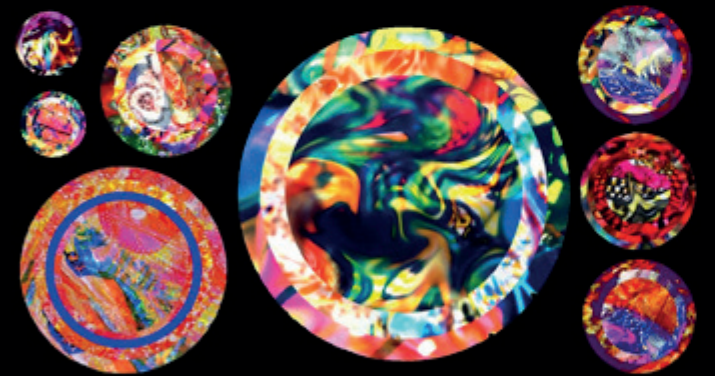
In the Sixth Form breaktime talks the girls discussed fascinating ideas in physics, such as how we could utilise ion propulsion in the future for spacecraft and commercial planes, as well as taking a deeper look at the physics of some Marvel superheroes.



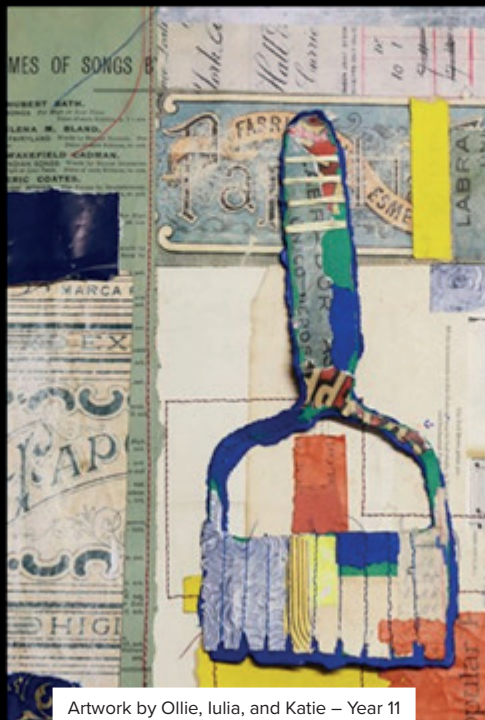
Art Gallery



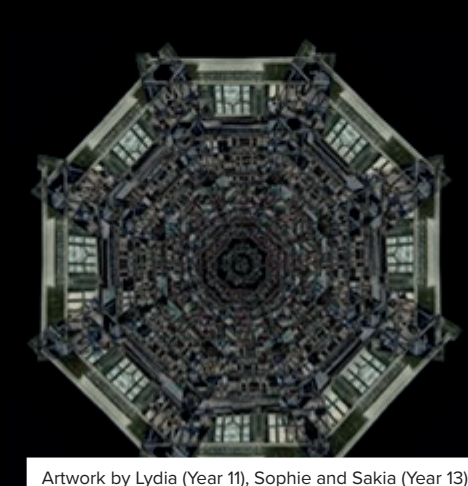
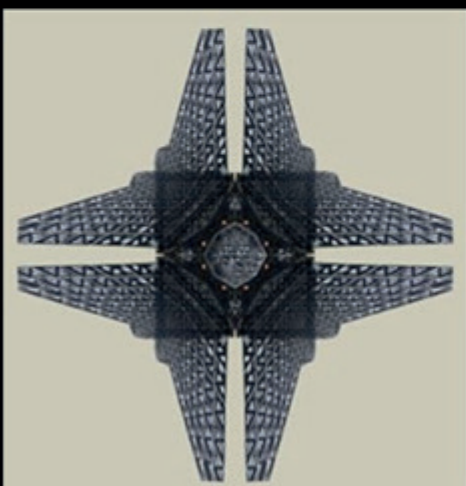
Artwork by Maddie, Fiona, and Mere - Year 13



Artwork by Bebe, Amelia, Georgina, Greta, and Isabel - Year 11



Artwork by Ollie, Iulia, and Katie – Year 11



Artwork by Lydia (Year 11), Sophie and Sakia (Year 13)

Creative Arts

Art & Design Trip to Hastings

In September, the Year 10 GCSE and Year 12 A level Art and Design students visited Hastings for the day to develop their photographic skills and gather visual research for their current coursework projects. A plethora of photographs were taken of a wide range of subjects as the students focused on the buildings, signage and shop fronts in the Old Town and fishing boats, machinery and fishing paraphernalia along the seafront.



Year 13 Art and Ceramics Trip to Oxford

Six Year 13 A level Art and Ceramics pupils travelled to Oxford in October, visiting the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, as well as Worcester College and its amazing Chapel. The girls headed home inspired by what they had seen.



Ceramics Masterclass

Brambletye's Head of Art, David Holden, brought 18 Art and DT scholars to Mayfield for a Ceramics Masterclass in June. Throughout the day the students created 3D relief work in clay, closely observing elements of the human skeleton. Mr Rees-Moorlah was highly impressed with their skill and dedication throughout the day. Some fruits of their labour can be seen below. We look forward to welcoming Brambletye back next year!



Music

Mayfield welcomes BBC New Generation Artist

In the Spring term, we were delighted to welcome mezzo-soprano Helen Charlston to the School to deliver a recital in partnership with the Mayfield Festival, and a masterclass for our singers. Helen, a BBC New Generation Artist, gave a recital of German and English songs, themed around love and nature, with excerpts from the Isolation Songbook, a project she commissioned during the 2020 lockdown. Pupils, staff and members of the public were treated to an exciting and moving expressive journey.

The masterclass which followed showcased four of our leading singers:

Liberty (Y10), Maddie (Y11), Harriet (Y12) and Yueshi (Y13), all of whom were inspired by Helen to make great progress, especially in the engagement of their audience and in finding expressive narratives in their songs. Other girls attending the masterclass gained insights into preparing songs for performance, communicating with listeners and took part in several exercises towards these ends.

It was an afternoon of wonderful music, and we are grateful to Helen and her accompanist Sholto Kynoch for their time and expertise.



St Cecilia's Day Concert

In November, the School gave the annual St Cecilia's Day Concert, taking place on the eve of the feast itself. The concert showcased a variety of styles and instruments in the beautiful setting and acoustic of Gresham Hall. The school string quartet played Schubert's hymn to music "An die Musik" to open the concert, with its lines 'You lovely art, in how many gray hours/Where I was stricken by life/have you ignited my heart for warm love/ have you brought me to a better world!' setting the tone for the evening.

This was followed by our scholars old and new, who performed songs from Berlioz and Bernstein, and accompanied music for horn, clarinet, saxophone and violin and piano solos. It was a wonderful celebration of musical talent and of the great joy that music brings to us all, and we left echoing Schubert's song: "You holy art, I thank you for it all!"





Trip to see the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

In September, senior Music Scholars and girls studying GCSE and A level Music attended a performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall in London. The concert was enjoyed by all, and our Year 10 GCSE students commented:

Catherine: "It was phenomenal. I enjoyed how all the players loved what they were doing and really put their best effort into portraying the music on their instruments. The sound was also really good, very different from a recording or from YouTube. It feels like I am engaged in the playing instead of being a spectator watching a video."

Trinity: "I loved how the sound resonated all across the hall. It is quite impossible to replicate that in a recording. Isata Kanneh-Mason's playing was amazing."

jSax Fun

In the Autumn term, the girls in Year 7 learnt how to play the jSax in their music lessons. Through learning an instrument, they also learnt about pitch and rhythm in a fun and practical way. We hope that it might inspire some future saxophonists. Could you be the next Charlie Parker or Candy Dulfer?



Easter Concert

In May, Scholars and invited Gifted and Talented musicians gave a concert of solo and chamber music. The concert included everything from Jazz and Music Theatre to early operatic arias and twentieth-century piano music. Performances from musicians near the end of their Mayfield musical journey were particularly enjoyable, including Mia (Year 13, clarinet), Christina (Year 13, piano and voice), Yueshi (Year 13, piano and voice) and Teresa (Year 13, violoncello). All the girls gave their best and the result was a hugely varied and engaging evening of music from the very best of Mayfield musicians.





Christmas Music Concert

Mayfield's Christmas Concert was opened by the Year 7 Choir, performing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' in their debut concert, followed by the Year 8 Choir with 'Fast Car'. We then had a stunning trio, performing Berlioz. Christina played the Harp beautifully alongside Annabel and Katie on Flute. The girls really demonstrated what can be achieved and the audience was captivated.

This was followed by a complete change of direction, with the Jazz Collective performing 'bad guy' by Billie Eilish (who thought you would

hear Eilish and Berlioz together!) and bringing a little Christmas feel with Silver Bells, solos performed by Mia and Pippa.

Our youngest ensemble then took to the stage! The department has had an influx of Year 7 flautists and led by Mrs Crowley, made their debut.

Schola performed a sweet arrangement of 'Little Donkey' with a little twist, care of Dr Ward. With Teresa on Cello and Christina on Piano, they accompanied a vocal performance of Berlioz's 'La Captive' led by Yueshi.

The Orchestra performed 'Symphony No. 41' by Haydn before the slower pace of Elgar's 'Nimrod' where the Orchestra filled the Concert Hall. They then took off again with a bright and driving 'Theme from the Avengers' which went down well with the audience.

Finally, the massed Year 7 and 8 Choirs finished with a cheerful rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' with fantastic actions to accompany it!

Well done to all of the girls involved and thank you to everyone involved in a fun and festive concert.



Ceramics Gallery



Angela - Year 11



Freya - Year 11



Hannah - Year 11



Lydia - Year 11



Becky - Year 11



Chloe - Year 11



Rebecca - Year 11



Edith - Year 11



Pippa - Year 11



Lara - Year 11



Sophia - Year 11



Zoe - Year 11



Lucy - Year 11



Fernand - Year 11



Nicole - Year 11



Rikki - Year 11



Julia - Year 11



Maddie - Year 13



Amelia - Year 13



Natalie - Year 13



Emma - Year 13



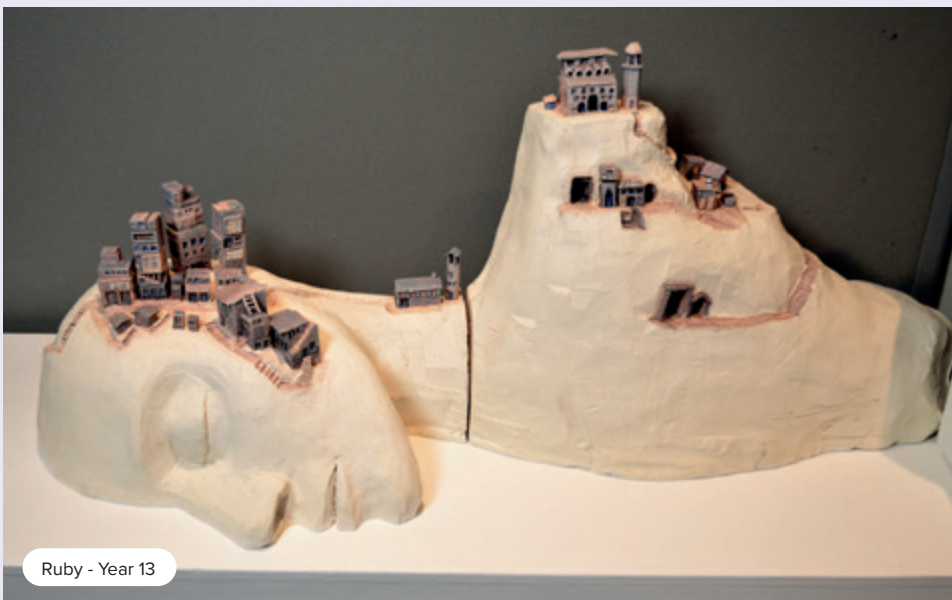
Fiona - Year 13



Mere - Year 13



Molly - Year 13



Ruby - Year 13



Ella - Year 13

Humanities



Lower Sixth Geography Trip to Stratford

In January, Lower Sixth Geographers enjoyed a day out of the classroom investigating urban change in Stratford and comparing the Olympic Park and East Village to the older parts of Stratford. They spent time interviewing members of the public about their views of how Stratford has changed and assessing the environmental quality of the area.

Sixth Form RS Trip to London

In December, Sixth Form Religious Studies' students attended the Ethiqqa philosophy, ethics, and religion masterclass conference in London. They heard brilliant scholars address ideas in their A level course, including: Professor Keith Ward on 'Is theism rationally defensible?', Julie Arliss on 'Where does moral value lie?', Dr Andrew Pinsett on 'The problem of evil', and Professor Daphne Hampson on 'God and gender'.





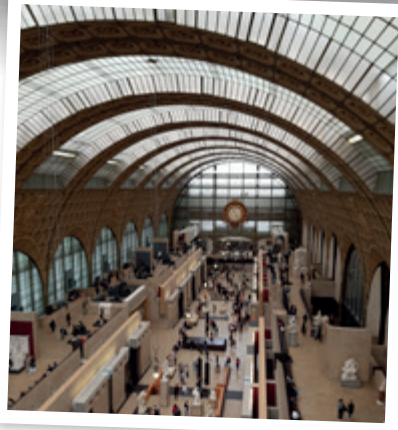
Paris Trip

On the last morning of the Spring term 21 Sixth Form students (plus two younger members of Schola) left School for St Pancras International in London to catch Eurostar and encounter art, music, language and culture in Paris. They were accompanied by Dr Weddell, Head of History of Art, Dr Ward, Director of Music, Mme Testa, Head of French, and Mr Benians, Music Tutor and organist.

Dr Weddell had the following to say about the trip: "We stayed just near the Marais at Hotel Alhambra, close enough to walk down shopping streets to our first destination, the Musée Carnavalet, to study the history of Paris. On Thursday we visited the converted railway station that houses the Musée

d'Orsay. Here there were many 19th century paintings studied for History of Art A Level, including Monet's 'Poppies'. We lunched at a typical Parisian brasserie where, as well as the usual 'frites', the girls tried snails!

"In the afternoon we walked to the Musée des Arts Decoratifs to see collections of jewellery and design from the medieval to contemporary period. There was time for shopping in the wonderful Grande Épicerie de Paris for food gifts as we walked to the Eglise Notre-Dame de Grâce de Passy. Here Schola Cantorum conducted by Dr Ward gave a splendid charity concert in aid of refugees. The Church had very good acoustics for their beautiful voices and for the organ, ably played



by Mr Benians. On Friday morning, we walked to the Musée du Louvre, enjoying the sights and sounds of Paris. Here we went first to view Leonardo's 'Mona Lisa' – with varied reactions from the group. Then we viewed the huge 19th century history paintings studied for History of Art A Level – even more impressive seen at first hand."



Year 10 Modern Foreign Languages Day

In July, Year 10 experienced a celebration of French and Spanish culture for their MFL day. Activities included: cooking Pisto Manchego, a traditional Spanish tomato and vegetable dish; learning to dance flamenco steps, including the 'llamada' and 'marcaje' steps, with Ana Dueñas from Academia Flamenca; and taking part in a Boules tournament.



A level Geographers head to the coast

In September, our A Level Geographers investigated sediment budgets along the Sussex coast between Newhaven and Seaford. Field data was collected to test a range of hypotheses. The girls also undertook flood risk mapping and interviewed residents about their perceptions of coastal flood risk.



Historians go back in time

Our Year 10 Historians paid a visit to the National Archives and Westminster Abbey for an investigation into the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, who they have been studying as part of their GCSE.

The day began at the National Archives, learning firstly about the purpose and work of the organisation. The main focus though was on using genuine Tudor documents, including handwritten letters from Elizabeth, to explore her rule and personality in more depth.

In the afternoon we travelled to Westminster Abbey, to understand further how religion changed in England under Elizabeth I. Our tour guides helped the girls to see how the Abbey buildings have changed and what can be learnt from the evidence inside, such as the many tombs and memorials.

Classics Trip to London

In the Summer term, Year 7 students went on a Classics Trip to London, visiting the John Soane and the British Museum, exploring the world of the ancient Romans. The girls enjoyed a tour of John Soane's house, looking at the rooms full of classical objects and learning about his passion for Ancient Greek and Roman history. The day finished with a trip to the British Museum, looking at many different aspects of the Roman Empire.



Battlefields Trip

During Enrichment Week, 31 of the Year 9 girls travelled to France and Belgium to experience the battlefields of the First World War. We visited the underground tunnels at Arras, which housed thousands of British troops before they launched a surprise attack in 1917. Then we drove to Ypres in Belgium to learn more about the battle of Passchendaele, before visiting both German and British military cemeteries at Langemark and Lijessenthoek. An obligatory stop at the chocolate shop in Ypres and a lovely dinner in a local restaurant was followed by the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, which powerfully commemorates the fallen. On Wednesday we developed what has been learnt in History lessons about the Battle of the Somme by following in the footsteps of British and Newfoundland troops as they went over the top. Girls witnessed how hard it would have been to cross the deadly no man's land and at Thiepval memorial we paid our respects to those who sacrificed so much. Some cultural and retail therapy was appreciated by all after that and we enjoyed the picturesque Amiens before returning to Mayfield.



French café comes to Mayfield

To celebrate the European Day of Languages, the French department offered a little cafe experience for girls to enjoy. On the menu, there was a selection of typical French food, including profiteroles, crêpes, waffles, and 'tarte aux pommes', which was served at tables by our Sixth Form students. It was lovely to see pupils engaged in conversation and practising their oral skills in a relaxed environment.



English and Drama

Frantic Assembly Drama workshop

In the Spring term, the Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils took part in a workshop held by actor and practitioner, Cudjoe Asare from the Theatre company, Frantic Assembly. During the two hours the pupils learned to work together in the genre of physical theatre, which is the predominant style of the company. The techniques that they practised will now be used within their own work when creating drama. The pupils very much enjoyed the experience and gained a great deal.

Alexa in Year 10 said: *“The Frantic Assembly practitioner was engaging, and I think that we really expanded our knowledge of physical theatre and our team skills. He taught us a few different lifts, the pocket and the hook, which allowed us to be more creative and move more fluidly.”*



In March, Evie and Phoebe, Year 13 Drama A Level students, performed an extract from Caryl Churchill's play, 'Top Girls'. It premiered in 1982 and is now a classic of modern theatre. Set during a period of British politics dominated by the newly elected Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, Churchill's play prompts us to question our notions of women's success and solidarity.

National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day, girls in Year 7 transformed the novel 'Julia and the Shark' into performance poetry. They used voice, movement, and choral reading to bring short verses from the novel to life. Once back in the classroom, the girls were inspired to write their own poetry, using words and images from the novel as their inspiration.



World Book Day

World Book Day celebrations kicked off with a visit to the school by Carnegie Award winning author Anthony McGowan. He talked to Years 9 and 10 about the stories behind his books, often drawing on his personal experiences as a teenager at a difficult school in Leeds during the 1970s. The girls were able to ask questions about his life as a writer, his inspirations and methods. They learned about the research that he does for all his books, including the 2 years it took him to write his latest book, 'Dogs of the Deadlands', a tale about the survival of one pet dog abandoned after the Chernobyl disaster.

During A1, Anthony spent time with the winners and runners up in our 500 word short story competition. He spoke about the 'four questions' that may help structure a story, as well as how to use the 'hero's journey' and Freytag's Pyramid, telling a story from his teen years that he used for a book.



150 Petals

By Lucie in Year 8

Arm-like branches reach up to the darkening, tranquil sky. The boughs are covered with teeming flowers, that have waited eleven months since the last blooming to fly daintily through the sky again. The air is filled with the laughter and smiles of the Hanami picnics below but most importantly, everyone has gathered to take in the sweet scent of the flower that brings joy to all. From one single tree, one hundred and fifty individual, unique petals are slowly taken away twirling to the tune of the birds flying high above the trees, dancing like ballerinas in the gusts of wind and taking turns to pirouette and leap across the night sky.

The first of many petals floats into a ruby, bamboo Kinchaku bag clutched by the elegant hand of a geisha. Camouflaged by the pink carefully stitched lining, the petal will lie there for generations. The second is chased by a playful puppy like a bouncing ball. The third, is drifting through the field, the petal never touched by the polar bear-like dog covered with long white fur brushing along the short freshly cut grass. A couple more perfect petals float peacefully to the floor while the wind catches one, spiralling it towards the northern suburbs to land on a businessman's shoulder. He brushes it off in a hurry.

Soon after that a petite petal lands amongst the silky, golden sand on the Island of Okinawa in the bucket and spade of two young children. Like a flag, the petal completes the castle. Slowly, the sandcastle gets washed away and the petal gets carried to a faraway land by the azure waves. In her workshop, a florist presses the cerise treasure glistening like dew on a crisp spring morning to create a masterpiece that is to be displayed in the joyous festival descending on Kyoto for years to come.

A couple land, like confetti, on the bride's hair at a wedding at the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo, completing her graceful look. Photos surprise the newly married couple as they never knew so many petals had joined the party.

Finally, the sun starts to rise and the one hundred and fiftieth, the final petal, drifts to the end of its journey. In the idyllic countryside of Honshu where Mount Fuji continues to lie asleep, the sky is filled with explosions of colour from pale blue to saffron. The tawney volcano forms a silhouette in front of the sky that looks as if an artist has spent hours painting the perfect picture. Mist from the bottom of the iconic volcano forms a barrier halfway up. A single petal that has travelled almost a hundred miles from where it started slowly settles into the crater of the mighty volcano. It watches the mesmerised faces of hikers as they reach the top and see the same view the petal does.

From one single tree, one hundred and fifty petals drift all around Japan and bring a smile to thousands of people.

Mayfield Theatre Company Seniors: Hansel and Gretel

The Spring term saw Mayfield Theatre Company Seniors' production of Kneehigh's *Hansel and Gretel*. For two evenings the cast took us to an enchanted forest, and to a house made up of sweets and cakes within our wonderful school grounds. This retelling of the classic fairy tale had all the elements of storytelling, drama, humour and a water gun! The actors were not fazed by the challenges of working outside, and thankfully the weather held. This was a thoroughly enjoyable production and congratulations to the wonderful cast for their talent and professionalism.





Only The Moon Was Important

by Emilia in Year 9

Only the moon was important
 Just a few steps from the sun
 Circling the earth in orbit
 A complete mind of crumbs

The gritty taste that beheld it
 Sand, salt and cheese
 Deep dark craters
 Where problems lie and sleep

Coming back to the earth
 To home that lies ahead
 Spattering sound of rain
 Thunderstorms that crept

Lying back on the sofa
 Journey left behind
 The moon now in the past
 And craters left behind

The Bear

by Izzy in Year 7

The majesty of the mountain,
 The ruler of the seasons,
 Its claws are of pointed, bloodied daggers,
 Their brains are plotting, twisted, evil schemers,
 Any that dare challenge his kingly presence,
 Will face his deadly, cruel, Godly essence,
 When he gazes down at the dazzling forest rim,
 He knows everything he can see belongs to him,
 Innocent fish cower under their gaping shadows,
 Under the deep darkening cloud, they all froze,
 Its jaws a doorway to death, sucking in all who venture near,
 He prowls around the deep, dark forest, eerie and bleak,
 He spears fleeing creatures with his steel claws,
 Devouring them with his fierce, slobbering jaws,
 It is clear to all creatures far and wide,
 That he is the king,
 Of everything.

Inter-House Drama

The last day of the Spring term saw our annual Inter-House Drama competition. Each House was asked to create a 15-minute film based on '150 years of Mayfield!' Congratulations to all of those involved, who quite evidently had worked hard at the challenge. Special congratulations to all the winners; prizes included Ioanna for lead actress, Mabel for best supporting actress, best costume went to Glennie, best lighting and sound effects to Astor, best programme went to Bronte and finally best overall film was also won by Bronte this year!



In the footsteps of Mrs Dalloway



On the hottest day of the year nine intrepid Year 12s braved the heat to walk from Westminster to Bond Street and then to visit the British Library. Mrs Parrett kept everyone entertained along the route with little readings of appropriate passages tracing Mrs Dalloway's footsteps and we all ended up with a new found respect for Mrs Dalloway actually walking the distance – she did the journey there and back in two hours – we took a lot longer!



We stopped outside a house rumoured to have been looked at by Virginia Woolf as a model for the book, then stopped in St James' Park to catch a glimpse of one of London's many June activities (rehearsal for Trooping the Colour), marched up the Grand Old Duke of York's steps and indulged in the cool sanctuary of Hatchards book shop.

In the visit to The British Library Mrs Parrett introduced us to some fascinating book statistics, showed us the (very) extensive library of George III and allowed us all to explore the treasures collection which included the Magna Carta, and a Shakespeare first folio.

Mayfield Theatre Company Juniors

In the Summer term, Mayfield Theatre Company Juniors performed 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and 'The Gingerbread Man' for an appreciative audience in the marquee. The strong cast of twenty-one from Years 7 and 8 collaboratively told the story through a very visual and physical performance of these well-loved tales. A massive well done to all the cast!





These poems were inspired by one of the stories in 'Iridescent Adolescent', which is part of the curriculum in Year 9.

Death of soul

by Emilia in Year 9

I take the train to Italy,
It's my childhood, a dream,
It feels like centuries ago,
That I was soon sixteen.

The crazy travellers on boats,
The beautiful city goes far,
Dreams are so free,
Wandering without a star.

A forgotten help has washed up,
Wounds and scars forgotten,
A temple without a throne,
A throne free of cotton.

Careless modern fathers,
Endless beautiful deaths,
Dreams not far from destruction,
Frightened of their last breaths.

Ancient city of death

by Amelia in Year 9

In an endless desert of ruins, life once flourished,
Flowers bloomed, never being left undernourished,
People once wandered the streets, families grew together,
The sun blazed fiercely producing beautiful weather,

Somewhere far away in the valleys, was a sad place,
It was a rival city that once stood, but is now an empty space,
They destroyed the happy city and a void swept through the desert,
Death crept to all the souls that were hurt,

Now, centuries later, somewhere in the midst of the
nothingness is peace.

Palmyra

by Annette in Year 9

The palms bloomed in Palmyra, Syria,
The sky is wide, it is everywhere
The endless sand is like the endless sea
Deserts, temples, palm trees, art.
Bombs fell down on us
Blasting deserts, temples, palm trees, art to smithereens
Ruins threw up dead onto the shore by the careless sea
Great temples and baths that survived
Fierce against the feet
The modern city by the ruins
It has lovely remnants of ancient age.

‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ at The Globe

In the Summer term, Year 8 enjoyed a trip to Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre in London. We began the day with a tour of The Globe, during which we learned about the history of the theatre and even saw a rehearsal of ‘Macbeth’ in progress. After their tour, the girls had a chance to put their own talents to the test, as they worked with two Globe actors in an interactive drama workshop. After a spot of lunch, it was time for the main event: the matinee of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’. We all agreed it was a fantastic production, made even more atmospheric by the heavens opening just after the interval. The girls were able to experience just what happens in an open-air theatre: when it rains, the cast and the groundlings get wet!



Mayfield Poetry Day

In the Autumn Term, award-winning poet Holly Hopkins spent time at Mayfield for our annual Poetry Day. She led a series of workshops as well as reading some of her own superb poetry. Holly gave Year 10 and Year 11 lots of accessible and useful ideas for creative writing and shared some of her favourite poems with us.

Holly also judged Mayfield’s Eisteddfod. This lovely showpiece featured a wide range of poems and moods, ranging from gentle and bright, to powerfully ghostly. Congratulations to all our finalists, who performed with intelligence and clarity.



Caedmon production of 'Before the Ink was Dry'

At the end of November we saw an amazing Caedmon production of 'Before the Ink was Dry', a play written by Year 13 boarders Elizabeth and Evie and starring some of our most talented Upper Sixth thespians. It was set in the Courtyard, a cutting edge 'new' fringe venue, and proved a most entertaining evening. Caedmon is our Sixth Form drama group and allows the senior girls the opportunity to take responsibility for directing and performing new and quirky works, often penned by the girls themselves.

Towards the end of last year, Caedmon decided that they would like to develop their own play. The group brainstormed ideas for the plot and used

improvisation to devise characters. After they came up with a concept, along with what 'type' of character each would like to play, Evie and Elizabeth co-wrote the dialogue. They created 'Before the ink was dry,' a darkly comic murder mystery. This collaborative exercise resulted in a one-off performance in the Courtyard, and although the cast were not used to being in such close proximity to an audience, they were not at all distracted. In fact, they each played their character with clarity and focus. The play deserved the enthusiastic response that it received from the audience. Congratulations to all those involved!





150 Bats Swarmed Me

By Be in Year 7

The dark, cold, cobbled road was encased in moss and other flora and fauna. The horse slowly trotted down the avenue, nervous and on edge. I could not blame him; the fog was blocking everything from view. Ivy twisted into black poisonous snakes crawling along branches; boughs reached out to the incandescent moon. Snap! My heart raced; my breathing increased. I began to shake.

My horse stopped. "What are you doing? Go, go!" It cantered off into an even darker area of woods, where the branches were suffocating, slowly dragging me into the path. Duke Aconite had better give me that document, otherwise I had come all this way for nothing ... My heart fell off a cliff, plummeting into a pit of anxiety, I must do this.

As I pulled up to the castle, presumably the duke's abode, I noticed a sign on a dark, old piece of shipwreck which was inscribed '*Tenebris candentis verspertilionse hic vangantur*'. "It's in another language of some sorts," I muttered, I wonder what it says. I turned my gaze down towards the grass and noticed a music box. I opened it and a small ballerina popped out. I grinned in delight as I wound it up and let the ballerina dance. I then noticed the mirrors were cracked like a spider's web and the song the ballerina danced to was Don Govinda, a song all about the devil.

In the background I could hear a girl screaming at the top of her lungs. it was ear piercing. For the first time I looked her in the face. "Huugh," I gasped. There was blood trickling over her and there was a small purple pentagram at the top of her forehead. I jumped up from where I crouched and pushed it away from me. Abruptly, I felt a cold rigid hand clamp on my shoulder. I dared not to turn my head. "Oh, little Delilah, you have awoken my babies, you shouldn't have played that tune ..." I gathered all the courage to turn my head to see a tree not a human. The noise continued and was now coming from inside the music box. "Delilah I am over here ..." the voice snickered. "Is that you Duke Aconite?" I echoed, but there was no response.

Instead, a nearby tree began to glow and flap and suddenly 150 bats swarmed from its branches towards me. I jumped on my horse and galloped away, but the bats continued to chase me. "Haaaaaggh!" my horse bucked, and I fell off into the blood-coloured swamp. I looked at my face in the reflection and saw there was a pentagram on my forehead like the ballerina. It must have been scratched on by the bats. The reflection slowly turned into Duke Aconite. "Hahaha, don't you love them? Now you are mine too ... and that document you wanted was destroyed many moons ago by yours truly." A sharp talon stabbed me, and the reflection was slowly covered by the back of my head plunging into the maroon river.



Improvisation workshop

Mayfield Theatre Company Juniors took part in our inaugural improvisation competition in December. This consisted of the company being given just 30 minutes to produce a piece of theatre based on the title *'The Announcement'*. In groups of four, the mixed Year 7 and 8s performed an array of different plots and characters, whilst using a variety of dramatic techniques. Congratulations to all those who took part, especially our Gold medallists: Hester, India, Natalia and Lola.

'It was very interesting learning about the different improvisation techniques which included flashbacks, narration and humour. We also learnt how to maximize the space we had to make sure our performance wasn't too crowded. I particularly enjoyed using flashbacks as it was hilarious. We were very proud of each other for receiving 1st place, and well done to everyone who participated!' - India

Year 7 and 8 Shakespeare Off By Heart Final

After some very competitive heats in lesson time, we took to the Concert Hall for the Lower School finale. LAMDA teacher Jen Junemann was the judge. The performances were excellent, with a great range of scenes, and the audience felt all the emotions. We were very impressed by the understanding, sensitivity, theatricality and memorising powers shown by all participants. There were prizes for best comic and tragic scenes, best group and duologues, and best individuals.



National Youth Theatre



In January, the Drama department hosted a workshop from the National Youth Theatre for 20 students. They all participated in the two-hour event, then had the opportunity to individually audition to be a part of the long-standing company. Approximately 6,000 young people audition every year, with the company offering just 700 places. Given those odds, we were delighted that five of our students were offered a place - congratulations to Evie, Alice, Breanna, Eloise and Eliza for their achievement at gaining a place.



Do you enjoy Drama, Acting or Musical Theatre?
Do you want help with your English skills?
Do you want help to build your confidence?

In March, thirty-eight students took a LAMDA performance examination, ranging from Grade 2 to Grade 8 (the Gold award). These are practical examinations that take place within school between a certified LAMDA examiner and an individual student or a pair of students. We were delighted by the results, with 87% achieving a Distinction and 13% achieving a High Merit.

Introducing 'Watery Glass'

In December, the first edition of 'Watery Glass', the new student-produced school literary journal, was released. It featured several brilliant articles on favourite books, both modern and classic, by Year 11s Sophie F, Breanna, Katie, Rosie and Iulia, and a reflection by Sixth Former Yueshi. Keep an eye out for future editions!



Cross-curricular days



The Cookie Project

In the Spring term, Year 7 girls took part in The Cookie Project, a team challenge to design, produce and market a cookie in just one day! The day began with a cookie tasting session. Teams had to consider the appearance, taste, texture and market appeal of five different cookies. This was followed by a planning session where roles were decided, cookie ingredients agreed and the logo was designed. The groups then divided between the bakers, who were tasked with producing the best possible cookie, the designers, who were responsible for the packaging and a promotional photograph, and the marketers who were in charge of writing a script for the advert and preparing the final presentation.

Communication between different parts of the teams was essential and in true Apprentice style this didn't always go to plan! In the afternoon, the teams came back together to film their advert and practise for the final presentation. Then it was time to present their product to the judges. Mr Smith, Miss Oliver and Maria (Year 12) made up the judging panel and were very impressed with the quality of the girls' work and how much they had achieved in a short space of time. The overall winning team was Sugar and Spice. Congratulations to all who took part!



Moon Camp Challenge

In the Summer term, the Year 8s embarked on a cross-curricular STEM project designed to develop their teamwork, communication and creative skills through a series of engineering, scientific and design challenges, with the aim of establishing a base on the moon.

Working in groups, girls began the challenge by choosing a purpose for their moon camp, before researching the various difficulties that they might encounter. Each team then split into smaller sub-groups to pursue further specialist enquiries:

- Structural engineers pressure tested different window shapes and sizes in order to determine which would be most suitable for space, as well as investigating optimal launch conditions for bottle rockets.
- Bio-engineers focused on the essentials such as food and water; finding that filtering recycled water was more effective than distillation, learning about hydroponic farming, and considering how to keep both physically and mentally-fit in space.
- Software engineers made excellent progress in their use of the Python programming language to code robotic buggies to navigate a lunar landscape and use machine learning to avoid aliens!
- Design engineers learnt how to use 3D computer aided design software to develop a model of their moon base, ensuring it reflected their group's purpose.

Throughout the project each team filmed their work, and then edited a final video to showcase their processes and findings. Staff were impressed by the engagement and enthusiasm shown by the girls and particularly enjoyed the quality of their films.



Olympics Day

In the Summer term, Year 7 took part in an Olympic themed day. After learning about the ancient Olympic games, the girls looked at the origin, and influences of, the modern Olympic games. Using the Tokyo games as a case study, Year 7 explored the events, mascots and values underpinning the Olympics.

Each group was allocated their own country to research, before being set the task of designing their own mini-Olympic games for Mayfield. They each produced a mascot, chant, event, and their own kit to be worn at the afternoon games where everyone had the chance to compete in all four of the different countries' events.



Codes Day

In November, Year 8 took part in a cross-curricular day based on the theme of Codes. After an initial introduction to why we need codes and how we use them in our everyday lives, the girls took part in a carousel of activities. These included British Sign Language, Braille, Semaphore, Codes in Chemistry and Musical codes.

The day culminated in an exciting Escape Room activity which all the girls enjoyed tremendously. The girls used the skills and knowledge that they had learned about in earlier sessions to unravel clues and questions leading to keywords. They entered into the spirit of the game with great enthusiasm and a lot of collaborative working. Once the keywords were all decoded and the code was cracked, these apprentice undercover agents had to tell the secret word to their Spymaster trainer (thank you to Mrs Bunce, Mrs Testa and Ms Gilpin), obtain their key, unlock a padlocked box and enjoy the surprise inside. As with all good spies after an incident, barely a trace of their presence was to be seen!



Fusion and Diversity Day

In December, Year 9 took part in their cross curricular day, with the focus on 'British Society' and celebrating fusion and diversity in the UK. The girls participated in four workshops, led by subject specialists, including 'People Power' (Geography), 'Food, Glorious Food' (Food and Nutrition), 'Festivals' (Religious Studies and Art) and 'Words, Words, Words' (English).

It was fantastic to see the girls so engaged with learning about how cosmopolitan the UK is as a nation at the same time as being able to celebrate their own heritage. This was done in a variety of ways in workshop activities: writing poems and raps, performing dances; taking part in a 'guess my heritage' game; and exploring a variety of festivals.

The day was rounded off with a British Tea Party and quiz, where the girls shared the cakes and treats they had made (Jamaican Ginger cake, Indian Sweet Treats, Ukranian Honey Cookies and Scones) and sampled a cup (or two) of good old English Tea.



Mayfield Festival of Ideas

March saw the launch of the first ever Mayfield Festival of Ideas. Mayfield Scholars in Years 9-13 presented a range of interactive workshops over the course of a week to girls in Years 7 and 8, with a focus on peer-to-peer learning. Workshops ranged from learning about economics through sweet trading to making a vehicle operational using coding. There were also options related to psychology, music, fake news, linguistics, history and Shakespeare, amongst others. The festival proved to be a great success and we're already looking forward to next year's edition!



Co-curricular Activities



Teambuilding Trips

Year 7 Teambuilding

On the first Saturday of the school year, the Year 7 girls attended a teambuilding afternoon at Broadstone Warren. They worked in their form groups and enjoyed a range of activities together. Harnesses and hard hats at the ready, our newest cohort of Cornelians braved the heights and seized the opportunity to come together as a community.

“Broadstone Warren was such a fun trip! My favourite activity was the stacking crates – I went quite high and, although I was shocked when the crates came out from under me, we were all laughing together about it.”
– Tabatha, Year 7



Year 9 Residential PGL trip

In October, we took the Year 9 cohort on a three-day residential trip to Windmill Hill PGL Outdoor Centre. The girls took on activities such as The Sensory Trail, Abseiling, Zip wire, Fencing and Jacobs Ladder, helping to expand their comfort zone. They also found themselves in a new group dynamic, with one of the main focuses being to gel as a new year group and develop their friendships within their new forms.

This trip lends itself to building so many skills that are essential later in life. Having the skills to empathise with others is key to year group cohesion, friendship and well-being and this experience proved invaluable in building the girls' self-belief and self-confidence. Many of the girls were away from their parents for the first time and had to discover strengths they never knew they had. Listening skills were also enhanced through learning from activity leaders, as well as coming up with solutions to the challenges they were set.

It was a fantastic three days and lots of fun and laughter was had by all!



Year 12 Teambuilding

In September, we took all the Year 12s to Bowles Activity Centre so that the students could get to know each other better. Working in tutor groups they tried climbing, archery, and high ropes. Some were a bit apprehensive, but they got lots of encouragement from fellow tutees to go outside their comfort zones. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.



Year 9 Bowling Social with Tonbridge

In November, Year 9 had their first social with Tonbridge Boys School. They went to Hollywood Bowl, which offered the perfect vibe for the girls and their new friends to enjoy two games of bowling whilst enjoying their favourite snacks and drinks. However, the fun did not stop there as they also headed over to the amusement arcade, where some head-to-head Mario Kart driving, and competitive air hockey took place. A great time was had by all.



Bronze DofE Expedition to Ashdown Forest

In May, our 24 Bronze DofE participants successfully completed their Bronze Assessed Expedition in Ashdown Forest. Walking around 25kms over two days, the Bronze DofE teams navigated their way along their pre-planned routes, using OS maps and compasses. They enjoyed cooking a variety of food on their Trangias and sleeping in tents, together in their teams. Although they returned home tired and aching, there was a real sense of achievement in the air.



Silver DofE Expedition to South Downs



Well done to our 16 Year 10 and 5 Year 11 students who completed and passed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Assessed Expedition in The South Downs. They showed determination and commitment, walking over 50 kms, carrying everything they needed during this time. They battled blisters, rain and hills but were rewarded with beautiful countryside and panoramic views around them. Over the three days, the teams worked together and kept a positive attitude to make this expedition a real personal accomplishment.



Talks and Debates

MUN Conference in Poland

In the Autumn term, Cosima, Lizzie and Esme from Year 12 along with Rosie, Iulia and Sophie from Year 11 attended the 7th annual Model United Nations Conference at 1st Liceum, Torun, Poland, along with pupils from across Europe including Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany and Spain. The girls attended as delegates for Russia, Iran, Canada, the USA, DPRK and Nigeria, sitting on committees for Human Rights, UN Women, and the Future Security Council – the latter set in 2050 amidst concerns about overpopulation.

The girls stayed with host families and had a great time experiencing Polish culture in their downtime following heated debate about global issues during the day. Torun is a UNESCO world heritage site and the girls had an opportunity to find out more about the town and the school itself, including a culinary exploration of Torun's legendary gingerbread.

Cosima finished the conference as Best Delegate on the Human Rights Committee, while Rosie was Best Delegate in the General Assembly, which involved all the delegates from

all countries debating together in one cohort on the final day of the conference. She also managed a star turn on TV Torun!

This is what Rosie had to say: "It was the people that made ToMUN 2022 so memorable. Words fail to describe the exhilaration I felt being surrounded by so many enthusiastic and intellectual people who share my passions for politics, international relations, and debate. The beautiful city of Torun was packed with culture and gingerbread which made for idyllic evenings with my friends after a long day of debate."



Tech Entrepreneur visits Mayfield



In November, we welcomed Jo Wimble Groves to deliver our second Cornelian Lecture of the year. Jo is an award-winning tech entrepreneur and spoke about the lessons she has learned from making a successful career in a competitive and still male dominated field. It was an inspirational evening for the girls and parents in attendance.



Cornelian Lecture - Bauhaus

The Summer Term Cornelian Lecture was delivered by Dr Robin Schuldenfrei, Tangen Reader in 20th Century Modernism at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London. Dr Schuldenfrei spoke on 'The Bauhaus: Living with Modernism'. She gave a fascinating overview of the impact of this influential German art, craft and architectural design school during the 14 years of its existence before it was closed by the Nazis. This was a most enjoyable and informative lecture as shown by the many questions from students and staff at the end.



Climate Conference

11 students attended a MUN Conference at Cobham Hall on Climate Change; it was a great opportunity to meet and debate with students from other schools, and to discuss some really interesting topics. Lower Sixth student Cosima, who won best delegate said; "It was great to be part of such fast-paced and complex discussions, and I really enjoyed it."

Within the conference the students split into different committees to discuss a wide range of topics including water and food security, before uniting in the General Assembly to debate an emergency scenario.

Lower School Debating

In the final of the Lower School Inter-House debating competition, we saw Glennie run out winners against Bronte in contesting the motion 'This house believes the hot dog is not a sandwich'. Well done to all who took part in the competition this year.



Model United Nations

In December, Mayfield girls excelled at Model United Nations yet again at the 15th Benenden MUN, as delegates for Argentina, Australia and Vietnam on a wide range of committees. In addition, there was a historic Classical Civilization Committee which Becca joined as delegate for Eretria debating the question of the regulation of the Olympic Games. For Sofia and Alice in Year 9, Honor and Alicia in Year 10 and Abigail in Year 12, it was their first external conference and they all came back buzzing. Katie in Year 11, representing Australia on the Human Rights Council, had her resolution on the question of protecting the professional freedom of journalists chosen for debate and she left at the end of the day as a commended delegate. As the Headmistress of Benenden stressed at the opening ceremony, it is more important than ever before that young people engage in the world around them and the issues it faces, and our girls are doing just that.



Kairos Community

Year 12 students met a delegation from Kairos Community Trust in London. Kairos is a rehab and recovery centre for homeless people with addictions to alcohol or narcotics. The purpose of their visit was not to speak about drugs or alcoholism, but to share their experiences of community, of faith, of resilience, generosity and connections. They spoke eloquently of their recoveries, and of what gives them life today. The girls were clearly very touched by the speakers' honesty and courage.

Polar Explorer visits Mayfield

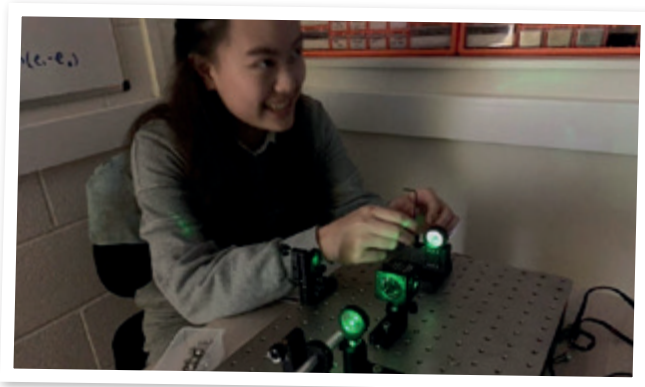
In September, Polar Explorer Alex Hibbert, visited Mayfield to deliver our first Cornelian Lecture of the year. Lucia in Year 13 reflects on the talk: "Alex Hibbert gave a fascinating depiction of his experiences as a Polar explorer, captivating us with stories of the harsh conditions that he braved from as young an age as 19, giving him a passion for exploration which continues to this day. He began the talk by portraying his first experience in the polar world which he undertook in his second year at Oxford University and managed to break the world record by spending 4 long months on the icecaps. He went on to convey his more recent adventures where he learnt the art of dog sledding, a far more difficult challenge than thought to be. He portrayed the tiny frozen villages where he spent time getting to know the locals, learning of their fishing and hunting trade. As a qualified photographer he accompanied the presentation with incredible photos taken by him first hand on the ice. To conclude, his presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by the entire audience, and several students including myself went on to buy his books to learn more about this incredible winter world."



Clubs and Societies

Lower School Science Club

The girls in Lower School Science Club had a lot of fun this year investigating various aspects of science in the world around them. They made their own indicators from red cabbage, and investigated the properties of a non-Newtonian fluid with Oobleck that changed colour depending on its pH. They also competed to build the tallest tower using only marshmallows and spaghetti.



STEM Club

In STEM club, the girls have been conducting experiments - using an interferometer with a laser - to determine the wavelength of the laser light. They also recreated an experiment, first conducted in 1848 by a physicist called Fizeau, to measure the speed of light!

Psychology Club

Psychology Club is aimed at girls in Middle School and is a good opportunity for younger students to get an understanding of what Psychology as a subject is all about. Anabelle and Alex in the Upper Sixth ran this club and worked incredibly hard to enthuse students about psychological issues which can be seen in everyday life. They covered topics from how the brains of bilingual people differ from unilingual brains, to the role of psychology in the criminal justice system, to fun food tasting experiments and the different types of learning. Many thanks to Anabelle and Alex for all the time and effort they put into running this successful club.



Farm Club

Farm and Land Management is an Enrichment activity for Year 12s and involves weekly visits to Froghole Farm to see how the farm runs.

In February, Farmer Guy Brickell gave the girls a tour of the machinery that he uses. They learnt how the tractor has evolved over the decades to become more efficient and even had an opportunity to test their driving skills!

They also learnt about the importance of maintaining healthy animals, with the girls helping out with the worming treatment for the young calves. They



also got to see the miracle of birth, as four piglets arrived whilst the girls were there! Interesting pig fact: the gestation period of pigs is 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days.

Welly Walking Club

The Welly Walkers were out in force this year, come rain or shine!



Carnegie Book Club

In February, Skye, Ilaria, Eleanor and Sarah, from the Carnegie Book Club, travelled to the Southern Schools Book Award (SSBA) presentation evening. Having read the five shortlisted titles, and then cast their votes, the girls joined over 30 other schools in eager anticipation of the results. Throughout

the evening, author and illustrator Chris Riddell entertained everyone on stage and in the audience with his cartoon drawings of proceedings. Each of the shortlisted authors spoke about their book and inspiration behind the story, with 'All Our Hidden Gifts' by Caroline O'Donaghue winning first prize.



Mayfield Dance Show

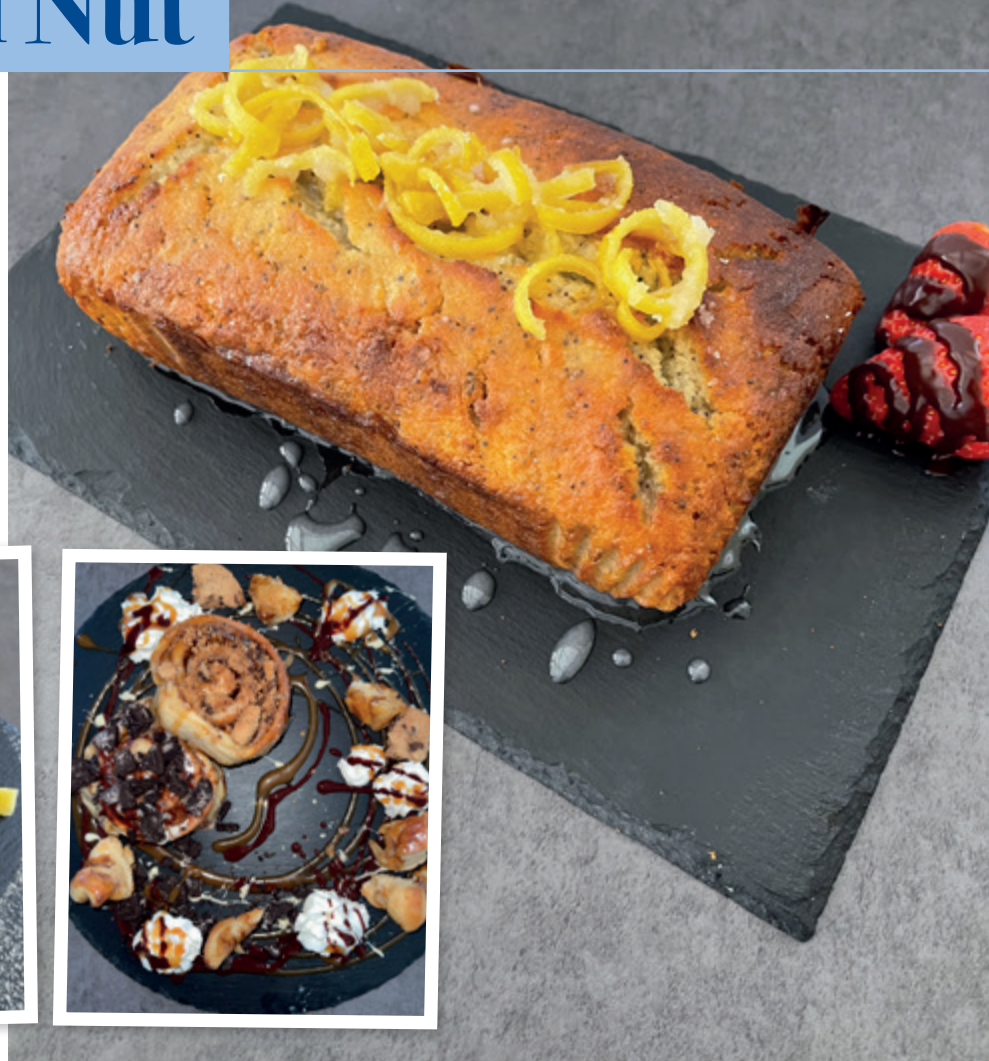
In Spring term, we were thrilled to welcome girls, parents and guardians to the Concert Hall for Mayfield's annual Dance Show. Over 80 girls performed a variety of dances, including Ballet, Contemporary, Lyrical and Ballroom. It was lovely to see so many girls taking part, particularly in the curriculum dances, where for many, dance is out of their comfort zone. Our Scholars, Invitational, Middle School and Lower School Dance clubs were brilliant, showcasing the talent throughout the School and this was balanced with a lovely mix of ballets, fun and classical, duets and solos.



Food and Nut

Signature Desserts

In June, Year 12 Culinary Skills students planned, made and plated their "Signature Dessert" to demonstrate the skills they have developed this year. All the desserts looked incredibly tasty!



Presentation Skills

Year 10 and 12 practised their presentation and plating skills in May. Year 10 made profiteroles filled with creme legere, and Year 12 Culinary Skills students made homemade scotch eggs!



Inter-House Pie Competition

The challenge for this year's Inter-House Cooking Competition was to design and make a pie to celebrate 150 Years of Mayfield. Each team needed to include students from both Lower School and Senior School. Our judge, Head Chef Jennifer, was suitably impressed with the girls' pastry making skills and effort to make appealing looking and tasting pies. Congratulations to winners Tilly and Tabatha from Glennie for their "Mayfield Chicken Pie"!



Festive Food

In December, Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Students demonstrated their baking skills, making homemade rough puff pastry Christmas trees and piped spicy Christmas biscuits.

Meanwhile, students in Year 12 got into the Festive Spirit by making Cinnamon Snowflake Bread!



Boarding Life



A weekend of Bellringing

One weekend in September saw Gabs' boarders take the opportunity of visiting St Dunstan's church in the village to learn about bellringing. We were given a fascinating talk on the history of bells and bellringing around the world and in Mayfield. After this the girls were given the opportunity to toll the eight bells in the church tower, one of which is 420 years old! The girls quickly discovered that getting a sound out of the bells is not as easy as it looks, although after a few tries they were soon bouncing up and down on the ropes and giving the village the impression that some great event was happening.



Go-Karting Fun

In May, we had a lovely trip to Go-Karting in Brighton. It was a thrilling start to the Bank Holiday weekend, bringing out everyone's competitive side!



Harry Potter World

On a chilly Saturday in February, the much-anticipated trip to Warner Brothers Studios in Watford took place and girls from all the boarding houses enjoyed making their way round the various Harry Potter sets. The girls saw some amazing costumes, went on the Hogwarts Express and even had a go at trying to get through Platform 9 ¾. They learnt how the live animals on set were trained and the various magical creatures were created. It was a fantastic day out.

Battle of the Bands

In January, an epic Battle of the Bands took place in Leeds House. The girls, who were dressed for the occasion, sang and danced to their favourite songs and entertained everyone with their talents.



Panto!

In January, Leeds' girls went to Rotherfield Pantomime to see Jack and the Beanstalk. This was an introduction to traditional Pantomime for some of our girls and several were brave enough to go up on stage!

Scaling the heights at Clip n' Climb

In December, boarders had an action-packed afternoon at Clip n' Climb in Tonbridge. This offered a healthy challenge for all, as the girls ascended the various climbing walls with the mission of seeing how high they could get. As the saying goes 'you cannot stay on the summit forever, you must come down again' and it was fantastic to see the girls 'let go' of their inhibitions and sail down the walls.



Trip to Thorpe Park

In June, after finishing their GCSEs, Micks' boarders were able to take one final trip out as a House, to let off some much-needed steam at Thorpe Park. A good time was had by all, on what was a very hot day, with some managing to cool off on the tidal wave ride.



In December, Christmas came to Gabs as the girls spent Saturday morning making delicious Yule Logs in Food and Nut followed by some decorating of the House on Sunday.

Branching Out

Leeds' girls experienced the excitement of a high ropes course and giant swing at Branching Out in Halland. While some girls really enjoyed swinging from ropes several metres above the ground, for others it was an opportunity to overcome their fear of heights - which they all did admirably.



Chinese New Year

In January, boarders in Gabs celebrated Chinese New Year. They created vouchers for the red envelopes to represent the tradition of gifting money to each other. They also spent the afternoon teaching some other girls and staff to make dumplings. The dough was made from scratch and the fillings prepared before they showed us how to roll, cut and finally fill and shape the dumplings. They were later cooked and offered to the other girls in the house to try, along with an explanation on the significance of the dumpling. The evening was finished off with some calligraphy by the girls, which is now hanging up on their floors.

The World Cup comes to St Dunstan's

The boarders got into the World Cup spirit in the Autumn Term, starting with a friendly in-house match played on the Astro turf in the sunshine before decorating the common room with the flags of all the nations represented in the house by students and staff. The girls have had the opportunity to watch the matches that appeal to them, and the prize for loudest audience went to the girls watching the England v Wales match!



Boarders' Trip to Birling Gap

In November, almost 40 of our boarders visited Birling Gap on the Sussex Coast. We enjoyed the spectacular views and most girls ventured for a beach walk and miraculously managed to keep their feet dry from the incoming tide driven by a brisk south-westerly wind - plenty of screams though!

Gabs' Christmas Party

In December, Gabs' girls celebrated Christmas with their traditional party, organised largely by the Year 10 Leadership Team in the House. The girls enjoyed some food in our festive dining room before heading to the Common Room to watch a music video the girls had made specially, as well as a quiz and some games.



Saturday afternoon cooking

Leeds' boarders spent a wintery Saturday afternoon making Reindeer cupcakes, with spectacular results!



Ready, Steady, Cook!

Over the course of the Summer term, the boarders in St Dunstan's took part in cooking lessons with Milena, one of our resident tutors. The aim was to help them to learn how to cook meals or snacks that are less time-consuming, but still healthy and delicious, in preparation for going to University in the near future. They tackled; nachos, including making their own salsa and guacamole; pizzas, with bases made from scratch; tzatziki, with carrot, cucumber and celery sticks; and fajitas.



Afternoon Tea Party

In June, we hosted an Afternoon Tea Party for the girls in Leeds House and St Gabriel's. They joined us on Chapel Lawn, where they decorated their tables and iced some cakes, laying out their scones and sandwiches on cake stands and enjoying the afternoon together.



Mayfield Village Christmas Lights switch on

In December, Leeds' girls took part in the Mayfield village Christmas lights switch on. Their carol singing helped to create the magic of the Christmas season for all the villagers.



Christmas Party

Leeds House celebrated the season of joy in our annual Christmas party. All the boarders joined in with gusto and enjoyed games and treats in the festive atmosphere of our courtyard.



A Highland Fling!

Girls and staff had huge amounts of fun in this boarding activity for Years 9 and 10. Inspired by the Scottish tradition of marking the birth of the poet, Robbie Burns, girls were treated to a wide variety of Scottish activities. The afternoon started with a talk from Mr Craig Wilson, in full traditional dress, who talked to the girls all about the poetry of Burns as well as reciting various poems in full Scots English. Next was a serving of haggis, neaps and tatties, followed by Cranachan and Scottish Tablet. Once the food had been enjoyed, the girls retired to the Dance Studio to learn 'The Gay Gordons' and 'The Dashing White Sargent' and really got a sense of just how fun a ceilidh can be. Loads of fun was had by all!



Micks' girls get festive

St Michael's had a lovely festive last weekend of Autumn term. After their Christmas party on Saturday, the girls headed into Tunbridge Wells on Sunday for some Christmas shopping and ice skating, with snow falling to make it even more magical. They finished off the weekend with a lovely dinner in Wagamama.



Snow Fun

Miss Jones took Leeds House out for their PE lesson to have some fun in the snow!



Trip to Herstmonceux Observatory

In April, boarders from Leeds and Gabs visited Herstmonceux Observatory. A great time was had by all and the girls particularly enjoyed having a tour of two of the telescopes on site.

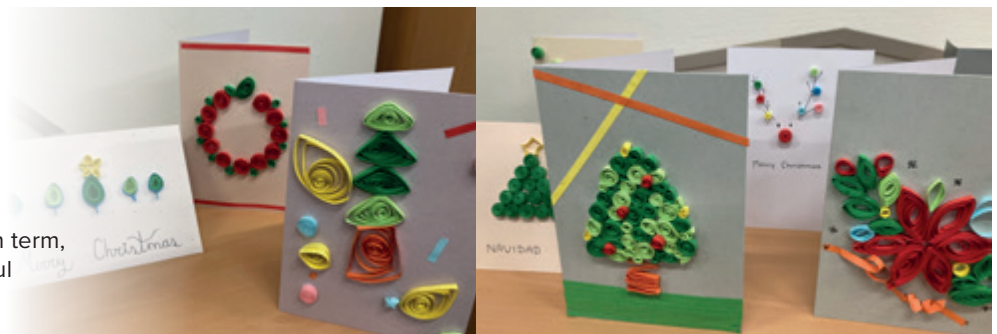
Boarders' Cinema Trip

In the Autumn Term boarders from Leeds, Gabs and St Dunstan's all went to Uckfield to see the new Mathilda film. With an exclusive screening they were able to let their hair down, wave their arms and sing along. It was lovely to see girls from a range of houses enjoying the film together, and we were surprised how many of the words they all knew!



Arts and crafts

Towards the end of the Autumn term, Gabs' girls made some beautiful Christmas cards using quilling techniques and embroidery.



International Fair

In April, the International English department held their International Fair for boarders in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. It was an opportunity for our international pupils to showcase their countries. The Mexican themed session had the girls learning the Payaso de Rodeo dance and then testing their knowledge about Mexico with a Kahoot quiz. The girls all enjoyed the delicious nachos with homemade guacamole and quesadillas. 2023 is the Chinese Year of the Rabbit so Mrs Kilvington brought in Buster her rabbit for the girls to hold and entertain. They were also shown some Chinese calligraphy and made and decorated rice balls to eat. Lastly, in the European themed room, the girls were taught the Ukrainian alphabet and learnt some phrases helped along by some Ukrainian pastries and biscuits made by Yasmina's grandmother. To finish off the session, the girls enjoyed some mindful colouring and dot to dot drawings of European landmarks.



St Dunstan's Christmas Party

At the start of December, the girls enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner provided by the catering team, followed by a festive quiz written by Head Girl Elizabeth. Miss Tompsett was promoted to Quizmaster, with Miss Ruival and Miss Taylor taking on the tough task of marking and judging performances. There was singing, laughing, and a little friendly competition... It was a very close result, and two teams had to go to a tiebreaker - a dance off! One of the Y13 teams came out on top, earning themselves a yule log prize. A great time was had by all.

Thorpe Park fun

In May, boarders from St Gabriel's and Leeds House visited Thorpe Park Theme Park. In glorious sunshine, the girls had a great time riding the rollercoasters as well as winning cuddly toys and getting soaked on the water rides.



Magic on Ice

On the final Saturday of the Autumn term the Sports department took boarders from Leeds, St Gabriel's and St Dunstan's into Tunbridge Wells. The first stop on a suitable wintery day was the ice rink in Calverley Park. With nearly 100 girls on the ice the session was almost exclusively Mayfield! Shopping followed, with all the girls taking the opportunity to stroll around the many shops in Tunbridge Wells and stopping for a hot drink before returning to School.



A relaxing weekend

In November, Gabs' boarders experienced a weekend of relaxation. Ms Richard led a yoga session, with the girls practising some new yoga poses. Some of the balance and core poses were more challenging and it was lovely to see how resilient and focused the girls were. The session finished with a guided meditation and the girls felt very relaxed ready for their pedicure afterwards!



Miss Demetriou and Mrs Howie hosted a pop-up spa, with the girls soaking their feet in hot bubbly water whilst listening to relaxing spa music. This was followed by a foot scrub and then finished off with a nourishing moisturise. What a treat for their feet!

The weekend also saw the first baking competition of the year, with the theme of meringues.



Chaplaincy





Confirmation

Congratulations to the six girls (and one boy) who were confirmed in June. We were delighted to welcome family, staff and pupils for this very special celebration.

Alice (Year 9) said:

“The whole confirmation has been amazing. The joys of the community, laughter, new experiences as well as the moments of reflection, concentration, and prayer. Although individually, I have grown in my faith and character, I have formed strong relationships and created memories. It will take some getting used to knowing that I am not seeing these people every Wednesday A2 now. My highlight from the experience was the session where we went into the chapel and went through all of the stages of the mass in more detail than I had thought

about before. Also, some of my favourite - although the hardest - sessions have been topical discussions exploring modern day problems/questions that Catholics are faced with. The actual day was so special, being able to publicly announce our faith and having the support of our school, friends, and sponsors. Thank you to

Amelia, Miss Gilpin and Ronan for guiding us through this year and organising such a modern, clear, interesting and fun confirmation journey! As well as the rest of the group for making it such a great experience. Overall, it never fails to be the highlight of my week in a different way each time and next year I will miss it dearly.”



Days of Recollection

Every year we take each year group out for the day to spend time together and undertake a series of activities based on one of our seven Cornelian values. It's an opportunity to reflect, pray and take part in a series of fun activities with colleagues in your year group.



YEAR 7
Cornelian principle:
Joy

"We find joy in all we do"

YEAR 8
Cornelian principle:
Compassion

"We cultivate empathy"

YEAR 9
Cornelian principle:
Integrity

"We develop strong moral values"

YEAR 10
Cornelian principle:
Generosity

"We nurture a spirit of charitable giving and kindness for all"

YEAR 11
Cornelian principle:
Gratitude

"We are thankful"

YEAR 12
Cornelian principle:
Respect

"Through our actions we show that we value all"

YEAR 13
Cornelian principle:
Courage

"We have the confidence and resilience to make the right choices"



Actions Not Words



The Sandra Jones Centre's visit to Mayfield

Our whole School Charity for the year was the Sandra Jones Centre in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. In September, we welcomed Debbie and Carol, founders of the Centre, to Mayfield. They were raising vital funds for their mission - to provide refuge and education for at-risk girls from across Zimbabwe. They spent the weekend at Mayfield, giving an assembly to the school, and workshops to the older girls.



Swimathon

In the Autumn Term, Mayfield held a Swimathon to celebrate the School's 150th year, with the challenge being to swim 150 lengths (3,750m). The girls and staff had the option to swim this solo or in groups of up to three. This event was also a fundraiser for the whole school charity, the Sandra Jones Centre, and Malibongwe Primary school in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The final fundraising total was almost £1,000! Congratulations to all the girls (18) and staff (9) that completed the challenge!

Lower School Charity Day

Children in Need was the focus of the Lower School Charity Day in October. Year 8 pupils brought in a sumptuous selection of baked treats to sell at breaktime. In the afternoon, the Year 7 pupils walked 5km around Mayfield, taking in the beautiful surrounding countryside.



Pudsey

November saw Pudsey visit Mayfield and our Year 7 girls were lucky enough to meet him in person!





Feeding the Mayfield Bees!

In the Autumn Term, the Actions not Words Care for Creation group put down some winter food for the Mayfield bees. We are looking forward to some delicious honey next year.

Sixth Form Charity Day

A huge well done to the Sixth Form on their brilliant Charity Day. Their fundraising raised £671.55 for the Sandra Jones Centre in Zimbabwe, which supports abused and abandoned children.



Odd Socks Day!

Every year in November, Mayfield takes part in Anti-Bullying Week, with a series of events organised by our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Odd Socks Day was a huge success and thank you to everyone who supported the cause and celebrated what makes us all unique by rocking their odd socks.

Every year group also attended an Upstanders Assembly, delivered by our Ambassadors, that explored the topic of Upstanders v Bystanders. This allowed every year group the opportunity to explore how we can eliminate rude, mean or bullying behaviour.

Finally, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Anthem of 'Reach' by S Club 7 was brought to life by staff in a lip sync music video, promoting this year's theme of reaching out for help.



Mental Health First Aid training

In the Autumn Term, ten staff members representing a range of school departments undertook mental health first aid training. They are now equipped with the knowledge and resources required to make useful interventions when a young person experiences a mental health crisis. The joint-delivery of this MHFA England course by Mr Smith and visiting instructor Alison Bushnell is one way in which our school community seeks to champion positive mental health.



Year 11 Pyjama Day

In January, Year 11 held their charity day. They invited pupils and staff to donate £1 to be able to attend school in their pyjamas! During A1, Year 11 ran stalls including face painting, thrift sale, guess the sweets in the jar and a pick and mix stall. All funds raised went towards this year's school charity - the Sandra Jones Centre.

Whole School Sponsored Walk

On the last day of the Summer Term, the girls took part in our annual whole school sponsored walk. The girls walked 5km through the beautiful East Sussex countryside to raise funds for a vital project close to our hearts, The Sandra Jones Children's Centre in Zimbabwe.



Friends' quiz & curry Night

Parents and staff enjoyed a superb curry and quiz in March. Eight teams competed in a trivial pursuit style quiz with the winning team 'Comfortably Dumb' taking home chocolate gold medals. £340 was raised for the UNICEF earthquake appeal.

Sport



Hockey

Indoor Hockey

In February, the U13A team took part in an Indoor Hockey tournament at Kent College Pembury. They played brilliantly, making excellent progress throughout the day. Awards for 'Players of the Tournament' went to Lola and Erin.



Jess selected for County Hockey Squad

Congratulations to Jessica, who was selected for the U15 Sussex Hockey squad. In the Autumn term, Jessica made her debut for our 1st XI and she also plays for Crowborough Hockey Club.

Flo and Saskia compete in U13 Hockey Regional Finals

Flo and Saskia in Year 7 travelled to Guildford for the U13 Hockey regional South-East finals with their Sevenoaks Hockey Club side. They came away with a bronze medal after goalkeeper Saskia kept a clean sheet in the penalty shoot-out! Well done girls!



Hockey masterclass

In November Mayfield welcomed GB Hockey player Julian Halls to Mayfield. Julian has 125 England caps, 59 Great Britain caps and has played in two Olympic Games.

The day began with him leading a staff inset for our PE department as well as staff from some of our local prep schools. The Sixth Form girls then had a masterclass on using the overlap and defending against it in match-play. In the afternoon, sports scholars attended a talk led by Julian on mindset. He outlined to the girls how you can transfer techniques used by athletes into all aspects of life, especially areas such as managing and dealing with pressure. The final session of the day saw our Year 7 and 8 Hockey team benefit from a skills session down on the astroturf.

It was a fantastic day and a real opportunity for our Hockey players and staff to gain insight from such an esteemed player and coach.



Christmas Hockey

December saw one of the most highly anticipated events of the year take place – Christmas Hockey. Both the Lower School and Senior Squad girls were divided into festive teams for a mini tournament, ‘dressed to impress’ with their interpretation of the Christmas theme. A fantastic effort was made, bringing both laughter and joy to the lessons.



Hockey v Worth

The final Saturday of the Hockey season saw five teams play against Worth. It was a fitting end to the season, with victories for the 1st XI, 3XI and U15As. We are so proud of the progress of every girl who has played for Mayfield this season.



Grace and Tilly (1XI Captain)



U14A



Inter-House Hockey



Senior Squad



U13



Erin (U13 captain) and Emma



U12



U13A

Netball

Lily and Mia selected for County Netball Squad

Huge congratulations to both Lily and Mia, who were successful in gaining a place on the highly competitive U13 (Lily) and U15 (Mia) Kent Netball Squads. They are both now officially on the Vitality England Netball Pathway and one step closer to achieving their dreams and goals of playing in the Vitality Netball Super League development programme!



National Schools Netball Tournament

In October, Mayfield attended the National Schools Netball Tournament. This is always highly competitive and this year was no different. The U19s won five matches against Roedean, Bedes, Sackville, Seaford and Cardinal Newman and narrowly lost four closely contested games against Eastbourne College, Lancing College, BHASVIC and Worthing College. The U16s had a tough yet promising day, playing 8 matches against very strong opposition - winning two, drawing one and losing five.



Mayfield start the season in style

In January, we held our opening fixtures of the Spring term Netball season, with Mayfield coming out on top in two matches against Lancing. Both matches were played with great enthusiasm and helped to truly dust off the Netball cobwebs.



Staff v Parents

In March, the third fixture of the Staff v Parents series took place. A competitive, but fun, game saw the staff run out winners by 18-11. Thank you to everyone that played and supported on the day to make it such an enjoyable atmosphere.



Inter-House Netball

The final week of Spring term saw the PE department run four Inter-House Netball competitions. This event always sees high participation, nevertheless, we believe that 2023 saw the girls hit a new record with over 224 pupils

representing their House! All the games were played in great spirit, and we were incredibly proud to see so many girls with varying levels of Netball experience taking part. Congrats to overall winners Bronte!



Netball Triangular to end season

In March, we took part in a Triangular fixture with Worth and Seaford, involving the U14s, U15s, U16s and Seniors. It was brilliant to see so many girls out playing in the final fixtures of the term. Miss Auer and Miss Jones, along with the rest of the PE department, are incredibly proud of how the girls have performed throughout this Netball Season. Well done ladies.



High 5 Netball Tournament

In February, the Sixth Form Sports Leaders organised and ran a High 5 Netball Festival for local Prep and Primary school girls in Years 5 & 6. This is part of their coursework for the Level 3 Sports Leadership award qualification, which is one of the Sixth Form Enrichment options.

We were delighted that we had over 90 students involved from the 10 schools who attended. During the event they

completed a series of drills, covering core elements of the game such as shooting, decision making, and defensive work. After the 45-minute workshop, the participants took part in a tournament, with Vinehall coming in 1st place, and Sacred Heart in 2nd place.

With thanks to our Sixth Form Sports Leaders for organising a great day!



Cricket and Netball Tour to Dubai

Over the Easter break, 24 Mayfield girls from Year 8 to Year 12 and five staff members ventured out to Dubai for the much-anticipated Cricket and Netball Tour. The trip was a resounding success with two teams in each sport training and competing against a mixture of local teams, clubs and other touring school sides. The sport was demanding, highly competitive and a real opportunity to learn and develop. Pairing such a sporting opportunity with some fantastic excursions and opportunities to appreciate all that Dubai has to offer made for an exceptional 10 days.





Cricket

Mayfield v MCC

In May, we once again welcomed the MCC for our prestigious annual fixture, now in its third year. The Mayfield team, featuring girls from Years 7 to 12, played two T20 fixtures against the MCC and gave a great account of themselves.

In the first game, the MCC won the toss and elected to bat. They started their innings well, scoring over 50 runs in the first 5 overs. However, Flo and Saskia came on to bowl and slowed the run rate superbly, with the MCC finishing on 141. We started our innings well, with Flo and Lizzie keeping the scoreboard ticking over, but we lost too many wickets in quick succession and were not able to keep up with the required run rate.

In the second game we elected to field first and took an early wicket, restricting the MCC to only 40 runs off the first 8 overs. However, their middle order struck the ball sweetly, helping the MCC to score 148 in their 20 overs. We started our innings slowly, and lost regular wickets, meaning we only managed 98 in our 20 overs, despite a superb batting display from Jess.

Congratulations to Year 7 Flo and Year 12 Rachel, who won the 'Spirit of Cricket' Award for the two games. The girls represented the School superbly and we are so proud of their performances.



Inter-House Cricket

In the summer term, well over 100 girls represented their House in our Inter-House Cricket tournament. The competition started with Lower School, where the standard was incredibly high throughout, with some tight bowling and a lot of runs. Well done to Curie who were victorious!

Middle School were up next and once again the standard was very high. The games were played in a competitive, but fun, spirit and in the end it was Astor who won the tournament. A big well done!

It was good to see so many students involved in Inter House Cricket this year, whether that be watching, playing or helping to score/ umpire.



Mayfield named Top 20 Girls' School for Cricket

Mayfield was named a Top 20 Girls' Schools for Cricket by The Cricketer magazine for the third year in a row! We congratulate and acknowledge the commitment and determination of the girls and staff, especially Miss Starr. A wonderful achievement!



Lady Taverners Tournament

In March, the U13s attended BACA for the County finals of Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket tournament. Wins against Downlands, Dorset House and Blatchington Mill saw Mayfield reach the Final, where they narrowly lost to Seaford. The girls should be so proud of themselves for their run in this tournament. They have made such good progress and have made their own piece of history as they have gone the furthest any Mayfield team has ever gone in this tournament. Well done girls!



Tennis

Aegon Tennis

Both our U13 and U15 A teams competed in the Aegon League again this year. The opposition included teams such as Roedean, Bede's and St Andrews Prep. Both teams came a respectable second place in their league, however they are looking to win both age groups next year!

Our U13A team also travelled to Lancing for their Annual Doubles Tournament. The girls came up against some tough schools, playing the likes of Windlesham House, Steyning Grammar and Uckfield College. They gained some excellent experience, and we are already looking forward to entering again next year.



Inter-House Tennis

This year's Inter-House Tennis included four different competitions; Lower School, Year 9, Year 10 and a Year 12 event. Well done to everyone who took part!



Mayfield's Annual Doubles Tournament

Mayfield once again hosted their annual Tennis tournament, welcoming Bede's, Cranbrook and Lingfield to participate in an U13 and U15 Doubles Round Robin. A great day was had by all!

Internal Doubles League

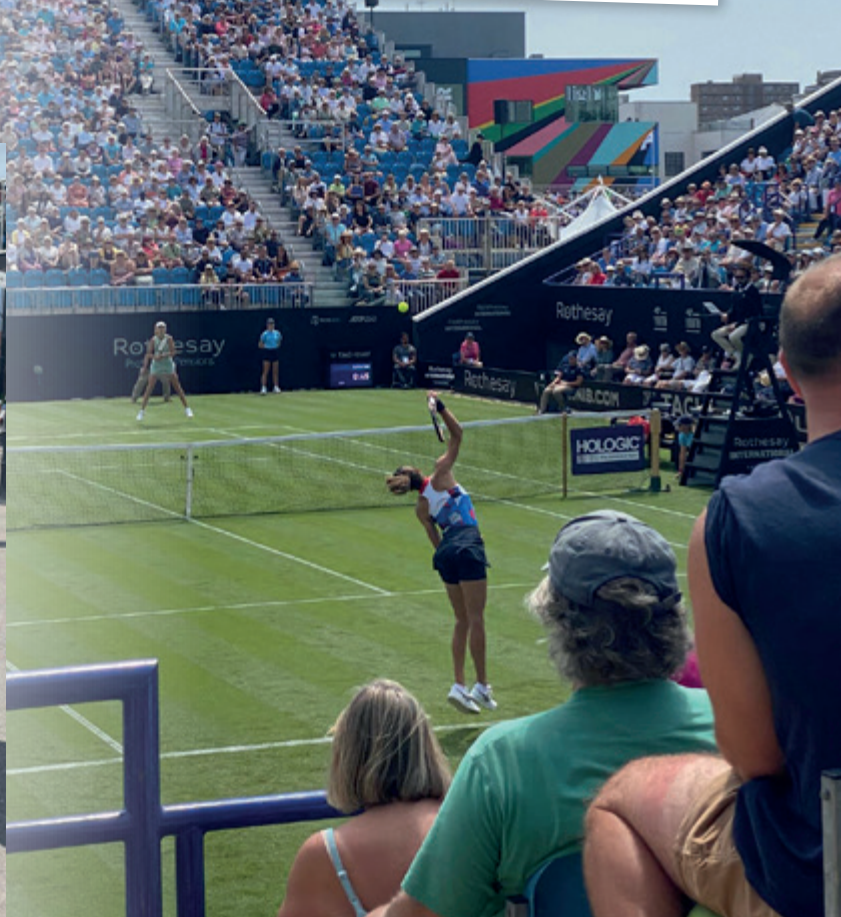
Alongside the Aegon tennis league, Miss Jones set up two internal Tennis leagues; one for Years 9 and 10, and the other for Year 12. 16 pairs chose to enter across both competitions, which allowed each pair to play a game a week throughout the Summer term.

The Year 9 and 10 League concluded with a joint first place for Mary, Valeria, Maria and Zara. It was Emma and Sophie who took victory in the Year 12 league. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



Eastbourne Tennis Trip

In the summer, we took our Tennis teams to the south coast to watch the Eastbourne International Tennis tournament. Despite having ground passes, all the girls managed to get into Centre Court where they were able to watch the top players in action, Coco Gauff being amongst the big names! Everyone had a great day, and we are looking forward to going again next year.



Athletics

Diamond League

In May, we took our Inter Athletes to the Diamond League meet at K2 in Crawley. It was the first time for many and it was fantastic to see the girls back in action in both Track and Field. A huge well done to all involved, and a big shout out to Rachel M (Sports Prefect 2023/24) who took on the role of Team Manager for the afternoon.



Juniors and Inters qualify for Regionals

In May, Mayfield's newly formed Junior Athletic Team came 2nd at the English Schools County round. The Inter Athletics team came 4th, which meant both teams qualified for the English Schools Regional Round.



Brianna off to a flyer in Manchester

In September, Brianna competed in the National Athletics Youth Development League for Tonbridge Athletics Club (TAC) in the U13 category. The event was held at the Manchester Etihad Athletics Arena, with Brianna securing an impressive third place in the 75m race. She then joined her relay team for the 4x100m event, where they sprinted their way to a remarkable second place finish, breaking the club's long-standing record for Under 13 girls. Congratulations Brianna!



Regional Athletics at K2

In June, our Junior and Inter Athletics squads headed off to K2 for the Regional Athletics meet. It was a scorcher of a day, and the girls all performed exceptionally well. Highlights included Gigi (Year 7) flying down the 100m in 14.4 seconds, Deborah (Year 8) whizzing round the 200m in 29.0 seconds, Jess (Year 10) launching a shotput 8.31m to win the competition, and Hebe (Year 9) throwing a javelin 18.28m. A very special moment was created by our 4x100m Inter Relay Team, featuring Onnae, Leona, Maria, and Sammie-Ann. Undefeated all season, the team were once again able to get the baton over the finish line in 1st position, in a very impressive time of 55.4 seconds!



Equestrian

Mayfield win County Champs

Mayfield's Dressage team, featuring Millie, Cordie, Emilia and Polina, competed at Golden Cross in the County Champs, where they performed superbly, winning the East Sussex County title. There was success in the individual events as well, with Emilia winning the Preliminary Class, and Cordie coming second in the Novice Class – with both girls securing their place at the National Championships. Congratulations to all involved!



Mayfield's Dressage Team Win at Hickstead

Mayfield's Dressage Team won the Inter-County Championship at Hickstead over May half-term. Mayfield has won this trophy for the last three years - an amazing achievement. Congratulations to this year's team featuring Flo, Cordie and Emilie. Flo also won the novice individual section and Cordie the prelim section. Huge congratulations to all the girls!



World renowned Equine Scientist visits Mayfield

In June, we were delighted to welcome world renowned equine scientist David Marlin to School. He talked to our riders and their parents about equine welfare. What a privilege for our riders!



Mayfield retain County Show Jumping Team Title

In December, Mayfield's Equestrian team retained their East Sussex County Open Team title, with Ella also winning 1.10m Individual title. Some great performances in the freezing weather!

Skiing

Ski trip to Italy

During February half term, Mrs Fletcher and five members of staff took 48 Mayfield girls from Years 7-11 to Folgaria in the Dolomites, where they enjoyed a superb week of skiing in sunny conditions.

The girls were split into five groups for the week, with five days of ski lessons. We were lucky enough to have lovely hot lunches prepared for us at a restaurant at the top of the mountain each day where all the groups came together to compare notes on their morning's skiing.

There was an array of evening activities, including a team quiz night, organised by Mr Ferguson and Miss Jones, a games night, and a visit to the local cinema. On the final night the ski instructors presented the girls with their diplomas.

The girls all did Mayfield proud, skiing all day every day and showing improvement over the week. The five instructors we had were so kind and patient, but also really good fun. They commented on how well behaved our girls were and the hotel said we would be welcome back anytime. It really was a fabulous week and a big thank you to all the girls for their efforts, smiles and great attitude to learning or improving their skiing, whatever their ability.



Ski Racing in Flaine

In January, Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Whitby took six girls out to the British Schoolgirl Ski Races 2023 in Flaine. Conditions were perfect and the first day of racing consisted of a Giant Slalom event in the morning, followed by a Parallel team event in the afternoon. Our three Year 11 racers - Darcy, Mathilda and Helena - knocked out Wimbledon in the first round, and then Woldingham in the next round, before eventually losing in the quarter-finals to a strong Aiglon College, a British school in Switzerland.

Day two was the turn of the slalom, the most technical event of the race series. This event saw Darcy secure a place on the podium! Free skiing in the afternoon was followed by prize giving in the evening to conclude a wonderful trip.



Emilia wins U12 Regional Ski Championships

Many congratulations to Emilia in Year 7, who was crowned 'U12 girls Regional Ski Champion' at the conclusion of the LSERSA race series. Going into the final race of the series she could have ended up anywhere between first and fourth in the overall standings. She rose to the challenge, achieving a personal best time to place second in the race, ahead of her three key rivals.

Emilia said: *"It was super competitive but I managed to beat somebody I've never ever beaten before in the race. I thought it was over when I lost my first head-to-head but I sneaked another unexpected win to steal an important extra point and in the end I won by three points!"*



Football

U18 Football v Ardingly College

In April, our U18s played their first ever fixture, against Ardingly, with Harriet in Year 12 captaining the side.



Lower School v Skippers Hill

In September, our Lower School girls travelled to Skippers Hill. An eventful game saw Skippers Hill run out 6-2 winners, but credit to our girls, who worked incredibly hard and fought well until the end, creating numerous chances.

Inter-House Football

Mayfield's inaugural Inter-House Football Tournament took place in February, with House Teams from Lower School and Middle School competing for honours. We were extremely pleased to see over 80 girls take part in the 9-a-side matches. The standard across both tournaments was incredibly high, but most importantly, all the girls that took part had smiles on their faces and had a great time.



Visit to Wembley for Women's FA Cup Final

In May, 50 girls travelled to Wembley Stadium for the Women's FA Cup Final between Chelsea and Man Utd. The match was a sell-out, with over 77,000 fans in attendance. Here is what Rachel in Year 12 had to say about the experience: "The Wembley trip was a huge success with all the girls having a fantastic time and I feel the trip really 'United' us all. We were lucky enough to have a great view of the pitch, and fortunately the one goal was scored right in front of us, enough to get us out of the Sunday 'blues'! Massive thanks to Mr Walser for making the trip possible."



Staff v Parents

The inaugural Staff v Parents football match was a great success. A high-scoring game saw the parents run out comfortable 5-2 winners, with much to reflect on at the post-match tea in the pavilion. Congratulations Parents!



Siena selected for England U15s

Congratulations to Siena in Year 10, who was selected to represent England's U15 team at the Gothia World Youth Cup in Sweden, following her brilliant performances for Kent.

Brianna ends the Season as a Junior Premier League Footballer

Congratulations to Brianna, who was selected to join the Kings Hill Junior Premier League Squad for 2023-24, following a trial. This will see her competing against the likes of West Ham, Spurs and Millwall! Brianna had a great season playing for West Kent District, winning the U12 Kent Schools Football Association League and the U12 English Schools Football Association Girls Cup.



Swimming

Juniors win at Benenden

In October, we got our competitive swimming season underway with a gala at Benenden, featuring the Juniors, Inters & Seniors. The races were close in all age groups and our Junior Squad, captained by Kitty, were rewarded with a well-deserved win. In the return fixture in January, the Juniors did something truly exceptional – winning every single race of the gala!



Inter-House Swimming

In February, we held our annual Inter-House swimming competition, with a huge number of girls taking part. Congratulations to Glennie, who won both the Junior and Senior House competitions.



Junior Gala v Vinehall

We held a Junior Gala against Vinehall in February, with our Year 7 and 8 swimmers victorious against a strong Vinehall squad. The girls enjoyed some free swimming with their opponents to finish off the evening.



Galas galore

December saw Mayfield compete in galas against Burgess Hill, Hurst & Roedean.

A Year of Sporting Accolades

Sports Awards

In April we held our Annual Sports Dinner and Awards. Congratulations to.....



ISABEL - SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Isabel (Year 13) is a talented Triathlete, currently competing at the National British Junior Super Series level. She has attended the British Triathlon Academy and is part of the Bodyworks Aspire Squad. Locally, she won Gold with the Lewes Ladies in Cross Country and is the current record holder at Uckfield Park Run. Isabel is also a core member of the 1st Swim Team in school. The PE department is incredibly proud of the commitment and dedication shown by Isabel over the past year and recognise her fantastic achievements in her chosen sport.



TEAM OF THE YEAR – U13A INDOOR CRICKET TEAM

The U13A Indoor Cricket team had an incredible season, reaching the County final, where they were narrowly beaten by Seaford College. They were unbeaten in their pool matches with 3/3 wins, qualifying for the county rounds, where they again were unbeaten with 3/3 wins, progressing to the Final. Throughout the competition the team showed excellent all-round skills, working as a team in the field, supporting the consistent bowling and batting with great intent throughout, scoring highly in every game. The PE Department would like to congratulate the group and are looking forward to seeing this team develop.



Sophie rows to third place in British Champs

Congratulations to Sophie and her quad, who came third at the British Rowing Junior Championships in Nottingham in the WJ18 4x category.



Festival of Indoor Rowing Gold Medals

A fantastic performance from Sophie P in Year 13, who won two gold medals at British Rowing's Festival of Indoor Rowing, a virtual challenge. Her first gold was in the women's four minute race and her second in the Sixth Form one minute challenge.

Jess's Dance Success

Congratulations to Jess in Year 8 on her success in the Hotshot Dance Finals. She won the Junior Acro Solo and Junior Jazz Solo categories and placed 2nd in the Junior Ballet Solo and Junior Lyrical Solo categories. She also won the Judges Choice Award.

In November, Jess scooped a bagful of awards at the 'Take the Stage' dance competition. She won several solo and group dance categories, including Lyrical, Jazz, Ballet and Commercial, resulting in her receiving the 'Miss Teen Take the Stage' award for exceptional all-round performances. Well done Jess!

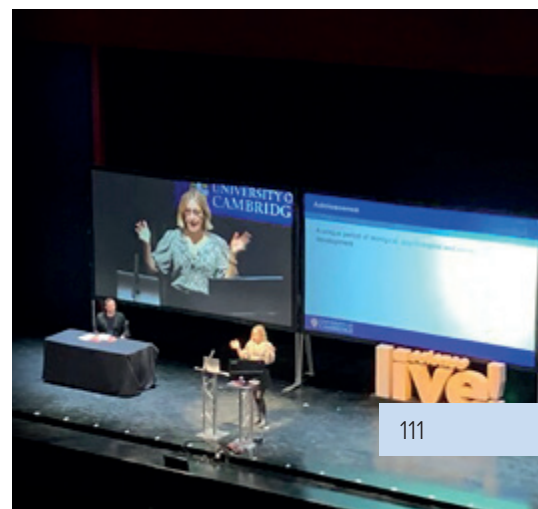


Tabatha nominated for Musical Theatre Award

Congratulations to Tabatha, who was nominated by the International Dance Teachers' Association (IDTA) for the National IDTA Musical Theatre Awards!

We hope you enjoyed the magazine







Mayfield

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