



HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER TERM

2017



HEADLINES

This year has been the year of 'Intellect' at Beechwood and throughout the School pupils and staff have participated in a wide range of events including staff lectures on topics as diverse as fashion design to

a historical perspective of protest songs. Pupils have engaged in debating competitions, enterprise days, and the Prep Quiz team reached the national final of the General Knowledge Championship. Perseverance has also been a key theme and the much anticipated Sports Hall and Design Studio project, many years in the planning, has now gained planning consent and we will begin construction in 2017/18. This exciting project will deliver a fantastic new Sports Hall, Gym, Dance Studio and a new Design Studio which will be a hub for the creative subjects. The School continues to go from strength to strength, with an enviable subject option range and many opportunities for pupils' personal development outside of the classroom. **Aaron Lennon** Headmaster



World Book Day

Prep School pupils were ready and eager to take part in the annual celebration of books and childrens' literature, that is World Book Day. The traditional Prep School Assembly was masterminded by the Avila House Captain, Vice-Captain and Prefects during which they explained the purpose of this great event. They ensured that all the children were able to share their love of



SUMMER 2016 saw 13 plucky students go off on an Adventure Trip of a lifetime to Cambodia! The first few days were spent acclimatising in the Capital City of Phnom Penh visiting the Palace and enjoying some of the local food.

Next it was time to embark on the Trekking Phase in the jungle and we were amazed at how the local people lived with large lizards as house guests – no running water and intermittent electric. The overnight jungle experience saw the team hanging in hammocks and was a highlight of the trip.

Following a night in the jungle it was time to get going on the project phase which involved three distinct jobs – putting in toilets, creating gardens and one special day in a school where we 'taught' and interacted with the students, which was magical.

The final phase was exploring Angkor Wat – an amazing series of ruined palaces and temples.

Without a doubt, all the adventurers felt that they learned something – not only about the country they visited but also themselves – how they can be independent, self-reliant and part of a team. Ecuador and the Galapagos awaits in 2018.

books and explain why they had come in their favourite characters' costumes.

All the pupils took part in exciting quizzes, showing just how widely our children read and how much they know about all the characters they encounter.

During the afternoon we were treated to an exciting and lively presentation by the poet Jim McCool.



SEPTEMBER SAW THE PREP SCHOOL open the academic year with a total refurbishment of Junior House. The Prep Hall has become a bright, airy and more usable space for the children and teachers to enjoy. Classrooms had been freshly decorated including a complete overhaul of the bathroom facilities in the boys and girls changing rooms. The Reception class has doubled in size and received new furniture and equipment giving a fantastic environment for children starting school. Along with a new classroom, the Reception children have also welcomed Judith Conlin as their teacher.



Prep Science Day

Reception, Year 1 and 2 had a wonderful afternoon full of experiments. They made 'slime' by mixing cornflour and water together and the children were amazed to find that when they squashed the mixture between their hands it became more solid! 'Fizzy colours' was another exciting experiment, adding vinegar and food colouring to bicarbonate of soda. It was lovely to watch the children's reactions to the foaming and fizzing.



PGL Trip

A very excitable bunch of Year 5 children went away to the PGL Outdoor Education Centre in May. Their days were jam-packed with a variety of fun and challenging, outdoor adventure activities. These included: Giant swing, fencing, raft building, rifle shooting, Jacob's Ladder, problem solving, abseiling, aeroball, passport to the world and a disco. These activities pushed them out of their comfort zones, tested their brains, gave them new experiences and encouraged team work.



THE PREP SCHOOL have had another busy year with a packed fixtures program. All our pupils have shown great promise, commitment and determination when representing the school. Individual performances have included Florence and her riding success, a Beechwood Star. Beatrice took part in the Tennis Nationals in Italy at Under 10's. Kitty has continued to excel with her dance; coming 2nd in her Tap Solo at the East Grinstead Dance Festival and has been selected to take part in the Royal Academy of Dance ballet. Grace and Madhav have, again, achieved great success in Chess, both winning National

Chess Finals in their respective groups.

We have had a number of pupils representing local clubs in both team and individual sports. As part of the Inspire Allstars True Spirit Cheer Leading, Tallulah competed at regionals and nationals. Playing for Tonbridge Juddians, Nathan won 3 individual awards for teamwork, tries scored and kicking. Matthew, Sam, Issac and Freddie, playing for Langton Green, won the Spring and Autumn Cups in the Crowborough Under 11's Football League and the Kent League. They continue their success with trials for the West Kent Elite Football team.

SPORTS NEWS *Senior*



One of the highlights for this year has to be the fact that planning of our new Sports Hall has been approved. We look forward with huge anticipation to the sporting opportunities this will bring. This year the popularity of rugby has continued to grow. We played our first ever U18 matches and the Sixth-Form went on tour to France during the Easter break and also participated in 7's tournaments at Worth and the Society of Heads tournament in Ascot at the London Irish training ground. Our stand out performance in younger years was with our Year 9 team against Farringdon School. Our U13 and U15 girls took part in the Tag Rugby festival in Tunbridge Wells. This was the first time for our U15's and second time for the U13 age group and we exceeded expectations. The U13's were equal winners of their group, and the U15's got into the Shield Final, narrowly missing out on the cup final by one point. The girls should be very proud of their performance. Netball continues to be a favourite sport amongst the girls and matches have been closely contested. We have had some memorable hockey matches against Kent College and TWGGS and in football our U15 team had stand out performances against Battle Abbey and Bethany. In Cricket our U13's are playing well which was particularly illustrated in our match against Skippers Hill. Beechwood continues to encourage competition in a wide variety of team sports. In addition, there has been individual success in Horse Riding, Football, Rugby, Basketball and Tennis where pupils have achieved County, District and Club success. Dance and gymnastics is another area where pupils have achieved individual club success and have performed in local shows. We have also encouraged a pupil coaching programme in football this year.

We have entered the Woodmansee cross-country cup and have run trips to football and rugby 7's matches.

A Midsummer Night's Dream *Senior School Production*



A 'TRULY MAGICAL' PERFORMANCE by the students at Beechwood Sacred Heart which mesmerised audience members as it took them back in time for this fun-filled re-telling of Shakespeare's classic. Standout performances from a mischievous Puck (Natasha) and Titania (Anna) with her funky fairy crew, alongside the four young lovers performed by Frederick, Mia, Jacob and

Liberty who played their complex, funny and heart-rending love triangles convincingly. A boisterous Bottom and his merry ensemble had everyone in laughs whilst Disco King Oberon and his 'Beastie Boys' ensemble featured in a dance-off to remember! The musical soundtrack to this piece brought back the 80s feels as it featured top hits from super stars including Michael Jackson and Prince.



'This is a feel good show which is great fun, great acting and great production all round'.

MUSIC NEWS

THIS YEAR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT have been busier than ever. The children have been fully committed and hard-working, bringing boundless energy into every performance.



The Prep School took part in an exciting World Music percussion workshop with Jim Berndrin back in September, following this they attended the Junior Prom at the Albert Hall and sung a Harvest Mass for the Halliwell Care Home. The Prep Choir also took part in the 'Young Voices' massed choir concert at the O2, which was a magical day and finished the year by competing in the Maidstone Festival.

The Senior School presented the Stockbury Music Festival early on in the Autumn, producing live music outside on the platform of the Centenary Classroom. The chamber choir 'Schola Cantorum' led the music at the St Augustine's Youth Mass in October, and then in March they sung three concerts at the International Choir Festival of Paris, singing with predominantly adult choirs from all over the world. Our chamber choir held their own and gave some outstanding performances.

The Prep and Senior Choirs, Orchestra, various bands, ensembles and soloists have taken part in the Winter Concert, Carols at Christmas, The Cultural Showcase, The Prep Soirée and The Celebration of Song this year, as well as some of these musicians performing on 8th Weekend and Beechwood Day.

The children are so inspiring and enthusiastic; we are lucky to work with such a keen school of young musicians.

Staff News

During the year we said goodbye to Mrs Sue Dyke (Registrar), Mrs Christine Hoar (Accounts Manager), Mr Mason French (ICT Technician), Mrs Helen Whitaker (School Nurse), Mrs Jean Kerr (Lab Technician), Mrs Rachel Gibb (Reception Teacher) and Mrs Natalia Gerard (Learning Development)

At the end of this academic year, we say farewell to Mr Patrick Gush (Head of Preparatory), Mrs Teresa Goodwin (Maths), Mrs Elisabeth Warburton-Smith (English), Mr Mike Truman (Media Studies), Madame Brigitte Jenner (French), Mrs Sharon Burgess (Physics), Miss Elinor Lawless (Drama), Mrs Nicola Schmidt-Renfree (EAL), Mr Dan Sumner (EAL) and Mrs Beth Leong (Prep).

This year we welcomed several new members of staff to Beechwood: Mr Jonathan Millward (Head of Science), Miss Grainne Linehan (Science), Miss Harriet Couchman (Maths), Mrs Laura Stephens (Geography) Mrs Lucy Tipp (Psychology), Mrs Gemma Bowles, Mrs Cathie Kitley and Mrs Linda Walker (Learning Development), Mrs Judith Conlin (Reception Teacher), Mrs Deborah Roberts-Barter (Head of Boarding), Mrs Angela Reed (Accounts Assistant), Mrs Lucinda Coakley (Marketing & Admissions Assistant), Mrs Victoria Barwick (School Nurse), Mr Craig Golby (PE Assistant), Mr Syed Hassnain (Lab Technician), Miss Charlotte Carver (Nursery Assistant), Miss Shelly Lloyd (Assistant Houseparent), Miss Aiofe Lachever (Assistant Houseparent & French), Mr Ben Cook (Assistant Houseparent), Miss Tazmyn-May Gebbett (Assistant Houseparent). *With very best wishes to all.*

PA News

The Parents' Association have had a full and profitable year to raise additional funds to help support school projects and activities. The Nearly New Uniform Shop enjoyed a facelift during the year and continues to be a popular service.

In addition to this the PA has hosted events such as the Beechwood Bop, Fireworks Night, An Evening of Chocolate and the Christmas Fair, finishing off the academic year with the 'All that Glitters Ball'. This was a fabulous evening of great food, magic, and a casino for those who left their dancing shoes at home!

Part of this year's target was a new Projector and Screen for the Auditorium, which will be invaluable for the whole School and we are pleased to say that it will be up and ready for use at the start of the academic year 2017/18.

Beechwood Stars



★ **Prep Quiz Team Success**
Sophia, Sophie, Madhav and Qi Hong held onto first place from

the outset during this year's general knowledge semi-final as they pulled off a stunning victory. The final round saw the team come third in the country out of several hundred schools!



★ **Basketball Talent**

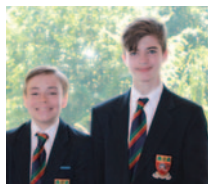
Eva in year 7 has secured her place to play not only for Kent at

Basketball, but is playing for the South East Squad. Eva plays club Basketball for the U14 Sevenoaks Suns. This year, with tough competition, the team took Gold and are National Champions. A fantastic achievement, congratulations Eva!



★ **Riding Success**
Florence in Year 4 achieved a fantastic third place in the South East

Region of the Bronze Pony/Ryder Combination League. The league, the largest in the country, contained over 400 competitors, ranging from 9 to 16 years old. Congratulations Florence and best of luck for your upcoming competitions. A magnificent achievement at just 9!



★ **Music Talent**
Alfie and Elliot in Year 9 are excelling in their music: both achieved a

distinction in their recent Grade 5 singing exam and have sung solos in concerts this year. Alfie has also sung as a guest soloist with the Sackville Singers, where he sang the role of the boy in the *Reluctant Dragon* by John Rutter and the treble solo in Faure's Requiem. The boys learn the piano and Alfie also the organ. Both are hugely successful composers, arrangers and music technicians. *Watch this space!*

Charity news

The Senior School has raised an amazing £8104.60. This total far exceeds our previous efforts and we are very proud of everyone for contributing in so many ways to make this possible.



We have decided that Cancer Research will be the main recipients of our charitable giving this year and a cheque for £6000 has been presented to representatives of the charity in a whole school assembly.

The remaining £2104.60 will be sent off by post to CAFOD who we maintain support for every year.

Fund raising events throughout the year included the termly Non-Uniform days. The School Houses run charitable activity weeks in the Spring Term and these often focus around the selling of various food stuffs which is always immensely popular with the students! This year our sponsored walk was a whole school event with Prep pupils, parents and family dogs joining in.

Thank you all for your support in raising awareness and funds for such worthy causes.

The Prep School have been very busy in their fundraising activities this year. To date, we have raised over £1700 for a variety of charities including CAFOD, Macmillan Cancer, Harvest Collection for St. Augustine's Parish, Cancer Research, The Major's Toy Appeal and finally our special school in Nepal the 'Heartland Children's Academy.'

The children have had lots of fun organising and taking part in these events and at the same time recognising the importance of caring for others outside of their own homes.

A big thank you to all parents for their generosity and continued support.