

THE SHEBBEARIAN

2022-2023



SHEBBEAR
COLLEGE



Shebbear College, Shebbear, Devon EX21 5HJ

Welcome to The Shebbearian Magazine!

We hope you enjoy this overview of the 2022-23 academic year here at Shebbear College and all the exciting things that have happened over the last twelve months.

Any feedback or enquiries about this publication should be sent to Joanna Conway, Head of Marketing & Admissions: marketing@shebbearcollege.co.uk.

You can keep up with all the latest news from the school via our social media channels: [@shebbearcollege](https://www.instagram.com/shebbearcollege)



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What a year this has been for celebrating achievement and success. From flicking through this magazine, you will gain a taste of how brilliantly busy life at Shebbear is – we proudly and purposely put together a full and varied calendar each year to ensure we get the absolute best from our young people and to provide them with the opportunities to succeed; whether that be in the classroom, on the sports field, the stage or out on the moor. Education at Shebbear is far more than just grades on certificates, it involves recognising the areas where an individual has strengths, alongside the areas where they need support and ensuring that, throughout their journey with us, each individual is given the tools to flourish.

The well-being and support of our pupils is at the heart of what we do and the introduction of the house system a few years ago provided an overhaul of the pastoral care that our young people receive. The reformed house structure has now completed its third year and is embedded within the Shebbear routine, ethos and leadership structures. Healthy competitiveness between the pupils had always been fostered by the house system and the new version maintains and builds upon this to ensure pastoral care and academic progress are overseen and monitored by the HsMs and their team of tutors. Our annual house dinners are now also a regular feature on the calendar and provide an opportunity for our pupils to experience a formal dinner in familiar surroundings. Happy children undoubtedly make better progress and I was very pleased to hear in our parental survey last autumn that 99% of

parents felt their child was happy at Shebbear: this makes me believe that our pastoral system must be doing something right.

Boarding has gone through a number of changes over the past three years, some by design and some by happenstance. From COVID to Storm Eunice in February 2022, which played a significant part in boarding changes as the roof of Tower in Pollard was lifted off and deposited in the Dartmoor playing fields. The enforced changes meant we have dabbled with co-educational boarding houses – an experience that has been, by and large, a positive one and a model that we will consider the value of in the future. A full refurbishment of Ruddle was completed in September 2022 and the bathrooms and bedrooms in the Tower wing of Pollard will be ready for September 2023.

This academic year has, in many ways, felt like one of consolidation and stabilisation in that we have not been facing a global pandemic, nor have parts of the College been dismantled by mother nature. We have enjoyed relative calm whilst the fun





has been allowed to return to Shebbear after what felt like fairly puritanical times under COVID. The Sixth Form Ceilidh returned alongside the pantomime and Sheb's Got Talent to see us through the long winter nights, before our magical production of Into the Woods demonstrating that the Performing Arts at Shebbear continue to blossom.

Sport this year has been in a period of growth with our Prep School and Senior School teams all playing regular fixtures. Our U15 boys rugby team would win the prize for raw achievement this year, having got to the final of the North Devon Cup as a highlight (losing by one point) and this group will have the makings of a strong 1st XV next academic year with five players being selected for the Exeter Chiefs Developing Player Pathway. Our girls netball and hockey teams showed the greatest improvement compared to the previous year and it has been fantastic to see the positive impact that team sport has on young people; resilience, fitness, collaboration, patience, strategy – all develop in a way that cannot be achieved in other settings and that is why competitive team sports will remain a core part of what we do here at Shebbear.

The whole of Form 3 have been out this week completing their Bronze DofE assessed expedition and it is fantastic to see how popular the award is at this level. Our Ten Tors team completed the course in a time that surprised even them and showed real potential as they move forward to the 45 mile route next year – I am confident we will have three teams entered for 2024 and the Sheb tradition of covering all three distances will be back on track.

On the academic side of College life, we saw the introduction of whole school assessment weeks in the Senior School. The aim here is (as is so often the case at Shebbear) to build pupils' confidence. The requirement to sit public exams as a means of judging how able an individual is will not be going away anytime soon and it is crucial therefore that we do all we can to ensure our pupils are ready for this experience, whilst getting the balance right to ensure they do not fear making mistakes but embrace them as a means to learn and improve; I intend for the classroom environment within Shebbear to maintain its warmth, but to develop a little more edge over the coming years and there will be more to follow on this from September.



We saw the return of face-to-face parents' evenings this year after a three-year break of being online and this contact has been very positive. One of the many benefits of a small school is that parents can get to know the majority of the teachers, even if they do not teach their child and this helps in supporting progress and building productive working relationships across our community.

One thing that has struck me since I arrived at Shebbear in 2020, is this enthusiasm and passion which is held by many of our alumni towards their former school. I therefore approached my first Old Shebbearian Association annual dinner at the RAF Club in London, with a certain degree of curiosity as to what to expect and was pleased to receive a warm welcome. We have hosted two group tours for Old Shebbearians at the College this academic year, with a third taking place tomorrow and I am very keen to forge closer links with our alumni over the coming years as I know how much passion they hold for the College and the benefit that our current pupils could gain from interacting with those who have passed through this place before them.

As you would expect, there are changes in the pipeline for September. The biggest being the revised shape of the day and our new activities programme; 360@Sheb will add a significant dynamism to the rhythm of the College day and week, with the new programme allowing an enhanced focus on team sports and performing arts whilst also allowing time for more individual activities for those who choose to take part in the surfing, tennis, horse riding and water sports that will be on offer.

I wish you all a restful and productive time over the summer, and look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for another brilliantly busy year at Sheb in September.

Mr Jenkins



Chaplain's REPORT

This was my third year as school Chaplain, and the first one that felt normal after living through pandemic regulations for the last two!

Almost immediately we were dealing with the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and how, as a community, we dealt with grief and sadness. A service was arranged and led by College Governor, the Reverend Simon Leigh and a Remembrance Service for Her Majesty held a week later to coincide with the state funeral. It was a lesson in preparing for the unexpected and dealing with a community who were clearly shocked and grieving for a much loved monarch of 70 years.



We moved swiftly towards our annual Harvest Festivals, in both the Prep and Senior School. We asked for donations for a food bank in Bideford and the response was outstanding, resulting in hundreds of items being donated, from toothbrushes and cereals to tinned products. The Chapel was decorated with pumpkins and harvests of fruit and veg, which were all passed on to food banks afterwards.

The school Remembrance Service was the first to be held in normal circumstances, and that reason alone was enough to make the service special and meaningful. This was followed swiftly with Advent and Christmas services, such an important part of our school year. Sadly, we were not able to hold our Senior Carol Service as the weather was against us with temperatures dropping to -8, and treacherously icy and dangerous roads. The Prep Service was held in the Assembly Hall with guest performances from the Senior Choir, leaving the Prep children (and audience) in awe. I am hoping that we will finally be able to hold the Carol Service in Chapel in December 2023, so that





I may experience carols sung there for the first time in my four years of Chaplaincy!

Easter was celebrated with the Prep and Senior Schools. Parents were invited and we had a full Chapel for the Prep children complete with Easter eggs and wonderful singing! The Senior service welcomed the Reverend Dan Haylett (the Chair of the Devon and Exeter District), to preach and it was a joy to celebrate Easter with the Senior pupils, again for the first time in three years.

We have taken part in many charitable events, from Red Nose Day, World Book Day, the School Fete and Dog Show, the MacMillan Coffee and Cake morning and several mufti days. In May, we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with everyone asked to dress in red, white and blue and a Bank Holiday to enjoy!



I cannot end this report without mentioning our guest speakers: The Gideon Society, who handed out copies of the Gideon Bible to pupils; Mrs Bridget Down, who stepped in at the last minute to

preach at several assemblies, thank you Bridget; and The Reverend Aubin Du Gruchard, Chaplain at Truro School, who spent a day with us and led our assembly, so thank you to our Cornish neighbour.

In conclusion, one of the most amazing things that I have witnessed this year is our community's ability to bounce back from adversity and keep pushing forward. I believe as a community of faith, coming together each week in Chapel and Prep Assemblies and supporting each other through prayer, kindness and friendship is the backbone of this school. We finish this academic year with our heads held firmly high and a strong sense of community pride as we look forward to the summer months.

Revd. Donna Leigh

Chaplain





John Wesley's mantra to do all the good you can by all the means you can underpins our attitude to fundraising every year. This academic year has been very successful, beginning with the Macmillan Coffee Morning bake sale in september which raised £380 for the cancer support charity. The Harvest Festival collection for local food banks resulted in boxes and boxes of foodstuffs being donated, and world Mental Health Day saw a number of awareness-raising events run by the HAWC team.





In October Mrs Lovett relinquished the reins of the charity coordination to Dr Fox, who began his new role with a bang in November when he agreed, along with Mr Sanders, to allow pupils to shave off his beard. Pupils had the opportunity to enter a raffle for the chance to wield the razor (actually a pair of clippers, Mr Sanders and Dr Fox weren't entirely daft). The newly moustachioed teachers proudly wore their trimmed facial hair for the whole month: Mr Sanders was compared to a young Tom Selleck with Dr Fox unfortunately being told he looked like Geoff from Byker Grove. Dr Fox announced just before the shave that his chin had not yet seen the 21st century, having first grown his beard in 1998, and was alarmed to find that in the intervening years he had developed a second chin whose existence was previously unsuspected. Between the raffle and donations the event raised more than £400 for the Movember charity.



Charity events continued with a multi-day for Children in Need, which raised over £600, Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children, International Wear a Hat Day for Brain Tumour Research, and the Sixth-Form panto, Peter Pan, headed up by Niamh in Upper Sixth, which included a collection and raffle in aid of the Great Ormond Street Appeal. J.M. Barrie may not have recognised the script, but he would surely have been pleased to know that his beloved characters were still putting money in the bag for the children's hospital.

Comic Relief in March raised £537 with a whole-school multi-day and another of the ever-popular bake sales, but the real success story of 2023 was the Spring Fair and Dog Show. The whole school pulled together, with a great deal of support from the Friends of Shebbear College, to put on a hugely successful day which raised a whopping £1,142 in total, with £900 going to the Holsworthy Longhouse branch of the North Devon Hospice, and £242 to the Forever Hounds Trust, a West-Country-based charity supporting ex-racing greyhounds and lurchers.



Enormous thanks are due not only to the staff who have rallied round to support our causes, but also to the pupils, parents, and the whole Shebbear College community for their unstinting support and generosity. You really make a difference.

Dr Fox

Charities Coordinator



PREP SCHOOL

OVERVIEW

The Prep School started the year larger than it had been in previous years. With our increased pupil numbers, the addition of our fourth House, Pollard, is now well-established, added an even greater element of healthy competition across the whole school.



Following the departure of Mrs Thompson last year, Mrs Roadnight joined the Prep team in September, and together with Mrs Henderson, has been superb working with our youngest children in Reception. Mrs Tibble has taken over the reins in Prep 1 and 2 and the children in her care have made excellent progress this year. Mrs Brock rejoined the Prep staff, having taught here for fourteen years previously, in a new role as teaching assistant. She has added a great deal of experience to the role, as well as having made a significant contribution to our girls' sport. Mrs Jones and Miss Emmerson have taken responsibility for Prep 3 and 4 and Mr Willetts moved up to Prep 5. Mrs Manners has also been a great addition to the team, in her role as 1:1 teaching assistant, often working closely with Mrs Clarke, who continues to do such wonderful work with the children.



Throughout the year, the commitment and endeavour shown by all of the children in the Prep, from the youngest in Reception to our Prep 6 children, has been very impressive. There is a quiet determination to do well in all areas of school life, as well as a 'family feel' and a strong sense of community and peer support. This ambition and energy is a direct reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm of the Prep and Senior School staff, who consistently go 'above and beyond' in providing as many opportunities as possible for the children. It has been good to see so many trips and extra enrichment activities (such as mini-medics, climbing, lego workshops and crown green bowling to name a few) take place for all of our children, who have undoubtedly benefited from these opportunities, both in and out of the classroom.

The Shebbear values and ethos (our Six Cs) have been shown in action throughout this year in so many different ways, including our assembly programme, greatly assisted by our Chaplain Revd Donna Leigh, sports fixtures and House competitions which have all taken place with vigour. The efforts of Millie, Emilia, Marah, Gabriella, Bella and Anjeli making and selling jewellery

to raise money for the British Red Cross, in aid of the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria, was inspirational. Whole school events, such as the Spring Fair, Coronation celebrations, Harvest and our Easter Service were all very well supported.



Mrs Appleton-Wahl has continued to get the very best out of our Prep artists, and the work they produced has been quite exceptional, resulting in awards for Bella, Millie and Anjeli at the Burton Gallery Exhibition for Schools. Woodwork, with Mr Quance, has been a really important addition over the last few years, with Prep 6 producing some tremendous creations. Drama continues to be loved by the children, and Mrs Jones has put on another of her wonderful productions, 'Time Lord'. The same can be said for Music, as Mrs Skull, Mrs Sadler-Smith and Mrs Parker have continued to work with the Prep's music, as well as seeing more than 25 performers take part at the Prep School Informal Music Concerts.



World Book Day proved to be ever-popular with our children and staff dressing up as their favourite book characters. From Joey in War Horse to Elsa, and from Harry Potter to Wally, we just about had them all. It was a very clear indication of our children's engagement and enthusiasm. There has been a strong link with our library and Mrs Fanet, who has

welcomed Prep classes and children in at every opportunity. The visit by author Lisa Williamson was an inspiration to many.

An important part of Prep School life is our School Council. Mr Willetts has overseen the Council again this year and such was the enthusiasm and energy of the class reps, that more has been achieved this year than any other year. Our thanks to the catering team, who has worked closely with the School Council and also to our Parents' Association, who have contributed to some additional playground games for the Prep children.

Congratulations to Ruddle for winning the House Cup in the Michaelmas and Lent terms. The Trinity term has also seen more events being able to take place, including our cycle race, drama production, inter-House swimming gala, Sports Day and Celebration Afternoon, as well as a number of additional trips and enrichment days.



We now look forward to 2023-24, with a note that this group of children and staff have shown that they are full of hard work, creativity, enthusiasm, good humour, encouragement and commitment, resulting in a wide array of fine achievements across all aspects of school life.



A huge thank you and well done to everyone and the very best of luck for the year ahead.

Matthew Foale

Head of Prep



RECEPTION

It was a bright, sunny autumn day when our new Reception Class took their first intrepid steps onto our hallowed lawns and became our youngest Shebberians. What a first year they have had!



With maturity beyond their years, they negotiated their way across campus, enjoying the wealth of activities and facilities on offer, from singing in the Music Centre, to playing hockey on the Astro turf, bubble painting in the Art block and enjoying visits from international authors in the Library.

During the Michaelmas term we explored the school grounds, jumping in muddy puddles, collecting mini beasts in the Friend's Trail, toasting marshmallows and sipping hot chocolate in the Outdoor Classroom. We were very excited for our first school trip, in the mini bus! We practiced our Nativity play songs en-route to RHS Garden Rosemoor where we enjoyed a morning of crafting, making natural Christmas decorations. The afternoon was spent exploring the hidden sculpture trail, even discovering the fastest slide in the world, fondly known as 'The Bullet!'. The Michaelmas term concluded with our Nativity performance "A Miracle in Town" and the Carol concert in the Assembly Hall which was beautifully lit by candle light and decorated with natural foliage collected from our school grounds.

The Lent term brought us new sports to try. Gymnastics and Dance in the Sport's Hall and Dance Studio, as well as Clubbercise and Yoga. As the weather turned somewhat wintry, we even managed to build a snow man and created snow angels in the playground, while Shebbear turned into its very own Winter Wonderland. Later in the term, once the weather warmed up again, we enjoyed a trip to the Burton Art Gallery, Bideford to see our exhibits in the School's Art Exhibition. We were extremely proud to see our very own compositions hanging on the wall alongside the exhibits from all the other schools in our local area. We love the time we spend with Mrs Appleton - Wahl in the Art Block. She has taught us our favourite mantra, "We are Artists" and encouraged us to view the world through her magical colour lens. In the afternoon we enjoyed a visit to Victoria Park, with its famous Charles Kinsley statue and walked along the river bank, looking at the river boats. We discovered one of them is actually a café! The Lent term concluded with a special visitor from Nethercott House (Farms for City Children) bringing the most unusual chickens we have ever seen. They even had their own pompom hats on! The chicks were especially cute.

Trinity, our last term in Reception, brought warmth and sunshine and with it the freedom to run around our school fields, climbing on The Lighthouse play area, throwing Frisbees, playing football and dodge ball. We joined in with our first Prep-school Cross Country event, played cricket and



rounders, and loved our block of seven-week swimming lessons. Our first Sports Day was a huge success. We were visited by Exmoor Zoo who brought their very cheeky meerkat, Rascal, to meet us and Mrs Roadnight bravely pretended to be a tree whilst an Australian Green Tree Frog hopped on her! We joined the rest of the Prep School for a school trip to the Eden Project where we learnt about habitats, made dens, and explored the Rain Forest and Mediterranean Biomes. We were privileged to witness the Coronation of King Charles III and enjoyed an afternoon picnic, waving our Union Flags and learning how to sing the National Anthem.

What a fantastic year we have had.

Mrs Roadnight and Mrs Henderson





PREP 1&2

What a wonderful year we have had; the Michaelmas term saw a great start to the year in which the children really got stuck in-to their history topic on 'The Great Fire of London' and they thoroughly enjoyed their work on Julia Donaldson. As part of a theme day they came dressed in an assortment of characters from the book and enjoyed a day of fun and excitement from STEM activities to crafts.



This led onto Christmas which is always such a wonderful time and most definitely at Shebbear; the children were captivated by our walk down Prospect Lane and I came to realise that there was a bit of competition amongst the teachers as to whose classroom could have the most lights in it! Such a dazzling display for the children and such excitement.

During the Lent term our trip to Rosemoor was a wonderful experience; the children learnt about habitats and were mesmerised by all the beautiful plants. Following this, they enjoyed using our amazing school grounds to create their own habitats, which linked to our literacy topic and the beautiful story of 'The Bog Baby'. I have been astounded by the art work that the children have produced over the last year; they really do enjoy their Art sessions with Mrs Appleton-Wahl and always come back to class with a positive vibe about them.

In Trinity term we really utilised our outdoor classroom to build dens, create pictures from natural materials, as well as learning about British birds and building their very own nests. We are very fortunate to have access to an amazing home economics room and cookery has been very popular; they have enjoyed making pizzas, cakes and biscuits and it always amazes me how well they work in groups, taking turns and demonstrating their polite manners. They have also impressed me with their ability to wash-up, dry up and tidy everything away!

Our trip to the Eden Project was one of the highlights of the year; the children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and the walk through the rainforest, such a wonderful experience and fun time had by all the children and staff.

The children have shone throughout the year during social sporting events; Prep 2 have played a variety of home and away games including football, hockey and cricket and they have always been very sporting in their behaviour. They have shown their courtesy and have represented the school in an impeccable way.

These are the highlights, and just a small example of what we have been learning this year. They have left us with such wonderful memories, ready for a new year to come.

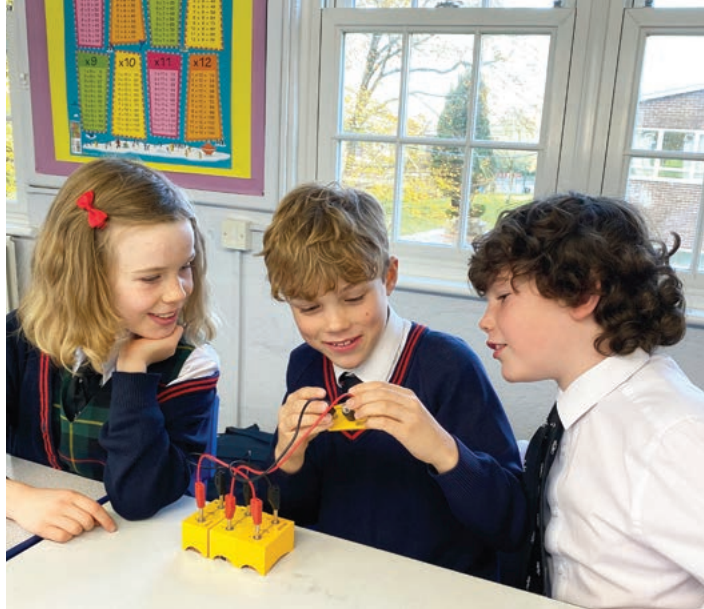
Mrs Tibble and Mrs Brock





PREP 3&4

Prep 3 and 4 have had a very busy year. Miss Emmerson and Mrs Jones joined forces to teach the class and the children have enjoyed travelling between classrooms for different subjects.



Science has been a particular favourite, giving us lots of opportunities to experiment with electricity and states of matter. Exclamations of "Yes, it's Science today!" and "I love Science, it's such fun!" were often heard as the children read their timetable for the day. Another firm favourite was "Cheerios Maths." Maths is so much easier to understand when Cheerios are involved it seems!

Geography has taken us all over the world, from deserts to rainforests; whilst exploring food, festivals and fasting across different religions in RE has given us several opportunities to use the cookery room and fill the Prep School with the delicious scent of our creations - from Jewish Challah bread to Diwali sweet treats. The children have all worked hard in English, producing fabulous creative writing, newspaper reports and poetry; and we were delighted with the exceptional efforts of the class in the annual Cawdrey Cup spelling competition.

The children have not only exhibited academic progress this year, but we have been delighted to watch their confidence and creativity grow as the year has progressed. We are lucky to have such talented artists, musicians, sports men and women and budding thespians amongst the class. It's been a real treat to watch many of the children grow from shy, retiring individuals into really confident, self-assured children. The Trinity Term offered us an opportunity to visit the awe-inspiring Eden Project and another highlight was the visit from Exmoor Zoo. Who knew that small animals could bring such joy to all of our faces. Rascal was a particular favourite! The final weeks included a variety of events giving opportunities for the children to shine; including Sports Day, our school Production of 'Time Lord' and Celebration Day. A wonderful year full of happy memories created by such amazing children.

Mrs Jones and Miss Emmerson





PREP 5

I was delighted to welcome the children into Prep 5 in September. This was my first year teaching this year group but it was made a lot easier as this would be the third year I was teaching the majority of the class!



They quickly got stuck into the new academic year and demonstrated their collective teamwork, determination and creativity across a range of lessons and activities. We welcomed Bella to the class in September and William at the start of the Trinity term, who have both settled into life at Shebbear incredibly well. This was made easier by the wonderful reception and support they received from the whole class.

As always, I have been incredibly impressed with the children's creative writing. In particular, Marah, Anjeli and Emilia have really 'wowed' the class when they have read out their work numerous times throughout the year. In November, the whole school took part in the Cawdrey Cup spelling competition and there were some exceptional scores throughout the school. However, I have always promoted that the children try as hard as they can, as I know that spelling is not always something children find easy. Noah and Patrick tried their hardest during the competition and scored incredibly well, great job boys!

The children's maths work has been similarly impressive and many of the children have been tasked with Year 6 objectives. All of the class have made brilliant progress in their weekly Club 55 times table. Without fail, the class are enthusiastic and motivated to better their scores. Special mention must go to Arthur, Charlie and Matt, who have completed all of the Club 55 stages.

We are incredibly lucky to have a range of teachers from across the Prep and Senior School who teach Prep 5. This helps to create a real sense of excitement when the children head off to the science lab, computer suite, art centre or music block. We have also had some great success in Art with Bella, Marah and Anjeli all winning prizes at the Burton Art Gallery during the annual schools exhibition.

Throughout the year, there have been countless opportunities to represent Shebbear at numerous sports and activities. The children are always enthusiastic when these opportunities arise and Charlie, Eduard, Max and Millie always give 100% and represent Shebbear fantastically well.

It has been a real pleasure to teach Prep 5 this year, although for some of the class, I have been their class teacher for the last three years! I know you will continue to flourish in Prep 6 and have a fantastic time!

Mr Willetts





PREP 6

From the very start of the Michaelmas term in September, this group of children has been excellent to work with. Within the group there is a broad range of interests, personalities and characters, and this has made the year a real pleasure. There are not many groups with as much creativity as shown by these children.



Whether only being in the Prep School for the final term of the year or having been in the Prep all the way through, the children bonded and supported each other really well. It has been good to see Aston and Anaya join us during the year and they both contributed greatly to school life in a number of different ways; they are both very talented individuals.

In the classroom, I have been impressed by the children's creativity, application and levels of achievement. This has been echoed by teaching staff across many subjects. The level of creativity was embodied particularly well by Hattie, Sonny and Xav, who demonstrated their talents throughout the year. Many congratulations to Tyler, Harry, Annabelle, Cherrie and Annabelle, who were awarded scholarships to the Senior School for September.

One of the aspects of the year that I have been most impressed with, has been the independence and increased confidence shown. Many children have stepped forward to volunteer or consistently support our younger children.

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching our topics, often combining English and History themes. The children show a real interest and have independently created some outstanding work as a result, going well above and beyond what is expected. Titanic and World War 1 trench warfare work come to mind in particular. We enjoyed trips to the Cornwall at War museum in Davidstow and to Crealy. The children also enjoyed some climbing and high ropes sessions at PGL Beam House, demonstrating their determination, as well as lack of fear of heights!



The Public Speaking competition, adjudicated by Mrs Shamsolahi, Head of English in the Senior School, saw many tremendous performances, not least by some who stepped out of their comfort zone and possibly surprised themselves a little. Tabby and Annabelle were the overall winners, with Harry, Rohan, Nicola, James and Annabelle as our runners-up. Annabelle and Flora were both recognised for their achievements in this year's Cawdrey Cup. Another fiercely-fought competition was the Chess tournament. Well done to George who was our worthy winner. Isabella and Barney won the academic progress medals in the Michaelmas term, with Tabby and Aston winning them in the Lent term.

Prep 6 is an important year for the children to have additional responsibilities, and this group has led from the front in terms of the example they have set, often taking the initiative in different ways. Our Prefects, Flora and Cherrie have been fine role models and ambassadors for the Prep School. Together with others, Shane and Finley were exemplary sports ambassadors and fine role models for our younger children. The House Captains, Nicola (Way), Tabby (Thorne), Annabelle (Pollard) and Harry (Ruddle), have led their Houses superbly, including delivering considered and thoughtful assemblies throughout the year. These contributions cannot be underestimated, as they are at the core of the family feel and strong sense of community.

A final word must go to Annabelle and Tyler, our Heads of School this year. Both have been excellent and reflect very clearly Shebbear's values and ethos.

There is a lot of talent in this group and I wish them every success as they move on to the Senior School. I look forward to following their achievements with interest.

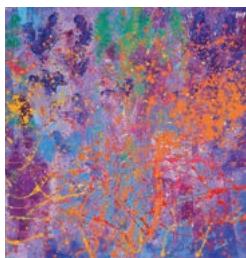
Matthew Foale



Prep School Artwork

It has been a highly creative, prolific, colourful and beautifully messy year in Prep School Art, with all of the children, from Reception to Prep 6, having two Art lessons a week in the studio.

All years have explored drawing, painting, mixed media, collage, print making and sculpture, with fabulous results. They have worked on projects inspired by the natural world, specific artists or techniques and based on historical and cultural art. All the children have taken part in collaborative projects which promote cooperation, teamwork and tolerance, shared inspiration and learning, an opportunity to work on a larger scale and a shared sense of accomplishment.



I have challenged the Prep School with doing projects and using materials which would normally not be undertaken until Senior School or even Art College, and have been amazed by their focus, grasp of new techniques, creativity, skill and individuality. Following her death, all years celebrated the remarkable life of the Queen in fabulous portraits in a wide variety of styles

with total freedom of colour. The whole Prep School also took part in a competition to design the Christmas Fair Poster which resulted in Santas on snowboards amongst other forms of transportation with Cherrie in Prep 6 being chosen as the winner with her colourful design. I have enjoyed encouraging the children to make their own unique Christmas presents, cards and wrapping paper, mostly out of reclaimed and repurposed 'junk', to hopefully instil a lifelong enthusiasm for homemade gifts. Mother's Day and Father's Day presents were also a delight to watch being made with such tenderness, revealing their deep love of their parents in the effort they made.



We exhibited as much work as the Burton Gallery could hang in their Annual Schools Exhibition and won four individual student prizes and an overall school award. The judges said on our certificate of achievement, 'a charming collection of high quality work spread throughout every age group. Delightful work!'



Prep School age children are like creative fireworks, packed with energy and confidence, and I love to light the fuse, point them skywards and stand back to admire the wonderful explosions of colour and exuberant enthusiasm. Doing this job is a great joy and the children inspire me as much as I hope I inspire them.

Reception Artwork

Reception class has been an absolute delight to teach this year! The children have done an amazing amount of work with enthusiasm, focus and impeccable behaviour. We experimented with paint application on a huge, collaborative abstract, first with rollers in cool colours, then wrapping everyone's feet in bubble wrap, walking through paint, and then across the painting, and finally when dry, splatter painting in warm colours. I have heard several people say that the end result would not look out of place in a New York gallery! We did an observational drawing of vegetables, which resulted in beautiful oil pastel and ink studies, and printed with a long-suffering teddy. The children have done charcoal self portraits, sand painting and made animal collages from a variety of painted and printed papers they had previously created. We looked at aboriginal and cave art and did some of our own, and made Elma sculptures from milk bottles and tissue paper. We made snakes from pipe cleaners, beads and clay followed by chalk pastel drawings, which tied in beautifully with their visit to the tropical rainforest at the Eden project.

These projects are just the tip of this year's creative iceberg. It's been a lot of fun.



Prep 1 & 2 Artwork

Prep 1 & 2 have thrown themselves into all their projects this year with gusto, and it has been a pleasure to teach them. We have covered many mediums and techniques along the fun filled creative journey and the children have blossomed in confidence and individuality.

By popular demand, chickens were the subject of our black and coloured inks project and much hilarity was had with the laying of eggs and sound effects accompanying the creation of their fabulous Jurassic chickens. We celebrated Halloween with observational drawings of pumpkins in chalk pastels and the rain with dramatic weather pictures in oil pastels and watercolour with themselves and brightly contrasted umbrellas in felt pens.

We have done two collaborative projects this year, the first a mixed media collage of a vase of wild and wonderful flowers and the second an aboriginal inspired 9 foot long painted panel. The children did incredibly well, working side-by-side on their individual sections, using their own choice of colours but being sensitive to the colours those around them were using to create a harmonious whole. Each child printed their own handprint and decorated it with patterns inspired by Aboriginal art. The result was stunning and the children collectively chose to call it "hands around the world". It looked fabulous in the Burton exhibition. Finally, they have created sculptural birds from paper, tape and plaster which will be painted and housed in nests. The children have worked hard, had fun and progressed hugely.



Prep 3 Artwork

Prep 3 have had a wonderful year, honing their skills with various media on the general theme of the natural world. They have created ethereal and characterful octopi with oil pastels and watercolour, a huge mixed media collage of a peacock from painted papers and charcoal self portraits. Fish studies in pastels made up a shoal to hang as a moving mobile and tissue collages formed the background for cut out trees. One of my favourite projects to watch develop was the making and painting of clay birds with fantastic fabric covered wire wings and tails and beaded wire legs. After basic instruction on the technique, the children used their individual creativity to choose paint and fabric colours, and the result was a flock of magical birds which looked amazing in the Burton Gallery. Prep 3 have recently worked on rock pool paintings with layers built up of oil pastels, coloured pencils, watercolours, inks, and chalk pastels. They have shown a remarkable focus in attention to detail alongside creative flair in imaginative colour. We have made the most of the sunny weather sketching trees and buildings in charcoal out in the grounds. The children are full of energy and enthusiasm and progressing in leaps and bounds.



Prep 4 Artwork

Prep 4 have taken on some ambitious projects this year, putting their considerable energy into creative challenges with enthusiasm. We started the year with bold, colourful chameleons in oil pastels and vibrant inks, which eventually lead to large card and plaster gecko sculptures. Painted imaginatively, they made a fabulous attraction at the Barton gallery. We also did tri-colour printing from their 'lino' cuts of wild animals and modelled clay self-portrait busts. On the theme of the sea, year 4 painted coastal canvases, created a huge fabulous collaborative weaving from beach Flotsam and Jetsam and made wonderful collages of boats on a stormy sea from painted papers. Finally, they have created mixed media paintings of flowers, which seek to capture the spirit, energy and flamboyance of the subject matter and themselves as artists.



Prep 5 Artwork

Prep 5 are a highly creative and cohesive group, working together extremely well, but also confident in their unique individual creative styles. Our first project of black and coloured ink huge insect studies won two of the individual prizes at the Burton Gallery, Millie for her impressive dragonfly and Angeli for her dramatic praying mantis. Bella also won a prize for her tricolour printed linocut of a giraffe, made in activities. They went on to practice drawing with their wild animal charcoal studies which were fabulously expressive. Moving on to printmaking, the children accomplished a massive wall hanging made up of every kind of printmaking technique we could think of - from lino cuts to corks, CDs, sponges and relief printing. It was very impressive and the end result is stunning and hangs in pride of place in my classroom. It was unfortunately too large to hang in the Burton gallery at around 9 ft tall and 5 ft wide, but is admired by all visitors to my class. After exploring a different printing technique on the theme of trees, we moved to Fauvist inspired oil pastel landscapes, and are currently exploring tone and texture with charcoal sculpting sports figures in action and the dynamic poses which describe their particular sports, in preparation for sculptures on that subject. It has been a very successful and productive year and I am constantly amazed at the pupils' creative skills and maturity and the fantastic progress they have made.



Prep 6 Artwork

The two Prep 6 classes have done a lot of drawing practice this year in preparation for their move to Senior School. They have created both pencil and charcoal portraits of each other and themselves, learning the essential proportions of the face and then expressively drawn their choice of domestic or wild animals. They also drew loo rolls to explore form through tone, and took that skill to a whole new level in tonal collage self portraits. Along the way Prep 6 produced some amazing collaborative pieces of art which demonstrated, both in techniques and end results, a confidence and skill well beyond their age. The two groups first produced their own version of the Mona Lisa which, to my mind, are much more interesting than the original! The basic outline was projected onto large canvases, which were then divided into large squares. Students had to keep to the basic lines of the composition so that it came together as a recognisable image, but could paint their own square in whatever style and colours they wanted. It was fun and the results were spectacular, so they chose to do another one and chose me as their subject. No Artist could have created portraits I love more! All are displayed in my room and I had to put a sign up saying 'Prep School Art' as I didn't think visitors would believe they were done by 10 and 11-year-olds. It has been a great pleasure to teach the children and see them progress through the years. I look forward to seeing the direction their great creativity takes them in Senior School under the expert tutelage of Miss Kaur.



Prep School SPORT

Sport and physical activity play an enormous part in Prep School life, with an emphasis on inclusion, participation, support and enjoyment, together with competitive levels of performance. Skill development, progress and opportunity are all central to the pupils' sports provision.

Timetabled lessons include a wide range of sports: rugby, netball, football, hockey, tennis, cricket, athletics, volleyball, badminton, basketball, handball, gymnastics, Health-Related Fitness, swimming and general ball skills. In addition, opportunities have included cross country events, a cycle race and swimming lessons and galas. Outdoor Education has also been a very popular element for some classes this year, linking lessons in the classroom to the outdoors.

We have enjoyed a full set of school fixtures being played in each term. Following national and regional trends, our girls' football and cricket really continued to grow. It has been excellent to see the children and staff really embrace their sport and fixtures with enormous enthusiasm. A special mention must go to our Under 11 rugby team, as they went through their season undefeated, and also to Arthur, Harry and Aston who finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the West Buckland U11 cross-country race - a tremendous achievement for them all.



There have been numerous inter-House competitions throughout the year, including all of the major sports, as well as several sports-based challenges and competitions. The House cross-country again showed wonderful support and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Atticus, Leia, George, Nixie, James, Xanthe, Kit, Violet, Marley, Bella, Arthur, Marah, James and Annabelle who all won their respective races. Way was the winning House.



Swimming has continued to play an important part in our sports curriculum, with all age-groups having a block of lessons during the year. Our inter-House gala is always an enjoyable event, showcasing the children's talents, with this year's being no exception. In addition, the gala at Torridge also provided an opportunity for our swimmers to excel.

A special mention must go to some individuals. Harry competed at the National Triathlon Championships in March at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Buckinghamshire. After a full event diary of triathlons over the winter, Harry had qualified earlier in the year for the Championships. He was the youngest in his age categories, and held his own in a very large and strong field of competitors from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, achieving a top 20 finish. Tyler has also had a very successful swimming season, reflected in the Torridgeside Amateur Swimming Club awards evening. He received 3 trophies: one was for 100m Individual Medley, another for 50m freestyle for 11 and 12 year olds and the third trophy was for being the club's most determined swimmer. Annabelle has been prolific in terms of eventing success and triathlons. These are all outstanding achievements. Harry and Annabelle were both awarded Sports Scholarships to the Senior School.



Our cycle race and Sports Day towards the end of the academic year, again proved to be very successful events, showcasing the children's enthusiasm, talent, teamwork and support for their peers.

Sport also plays a large role in our Prep School activities programme, for all ages. From rugby to cricket and fitness to netball, the children have really excelled in these activities.

My thanks to the children and staff for their remarkable enthusiasm, commitment and resilience, in what has been an incredibly busy and productive year.

Matthew Foale

Prep School Production of



Imagine what it would be like to travel back in time; to be able to visit any historical figure you liked from any era... Unbelievable?

But this is exactly what happens to Harriet and Sam as they explore a rambling old house that is their new home and discover a hidden cupboard that has been sealed up for over 70 years.

Inside the cupboard they discover an old board game called 'Time Lord' which leads them to meet a real Time Lord and go on an incredible journey into the past.

This amazing adventure story was bursting with catchy songs, fascinating characters and a healthy dose of rip-roaring comedy. Some of the children even had the chance to rap in their Dino Rap.



On their journey the time travellers meet some fantastic historical characters like Florence Nightingale, Beethoven, Boudicca and her Roman soldiers along with a group of evacuees from the 2nd world war.

However, as in all adventure stories, danger lies ahead. The evacuees had unwittingly unleashed a fierce gang called the Dino Crew who are determined to win back the planet.

Each of the historical figures gives the travellers a magical object that they can use in times of need. Each visitor must use their gift wisely particularly when the Time Lord is captured by the Dino Crew and their mob of comically incompetent followers.

An amazing show, full of great songs, plenty of laughs and once again, extremely talented and enthusiastic children. Congratulations to each and every one of them for putting on such an outstanding show.



PREP SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

Competition was fierce at this year's Sports Day and there were many wonderful performances from the children. In addition, their enthusiasm, sportsmanship and commitment to encouraging their peers was outstanding.

A good indication of their enthusiasm was the number of children who stepped forward to take part in the distance races, including the 1000m for Prep 5 and 6.

Thanks go to the staff for their hard work, to parents for their wonderful support (and competitive racing in the egg and spoon race!), and of course, to the children who made the day such a success. And finally, well done to Pollard for winning the House competition, beating Way by just 2 points!





prep school class photos





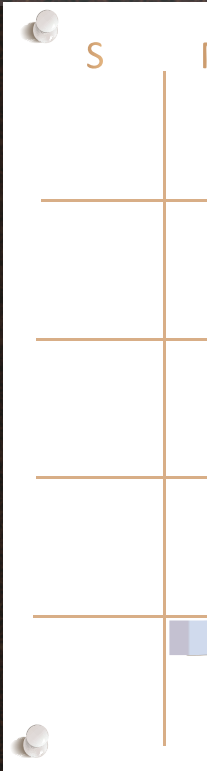
prep 3 + 4



prep 5



prep 6



RUDDLE REFURBISHMENT BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE MAINTENANCE TEAM

IN SEPTEMBER 2022, BOARDERS AT SHEBBEAR COLLEGE RETURNED TO A COMPLETELY NEWLY REFURBISHED CO-EDUCATIONAL RUDDLE BOARDING HOUSE, MUCH TO THEIR AMAZEMENT AND DELIGHT! RUDDLE, PREVIOUSLY THE GIRLS' HOUSE, WAS COMPLETELY RENOVATED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, PROVIDING PUPILS WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL PLACE TO LIVE, STUDY AND PLAY.

This project was managed by the school's Operations and Maintenance team, Mark, Andrea, Matt and Steve (and Dale the electrician), who delivered the majority of the work themselves, from initial design to completion in a very short timescale, starting work in January 2022 and opening in September 2022.



In April 2023 the project was shortlisted as a finalist in the Boarding Schools' Association Awards 2023 for the Boarding House Extension or Refurbishment category, which acknowledges the work that schools have put in to providing accommodation for pupils, looking closely at the design, sustainability and innovation of the refurbishment of Ruddle House.

We spoke to Mark and Andrea about the highs and lows of the project.



You've delivered an amazing new boarding house for our pupils and received some incredible feedback. How did the refurbishment come about?

Mark - We were working on another project – Pollard Common Room – at the time, when we were told that there was the opportunity to empty a boarding house for a short period. Boarding numbers have been a bit lower after Covid, and housing them all in one house had never been a reality before - so we suddenly had this very small window of opportunity to do something.

Andrea - Initially the plan was just to fix the roof and give the building a quick paint but we saw a great opportunity to actually refurb the whole building so we took this to the Senior Leadership Team. They agreed and we got the go ahead at the end of January 2022 - with a deadline of 1st September! There wasn't enough time or notice to employ external contractors, so we had to step into the project management side.

This was a huge project with a very small timescale - how did you start?

Andrea - Our first port of call was to establish what the boarders themselves actually wanted. We held pupil focus groups, gathered mood boards from the pupils and asked the boarding staff for feedback. We also spoke to the Housekeeping team in terms of choosing materials that were easy to clean and accessible. We wanted to make sure that all the right people were involved and everything came together in a cohesive manner. The feedback from pupils was that they wanted a modern feel with a homely element. They didn't want anything too ultra-modern. They loved the Pollard Common Room and wanted a similar thing for Ruddle.



Mark - The tight time frame meant that in terms of work, everything had to be started at the same time! We really did hit the ground running. One of the bigger projects was the entrance hall - it wasn't very welcoming and we wanted to make it a feature. I had a vision to bring light in and open it up. It was quite an ambitious thing to do and I think there were a few times where people thought I was crazy. But I was determined for it to work!

The BSA award focused on the sustainability of the project - tell us a bit about that side of things.



Mark - I feel strongly that building projects should be as sustainable as possible and that was always in the forefront of our minds. It ties in with our ethos here and it's what everyone should be looking for in their building projects. We chose products carefully for sustainability, recyclability, environmental impact and carbon footprint and durability - all factors which play a vital role in good project management but are often unseen by the end user.

Andrea - The materials were a bit more expensive but we shouldn't ever need to replace them. For example the cardine flooring we used has a lifetime guarantee; The bathroom pods were chosen for energy efficiency, reduced pollution, recyclable materials

and reduced cleaning and maintenance; the carpet underlay was made from recycled bottles and the corridor lighting is all motion-sensored to conserve energy. We also recycled some of the old bedroom furniture, giving it a new lease of life!

What were some highlights of the project?

Mark - As well as the new entrance hall, a big project was taking the toilets out of the bathrooms. The pupils said they were keen on more communal bathrooms, but obviously also wanted their privacy. So we worked hard to meet this and get the right balance. We now have shower cubicles with a built-in changing room, so that gives them privacy and then they have the communal area to chat while they're getting ready. Toilets were separated from the bathrooms completely to ensure this balance was achieved.

Andrea - When we were looking at the bathroom pods, we visited Sandroyd School in the New Forest, as they were using them. They were fantastic and showed us around as well as giving us some maintenance tips which was invaluable. The gym is also something that I think has turned out really well. It used to be a large bedroom but it's a strange shape for a room and when Mr Jenkins came up with the idea to have a gym we went with that idea and it's received some fantastic feedback from the boarders. I love the neutral colour scheme as well.

Mark - I wouldn't say this was a highlight, but more of a memory! We completely reinsulated the loft to help with heat loss so it's now 450mm deep up there. It was just myself and Matt working on this and we had to work 14 hours straight - overnight - during the hot weather last summer, trying to keep the temperatures down in the area - it was hard work!

Would you do it again?

Andrea - We are! This year we have been working on refurbishing Pollard House. The Common Room had a makeover last academic year, but the storm damage meant that significant work had to be done to the Tower building. Once that was completed, we moved in with the refurbishment work so in September this year we will have two new, modern boarding houses!

Mark - There's always a project going on. Sometimes it's hard to fit our maintenance work in alongside bigger jobs like the boarding refurbishments, but we really enjoy that side of things, and delivering something that is appreciated by the pupils is really rewarding.

NEWS FROM THE Library



BECKLY LIBRARY

Beckly Library was completed in the early stages of this year, with new shelving for our non-fiction collection, and an addition of numerous new books for all ages, many of them requested by our pupils themselves. All pupils in the senior school now have their own login credentials to access the library online, and recommended reading lists are available for each year group, both on our library website and on the English Google classrooms. This will be extended to Prep School classes shortly. The library assistants appointed last year chose to remain in post, and continue to offer valuable help, including advice, in the weekly running of the library.

MINDFULNESS

Following on from our initial objective to create a haven for learning, relaxation and mindfulness, Monday lunch time is now specifically reserved to pupils who wish to have a quiet break. No screens are permitted, and children can choose instead to chill, read or focus on beautiful intricate colouring specifically designed for mindfulness.

AUTHOR VISITS

Working with the Appledore Literary Festival, we welcomed children's author Lisa Williamson in October. Prep 6 and Form 1 enjoyed hearing from Lisa about the inspiration behind her writing, and were able to share with her their own experience of creative writing. Lisa writes about teenage issues, and her books have proved very popular in the library since her visit.

This year, we chose to invite two authors in order to include our much younger pupils. Reception and Prep1/2 pupils met with Chloe Inkpen, creator of the famous Mrs Blackhat. The excitement was quite palpable when the children were invited to impersonate the characters, and learnt about the process of drawing illustrations.



FUND RAISING AND WORLD BOOK DAY



Following on the success of last year's event, Prep 5 and 6 and Form 1 took part in our Autumn Readathon, again reading 100 books between them. Many chose to participate in a second Readathon in the Spring, which coincided with our World Book Day Michael Morpurgo theme. Pupils from Prep 5 to Form 2 had the privilege to attend a national online event, in which Michael Morpurgo talked about his love for reading and writing, and how War Horse came to be. To celebrate this special day further, the Library supported the Prep school's fund raising effort by hosting a "bring and

buy" book sale. A huge number of books were kindly donated by the children, and 70 were bought, raising £35 in aid of the Turkey-Syria earthquake appeal.

We were delighted a few weeks later to receive the news that Read For Good had rewarded Shebbear College with the title of

Outstanding Readathon School, for "encouraging pupils to read for pleasure and helping to bring the magic of books and stories to children in schools and hospitals across the UK". Across 18 Readathons, our pupils have raised £7102, which they should be proud of.

CARNEGIE MEDAL SHADOWING PROGRAMME

In the Trinity Term we shadowed the Carnegie Medal, one of the awards dedicated to children and young adult literature. It is a challenging activity which takes place in our Wednesday afternoon book club. We read and assessed the 7 shortlisted books. In June we had the opportunity to join an event alongside pupils in other North Devon schools, where each school had a chance to do a presentation on one of the shortlisted books, and to meet the author.

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH DEPARTMENTS

It has been a pleasure to work collaboratively with the English, MFL and ALN departments throughout the year. Whilst staff like to bring their classes to the library with specific research and reading projects to carry out, at times it has been hugely enjoyable to allow more prolonged reading time too. Our collection of titles in other languages is small but steadily growing. Our Michaelmas short term borders enjoyed a programme of enrichment activities based on our library resources. Working with the Head of ALN, we have created a reading programme to support pupils with various reading ages. Some are currently working towards their final gold award. The exciting opportunity to take part in a creative writing competition in the context of next September's Appledore festival was snatched by the English department, and preparation and workshop are being offered in the library to support our KS3 pupils with their writing.



Christine Fanet

Librarian



Boarding Life has been busy as always and everything is definitely moving upwards as we look towards 2023-24

As the summer holiday drew to a close in 2022, we were all waiting with great anticipation for the opening and unveiling of the refurbished Ruddle boarding house. Time was running out and it was getting a little tense but the Estates team pulled together and, despite various setbacks, were able to deliver the House all signed off in the nick of time. Seeing both new and returning boarders' faces as they arrived on Sunday 4th September was amazing! The change from the old Ruddle to the new is so huge that it is almost impossible to remember what the old house was like. This did cause a little resentment from the boys who were still housed in Pollard at the time, although the refurbishment of Pollard has been the main project during the course of this year, and we look forward to having two shiny new boarding houses in September!

We ran the two Houses (boys and girls) for the first half term and things settled well, Ruddle being a popular socialising space in the evenings and at weekends. The atmosphere within any boarding house is always due to the personalities within the boarding community, and we have had some truly amazing personalities. This shone through and shaped the lively, friendly, caring vibe within boarding. Some of this was due to the short term boarders (STBs) who join us for a

language/cultural experience. One of the highlights for me of this first half term were the tense moments during the football World Cup, especially when Germany and Spain faced each other. With every near miss or questionable tackle there were Spanish and German cheers echoing from the snug. As a neutral in this match it was certainly very entertaining. The friendships formed in these short stays will hopefully last for years to come, in fact some of the STBs are already planning to return next year.

Towards the end of the half term break, whilst shopping in Exeter, I received a phone call from Mrs Lovett. Not something I was expecting. It transpired that, although the roof repairs in Tower were more or less complete, the hot water tank had failed and meant no heating or hot water for Pollard House. After some frantic moving of furniture and juggling of rooms we were able to house all the boarders in Ruddle. At first it felt cramped but things soon settled and the co-ed boarding experience was reinstated. Although very busy in the single house, it has proven to be a great success, and definitely something we will look to implement next year when Pollard is back open.

Aside from these unforeseen changes, we had numerous trips and events take place including surfing, watersports, cinema trips, horse riding, bonfire night, shopping trips, karting, fitness, board games, cooking and baking (including some outstandingly intricate gingerbread houses being baked and constructed), cycling, music, film nights, drama, pottery, a Eurovision party, mosaics (to commemorate the King's Coronation), swimming and even flying (on a zip wire at the Eden project)! Of course many birthdays have been celebrated, with every one meaning a rendition of 'Happy Birthday to you'. However I really do think that we need some vocal coaching as very few of us are in the choir, for very good reason.

It has been a varied year but a very successful one and I would like to end by thanking all of the house, support and teaching staff without whom boarding just wouldn't operate, let alone be able to offer these young people so many varied opportunities in such a welcoming, caring environment.

Have a great summer everyone!

Stuart Clewley

Head of Boarding





'EXCELLENCE
THROUGH
DILIGENCE'

Wow, what a house to be the House Mistress of! I feel extremely lucky and privileged to have received the baton from Mr Deakes who left Pollard with a great foundation and in a strong position, especially as winners of the all-important Inter House Cup 2022. Every day at school I learn more and more about why being a part of the Pollard family is so special.



I wish to thank the Pollard House prefects this year, led well by Head of House, Niamh, and supported by her deputy, Erin. Jessica took on the role of Mental Health Ambassador, while Joe became senior prefect and Christian, our boarding prefect. Their personal insight and opinions throughout the year have been invaluable and they always manage to put a smile on my face.

Everything was new to me at the start of the year, so it's been exciting and enjoyable learning all about the Pollard spirit! It's a fantastic house full of inspiring individuals that work incredibly well as a team with kindness, creativity, and laughter at the centre of it all.

Considering I have loved everything about this year, I thought it would be best to get some insight from our pupils to help sum up Pollard's highlights. So according to our pupils, our teamwork during Capture the Flag and singing The Last Christmas (and winning it) were some of our top highlights. However, Pollard's number one highlight across the board was the Pollard House Dinner. It was a fantastic evening where everyone looked amazing

and enjoyed different types of food, and to top it off, towards the end of the night, the whole house joined in on a brilliant impromptu sing-along. This was such a special moment to be a part of.

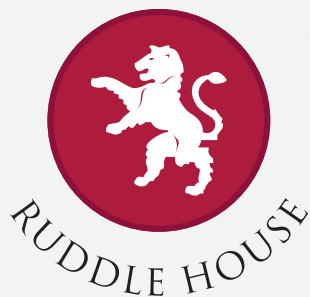
I am also very grateful and appreciative of our tutor team; Mr Pomroy, Mr Sansom, Mr Fay, Mrs Parker, and Mr Quance. They helped me find my feet this year while supporting our pupils in their pastoral, academic, and co-curricular needs without fail. We also had a change in Form 3 and Form 4 with the sad departure of Mr Sanders but Mr Sansom stepped in seamlessly and has already forged great relationships with our pupils.

I believe Pollard House will continue to go from strength to strength. We have such an amazing community which will allow us to grow and develop as well as encourage and support each other in the Pollard spirit. I look forward to continuing to support, nurture, be inspired, and be proud of our Pollard family.

Ms Vetch

Pollard House Mistress





'ANIMO ET GLORIA' -
HEART AND GLORY

This year saw Mitzi take over from Niall as Head of House. Although very different characters, Mitzi has demonstrated the traits that facilitated her successful Sanctuary application and she embraced the transition from Thorne to (the far superior) Ruddle House!



With House assemblies moving to the end of the week it seemed logical to introduce reward Friday, where we acknowledged successes and achievements (with copious amounts of sweets just before everyone went home), usually through house points accumulated each week. Regular winners in Form 5 were Peter and Harry. It appears that both boys worked very hard in their Art lessons; the fact that Miss Kaur is also in Ruddle is purely coincidental.

As well as House points, we also recognised other achievements, especially House competitions where we were able to beat Way! Talking of House Competitions, we didn't get off to that good a start this year. The first event was the senior relay, where we were unable to field a team. This was partly due to a breakdown in communication, meaning that some of the seniors (Ben R) arrived in the correct place to start the race, unfortunately he was about 4 hours late! Things did improve as we went on to perform very well in the house darts, capture the flag, netball, University Challenge and of course the main highlight was winning the end of

term pancake race!! We won't mention the Inter-House football though.

The now annual House dinner was a wonderful event. As we have now come to expect, the food was outstanding and it will always amaze me how the pupils I spend nearly every school day telling to 'tuck your shirt in', 'do your tie up', 'wear your blazer' etc, arrive to the House dinner looking completely different and impeccably well turned out.

One of the highlights of this year's dinner occurred before we had even finished our Friday evening House meeting. The announcements and awards were winding to an end when the door swung open and Ben G strutted across the room declaring 'I am here and ready'. Ben was sporting an amazing silver suit and red bow tie, truly embracing the spirit of the House dinner. The Sixth Form and Ben G did an amazing job of serving the meals, and they also put together the entertainment. Unfortunately the magician from last year was already booked elsewhere but the Sixth Form put together a fantastic quiz, which was

great fun and has now set the standard for years to come. I would like to thank Mitzi for her speech, which was very well written and delivered. I think her speech managed to capture the spirit of Ruddell which is 'to make damn sure we beat Way!' I would also like to thank Mr Dick Corbett-Winder, an Old Shebbearian who drove up from Dorchester to join us; his stories of how the school used to be were hugely entertaining and some of the adventures the pupils got up to were hilarious.

I would like to thank all of the tutor for their hard work and support throughout the year.

Miss Kaur continues to welcome new pupils in Form 1 as well as manage the Form 2s as they grow in confidence. Mr Drake has, as always, brought his own style to tutoring the Form 3s and 4s. Actively encouraging them to be independent thinkers and take more responsibility for their academic and pastoral choices, whilst still being there to support them and guide them through transition from KS3 to GCSE. Mrs Webber joined us in September and took on Form 5. She made an immediate impact and has been a huge support for them at this crucial time. Mrs Webber managed the need for seriousness with being able to relax and unwind. Bingo Thursdays were a real success and the desperation to win resonated around the science block (well, the boys' vocal desire to win did anyway).

Mrs Shamsolahi did her usual outstanding job of supporting the Upper Sixth in their UCAS applications whilst ensuring that the Lower Sixth were settling in well and studying the correct courses. In January, when she did her stint as Thorne HsM, Mr Yilma took the reins of the 6th Form group and ensured that they stayed on track.

I must also mention Mrs Aliberti who continued to support Ruddell as the Friday tutor for Form 5 and of course for offering great guidance to all years in all aspects of school life, especially careers and potential future courses.

As I moved away from the day House Master role into Boarding, I was delighted to hear that Mrs Shamsolahi was going to be the new Ruddell day House Mistress. She will be an outstanding leader of the House and hopefully she will be able to win us the House Cup!

Mr Clewley

Ruddell House Master





'VIT VIA VI' - THE
WAY IS FORGED
BY STRENGTH

A new academic year always sees lots of changes at Shebbear, and I was delighted to introduce the new Way prefects at the beginning of the year. Charlotte took over as Head of House, ably supported by Jolyon as her Deputy. James took over the role of Events Organiser and Hamish became our Mental Health Ambassador. Yasmine also extended her position as Senior Prefect.



Mr Wilson, Mr Giles and Dr Fox all continued their roles as 6th Form, Form Five and Forms Three and Four tutors respectively and we were delighted to welcome Miss Taylor to the team as the new Form One and Two tutor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Wilson for all his hard work as a Way House tutor and wish him well in his future ventures.

Mr Parker joined the Way team in January and supported Miss Taylor in her role. I also wish him well as he continues his studies at university.

The House Dinner as always was the highlight of the year, it is great to have a chance to dress up and celebrate our house. We finished the evening with some good old fashioned party games and it seems as a house we are very good at mummifying each other using toilet roll!

At the Spring Fair I had the utmost pleasure of giving a mini tour to two of my former pupils, both now in their 30's with babies in tow (future Shebberians perhaps?). They spoke so fondly of their time at Shebbear and were still so proud of the house that they were in. I hope when I meet our current cohort in ten years time they will have equally fond memories.

Finally it has been so wonderful to have a school year which, apart from the odd absence here and there, has not been affected by Covid. Young people need to socialise and we have been able to do this without constraints this year. Meeting in the common room after lunch every day and for our weekly house assembly unifies the house and helps us to remember that we are all part of the Way House family.

Mrs Cardoo

Way House Mistress





TO GLORY THROUGH THORNE

The 2022-23 academic year has been one of change for Thorne House. The absence of regular Housemaster, Mr. Law who was on Paternity Leave, saw Mr. Grey take the reins for the Michaelmas term and oversee the influx of new starters and the return of some old heads back into the fold.



As always the glorious September weather made for a positive start to the year, and some summer renovations to the Thorne common room saw the introduction of table football and televisions to the communal space (although the table football did not survive long!). The usual House competitions also took place to kick things off. Successes included a 2nd place finish in the Form 3 and 4 rounders event, as well as victory in the Form 3 and 4 and Senior rugby competitions. The ever present feeling of belonging to the House was boosted by these initial successes, and allowed the year to get off with a bang! It is always a real highlight to see the interactions between members of Thorne from Form 1, right up to the Upper Sixth form in supporting such events.

The Lent term saw a change at the helm as Mrs Shamsolahi got her first taste of the HsM experience. Her calm and collected approach to management has been a real asset to Thorne House, and her guiding hand helped to hold the fort until the Trinity term. This year has seen some consistencies from a tutor

team point of view, with Forms 1 and 2 continuing under the ever energetic Mrs Sadler-Smith, whose continued positive outlook always creates an amazing environment for the junior members of the House to flourish. Our Form 3 and 4 pupils continued to be overseen by acting House Master Mr Grey, who continues to steer our ever enthusiastic Form 4 boys in the right direction! Mr Deakes joined us in Thorne in supporting our Form 5 members, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his time in Pollard. Meanwhile, Mrs Burges and Mrs Davey took on the responsibility of tutoring our 6th Form contingent, with their expertise and personal touch being invaluable in supporting our oldest pupils through the rigours of 6th Form life. My utmost thanks go to all members of the tutor team, who have continued to ensure that the best possible pastoral and academic support is always available to each member of Thorne House.

A new Sanctuary team has of course been assembled this year to give pupil voice and representation. Will has occupied the role of Head of House and



has worked to support events and rally the troops throughout the year. Will was ably supported by Thorne's Head of School appointment, Jack, whose own experience and confidence meant that two members of the sanctuary team were resident in Thorne. My thanks go to both boys for their efforts over the year.

Highlights from this academic year once again included the smooth running of the House Dinner in the Lent term under the management of Mrs Shamsolahi. This year's dinner culminated with a quiz that surprisingly unearthed some gaps in Mr Barnes's Shebbearian knowledge! Who'd have thought it! Thorneites also played key roles in school productions Into the Woods and the returning Sixth Form pantomime! Musical events also saw Thorne ably represented, notably by Rowan and Robyn amongst others. In Sport, we have, again, seen individual successes and we were delighted to be the winners of the Sports Day Cup this year, thanks, in part, to an impressive performance in the relay.

Once again it has been an action packed academic year at Shebbear College, with Thorne House members fully immersing themselves in all the opportunities available to them. It has been a fantastic year for the House and I have been delighted to return to the position of Housemaster for the Trinity Term with Thorne in such a strong position. My sincere thanks to Mr Grey and Mrs Shamsolahi for holding the fort in my absence whilst looking after Thorne's newest recruit, my daughter Hallie!

I wish all members a restful summer and the very best of luck to all of you who have been involved in exams this Trinity Term.

With best wishes,

Mr. Nick Law.

Thorne Housemaster.



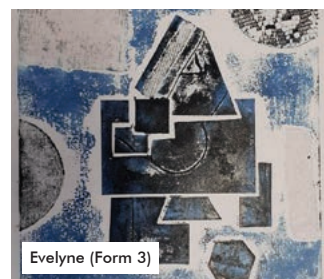
ART



It has been another busy and eventful academic year in the Art Department. For exam classes, it has been the first year since the start of the pandemic that courses have gone back to containing both modules. This return to normality has been most welcome and it has been wonderful to see students getting to be hands-on and ambitious in the studio space. Although academic rigour, critical thinking and careful thought are key, it has also been vital for them to play, explore and have fun with the range of materials they have been using.

For instance, Form 3 have developed many new skills such as the print-making technique of collagraphy. They produced some striking, geometric designs and enjoyed getting to venture up to the Sixth

Form floor to use the print-press for the first time. Form 2 have explored clay, collage, creating sculptures and most recently, Typography. As well as engaging in a class competition of designing their own font for a specific purpose, we discussed the significance of Typography as an art form which is often overlooked yet so crucial to the functioning



Evelyne (Form 3)



of our society. Form 1 have also got stuck in with a range of projects, such as looking at Symbolist painter Gustav Klimt. They dazzled me with their attention to detail and use of gold-leaf when creating their own pattern based designs. It has been very rewarding to see them developing practical skills but also gaining confidence in critically analysing artists' work and understanding the context behind their own.



Aimee (Form 1)

Form 4 and the Lower 6th are well underway with their exam projects which are really starting to show their individuality and unique perspective. It was fantastic to

see examples of each of their works showcased at the Burton Gallery's annual exhibition. For Form 5, their GCSE is now complete and they should all feel incredibly proud of the rich and diverse portfolio of outcomes they have produced. I have seen them all the way through their Art GCSE, since starting my role last year. It has been a pleasure to watch them evolve as artists and see their creative ideas come to fruition.

Within the 10 hour GCSE Art exam, outcomes ranged from large scale wall hangings to intricate clay sculptures. Although three days of an art exam may fill some with trepidation, it was wonderful to hear Harriet say, upon completing her art



Harriet (Form 5)

exam, that she didn't want it to finish as she had enjoyed creating her beautiful ballet themed shadow box so much. Beth also really immersed herself in her project and developed such a graphic, fun and contemporary style with posca pens, combining her love for theatre and art in her series of theatre posters.



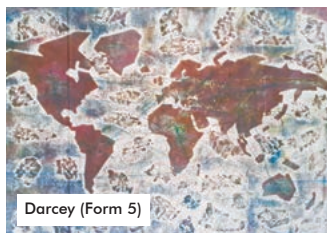
Bethany (Form 5)



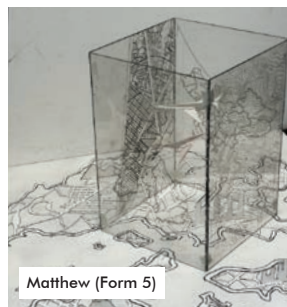
Matt (Form 5)

Matt's intricate clay sculpture, crafted with such a sense of movement and emotion is superb. The sense of fragmentation and distortion touches upon the fragility of life. It was great to see that his talents were recognised for a second year running at the Burton Gallery's annual exhibition.

Darcey started the exam project with the theme of 'Journey.' It was fascinating seeing her careful thought process of not simply going for the obvious, but thinking about journey in the sense of human development. Her intricate network of maps were very thought-provoking.



Darcey (Form 5)



Matthew (Form 5)

Matthew also started with 'Journey' but responded to it in a completely different way, demonstrating outstanding draughtsmanship and line-work in a very stylish sculpture representing his home, Hong Kong. William engaged with this theme and drew upon his extensive and impressive bank of photography linking to the world of transport. His beautifully refined ink paintings showed real finesse.

Rebekah's confidence flourished throughout the course, resulting in her dreamy, stylized and atmospheric landscapes. She became the Queen of poly-printing and free-motion embroidery. Dana engaged with the world of fashion, exploring both the glamorous and slightly darker side. Her chic blend of photography and collage culminated in a very slick outcome.



Dante (Form 5)

Dante merged his love of basketball with his artistic skills and it was great to see the sense of dynamism within his final lino prints. Harry also created a personal project linking to his farming background and created some striking, Tony Bevan inspired, lino prints based on agricultural structures. Peter produced such a tactile and intricate wall-hanging where the industrial machinery juxtaposed the much more fun and vibrant colour work. The level of detail is exceptional and it was so lovely to see his enthusiasm for the subject grow.



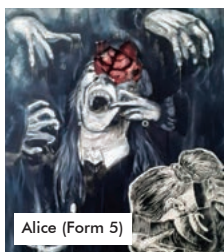
Peter (Form 5)



Sam (Form 5)

Sam explored the ever concerning theme of climate change within his collagraph prints. The delicate reeds and bursts of orange behind them evoke wildfires and rising global temperatures. Tom touched upon this theme too but more specifically in relation to the conflict between the natural and digital world and how too much technology and social media can mean we become detached from the outdoors and the real world. His lino print triptych begins with a leafy tree, but as the prints progress, they become more choked with wires and devices.

Heidi began with the theme of isolation, and drew upon the Pandemic and loss. She looked at pairs of objects which then became singular, signifying missing the other pair and grief in her beautifully poignant prints. Alice also started with this theme, creating very visceral and raw mixed-media pieces inspired by the likes of Francis Bacon and Edvard Munch. Emilia's stunning paintings of her Grandma were combined with a collage of memorabilia linked to her life and memories. At A-Level, Raphael delved into conveying personal stories after looking at the work of



Alice (Form 5)

street artists such as Basquiat and Herring. He adopted a scrapbook-like style, where canvases became adorned with doodles and abstract musings from his mind. He also responded to the theme of 'Yellow' for his exam project, culminating in a geometric honeycomb outcome exploring pattern and symmetry.

It was brilliant to see the Form 5 and A-Level students' work showcased in the school's end of year art exhibition. Examples of what they created have been touched upon in this article, but the exhibition really celebrated the whole range of their outcomes and achievements. The exhibition was distinctively different from last year's and each students' work was unique from each other. The strength of the outcomes champions the fact that students at Shebbear produce work which embraces individuality and creativity, in its many forms.



Emilia (Form 5)



Raphael (U6)



Rebekah (Form 5)



Harry (Form 5)





I simply cannot believe that the end of this academic year is almost upon us, which marks the end of my second year back at Shebbear, on the teaching staff! Our musicians are forever flourishing and it has been a pleasure to see pupils' musical journeys maturing throughout their time here at Shebbear.

The Music School is positively buzzing with music-making in pupils' spare time. Quite often our practice rooms are all in use and it is simply fantastic to hear music filling the air over tower field, accompanying the sports fixtures and training sessions that go on during the school day. The boarders have made good use of our facilities during the evenings and at weekends by having access to our Steinway pianos and our practice rooms.

Co-curricular music has gone from strength to strength. Our Boys' Choir have performed at numerous events this year with a plethora of up-beat songs, and our Girls' choir have learned some really challenging pieces in three-part harmony which has stretched our musical understanding. I have been delighted that both of these choirs are getting used to performing with no scores on stage. This has been a challenge for all of our memories' (staff and pupils alike!) however the transformation has been fantastic and we were thrilled with the performances at both the Christmas Fair and the Easter Performing Arts Showcase.

Our choirs have improved in standard so much that Mrs Parker has led a transition to a Senior and Staff choir, where pupils have learned pieces in four part harmony. This group have really showcased the most senior singers in the College and really impressed all in their performance of "Hosanna Hosanna" (by Althouse) in our Christmas Carol Service and their impressive take of "One" (from "A Chorus Line" by Hamlisch and Kleban) in our most recent Easter Performing Arts Showcase. We cannot wait for this choir to really develop their skills. The Music teachers are already picking out repertoire that we would like them to learn in 2023/24!

As musicians, we are still only just getting back to normality after the aftermath of the covid pandemic. Many exam boards had temporarily offered pupils the opportunity to take graded exams online by recording their performances, and so pupils are now slowly getting used to preparing themselves for exams that will be taken at an exam centre, live. We are delighted to see so many of our pupils have achieved some fantastic results this year. A true highlight would certainly be Sebastian who passed his Grade 7 Piano Trinity exam at the beginning of the academic year, with an exceptionally high Distinction. A huge well done to Sebastian and all of our other instrumentalists who have persevered in their rehearsals to prepare themselves for these important examinations.

We are delighted to announce that Toby was successful in his application to the Royal School of Music Junior Department and has spent the past academic year travelling to London to attend weekend sessions with some of the most prestigious musicians in the percussion world. He has broadened his horizons by learning

to play a range of orchestral percussion instruments in addition to tuned percussion instruments, and has been given the opportunity to learn a huge range of repertoire in a number of contrasting ensembles.

One of the biggest highlights for the Music Department is always the annual school production, and this year did not disappoint. Into The Woods was a huge success and demonstrated some of the astonishing musical promise that our pupils have. We believe that Music unites all, and certainly in our productions, pupils all the way from Form 1 right up to our Upper Sixth join together in harmony to sing, dance and act. Into The Woods was a fantastic choice of show for our musicians, as it gave some budding singers lower down in the school to be highlighted as soloists, as well as our most senior singers. Elsie and Alexander, both in Form 2, did a fantastic job as Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, and sang with a huge amount of vocal control and really demonstrated their love for performing on stage. Our lead roles, Toby and Niamh, as the Baker and Baker's Wife, acted as wonderful role models both in rehearsals and in the three performances themselves. Their performance of "It Takes Two" was extremely strong and both their unison and harmony passages sounded sublime. Anyone who came to the Memorial Hall to see this truly wonderful show will have been truly entertained, and a huge congratulations goes out to the whole cast and backstage crew.

I am so fortunate that the Shebbear Music Department is so well looked after and cared for. Whilst on maternity leave, I was lucky to know that Mr Parker was able to come back to our Shebbear community and ensure that our musicians were cared for and in extremely capable hands in my absence. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mr Parker for all of his fantastic work during this time.

The whole Parker family have, in fact, been a huge support to the Music Department this year. We have been extremely lucky to have welcomed Old Shebberian Mr Parker (junior) back to Shebbear College, who has supported pupils in both Maths and Music lessons. A violinist, singer and pianist himself, Mr Parker has been able to inspire the younger generation of instrumentalists at College. Many of our music classes have been lucky to hear his violin recitals and many of our singers have been supported in Choir rehearsals with Mr Parker leading the bass and tenor (and at times, soprano!) sections as part of our Senior and Staff choir. We wish Mr Parker all the very best for the future, and hope that he will still come back to Shebbear one day to perform to our pupils.

It is at this point every year that we think about our musicians who are "flying the nest" and taking their musical journey beyond the fields of Devon. We have a number of Upper Sixth pupils who are

musicians, and some who have been part of our Choirs throughout their Shebbear journey. One of the most poignant pieces that the Choirs have been learning this year is "Irish Blessing" (by Bob Chilcott) and I feel that these lyrics sum up this scenario far better than my own words ever could.



*May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be ever at your back
May the sunshine warm upon your face
And the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you
Ever in the palm of His hand*

**We are delighted that our pupils
have continued to achieve highly
in their Trinity and Associated Board
of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM)
examinations this year and congratulations
to everyone that has taken exams this year.**

Mrs Sadler-Smith

Head of Creative and Performing Arts

SHEB'S GOT TALENT

Our first Sheb's Got Talent – an idea put forward by some of the pupils – finally happened on Friday 2nd December 2022 and what a fun evening it was!

Well done to all those that took part – whether it was putting themselves forward for the first auditions or performing in the final – and thank you to 'guest' performers Mitzi and Toby (Toby also ran all the lighting and sound), comperes Rowan and Bella and to the judges (including The Stranglers lead singer Paul Roberts!) who had a very tricky job!

Congratulations to dancers Neve and Carlota who were awarded 1st Place, and to violinist Tyler who was the runner up.

Sheb has – most certainly – got talent!





Drama & Performing Arts

This has been yet another year packed full of drama. As we settle back into a post-Covid 'normal', it has been a real delight to make a return to aspects of the subject that had once been taken for granted: trips to the theatre and inviting audiences into school to watch plays to name but two.



Last summer saw the first open-air production at Shebbear since I joined seven years ago. A fabulous cast of sixth-formers gave an evening of outstanding entertainment in Oscar Wilde's comedy classic, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The sloped grass bank beside the Music block provided the perfect venue for the play, with rabbits, buzzards and a setting sun all adding to the idyllic occasion. I

have every intention of making the open-air option a regular on the drama schedule, with plans for Shakespeare and a murder-mystery play already in the pipeline...I just need the weather to share my enthusiasm!



In March, we put on the Sondheim musical *Into the Woods* as the main school production. Over three nights, the pupils performed scenes and songs from some of the most popular fairy tales, including *Red Riding Hood*, *Rapunzel* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* - you can read more about this on the next page. The cast galvanised into a superb ensemble and it was a joy to see how they worked together to produce an excellent show. On a personal level, it is the first time I have ever worked with a cow on stage, albeit one made of fibreglass. It must be said, Milky White was a real star, if a little over-eager to steal the limelight on the last night!

The GCSE Form 5 pupils excelled this year with some highly original and creative devised plays. For example, one group wrote

a play about one of the lesser-known Wright Brothers. Another, transposed a Grimm Brothers fairy tale into a modern story about peer-pressure. We also had a piece about fake news which featured a game show asking contestants to decipher conspiracy theories about the death of Marilyn Monroe and whether the Apollo 11 crew really walked on the moon in 1969 or not. The cohort followed these plays with some excellent final pieces in May taken from the plays *The 39 Steps* and *Too Much Punch for Judy*, a play centred round a real-life story about the dangers of drink-driving.

In April, the GCSE and Sixth Form drama pupils went to see Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap* at Plymouth. It was a superb production with some high-quality performances from the cast. Obviously, I cannot tell you who did it; but I will tell you what a joy it was to be taking pupils back to see live theatre again.



One of the highlights of the year was the Sixth Form drama evening. Niamh, Hamish and Christian (supported by Toby from L6) gave outstanding performances in their extracts from the Sophocles play *Antigone*. This ancient Greek tragedy really stretched their acting skills and it was lovely to see how they rose to the challenge. In addition, The Performing Arts group treated the audience to their devised piece 'Random', a play which featured a group of people cut off by a snowstorm who decide to perform three different styles of splay to while away the time. All agreed that this was an excellent theatrical vehicle for demonstrating their acting versatility. Finally, Alex, Toby and Rose from the Lower Sixth performed a piece which they had devised based on a group of friends at different stages in their lives. This was a powerful and, at times, funny play that showcased their talents very well and made excellent use of different stage configurations in the Memorial Hall.

Drama continues to go from strength to strength here at Shebbear and I look forward to inviting even more audiences to even more productions next year. After all, as Shakespeare once said... 'The play's the thing' and long may it stay that way!

Mr Pomroy

Head of Drama



INTO THE WOODS JR.





Shebbear College's actors and singers took to the stage in March with a magical rendition of Stephen Sondheim's musical spectacular, *Into the Woods*!

The talented cast captivated audiences with their enchanting performance of this fairy tale like no other; the story follows a baker and his wife as they set out on a quest to break a witch's curse so that they can have a child, with their story intertwining with the lives of many much-loved fairy tale characters, including Cinderella, Prince Charming and Little Red Riding Hood!

Following the success of *Grease* in 2022, the students were keen to put on another musical this year, with Sixth Former Niamh, who played the Baker's Wife, being the driving force behind the decision to perform *Into the Woods*. "It was great to be part of the decision to do *Into the Woods*. After *Grease* we wanted to do something with a fairly large cast and the songs and music in this production are just brilliant," she commented.

Nearly 30 students across all year groups have been part of the production, rising to the challenge both on and off stage and really displaying their resilience, energy, enthusiasm and talent. The production ran for three nights from Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th March, with each show bringing something a little bit different. Some audience members enjoyed it so much that they came to see all three performances!

Head of Creative, Digital and Performing Arts, Mrs Sadler-Smith, who is now bereft that show week is over, said "The cast and crew were an absolute dream to work with! They did us so proud and there were so many beautiful moments. We have a great deal of talent at Shebbear College and there are so many promising musicians in the cast. I'm looking forward to next year already!"

Some of the highlights of the show included: the Princes' (Jack and Albert)'s absolutely hilarious and equally brilliant rendition of "Agony" (with the added bonus of drawn-on chest hair!); the phenomenal stage debut for Darcey as the Witch (and the stunning transformation with that red dress!); the outstanding stage presence of Elsie as Little Red Riding Hood; the heart-warming rendition of "It Takes Two" by the Baker and the Baker's Wife (Toby and Niamh) and the beautiful musical number sung in candlelight by the whole cast, 'Children will Listen'.

Until next year...!

INTO THE WOODS JR.

Thoughts from the cast!

We spoke to some of the principal characters from Into The Woods about personal highlights, setbacks, memories and how it felt to play a leading character in such a popular musical. Here's what Toby (The Baker), Darcey (The Witch), Albert (Rapunzel's Prince) and Niamh (The Baker's Wife) had to say about their experience.



1 What made you audition for your part in Into the Woods?

Niamh - I am a massive musical theatre fan but I especially love Stephen Sondheim so I really couldn't miss out on this show!

Toby - I love acting and singing and have always enjoyed being part of a cast so I wanted to go for the lead. I've been in previous productions before and have always enjoyed them.

Albert - I have a history of doing school productions, I thoroughly enjoy the whole process and experience but I particularly like doing musicals.

Darcey - I've always loved doing productions, singing and acting since I was a tiny Year 3, when I started out with humble beginnings as 'Shopkeeper #2'! When I moved to Shebbear and heard we were doing Into the Woods I thought it would be the perfect show to audition for, after recently starting singing lessons here.

2 What was your favourite scene in Into the Woods?

Toby - My favourite part was my duet with Niamh in 'It Takes Two'. It is not only an amazing number that is fun to perform, but doing this with such a fantastic actress made the whole experience of the song ten times better.

Albert - My favourite scene was no doubt the scene when Jack (Cinderella's Prince) and I performed Agony. It is a fabulous piece to perform and I really enjoyed singing it with Jack. It also boosted my confidence singing in front of an audience.



Darcey - Although not a scene I personally am in, my favourite part was when Albert (playing Rapunzel's Prince) decided that for his 'fall from the tower', he would, by choice, projectile launch himself across the stage! The entire backstage cast had to stifle their laughter. He came back off stage complaining about how painful it was, only to do the exact same fall the next night!

Niamh - I have so many favourite scenes! I loved the scenes between Charlotte (Cinderella) and I. It is going to be our last school play so it was lovely to have so many scenes together. I also loved doing It Takes Two with Toby. We had so much fun trying to learn the choreography.



3 Tell us a bit about the character you played.

Niamh - I was so happy when I got the role of the Baker's Wife as I love how funny the character can be, especially when trying to help her husband or when faced with handsome princes.

Toby - I wanted to portray the baker as a kind and loving man at heart who can sometimes be a bit arrogant and stubborn - especially when it comes to letting his wife help him! He is also a bit of a wuss which opened the door for some more comedic sections, which were great fun to act out.

Darcey - Playing the Witch, I really wanted to put my own twist on the role and add a bit of humour and sass to it, so that although the Witch is meant to be an evil, dislikable character, you find yourself empathising with her.

Albert - Although Rapunzel's Prince is very confident, particularly in his appearance, he is actually a bit stupid and doesn't deal very well with his heartbreak after falling in love with Rapunzel. I also tried to emphasise the pain of falling from the tower and being blinded as much as possible - with only a few bruises on the way!

4 How did you find the whole experience?

Toby - I found it a whole load of fun. Playing a principal part is more of a challenge with more lines to learn but this adds to the excitement of it all. As a cast we all got along very well.

Albert - The whole cast sort of becomes a family as we spend so much time together. We have Form 1s working with Upper Sixth and it's just a very friendly, fun environment.



Niamh - The cast this year was amazing. The musical itself is known for being difficult but we had a group of really talented people who worked extremely hard to get everything up together and I think we pulled it off.

Darcey - Towards the end of the show there was, as always, a bit of stress in rehearsals but we all pulled together and everything was on track in time for opening night! Everyone in the cast is so supportive of each other, giving each other tips and ideas for staging, making it so lovely to work on this show.

5 Do you plan to continue with your acting/singing/performing in the future?

Albert - I certainly will continue to get involved in as many productions as possible as I really thrive on them.

Darcey - You will definitely be seeing more of me in school productions and shows, it's such an enjoyable and beneficial way to build confidence and friendships, and I am continuing my singing lessons so hopefully more progress in the future!

Toby - I plan to either study Musical Theatre or Technical Theatre Productions (which is basically everything behind the scenes) at University or College. In the meantime I am lucky enough to have been offered a place with the National Youth Music Theatre in lighting and stage management, which will not only be an amazing experience, but will help me decide whether I want to be on or off stage in the future.

Niamh - I am definitely going to keep up with singing and acting in the future, it is my favourite thing to do. I have already decided which musical theatre and music societies I am going to join at university.



Humanities

This year has been an exciting one in the Humanities Department, we have fully launched our combined humanities course for forms 1 and 2. This course combines History, Geography and RS lessons into a singular course which explores all it is to be human. Giving each student a more holistic experience and opportunity to make the most progress.

The Form 1s have journeyed through time, from Roman Britain; where we looked at the geopolitical imperatives of the Roman empire, the forms of control they exerted over subjects, and the religions they adopted and changed in a process of romanization. Throughout this we have made our own mosaics, we have written stories about Roman generals, and explored what life was like in Pompeii. Pompeii acted as the perfect lynchpin to our geographical topics, in which; we studied geological processes. This gave us a fantastic opportunity to understand what happened to the people of Pompeii and ask really important questions about the preservation of history, creating a link between the geographical and the historical.





They then went on to study the Norman invasion of Britain, learning the classic story of 1066, and using this as a launching point to learn about tides, wind, and when would be the best time for William to cross the channel. From Norman Britain we looked at the Crusades, in which we learned how religion is an important driving factor in History. This allowed us the opportunity to ascertain all that we learned from the arabic world. Our focus shifted to 11th century Baghdad, which gave us a fantastic point of comparison to 11th century London. In the final term we explored the nature of the Silk road; the students have pushed their understanding of trade and what else can move on trade routes. This took us back in time to Alexander the Great, where they learned about the Persian empire and its fall to the Great Macedonia general. They learned that Alexander's life is shrouded in myth, and that that can be just as valuable as History, they then wrote their own myths about Alexander, exploring his life as a young man.

Form 2 started their Humanities journey in the continent of Africa. We focused on Ethiopia as it gives a great link to the tectonics they covered in the previous year and allows us to build on already existing knowledge. Ethiopia opens the door to a study on ecosystems and the effects ecosystems have on flora and fauna. From this they looked at biomes and had a wider view of the world as a whole. From the geographical we turned to the historical and religious. Mediaeval African kingdoms were next on the agenda, where the students produced a presentation about a chosen

kingdom from Benin in modern day Nigeria to Aksum in modern day Ethiopia. This gave us an opportunity to see what Africa was like pre-colonisation and challenge the idea of a barren wasteland.

In the second term they focused on the continent of Asia, with particular focus on India and China as it provided an excellent link back to the UK. India allowed a deep dive into the physical geography of the country. From Mountains plains to Rivers, the study of Rivers allows a link to the religious practices in India which are often and deeply tied up with rivers. The history of empire and how India informed so much of it was next, with the students producing several valuable bits of work. From India we crossed the Himalayas into China, where we launched a deep dive into the Chinese dynasties. This took the form of the pupils producing a hypothetical museum display where they had to pick a dynasty and produce a museum floor plan with artefacts and information about those artefacts within. We had everything from how people dressed in the Han dynasties, to how they fought in the Ming dynasty.



The final term has seen a look at global superpowers, linking back to our previous study of China and introducing the USA as a point of study. It has also allowed us to look back at the British empire in a different light, asking questions of the nature of superpowers and whether that was different a hundred years ago, and whether the fall of the British empire allowed space for our modern understanding of superpowers. This topic has allowed us to explore the geopolitical, the historical, and the driving force of superpowers in terms of religion.

Mr Wilson

Humanities Teacher



Geography is taught as a separate subject from Form 3, where we begin to use our global geography knowledge to learn about core geographical skills and topics. We have managed to introduce trips again, such as the beaches of Bude, Braunton Burrows and The Eden Project.



Form 3

Form 3 have been fantastic at getting engaged in the content that they have been learning about. We have introduced them to some subjects that they will cover for GCSE including River processes and management, Globalisation and Tectonic Hazards, but have managed to keep some fun in there as well! Notable lessons have included play doh models of flooding impacts, reusing recycling to make a river profile, and planning how to survive an earthquake.

Form 4

At the beginning of their GCSE journey, Form 4 covered a broad range of topics from tropical storms to the urban development of Lagos, Nigeria. We were able to finish off the year by having a trip to the Eden Project to discuss the variability of a rainforest environment and what the Eden Project does to promote sustainability. This year we have covered the topics of Hazardous Earth, Weather and climate, Urban trends: London v Lagos, Ecosystems and tropical rainforests, Hot environments and Coastal Environments.

Form 5

Form 5 have been a delight to teach and I wish them all the very best for their GCSEs. Not only have we finished the Human Geography side of the course including topics on Urban trends: London v Lagos, Economic development, Resource management and Managing water resources, but we also had a lot of fun along the way, including going to the Eden Project, making videos about the benefits of green spaces and sustainable travel and many more interactive lessons along the way. Good luck Form 5!



A-Level

The A-Level class has been combined this year which has worked excellently for a small cohort and the students have worked fantastically together. We have had some lively discussions on a variety of topics and there have been some fantastic NEAs produced, covering topics such as tourism, regeneration and the impact of new train lines. I very much look forward to finishing the course with the Lower 6th next year and I wish all the best of luck to the Upper 6th in completing their A-Levels and for their future journeys.

Miss Taylor

Geography Teacher





It has been a very busy year in upper school History, with GCSE classes and one each of lower and upper sixth, as well as History as a mandatory subject in Form 3.

In Form 3 pupils have been learning about the British Empire and colonialism, looking at the good and the bad to try to reach a balanced answer to the question of whether the empire was a force for good or bad. Pupils in Dr. Fox's class experienced a small taste of the cramped conditions aboard a slave ship by spending part of a lesson crammed together beneath their desks, welcoming the chance to unbend their limbs when they finally emerged into the sunlight. The last term has been spent looking at the First World War, the successes and failures of the British offensive at the Somme, the ups and downs of life in the trenches, and the importance of Gavrilo Princip's sandwich.

Form 4 History have worked their way through the history of medicine from the ancient world to the twentieth century, with highlights including the work of Robert Liston, the only known surgeon with a 300% mortality rate in one operation (he accidentally killed his assistant, a gentleman in the audience had a fatal heart attack, and the patient didn't make it). In Form 5 pupils have covered the American West and the rise of the Nazi party in preparation for their GCSE exams.

The Lower Sixth have been learning about Britain in the seventeenth century, and amidst all the political and social upheaval of the period have particularly enjoyed the focus on



the religious changes and the rise of dissenting churches in the middle of the century and the impact the civil war had on freedom of religion. Mr Wilson has ably guided them through the Russian revolution, evaluating the relative merits of Bolshevik communism and autocratic Tsarism for the people of the Russian Empire.

Meanwhile the Upper Sixth have spent most of the year learning about rebellion and unrest in the Tudor period with Dr. Fox, and completing their independent coursework on their own choice of topics which this year has included the development of naval weapons and their impact on warfare in the early 20th century; the effect of the collapse of the Soviet Union; the Black Act of 1723, otherwise known as the 'Bloody Code,' which introduced more capital offences into British law than any other statute in history; and the causes and justification of the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. At the time of writing the Upper Sixth have just finished sitting their A-Level exams and have been very pleased with the questions they faced. Three of the four students in the class have considered taking their history studies further at university.

Dr Fox

History Teacher

Religious Studies & Philosophy

'How many elderly people should one run over with a train to save the life of a child?'

Just one of the thorny ethical dilemmas faced by our Sixth Form philosophers this year. The answer, of course, varies from person to person, and is influenced by other factors such as how well one knows the elderly people or the child.

This academic year has been a successful one for Philosophy and Religious Studies at Shebbear College, with a number of significant events and changes taking place. The Upper Sixth philosophers are about to become the first Shebbearians to sit their A-Level Philosophy exams after a hiatus of several years. After beginning at Plato and Aristotle last year they have spent this year on a whistle-stop tour of Christian and European philosophy of the last thousand years, looking at a diverse array of topics ranging from the sanctity of life, through sexuality and gender ethics and meta-ethical ideas, to the place of feminism in religion and the challenges faced by today's church in an increasingly secular world. The four students in the class have brought their own fantastic ideas and observations and, I hope, have left the course with a broader understanding of the world and our place in it.

The biggest change has been at GCSE level where, for the first time the subject has been optional rather than compulsory, and rather than the 'short-course' or 'half' GCSE the current Form 5 will be the first to sit a full iGCSE from Edexcel. Given the option to sit the exam or drop RS in favour of extra study sessions more than half the year-group chose to continue their studies and sit the exams which, they report, were nice and easy. In the year below, more than a quarter of the year group

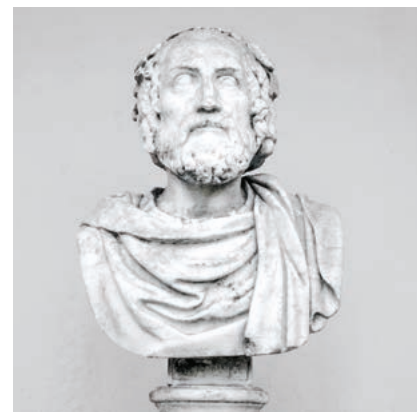
chose to take RS as an optional subject for GCSE, and will no doubt benefit from the experience of their elders when their turn comes to sit the new exams.

In the Michaelmas term MIST announced a new scheme to enhance the provision of RS and Philosophy across all of its schools. 'Spirituality, Ethos, Relationship and Values Evaluation' (SERVE) seeks to explore how PSHE and RS are integrated into the broader curriculum and across school life generally, and how they might be integrated further. Shebbear College was the first MIST school to be selected to pilot the scheme, so Mr Grey and Dr Fox, as well as a number of RS and Philosophy pupils, spent time working with visitors from MIST to really showcase our successes in the field.

As John Wesley put it, "do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Dr Fox

RS & Philosophy Teacher





Business & Economics

It has been another busy year within the Business and Economics departments. We have tried to create an environment and engaging work schemes, where the two subjects draw upon each other with students sharing their skill sets. We as a team have developed five key principles, which underpin our vision of creating a successful culture that applies to both staff and pupils alike.

We aim to inspire all students to be:

Confident: Have self-belief and the ability to lead a presentation.

Communicate: clearly in any situation.

Considerate: Respect others views and values and therefore create considered debate in lessons.

Determined: Work hard to achieve the highest possible standards in all aspects of life.

Enthusiastic: Willing to learn from mistakes and maintain a positive outlook as that is what happens in the Business environment.

Independent: Take responsibility for themselves and their learning.

As Head of Humanities I believe that through the capture of these life skills they are as important as academic grades in this modern era.

This year we moved to an embedded teaching philosophy of linking theory to practical examples, even involving parents in lessons from their business worlds. An example of this was a fantastic talk given to the department on the North Devon Biosphere project and its integration with Siemens given by Mr Passmore. It was fascinating to learn how environmental concerns and forces are actually creating business and economic opportunities for the local area. Throughout the year both GCSE and L6th students are encouraged to be entrepreneurial and develop their own ideas, which fosters a better understanding of real world challenges. John Heaton's mobile coffee shops is the current winning option if we were to appear on Dragon's Den!

Lower Sixth Business and Economic students visited the Eden project and looked how Environmental forces are increasingly effecting Business decisions. We also looked at how the project itself has provided strong economic multiplier effects to the whole South West economy. Economic students had an online lesson with a Currency Trader highlighting how thanks to technology advances accelerated by the Pandemic that Business can operate in different environments.

Business Studies GCSE is a consistently popular option choice since being introduced and this year has seen the requirement for two classes. Students this year will see trips to local businesses such as Tor View Wines where they can see the development path of start-ups and the external forces that have affected the Business



world. This will help them further develop their own Business plans that they create throughout the two year course. We also have the opportunity to look at businesses, large and small, and the annual trip to Exeter Chiefs, where Tony Rowe gave up a full morning to all our Business and Economics students and was as insightful as ever. He gave a fantastic overview into how real businesses work and clearly demonstrated the variety of career paths that our open to students. Perhaps the most beneficial element of the trip was a look at how the new hotel complex and the rugby team have managed themselves through the tribulations of Covid and remained viable, whilst other teams have recently gone bust. Tony Rowe gave an insightful presentation of the funding challenges with recent interest rate rises and the “Cost of Living” crisis and his continued willingness to take entrepreneurial risk through stadium development.

Reflecting on these changing business dynamics, several students have been successfully supported into business apprenticeship schemes. Sam who left last summer, has taken up a position with a major accountancy firm. Alongside others who received the highest of grades last year, he was dragged back to a recent open evening to discuss the life skills learnt within the department. Hopefully, another school trip in the making for budding accountants!

Finally, through the introduction of the Share Investor club and the Sixth Form “Apprentice Day” with Buckland House and Torview, students from right across the school can gain an insight into the mechanics of the Business world.

Mr Grey

Head of Humanities





Modern Foreign Languages

We have had a busy year in the Languages Department. We are moving more towards teaching French and this is now taught exclusively in the Prep School and in KS3 classes. French continues to be in demand for our Short Term Boarders, especially German pupils, and we have also tried to accommodate pupils into language lessons to fit their ability, irrespective of their actual year group. This has led to some interesting classes and it is good to be able to have this flexibility.

We have had some fun experiences this year, for example all Form 2 pupils had the chance to make a genuine 'croque monsieur' as part of their topic on food and drink, and we have increased the time spent reading French for interest with our sets of readers. Recently pupils have had the experience of one to one conversations with one of our Sixth Form pupils who is French and who very kindly gave up some of her time to be an 'assistante' for us.

We have had 3 A-Level Spanish pupils this year and one French who have all worked exceedingly hard for this challenging but extremely well-respected A-Level. We have also had native speakers taking GCSEs in Mandarin and Cantonese and one non-native speaker, Dante, who also took his Mandarin GCSE.

We have run a very popular Italian activity this year after school which attracted a real mixture of age groups and nationalities and we hope to expand on this next year.

We have some big staff changes happening at the end of this academic year with some new staff arriving for next year but also

with the departure of Liz Garnett who has been a teacher and, until recently, examinations officer, here for eight and a half years. Liz was previously a Deputy Head at Holsworthy School and her sense of authority, consistency and presence have been invaluable in the department and in the wider school community. She has been a sounding board for many of us who have looked to her for some wise words and calm, positive, no-nonsense advice which is always delivered in a professional and measured way. Liz is a complete Francophile and her enormous enthusiasm for anything French, her depth of experience and her knowledge of the French language will be sorely missed by me, by other members of staff and most importantly by all the children lucky enough to have been taught by her. We will also miss her wonderful cakes in the staffroom and her wry sense of humour. We wish her well in her retirement and look forward to hearing stories of her trips around France which I hope will become more frequent now. Thank you to Liz for all the years of service she has given to Shebbear College.

Mrs Aliberti

Head of Languages and Communication





English

The English department had a busy year - as normal - but still found time to share their reading recommendations with the pupil body. Beckly Library, run by Mrs Fanet, is now fully operational and is frequented by pupils from across the Prep and Senior Schools. They visit at break and lunchtimes, where they can relax, take some time out to read and borrow books and, for senior school pupils, login to access the library from their own devices. Book club has remained an extremely popular choice of activity throughout the year, and several pupils have taken on the Reading Challenge, with great success.

It was genuinely lovely to celebrate with our Form 5 and Upper Sixth pupils last summer as they received some impressive A-Level and GCSE English results. Everyone should be proud of their hard work and fortitude, especially considering the impact that Covid restrictions had on their time in school.

In October, the Sixth Form A-Level English group had a fantastic opportunity to attend a performance of *Othello* by Frantic Assembly. This vibrant production has a unique setting and really gets to the heart of the play's key themes. We are thrilled to be getting back to the theatre and hope to do so much more often.

Elsewhere in the department, KS3 classes followed a curriculum designed to promote independent learning and prepare them effectively for their GCSE studies, while still allowing them to have fun and enjoy exploring the subject. Watch this space for information on new KS3 texts!



It has been such a pleasure to be able to welcome visitors back into school again and in October, our Form 1 pupils enjoyed a day with children's author Lisa Williamson. They relished the opportunity to learn more about the creative process and ask questions directly. The Appledore Book Festival is such a key moment in the calendar and we are looking forward to the next one enormously.

In November, Mrs Shamsolahi was delighted to be invited to judge the Prep School public speaking competition - the level of skill was very impressive and we look forward to welcoming the competitors into the senior school in September.

The Bookbuzz scheme, generously funded by our PTA group, the Friends of Shebbear College, is always immensely successful with our Form 1 and 2 pupils, with each child receiving a book from a diverse list of choices. Form 1, joined by Prep 5 and 6 this year, also took part in the Readathon, reading as many books as they can to raise money for children's hospitals' book supplies. 100 books were read in October and November and £431 was raised for this excellent cause.

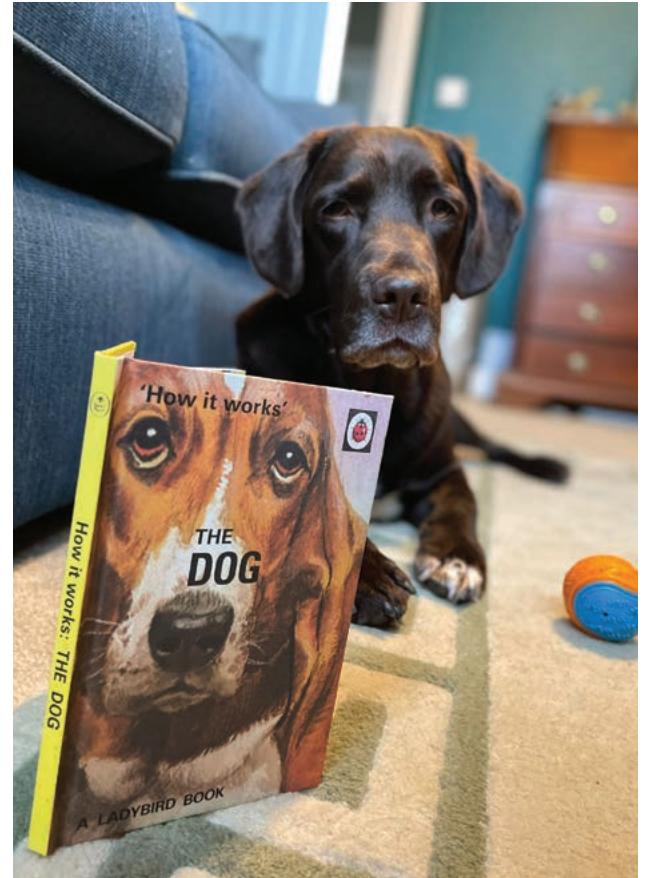
Taster Days for prospective Form 1 and Sixth Form pupils were very lively and popular, boding very well for September. Summer reading for new Sixth Form pupils is already underway!



This year also saw the inaugural Pawsome Readers photography challenge, designed to promote the joys of reading, demonstrate some adorable pets/farm animals and inspire people to read more themselves.

In conjunction with the Library, nine of our pupils have also been involved in the Carnegie Award. This award is hugely meaningful in the world of children's literature and can change the course of a writer's career. As is customary, our pupils took part in a shadowing group and between them, reading the books on the shortlist. This year's shortlist was particularly interesting and we can now reveal that a translated work won for the first time - Manon Steffan Ros's young adult novel *The Blue Book of Nebo*. We are all very excited about what this means for the future of the prize itself.

The English Department





Sport and Outdoor Education

Rugby

It has been another strange year for rugby within Independent schools in the UK, the Queen's passing resulting in cancellation of the first round of fixtures, followed by variation in laws over the course of the season causing consternation and confusion. Despite these challenges, many students who has never played rugby before were guided through a playing continuum focusing on player wellbeing and personal improvement. The small nature of our year groups mean there is a need for everyone to give it a go; this leads to leadership opportunities for those with more experience and for those with less experience the opportunity to develop their resilience as they learn a new skill.

Many of our students showed huge potential over the course of the year; exemplified by the new Form 1s creating a personal improvement culture in the gym that I have not seen for a long time. While rugby can be quite attritional, I have been delighted to see the increase in numbers of rugby players



within Shebbear College from September to December, exemplified by Head of School, Jack giving rugby a go after several years of not playing – Jack's approach was exceptional over the course of the term and showed a real talent and dedication.

Our U15s once again showed their determination to improve by entering the National U15s cup and County 7s championships. The

National cup was a tough experience for the boys, with just under 20 rugby players in the year they were playing against schools of more than 150 boys in a year. It would have been easy for them to capitulate, but instead they showed their grit and never gave up. They were runners in North Devon in the XV's season but won the North Devon 7s and went on to come second in the County Championships.

Developing players has always been a key theme at Shebbear College, not just rugby players but good people. The systems and lessons the students can learn in rugby and doing what it takes to excel at rugby are key messages that many of our students are starting to embrace. None have embraced this more than the 5 players who were successfully selected to go forward in the Exeter Chiefs Developing Player Pathway; Henry, Alfie, Jack, Micth and Ayden represented themselves admirably, with many others getting close to selection.

Next year looks to be a busy one for the team with several 7s tournaments already in the diary and the potential for all of the students to push on. I hope they all embrace their training programmes over the summer and I look forward to seeing them develop in years to come.

Hockey



It has been an exciting year for hockey at Shebbear with some excellent progress made by all those involved. It has been particularly pleasing to see the enjoyment and passion the pupils have for hockey. The 1st XI displayed a tremendous collective spirit throughout the season, collecting victories over Kingsley and St Jo's while providing a stubborn challenge to more accomplished opponents. Izzy Watt ably led the side and her consistent performance level provided an excellent example to those in their first year of 1st team hockey. Eleanor Rush should also be commended for her commitment to the team, on one occasion

coming straight from a hospital appointment on to the pitch to play against Mount Kelly. There is an impressive core of hockey players in this team who have a lot of potential in the coming years.

There is a fantastic energy for hockey in Form 1 and 2, with many pupils choosing to continue developing their skills in activities right through to the end of the summer term. It was also pleasing to see so many girls compete in fixtures against other schools which bodes well for the future. Aimee Tong and Lucy Hunkin provided some excellent performances in Form 1 while Neve Webber and Elsie Barnard were the driving forces behind some very successful Form 2 results.

The girls in Form 3 and 4 produced some excellent hockey this season and responded well to the challenges presented to them. I was impressed with the progress they made, in particular with regards to the tactics they were asked to implement. There is a real strength in defence in this age group, demonstrated by the performances of Natasha and Sophia Weston alongside Evie Wilcox. The Form 4 girls will be a real asset to the 1st XI next year.

Netball

Well, what a busy season that was!

We were back to our full capacity of fixtures and it was our first season in the Independent Schools Netball Cup.

A standout team again this season was the U14's who won the majority of their fixtures. They are a talented group of pupils who stand their own against tough competition. The future potential of this group is exciting with many looking to join local Netball clubs as next season they can play in adult leagues from Form 4. With that extra experience coming from out of school court time, I believe we could have even better results next year.



A special mention needs to go to some outstanding players who have joined in Form 1. It isn't often that you have several shooters to choose from on a team however this team has shooting talent particularly, in abundance. They won a lot of their matches and have so much potential for next year. They are all so motivated to learn and improve, which is inspiring. I am excited to work with them to develop other aspects of the game next year.

The 1st team gathered momentum over the year. It was great to have the Independent Schools Netball Competition (ISNC) fixtures early in the Michaelmas term as we could begin to develop and try various combinations within the squad early on before our local competitive fixture card in the Lent term. We also competed at U13 and U15 in the ISNC last season, which was a great experience for the pupils and more court time against unknown opponents. We look forward to competing in the ISNC this Autumn again.

Overall, it was brilliant to increase the competitive opportunities of the pupils this season and hope for further future success and development next year as we continue to build Netball, the standard of play and participation levels across the school.

Football

A hotly anticipated season kicked off with matches against Kingsley in which the Shebbear teams were able to test their patterns and skills, as well as gauge the new year groups ability. I was delighted to see any student that wanted to play have an opportunity in this series of games, which helped gauge ability while have a fun and challenging experience.

The 1st XI proved to have a solid defensive structure with Ben Reinforcing at the back and Jonathan throwing himself around in goal. The solid spine of the team completed with Ferdie running riot in most games in midfield. This was complemented by moments of brilliance throughout the season by many of the team.

The U12s and U13s were an extremely willing group of players, with the U12s all wanting to be involved, leading to a good level of progression throughout the season. The team performed well over the season. The Form 1s have shown across multiple sports that they have a huge amount of potential due to a good mindset but they need to support this by maintaining their approach to training off the pitch.

The U15s and U14s once again had a strong season with the U15s dominating most opposition with their physicality, this combined with some excellent finishing led to a superb football season only losing to considerably bigger schools. The better players in the U14s often played up in the U15s to challenge themselves while the U14s had the occasional stand alone fixture.

Overall the football season produced some superb football with a huge number of students involved in all year groups; I was delighted to see the sport being played in such good spirits with a passion for developing and teamwork.

Athletics

It has been an incredibly active year for athletics in the Senior School, competing in ISA championships, IAPS school championship, North Devon Athletics League and North Devon Schools Championships with some individuals progressing to National and regional level events.

Despite the nature of athletics, this year we adopted a participation approach with many students exploring and trying different events. This resulted in some surprises for the students who found some natural aptitude in events they were not expecting. Training for events has centred on giving pupils a good understanding of the basic key factors in each event; this is due to many of our students competing and training for multiple sports this term and therefore not always able to do athletics training. Although we were not able to spend as much time as we would have liked honing student's skills in each event; it is our hope that this has kindled a desire to improve.



Some standout performances from the Form 4s resulted in them earning a place in the North Devon team finals. Despite having only 7 competitors, in comparison to many schools having over 20 in each age group, our male athletes managed to finish second, a massive achievement.

Another great experience was 10 of our students being selected for the ISA National Championships at Alexandria stadium (The home of the Commonwealth games last year). Amilia, Alfie, Arthur, Alfie, Neve, Jack, Henry, Woody, Will and Sam took part in the National

finals, the most Shebbear has ever had selected. The students were outstanding in their approach and enjoyed the experience.



In the schools development system, four of our students progressed through the North Devon selection and moved on to the County Championships with Amilia, Alfie, Henry and Sophia all being selected.

I was delighted to see all of the students progress over the course of the year, many finding a new passion. Henry once again stood out this year as an exceptional all-rounder, being a podium finisher in County Championships and ISA National finals for Triple jump and High jump.

Cricket

The cricket season got off to a very slow start due to an extremely wet start to the season and several matches rained off. Once the weather cleared up we were blessed by an outstanding performance from the 1st XI against the Old Shebbearians, in which we welcomed back many old, and not so old, friendly faces. OS Charlie Nielson featured with the bat, making life difficult for our inexperienced fielders and bowlers. Alfie kept Shebbear College in the game with an outstanding effort with both bat and ball.

For the first time in quite some time Shebbear were able to boast having two Level 2 cricket coaches with Mr Fay and Miss Reeves supplying some superb feedback and sessions for the students under the watchful and experienced eye of Mr Law. The U13 girls and boys had a mix of experienced and inexperienced players, some having never touched a cricket bat before. A diverse range of cricket matches meant all students were able to test themselves at all levels. The U12s competed in the Stover Bowl and some stepped up for the U13s in the Mount Kelly Trophy while the girls competed against Stover and Kingsley to improve their cricket experience.



The U15s girls and boys took the field on several occasions with the boys often forming the basis of any 1st XI fixture. Billy developed hugely with the bat and took some big wickets during fixtures helping the team progress. While the team did not get as many fixtures as they would have liked, many of them have had the chance to progress and compete at a higher level.

I am looking forward to the next cricket season in which we can carry on the development the pupils and coaches have worked hard at over the course of the season; weather permitting it should be a fun 2024!



As the weather warmed up towards the summer we managed to venture more and more outside, putting the theoretical skills to practice and extending on the theoretical knowledge in practical environments.

It has been wonderful to see students develop their independence and creativity in an environment that gives them opportunities to explore their interests, that do not always exist within a classroom.

SPORTS DAY

The sun shone for our Senior Sports Day on Thursday 29th June, when athletes from Forms 1 to 4 took part in track and field events, competing in their houses and as individuals. Pupils volunteered to take part in events including Javelin, Shotput, Discus, Long Jump, High Jump and various track races - with almost every pupil taking part in something.

A special mention goes to Tallulah and Dylan, both in Form 2, who set new school records for the U13 High Jump - both jumping 1.46m.

Congratulations to Thorne House who won the cup!





Computing

I joined the Computing Department at the beginning of 2023, taking over from Mr Banyard and joining a busy department that is full of possibilities, teaching pupils from Prep 4 through to Upper Sixth. My goal in the digital technology arena is to introduce devices as tools which people can use to create something new, useful or fun and this has been how I have approached the curriculum in my lessons.

The Prep School lessons are always full of enthusiasm around computers, and we utilise that energy and interest, with pupils discovering several new topics and tools in the past six months. In one lesson, Prep 5 produced some brilliant stop motion animation using large objects (and people!) and all year groups have created presentations on a variety of topics. We have learnt about photography rules and had a go at photo editing to enhance and manipulate images as well as looking into how computers work and learning about parts. All of these topic choices were driven by students, with a very positive attitude and great results.

Forms 1-3 were exposed to a bigger innovation in their learning experience. We introduced Project Based Learning (PBL) which brings real situations into lessons and allows

students to learn essential skills such as teamwork, problem solving and analytical thinking. All-important qualities, not only for Computer science, but also for everyday life. Students were able to choose a topic for their projects, with choices ranging from 3D design for printing, game development and multimedia creation (video, filmmaking or podcast production). They worked excellently and were able to produce some fantastic outcomes according to their level and abilities, which they presented at the EXPO during the Celebration Day.

Meanwhile, GCSE, iGCSE and A-Level students have been focused on the course syllabus with emphasis on practical skills which naturally involve coding. We explored a range of coding topics, focusing on Python as the main method. It was underpinned with the revision for all theory topics and practising the work within the examination environment leading up to the exams for Upper Sixth and Form 5.

For Internet Safety Day in February, pupils across the school took part in a group treasure hunt, solving clues to find treasure - great fun and lots of useful information learned.

Overall, it has been an interesting year for our students, particularly as the use of computing and data is increasingly used in our daily lives, so the skills that we are covering in lessons are becoming more and more relevant to everyone.

Mr Yilma

Computing Teacher





Maths

It's been another fast paced year in the mathematics department!

As usual we have entered a huge number of pupils into the UKMT individual competitions. The results are opposite, but special mention must go to George in Lower 6th, who qualified for the Senior Kangaroo and Joe in Form 4, who qualified for the Pink Kangaroo. Bella in Form 2 entered the intermediate challenge a year early and achieved a Bronze certificate which is an excellent result. Sadly, there were still no team competitions held this year by the UKMT as the maths department loves a team competition!



We were really pleased to welcome Mr Parker into the department as a Maths TA and his help was greatly received by many, including the Upper Sixth A-Level group who were keen to get some maths advice from somebody under 40!

We were really pleased with last year's public examination results, but especially with Niall's result of double A* in Maths and Further Maths, a really amazing achievement (maths A-Levels are not



easy)! In September I step down from my role of Head of Maths to concentrate on my role as Way Housemistress, but I leave you in the capable hands of Mr Giles, who will no doubt bring a modern approach to the role.

Mrs Cardoo
Head of Maths

SENIORS	
Gold	George
Bronze	Charlie
Bronze	James
Bronze	Cameron

INTERMEDIATES	
Gold	Joe
Silver	Alice
Silver	Matthew
Silver	Sebastian
Silver	Jonah
Silver	Heidi
Silver	Zeb
Bronze	Matthew
Bronze	Jonathan
Bronze	Archie
Bronze	Jacky
Bronze	Isabel
Bronze	Dylan
Bronze	Bethany
Bronze	Lydia
Bronze	Bella

JUNIORS	
Gold	Bella
Gold	Esther
Silver	Daniel
Silver	Sebastian
Silver	George
Bronze	Alfie
Bronze	Breck
Bronze	Charlie
Bronze	Aimee
Bronze	Elliot I
Bronze	Archie
Bronze	Ethan
Bronze	Kaia
Bronze	Sean-Lee
Bronze	Chloe
Bronze	Alex
Bronze	Tyler
Bronze	Cherrie



We have had a busy year in the Science department, with pupils from Prep 5 upwards enjoying lessons in the labs, the return of trips and a full range of co-curricular activities being introduced.

The Prep school have studied a range of topics across the three sciences, starting with variation and human bodies and moving on to the solar system - watching Mr Deakes trying to direct this as a 3D moving model on the astro has to have been a highlight for the rest of us, some of the orbits were a little interesting!

Higher up the school, the biologists have enjoyed their field work trips to Braunton burrows, dissecting hearts and locusts and getting to grips with the colourimeters and various other practical investigations. The chemists continued to keep up the tradition of seemingly endless practicals (and Mrs Newton has definitely been kept busy here) - while the A-Level physicists have had some successful core practicals, as well as continuing to review and critique potential articles for the 'physics review' magazine. So far no one has been brave enough to write their own article for submission but maybe some of the current Lower Sixth will take on this challenge.

Form 1 pupils have been working towards their Crest Awards, a nationally recognised project managed by the British Science Association, with the goal of encouraging young people to develop their methodology and practical science skills. Pupils also had a great time celebrating British Science Week - Form



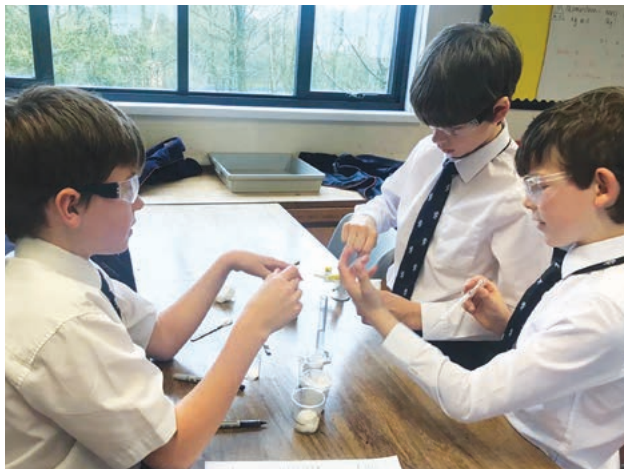
1 took part in the Slime Olympics (making and testing slime!) and Form 2 had a go at building boats in a house competition - well done to Summer and Catherine in Ruddle who were the winners!

Outside of lessons, enrichment clubs have been busy with the forensics club and Form 1 practical challenge running again as well as the science club. New activities have been 'growing your future' (gardening and the environment), and the scrapheap science challenge (building bridges, making catapults and other crazy contraptions). The science club team have been taking on all sorts of interesting investigations and demos, (mainly because of Mr

Balkwill-Western doing all the experiments he wasn't allowed to do when he was a student here!)

This year we have also seen Mr Copp, Mrs Hughes, Mr Balkwill-Western and Mr Fay all join the science department at various times. We would like to thank them for their energy and enthusiasm put towards all things science.

We also say farewell to Mr Drake this year, after seven years of driving the chemistry department he should be very proud of how he has significantly increased the numbers of students both taking A-Level chemistry, but also choosing to continue their chemistry studies beyond Shebbear as they head off to University. We all wish him the very best of luck and hope to keep in touch. Open days will never be the same again - who would have thought that setting fire to prospective parents was such a good recruitment tactic.



As we return to normal in the post COVID era, pupils are becoming more used to the pressure of examinations once again and this year's cohort have managed very well indeed.

The A-Level Biologists worked hard in the run up to their examinations and gained some very pleasing results, and at GCSE, there was a real push from the top set, managing to gain 6 grade 8s and 1 grade 9 out of the 12 entered.

A-Level Chemistry is a very challenging subject to tackle and last year's Upper Sixth continued to push hard, managing to attain some excellent personal achievements. Meanwhile, over half of the GCSE group gained grades 7 or above and there were outstanding performances from some pupils who have found the 3 year chemistry course very tough at times, everyone gained a grade 5 or higher, a real achievement.



In Physics, the A-Level grades were brilliant with everyone getting the grades that they deserved, Niall attaining the elusive A* but also Tom gaining the C he worked so hard for, thus allowing him to go on to join the airforce. The GCSE grades were also very pleasing and I think all of the pupils were particularly pleased with OFQUAL seeing sense and allowing them to utilise equation sheets. This has also been allowed for this year as well. Maybe we will see a change in thinking on how understanding should be assessed and not relying so heavily on rote memorisation! Our current Form 4 will be hoping for some news on this early next year, otherwise it will be back to flashcards and nightmares about $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ or $F=ma$!



In Combined Science, a special mention has to go to Khaled who worked hard and completed both the entry level certificates and managed to gain grades in his GCSE as well. All of the other combined candidates should be proud of their efforts as the return to examinations has been quite a shock.

Science Department

Additional Learning Needs and Academic Development

As many of you will know I have recently been appointed as the new Head of the ALN department as of January this year. Previously, I have worked as a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) in secondary schools over the past eight years. Since joining Shebbear College It has been my absolute pleasure and privilege to work with such a dedicated team of professionals and the superb young people under our care.

The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) department was established in January 2022 and incorporates pupils who have a special educational need or disability (SEND) and also the most able or highest achieving pupils within the college. SEN is divided into four categories. Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Sensory and Physical and Social and Emotional. We take an individual needs based approach to supporting our pupils and are fully committed to maximising outcomes and opportunities for them. The department works across the entire school from the Early Years Foundation Students up to those studying towards A-Levels and BTEC qualifications in the Sixth Form. The range of pupils means that most students in the school come into contact with specialists in the departments at some stage throughout their time at Shebbear, by incorporating these areas in a truly inclusive manner it means we can support and promote the variety of ways students learn, embracing their individual skill sets and talents while enhancing their educational journey through a bespoke pathway and individual teaching. A real strength of Shebbear College is the exceptional knowledge and understanding that our staff have of individual pupils. This is particularly relevant within the ALN department as understanding individual need and shaping our provision based upon this is key to our students' success.

It is increasingly being recognised in educational research that inclusive schools who provide diversity among learners improve education for all. I have been impressed by the inclusivity demonstrated on a daily basis within the college and have taken great pride in contributing towards this. The benefit is not just for



the targeted pupil, but also to foster a culture of support and awareness within the school community. This culture promotes a positive response to pupil diversity encouraging individuals to seek opportunities rather than problems, something we encourage and embrace at Shebbear and the department is full of outstanding contributions from our pupils.

By using multi-sensory teaching methods, our lessons provide a fun filled educational experience. The use of exciting and informative resources help support each pupil's learning; allowing them to achieve their full potential. Every ALN lesson will involve both an interaction between pupils and an individual pupil task, whether this is through debates, team games, reading, spelling and maths computer programs or logical thinking puzzles.



We have recently invested in some intervention based software with a proven track record in supporting students with ALN and look forward to expanding the impact of this over the upcoming year. As a department we are continuously committed to remaining aware of current developments and initiatives within the world of ALN, incorporating examples of best practice wherever possible. We are also keen to ensure that any students entering an exam year or moving between phases are fully supported with any additional arrangements to which they are entitled.

Staff working in the ALN department feel privileged, everyday we get to see success and those magical 'penny

drop' moments. Lessons have the benefit of using the school's facilities to teach core academic skills, so we may be in the sports hall reinforcing maths, or walking around the school site applying principles learnt in science.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor Mr Sanders for his excellent work last year as head of the department. He established a highly effective Academic Support Department and the students who benefitted from spending time there are appreciative of his efforts. Mr Sanders moved on to a new role at the end of 2022 but the impact that he had on our department is still felt and appreciated.

Summer School

In June we welcomed fourteen students from across Europe to enjoy a month in a traditional English boarding school. The students received 10 hours a week of focused spoken and written English lessons, as well as an exciting programme of activities to support their learning and mainstream lessons in school. Educational trips included the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, Lanhedrock House and Gardens, Bodmin Jail, Ilfracombe Sea Safari and the Eden Project and these trips were backed up with project work and presentations in class. Pupils also enjoyed various weekend activities such as surfing and the Royal Cornwall Show.



Mr Sansom

Head of Additional Learning Needs.

Finally I'd like to share some feedback from the people that really matter. The below is taken from students with a range of needs and different ages across the College.

“

I really enjoy my ASLAN lessons - it helps me a lot with my confidence

“

I love it !

“

It makes learning fun

“

It really helps me with my dyslexia

“

It's helped me to understand how equations work in maths and improved my descriptive language in English

“

It's great !

HORIZONS

We have had a busy year preparing our pupils well for their lives beyond school.

Our careers programme starts at Form 1 and goes right through to the Upper Sixth, guiding our pupils through important decisions for their future. We also work with Futuresmart, who provide independent professional advice through an expert careers service. All pupils in Form 5 and Lower Sixth have had the opportunity to have a one to one guidance meeting with the Futuresmart team and I know these are invaluable. We also provided interview practice for our aspiring medics, vets and indeed anyone else who requested it. Pupils also have access to unifrog which has been used extensively by the Sixth Form to help with their UCAS applications but also increasingly lower down the school where there is a wealth of advice on careers related topics. It is a wonderful, comprehensive resource available to parents as well and I know pupils have found it incredibly useful.

In the Lent term, we held a series of team building workshops for our Senior School pupils with Futuresmart. These included 'The Apprentice meets Dragon's Den', where Form 5 pupils had to create innovative business ideas (these included a drone delivery service and sleep pods for exhausted NHS staff) and pitch them to other teams for investment; decision making strategies; discovering the skills needed for different careers and personality types.

For our Sixth Formers, we have a programme dedicated to university applications, which includes advice on writing personal statements, choosing courses and universities, roadshow visits from international universities and talks

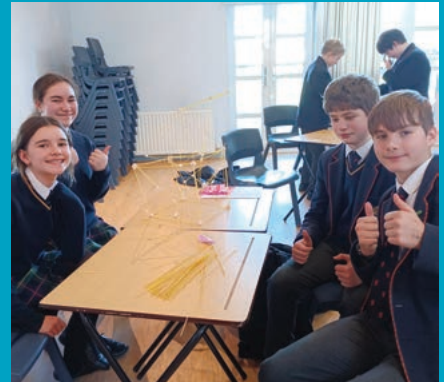
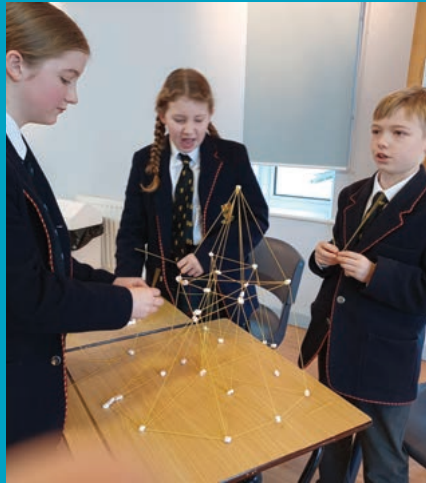
from outside specialist speakers. We have talks on diverse topics such as finance, resilience and study skills and each pupil has individual guidance with their application, particularly their personal statement, from their tutor and from myself, as I oversee each application personally. There is also advice on apprenticeships, job opportunities and gap years for those who do not want to apply to university.

The Careers page of the website, highlighted each week in the Newsletter, continues to be a source of information and guidance for pupils across the school with a wide range of opportunities, information and guidance. I am glad to see pupils and parents accessing it regularly.

In 2022 our Sixth Form leavers' destinations were wide-ranging and aspirational. We now have students from last year studying subjects as diverse as Maths, Global Humanitarian Sciences, Communication and Media, Physiotherapy, Marine Biology, Business, Chemistry, History, Accounting and Finance to name but a few. Students are at universities all over the UK including Warwick, UCL, Cardiff, Lancaster, Sussex, Exeter, Keele, Liverpool. Each year the number of pupils choosing the apprenticeship route continues to grow and last year we had a pupil who has started an apprenticeship with a local accounting firm. They were a fantastic year group and we are very proud of them and wish them every success in the future. We hope some of them will return one day to advise current pupils about possible careers. I am particularly proud that 100% of our pupils who went on to Higher Education gained a place at the university of their choice.

Mrs Aliberti

Head of Horizons





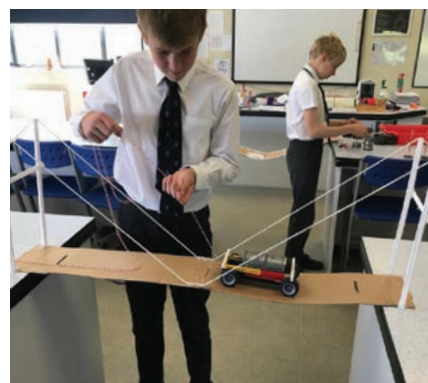
CO-CURRICULAR

The co-curricular time slot on our timetable at the end of the day is busy and bustling, with sport, arts, music and new skill offerings available. This year has seen us function completely out of any Covid restrictions, allowing some exciting changes to happen and a wide range of choices for pupils of all ages has been introduced.

We have been fortunate enough this year to be able to offer some activities off-site including horse riding, swimming, shooting and surfing, as well as inviting Martial Arts coaches back on site. The offering has changed each term, with new opportunities such as languages (Italian and Greek), Growing our Futures, Scrapheap Challenge and Science boosters being introduced.

More engaging sports opportunities, away from the team sports that pupils take part in their games sessions, have been successful, with clubs such as volleyball, basketball, ultimate frisbee, golf, laser shooting, archery and trampolining proving to be extremely popular!

Next year's changes to the shape of the day, with activities being included as part of the school day will enable an even wider offering again, and we look forward to seeing this in action!



TEN TORS 2022-23



TRAINING STARTED IN SEPTEMBER FOR TEN TORS WITH STUDENTS PUTTING THEMSELVES THROUGH THEIR PACES IN ORDER TO EARN A PLACE ON THE TEAMS.

The busy pace of life meant that some students had to drop out due to being spread too thinly over many activities so we quite quickly reduced our entry to one 35 mile team with the expectation that those that missed out this year will be able to enter next year. From September through to the end of March the students walked and camped through some stereotypical weather, something we lacked last year. The team had to learn quickly how to navigate through fog, with visibility on one training day remaining at 20m for the entire day. On another training day the squad walked through snow on North Dartmoor, making walking even harder but providing some of the most incredible landscapes you can see in the UK. During the training camps the squad contended with potential flooding and Yellow weather warnings for both rain and wind. After much of the training had been conducted the squad was selected down to a fairly elite group of 6: Leo (Captain), Joe (Vice Captain), Albert, Alfie, Ben and Edward.

Not only did the team have to contend with the physical conditions, the political conditions of Ten Tors and Dartmoor made life even more interesting with the Dartmoor right to wild camp revoked mid training and the King's Coronation resulting in a change of event date, all while the UK armed forces were dealing with geopolitical issues in Eastern Europe. The Ten Tors organisation led by the Army worked tirelessly to ensure all the teams were able to train and participate in the event, with a change of event date being the only speed bump. This was a credit to the Ten Tors organisation who, much like a duck swimming against the stream, seemed calm and collected while the turbulent geopolitical world caused havoc around them.

With the training conditions as diverse and wonderful as Dartmoor can provide it should have been no surprise how the team performed on the Ten Tors event. The team set off at 0700 on Saturday and were nothing short of outstanding, covering 37.5 miles in 17.5 hours and finishing by 12:15pm the following day through mist, fog and some tricky navigation. Welcomed home by incredibly supportive and enthusiastic parents, and of course Mr Jenkins and Ted, the Team marched over the line with a clear sense of pride and satisfaction. They are already talking about taking on the 45 mile challenge next year and I have every faith they will perform even better should they choose to stay together and take part.

I would also like to draw attention to George Heard who completed the 55 mile challenge with another Team. Sophie Luxton (OSA) reached out and George was able to take part in Sophie's team, who stormed through the 55 mile challenge, well done George and Sophie!

Special thanks to staff that have supported the event and training of the event with Mr Deakes once again planning routes, kit and providing 13 years of experience of Ten Tors. Mr Grey, Mr Wilson, Mr Barnes and Mrs Cardoo have all helped deliver training walks for the students while Simply Outdoors have provided the expertise. And of course, thank you to the parents (Mrs Down, your brownies got us through the wet training days!).

We are looking forward to next year and hopefully entering two 35 mile teams, a 45 mile team and perhaps even a 55 mile team!

Mr Giles

Head of Sport and Outdoor Education

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We had a fantastic level of enrollment for the Duke of Edinburgh award this year with 23 pupils from Form 3 embarking on their bronze awards and 10 pupils undertaking their silver awards. 2 pupils have also embarked on their gold awards using Shebbear College as their center and completing external expeditions and hope to be finished in the next academic year.

It is clear our pupils have big aspirations and broad horizons while examining the range of activities undertaken by our small school. Pupils are engaged in everything from assisting with global science projects to

litter picking in their local towns for their volunteering sections, animal care to coding in their skills sections and hill walking to taekwondo in their physical sections. It is great to see pupils taking on so many opportunities in school and beyond. The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is the perfect way to recognise and celebrate these endeavors.

For many pupils, the highlight of the award is the expedition section. This year our silver participants embarked on a breathtaking journey through Exmoor National Park enjoying the Valley of the Rocks, Watersmeet Valley, a stunning section of the coast path from Lynmouth to Porlock and on to Dunkery Beacon. Our bronze teams cut their teeth trekking along some stunning sections of the North Cornwall coast path and surrounding areas gaining the skills to access the higher award levels and the Ten Tors challenge.

A huge well done is needed for all those who have completed their awards this year.

Mr Deakes





THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR FUN!

Amid a year of hard work, GCSE revision and, of course, exams, Form 5 students made sure they still made time for fun this year!

From their Winter Ball held at The Falcon Hotel in Bude, to a fun evening of Laser Tag against the Sixth Form and of course, the chance to dress up and relax with friends at their Prom, held at The Pier House in Westward Ho!, we wish them all the best for the future, and look forward to seeing many of them join the Sixth Form in September!





SKI TRIP

• BORMIO •

20  22
SHEBBEAR COLLEGE

Finally, normal service resumed and overseas residential trips were back on the cards for pupils at Shebbear College! The much anticipated ski trip to Bormio in Italy saw 36 pupils from Forms 4 to U6 take to the slopes after Covid resulted in a 3 year break.

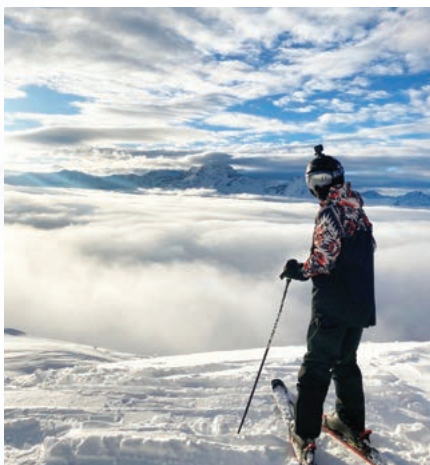
The journey there is always arduous, but -6 degree temperatures in England meant a 3hr delay taking off from Gatwick! In true Shebbearian style, we arrived at the hotel at 4am and were up and out on the slopes by 9am - with hardly a moan as the anticipation to get skiing was immense.

The week flew by in a flurry of ski lessons and evening entertainment. We enjoyed a lovely evening in the old town of Bormio which was full of twinkling Christmas lights and pretty gift shops. Unfortunately we brought the Shebbear 'cold bug' with us but again, pupils showed great resilience by still aiming to ski everyday despite feeling under the weather. Since Mr Sanders was on the trip there was definitely a competitive edge to the week! Who would be the fastest down the slopes - Miss Taylor or Mr Sanders? Who would put the least turns in on the black run - Mr Sanders or one of the top group skiers?!

Aside from the skiing, however, there was amazing camaraderie amongst the group where everybody shared in each other's successes and there was an incredible amount of laughter. It really was a memorable trip and one you hopefully will remember forever. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Taylor, Mr Sanders and Mr Grey. A huge amount of organisation goes into trips like these and all the teachers give up a week of their holiday to take the pupils away, it's not a trip for the faint hearted teacher, working about 18 hours a day at the end of a highly busy term.

If you missed out this year, there will be another trip happening in December 2024 so don't worry!

Mrs Cardoo



The Sixth Form

September 2022 welcomed both new and current students to the Sixth Form, who settled into the more independent way of Sixth Form life quickly. The first social event, the Upper School Ceilidh, helped greatly with this - a great event to mark the beginning of term and encourage everyone to enjoy themselves - the first of many social events to come throughout the year!

The Quiz and Pizza night brought out the competitive sides of many and the teams fiercely fought to get the top spot, alongside some great pizzas from the kitchen while the Christmas meal was a much welcome way to relax and unwind into the festive period after a very busy term for everyone.

In the Lent Term, we kicked off with the House Dinners, which were again a fantastic success and a chance for the Sixth Formers to meet the other pupils in their house - we enjoyed some brilliant speeches



from the four Heads of House. Laser Tag saw everyone in superb spirits- despite the torrential rain - they got into the role in their camo clothing and facepaint and to make it extra competitive, the Sixth Form played against the Fifth Form! The main event in the Sixth Form social calendar is the Rounsefell Dinner, and this year we went back to Buckland House. The Sixth Formers got their glad rags on, enjoyed some lovely food and danced the night away in this stunning venue.

Academically, we have seen some fantastic achievements this year across all faculties. We have also enjoyed several trips during the year, including Geography and Biology field trips, the UCAS fair, a trip to Sandy Park for our Economics and Business students and a visit to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to watch Othello, all of which have helped to bring A-Level studies to life.



Head of School Jack, had the experience of a lifetime in October when he travelled to Alabama in the US, to take part in The Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy at the U.S Space and Rocket Center.

Jack was selected for the programme following a rigorous application based on academic achievement and community involvement. 1 of 5 successful applicants from the UK, he joined 170 students from across the world. An incredible experience that he will never forget!

The Upper Sixth have been deciding on their futures with many



receiving offers to study a range of subjects at top universities including Liverpool, Bristol, UCL Bath and many more. I hope they will stay in touch and keep us all informed with how they are getting on!



Music and Theatre have been a focus this year, and with so much talent in the Performing Arts within our Sixth Form, they have been really keen to get back on stage. Toby in Lower Sixth gained a place studying Orchestral

Percussion at the Royal College of Music Junior Department - an incredible achievement and you can read more about this in an interview with him later in the magazine. We saw some fantastic performances at our Performing Arts Summer Showcase, not forgetting our school production of Into The Woods, starring Sixth Formers Niamh, Toby, Charlotte and Jack as some of the principal characters. While we are saying goodbye to some of them this year, it is exciting to see the talent coming up through the school and into the Sixth Form next year!

The highlight of the year for many students and members of staff was the Sixth Form Pantomime of Peter Pan, which returned in December for the first time since Covid. Alongside their other commitments, the panto crew, headed up by Niamh in Upper Sixth, managed to find the time for rehearsals, set

design and weeks of preparation and teamwork. It was worth it as the performance was a real show stopper, bringing in a fantastic audience, who struggled to stop laughing - particularly at the superb performance of Hamish as Lady Starkey!

On the sports field we have again seen our Sixth Formers get involved in the main sports of rugby, netball, football, hockey, cricket and athletics - including a very competitive cricket match against the Old Shebbearian Association (OSA) at the Spring Fair!

We say goodbye to our outgoing Upper Sixth and the end of year garden party was a sad, yet exciting, time for parents, pupils, and teachers alike. We wish the class of 2022-23 the best of luck in all that they do in these next steps and beyond, and hope that their time at Shebbear has given them the best head start in their lives, wherever their futures may take them.

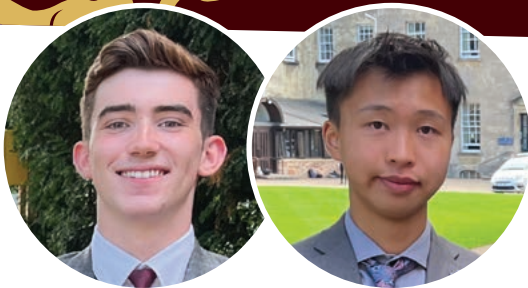
Finally, a big thank you to this year's Sanctuary Team: Jack, Roy, Mitzi, Niamh, Charlotte and Will. They have put themselves forward as excellent role models for the younger pupils, getting involved in everything that has come their way and taking every opportunity in their stride. We welcome our new team for 2023-24. Alex and George are our Heads of School, assisted by our Heads of House, Toby (Ruddle), Issy (Pollard), Ferdie (Thorne) and Amelia (Way). Congratulations to them all and I know that they will be a credit to Shebbear College.

Mrs Burges

Head of Sixth Form

Jack & Roy

Heads of School 2022-23



Were you expecting to be voted in as Heads of School?

Jack - I was completely overwhelmed and humbled to be voted Head of School. Having joined Sheb in the Sixth Form and facing strong competition from such talented and kind peers, I was in shock when I found out.

Roy - Since joining the school in 2016, I have always wanted to be part of the Sanctuary team. Honestly, I was not expecting to be elected as Head of School, since there were a lot of strong candidates applying for the role! I was extremely pleased that I was given the opportunity to represent the school through this role, which marked the start of a wonderful journey.

What have been your main responsibilities?

Roy - My responsibility has varied from hosting the School Council, interviewing prospective members of staff and representing the College at the OSA dinner just to name a few. Jack and I, alongside the rest of the Sanctuary Team have worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure that each task given to us was completed to the best of our ability. As they say, "With great power comes great responsibility!"

Jack - I was responsible for the conception of the Sanctuary

Support Sessions which I feel have been a great success and I dearly hope they will be continued by the future Sanctuary team. My overriding responsibility has been to be a friendly and safe contact for all pupils and I hope I have successfully achieved this.

What would you say were the highlights of your year?

Jack - The highlight of my year was without a doubt being the villainous Captain Hook in the fantastic Sixth Form Panto, watching Hamish mentally scar my dad for life as the outrageous Lady Starkey! I also couldn't forget dominating and thrashing the competition in the Upper School Laser Shooting which was exhilarating and unforgettable.

Roy - It is almost impossible to list all the highlights! Some great memories include playing a part in the school production of Grease and the Sixth Form Panto, Peter Pan, and completing the D of E Silver Expedition. Attending the OSA dinner was a fantastic experience, as was exploring London the next morning with Jack, before our train home.

And the worst parts?

Roy - You have to live through the worst part of life so you never take the best part for granted. The responsibilities as Head of School are quite extensive and you are always expected to be at your best. I once had to complete 6 tours in a day! Although my heart rate almost reached 200 when giving my speech at the OSA dinner, I have loved every second of taking on the role of the School Captain.

Jack - The worst part of the Upper Sixth is by far managing the stress of exams and prioritising studying above all else. I think we're all looking forward to a summer of freedom!



What subjects have you been studying in the Sixth Form and how have you juggled school work with your Sanctuary duties?

Jack - I'm studying Physics, Maths and History. Keeping all the balls in the air with my studies and Sanctuary duties has of course been challenging, but with the amazing Heads of House Will, Charlotte, Mitzi and Niamh this has been made so much easier.

Roy - I am studying Chemistry, Biology and Geography at A-Level. Juggling school work with my Sanctuary duties requires discipline and hard work. I set myself a timetable and prioritise tasks which helps me to keep on top of things.

What are your plans for the future?

Roy - I am planning to study Applied Medicine Science at University College London (UCL), and ultimately pursue a path in Medicine in the future. Moreover, I am also interested in joining the Metropolitan Police as a Special Constable whilst at uni.

Jack - I intend to continue studying Physics at university, with the plan to pursue a career in the Armed Forces following the completion of my degree.

What is your best memory from Shebbear College?

Jack - My best memories of Shebbear are the various Shenanigans my friends and I have got up to, from Marco Polo in the Sixth Form Centre to sacrificing the Chemistry class in the boggy pond outside Mr Drake's classroom!

Roy - My best memories have definitely been made with my friends at the College. Shenanigans are one way to describe it... We definitely did not play golf in the Sixth Form Centre or convert the Sixth Form Centre into a commando assault course! And yes, I was one of the victims in the boggy pond...



What advice would you give the next Sanctuary team?

Roy - You have been given a role on the Sanctuary team because the school has seen special qualities in you - remember that there are many obstacles you will need to overcome in your life, but there will also be opportunities and doors to prosperity on the way. One piece of advice would be to remember that communication is one of the most important skills you need to work successfully as a team. But the ultimate message to you would be to treasure your time; it does not seem that long ago that I was given the role. Enjoy the little things in life because one day you may look back and realise they were the big things!

Jack - Be true to yourself. Hold firm your beliefs but listen to others. Accept advice and take criticism, whether it be deserved or not, on the chin.



A-LEVEL RESULTS 2022

Our Class of 2022 celebrated another excellent set of A-Level and BTEC results last summer with a pass rate of 100% and the vast majority of pupils gaining a place at their choice of university. Overall, 35% achieved A* - A in their A-Levels with 53% gaining A* - B, and 50% of BTEC grades were Distinction* or Distinction.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2022

University of Warwick	Mathematics
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University of Central Lancashire	Biovetinary Science
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UCL	Global Humanitarian Studies
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University of Liverpool	Communication and Media
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University of Worcester	Law
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University of Winchester	Physiotherapy
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Oxford Brookes University	Accounting and Finance
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Cardiff University	History
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University of Plymouth	Marine Biology
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Keele University	Forensic Science
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Lancaster University	Business Management (Entrepreneurship)
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Anglia Ruskin University	Paramedic Science
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University of Brighton	Business Management with Human Resources
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University of Leicester	Ancient History and History
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University of Sussex	Chemistry
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University of Exeter	Business
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ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

TOBY'S AMAZING OPPORTUNITY



This year, Toby in Lower Sixth has been travelling to and from London every weekend, having gained a place to study Orchestral Percussion at the Royal College of Music Junior Department.

The Royal College of Music is one of the world's greatest conservatoires, providing the best opportunities for learning, performance and development to talented musicians. This year, Toby has been involved in a number of concerts at major venues including the Festival of Percussion in London earlier this year. We spoke to him about the audition process, gaining a place at the RCM and his love of music.

How did you gain a place at the RCM?

My older cousin went to the RCM to study double bass so I had an understanding of what it was like, but I had missed the first auditions as I wasn't sure at the time what I was doing for Sixth Form. They have a late audition process so I applied for that and got an audition.

Talk us through the audition process

I turned up on the day and I was pretty nervous and a little shaky! The auditions were with the Head of the Royal College of Music Junior Department and the Head of Percussion for the Junior Department. As well as an interview with them, I played three pieces - on marimba - which wasn't the easiest as I didn't have a marimba at the time to practise on - snare drum and then one of my Grade 8 pieces on drum kit. Then it was a case of waiting - I think it was about 3 weeks. When I got the email saying that they would like to offer me a place I was quite literally jumping for joy!

What do your weekends look like now?

So on Fridays I set off just before the end of school and my mum drives me to Tiverton Parkway to get the train to Paddington. Then I get on the underground to Victoria, a train to West Dulwich where my Uncle lives, stay there the night and then take the journey to the Royal College on the Saturday morning.

Once I'm there, I have pretty much a 9-5 day of percussion, drum kit and symphonia/orchestra (where I normally play the Bass Drum which is great fun!). I have 1:1 lessons on drum kit and percussion,

take part in a percussion ensemble and a jazz ensemble and have classroom lessons in musicianship (music theory) and composition, where we discuss a piece of music and try to compose similarly to how that piece was composed.

Once the day has finished I basically do the journey again, but the other way round, and on Sunday I relax and catch up on any school work. I try to get a lot of my work done during the school week - I have quite a few free periods which gives me the chance to do this.

How have you settled in at the RCM?

There are some incredibly talented students there, and a huge range of ages with some people being as young as 10 or 11 - it's mind boggling that they're there at that age! The range of ability and skill is also really wide. It's quite different coming from Shebbear where there are only a few percussionists throughout the whole school, to the RCM where I do a whole day of percussion. I remember on my second day there I was chatting to two first violinists, thinking they were in the Sixth Form like me, and they turned out to be in Year 10. Their level of skill was so high and I was quite shocked that they were younger than me! So, my first day was a little intimidating, but I've learnt people's names and I've made some friends who I have a bit of fun with, so it's going really well.

It's an amazing building as well - apart from all the stairs! The Percussion Suite is on the fourth floor and you're not allowed to use the lift so I have quite a bit of travelling - I'm getting my steps in though!

When did your love of Music start?

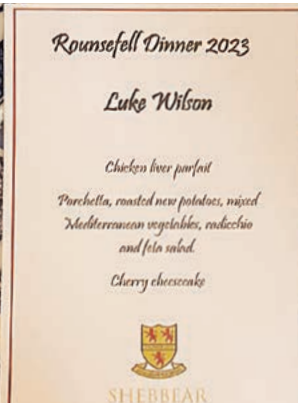
Music has always been something I've enjoyed - both listening to and playing. My playlist varies from drum and bass to classical, to film music, to country so I like to feel that I have an appreciation for all genres of music. My love for playing music started with the drums. My dad got his old drum kit out of the attic when I was about 4 or 5 and I started banging out some basic rhythms. I also play the Saxophone, and used to play the Clarinet as well. My interest in percussion (the marimba and timpani) started when I went to a summer school at Wells a few years ago - it was just day-in-day-out percussion and I loved it! I was then able to spend some of my scholarship money on a marimba and have developed this further at the Royal College.



Before their exams started, our Sixth Formers had the opportunity to dress up in black tie for the formal Rounsefell Dinner, this year held at Buckland House.

They enjoyed a three course meal followed by music from Torquay-based band The Waves Collective and lots of dancing! It was the perfect setting for such a prestigious event, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.





Kenya Expedition

– Shebbear College Sixth Form

During the summer holidays 2022, Mrs Aliberti and Sixth Formers Harrison, Bella, Jolyon, Kieran and Erin had the once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Kenya with Camps International, to take part in an amazing four week expedition, living and working alongside local people and getting involved in a range of sustainable projects, from community development to environmental conservation.

As part of 'Team Zabibu', they took part in project work at Kale primary school in Tsavo, making bricks for school buildings; dewormed a total of 113 goats as well as several cows in one morning (the farmers are very dependent on goats to pay for things like schools and medicine so it is important they stay healthy); went on Safari in East Tsavo National Park where they saw elephants, zebras, lions, a leopard, warthogs, hyenas and lots of different types of antelopes; took part in a beach clean and experienced the local culture. A wonderful opportunity and they certainly got a lot out of it.





A student dressed as Peter Pan is the central figure, standing on a stage. He wears a red coat with white trim, a black vest, and a large black curly wig with a red band. He is in a dynamic pose, with one leg forward and arms slightly out. In the background, another student is visible on the left, and a large dinosaur head prop is on the right. The stage is lit with blue and purple lights.

SIXTH FORM PANTO!

It wouldn't be Christmas without a good panto and our Sixth Formers took to the stage at the end of the Michaelmas Term to perform Peter Pan - and what a brilliant show it was! Congratulations to all involved and a special mention to Toby as a brilliant Peter Pan, Niamh who organised the whole thing as well as playing sassy fairy Tinkerbell, Jack as a villainous Captain Hook and, of course, Hamish as a hilarious and unforgettable Lady Starkey!





OLD SHEBBEARIANS' ASSOCIATION

President's Report 2022-23

This is the second President's report I've written, as I've had the rare privilege of serving two years as OSA President. It's been an honour to have been able to represent the OSA on many occasions during this time.

Last year there were two Celebration Events to mark the end of the academic year, one for Forms 5 and 6 in May, and another for Forms 1-4 in June. I was delighted to be able to attend both events, which, while only held a month apart, felt like they were occurring in entirely different seasons due to weather conditions!

The Form 5 and Sixth Form event was held in front of the cricket pavilion in the warm late May sunshine. A variety of superb musical performances including Mitzi on guitar, Niamh and Charlotte each on piano, and Toby on drums, interspersed the speeches and the presentation of prizes. The prize-giving ceremony was nostalgic for me – watching the same prizes given out during my many Speech Days as a pupil transported me back.

Returning in June for the Form 1 to 4 Celebration Evening, umbrellas were in order and the shelter of Lake Chapel was required. Again, many talented musicians were on the bill: Henry, Joseph, Evelyne, Scarlett, Bodie, Heidi, Bethany, Robyn and Sebastian impressing the audience. There was also an acknowledgement of the conclusion of Mike Saltmarsh's estimable service as Chair of Governors of the College. I'd like to thank Mike for his commitment to the College on behalf of the OSA, and wish Nick Buckland every success as he takes over.

The OSA Annual Reunion dinner in February was the first such event that Charlie Jenkins attended as Head of the College. It was a pleasure to welcome him to the event, which was a very pleasant evening with superb convivial atmosphere. We look forward to hearing Charlie's updates at future Reunion Dinners, and wish him all the best in his new role as Head.

I was also delighted to present Jamie Sanders with the OSA Vice President's badge. His long association with the College continues and I'm sure he will make a great President next year.

The Rounsefell dinner was held this year in April at Buckland House, a fantastic venue only minutes from the College which somehow I'd not visited before. It was nice to catch up with some familiar faces from the Celebration Events the previous summer. After I gave a brief introduction to the OSA, the evening was rounded off with some excellent live music. Again, it's nice to see the traditions continue while the College moves forward in so many other ways. I can still clearly remember attending the Rounsefell Dinner for my leaving class – for me, these are the things that make Shebbear special and help to drive the long-lasting sense of community.



I was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Ted Lott, former OSA President and Governor of the College. His connection with the school lasted many decades, and his contribution to the community was enormous. The OSA would like to extend condolences to his family and friends.

I look forward to visiting the school for the Celebration Day in July, which I note is now back in its (at least during my time) traditional location of the Sports Hall. It's always a pleasure to visit the school and meet some future Old Shebbearians, though I'm sure by now they've seen enough of me.

Thanks to the OSA Committee for all their work over the last year. We are always looking for volunteers. I hope to see many Old Shebbearians at the next dinner in 2024 where I will hand over the President's badge to Jamie Sanders.

Oliver Sinden

OSA President

115TH OSA REUNION DINNER

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2023



OLD SHEBBEARIANS'
ASSOCIATION



72 Old Shebbearians and guests attended the Annual Reunion Dinner, held once again at the RAF Club in London in February.

The President started proceedings, after the guests had been welcomed, by asking those present to remember those OS pupils and staff who had passed in the last year and who are listed below:

Elizabeth Hocking	Shebbear College Staff
Geoffrey Wrayford	Ian Rowbury
Richard Saunders	Keith Tewkesbury
John W Tatum	Tom Danby
David Pugsley	Governor
Tim Lillywhite	Geoff Giddy

After the meal, President Oliver Sinden welcomed the new Head, Charlie Jenkins and went on to say how much he had enjoyed the several opportunities he had had to visit the College in the past year – commenting on the different system of presenting prizes and how, unsurprisingly, the weather had played a part in deciding the venues for the occasions. He emphasised his belief that the long term benefits of his time spent at College were just as much, if not more, social than academic.

The head, Charlie Jenkins then responded, describing some of the difficult situations he faced as Deputy Head – from a flock of sheep loose on Tower Field to the loss of the roof on Pollard House during storm Eunice! However, the refurbishment of both Pollard and Ruddle is now close to completion and, together with a refurbished all weather pitch and an enhanced digital infrastructure ready for roll-out in September, the site remains safe and compliant for all Shebbearians and, more importantly, the College remains as strong as ever.

The heads of school, Roy Poon and Jack Hancock, responded most impressively recounting some of their experiences at the College – all of which they seemed to think were character building – and then listed just a few of the sporting and dramatic achievements which have been recorded in the past year before proposing a toast to the College and the OSA.

Pip Mahoney then spoke on behalf of the OSA adding his own amusing anecdotes of his time at the College and emphasising the importance of the extra-curricular as well as the academic life and how Shebbear should be considered highly successful in developing the whole self.

The Dinner ended with the singing of the School song and conversations between Old Shebbearians continued late into the night.

ATTENDEES

John Ruckes 1949-1954
 Mike Johns 1950-1956
 Philip Daniel 1958-1966
 Christopher Head 1958-1965
 Chris Blencowe 1961-1968
 Andrew Taggart 1962-1969
 James Hancock 1962-1967
 Michael Tucker 1959-1967
 Dick Corbett-Winder 1964-1968
 Henry Holroyd 1962-1969
 Ian Bowes 1967-1973
 Michael Down 1968-1973
 Simon Birks 1968-1975
 Nigel Buse 1969-1976
 Bob Barnes 1989-2023
 Adam Moore 1994-2002
 Tom Brewer 2000-2002
 Kieron Bryan 1995-2002
 Chris Hyman 1995-2002
 Dale Snowdon 1995-2002
 Benjamin Welby 1995-2002
 Dexter Barnes 1993-2003
 Oliver Wickett 1996-2003
 Tom Massie 1997-2004
 Jeremy Sinden 1997-2004
 Alex Betambeau 1997-2004
 Will Chappell 1997-2004
 Emily West 2005-2010
 Ruby McKee 2005-2010
 Ella Forder 2006-2010
 Fred Selwyn 1998-2012
 Robert Chamberlain 2005-2012
 Jess Chalmers 2007-2012
 Polly Jopling 2006-2012
 Harriet Thomas 2006-2012
 Sarah Penny 2008-2014
 Cameron Burnett 2000-2014

Philip Mahoney 2008-2016
 Lucy Taylor 2008-2017
 Emilio Aliberti 2008-2015
 Abby Selwyn 2000-2016
 Ella Hughes 2003-2016
 Ross Bennett 2009-2016
 Rosie Kivell 2007-2017
 Lois Barker 2010-2017
 William Cox 2010-2017
 Harry Dymond 2010-2017
 Ellie Bird 2010-2017
 Niamh Martin 2007-2017
 Eloise Maxa 2013-2017
 Dominik Halasi 2015-2017
 William Lam 2014-2017
 Zoltan Wagner 2015-2018
 Eleanor Bearpark 2002-2018
 Zara Hemmings 2012-2018
 Antonia Aliberti 2012-2019
 Katie Slee 2012-2020
 Charlotte Nethacott 2013-2020
 Olivia Rolls 2005-2020
 Cat Thomson 2016-2020
 Sam Odlin 2014-2021

Guests

Nick Law
 Jamie Sanders
 Judith Aliberti
 Charlie Jenkins
 Andy Bryan
 Amy Bernstone
 Roy Poon
 Jack Hancock
 Oliver Sinden 1995-2002
 Simon Ruckes
 Martin Ruckes



FROM THE ARCHIVE

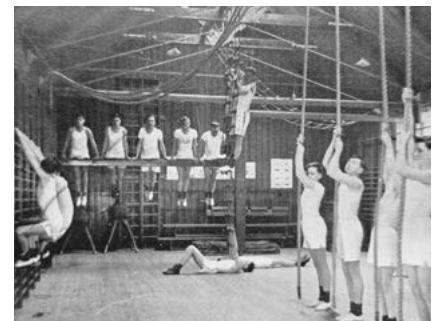
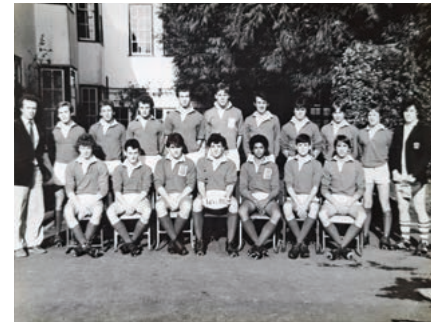
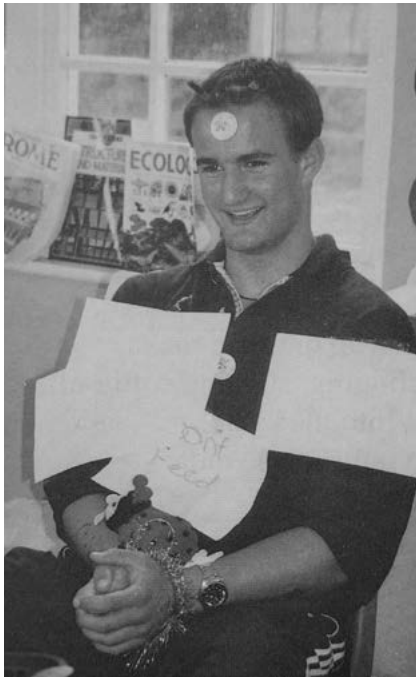
The College archive continues to grow and this year has focused on several requests from families of old Shebberians asking for material going back to World War II and beyond. In many cases, thanks to a new archive system, we have managed to find the information they were looking for, which has been hugely satisfying.

In the spring, we were asked to examine the archive regarding the role of a Methodist Minister called William Mason. The archive has a good sized collection of Bible Christian records of church councils for each church throughout Devon and Cornwall and William was found! He was highly regarded and recorded in council minutes and for his work in Barbados, where a Methodist church was founded in the 18th Century and William was asked to provide support and instruction for the women preachers.

Little did we know that his wife, Mary, was also very highly regarded as an impressive and zealous preacher and regularly preached to 1,500 souls in a town near Wellington in Somerset! Mary attended a Bible Christian meeting as a young woman and was converted to Christianity. She had a call to preaching, left her family home (much to her parents' horror!) and entered the ministry in 1825, working in Exeter, Somerset and North Devon. In 1827, she met and married William Mason and a large family followed. Mary is buried in Holsworthy graveyard, and all of this information was discovered in the College archive and passed on to her family this year. It was so satisfying to discover Mary, and her family were understandably delighted! All the work and research paid off and I hope to locate Mary's grave this summer.

Finally, a gift has come our way in the form of a Bible dating back to 1604. It has been part of a family for nearly 500 years, and they felt the time was right to give it back to the circuit where the minister had worked; he is buried in the graveyard at Lake Chapel. Reverend Luke was the original owner, and then it was passed to a Mr. William John Bailey from the Isle Of Wight. The front cover is battered and discoloured, but it is upon opening the book where the treasure lies and fills one with awe and wonder! It was printed in London by Robert Barker - printer to the King's most excellent majesty - ANNO -1605. The College was delighted to receive this gift and will be stored carefully, as it is so precious.





OBITUARIES

Remembering Ted Lott

We were honoured to host “Ted’s Tea” following the funeral of Ted Lott at Lake Chapel on Friday 2nd June 2023. Over 300 people came to say their goodbyes to Ted, a former pupil, governor and OSA President; a true Shebbearian.

Ted was born at 3 Gables, Woosery on 7th July 1931. The only son of Arthur and Alice Lott.

Simon Weale, former Head at Shebbear College, remembers him:

“It is hard to think of anyone who embodied the spirit of both Shebbear and Shebbear College more than Ted Lott.

Ted and his wife Sheila were always splendid company – extremely well informed about the world, genuinely concerned about everyone’s wellbeing and most of all jolly good fun. Sheila was still amused that to some extent despite all those years in the shire, she was still considered an ‘incomer’ and she was always available for advice on life in North Devon – usually over a magnificent tea.

Ted was the guardian of Lake Chapel. His car was parked outside most mornings (most people felt safer when it was parked rather than in motion) and he spent many evenings there as the Newton Petrock choir got together for practice. On the warmest and coldest of evenings, it was a joy to hear the sounds of their rehearsals drifting across the school grounds.

Ted had been a boy at the College during the Second World War and told a vivid story of the boys gathered together listening to Winston Churchill on the radio. He also remembered seeing the glow of the fires in Plymouth above Dartmoor after it fell victim to German bombing raids. Ted later devoted many years of his life as a Governor of the College from 1967 to 1993 – the latter years involving some turbulent moments which must have challenged this very gentle man.

Ted loved Shebbear College and was always willing to help it in any way he could. A high point came in 2017, when the College hosted the Methodist Independent Schools Trust for its annual conference, Ted welcomed the delegates to his Chapel and they immediately fell in love with him for his humour and his accent. The follow up speaker was Michael Morpurgo – two great story tellers on the same bill.

For the dog walkers and wildlife lovers of Shebbear, Ted and Sheila created ‘Sheila’s Folly’ on the road to Stibbs Cross. This was a typically enlightened, far sighted and altruistic act which will benefit generations to come. Ted was a delightful and very kind man. A man with a simple, but strong faith and noble intentions. God bless his soul.”

Simon Weale

We remember those Shebbearians, staff and pupils, who have passed away in the last year:

Elizabeth Hocking

David Pugsley

Geoffrey Wrayford

Richard Saunders

John W Tatum

Ian Rowbury

Keith Tewkesbury

Tom Danby

Geoff Giddy

Ted Lott

Bill Lyddon 19/07/24 30/01/23

OSA V COLLEGE 1ST XI MONDAY 1ST MAY

The OSA cricketers came up against a very young but enthusiastic College side at the Spring Fair and though it resulted in another win for the OSA, they were given a really tough match.

Batting first, the OSA lost early wickets to the pace of Alfie who finished with figures of 4-24 in his five overs. Then Charlie Nielson (44) steadied the ship and, with support from skipper Olly Wickett, saw the OSA finish on a respectable 132 all out from their 25 overs.

Teriq Worrell who had been the overseas cricketer at Shebbear six years ago then opened the bowling and soon had the College team in trouble, taking two early wickets with his off spin.

Again, the College side turned to Alfie to lead the fight back and his score of 67 saw them finish just 29 runs short of their target, with Jamie Nielson mopping up the tail with impressive figures of 4-18.

It was no surprise when Alfie was awarded the man of the match trophy for his all round performance and he and the other U15s in the side will no doubt be back next year to try and turn the result around.

Andy Bryan

OSA Secretary



Cricket Captains' Bats

Those Old Shebbearians who have visited the College in the last few years may have noticed the oversized bat in the pavilion/6th Form Centre which has a list of those who have captained the 1st XI since 1990. The bat had been in Beckly pavilion for some years before I started teaching at Shebbear in 1989 and was often referred to as Brian Pocock's bat, as he was one of the few people at the College who was tall enough to have used it!

When I finally left in 2019, the bat had been filled and I thought it would be good to keep the list going – the only way, it seemed, was to find a bat of similar size. Having looked at a number of options, there didn't seem to be any alternative but to have one made.

Fortunately, earlier this year, I caught up with Jamie Nielson, who is now a joiner with a very successful business in North Devon and he agreed to make a copy of the original. I am pleased to report that he did a brilliant job and the bat will be in place alongside the original when the students return in September.

Andy Bryan

OSA Secretary



OLD SHEBBEARIAN KIERON BRYAN

Old Shebbearian and Channel 4 journalist and filmmaker, Kieron Bryan, spoke to us about his memories of school and what he's been up to since - including the time he spent in a Russian prison while reporting on a Greenpeace protest.

How was your time at Shebbear College?

I was at Shebbear from 1995 to 2002. I really enjoyed my time at the College - having teachers for parents meant we lived on site, so in some ways, I was never out of school. But, it meant in the holidays that my friends and I had access to all the good things Sheb had to offer - huge open fields to play sports or ride bikes, the sportshall (and trampolines!) if it was raining, playing games in the computer room, and sneaking into parts of the school we weren't supposed to be in.

The actual school side of things wasn't too bad either - I had good teachers (even my dad) and a great year group, people I'm still close with now. The best men at my wedding were Shebbearians and I'm going to another Shebbearian's wedding this summer - it's a rare week that I'm not in touch with someone I went to school with.

When you're stuck in the middle of the countryside, with very little to do as a teenager, it's the community that will get you through and Shebbear College created one which has stayed with me since I left school.

What is your best memory?

Other than persistently winding up my dad in English lessons - a genuine highlight of my time at the College - my best memories were either on the sports field or in the Memorial Hall, performing on stage.

When it came to sports we didn't always win - though shout out to the unbeaten first XI football team of 2002 - but we always tried to give our opponent a game. We enjoyed being the scrappy underdog... most of the time.

Sometimes, our performances were just funny, rather than fun. We once played cricket against Blundells on Way (now covered by the all weather pitches). It was a tiny cricket pitch, notorious for high scores because it was so easy to hit the boundary. Well, in theory...

Our team was a little lacking in talent, while their team was crammed with country cricketers. Having won the toss their captain decided to put us into bat - despite suggestions by our coach Ian Senior not to. It went as expected. We were bowled out for a total of 8 (that's eight) runs. Mr Senior was so embarrassed he forced us to play another match immediately afterwards. Some would find that humiliating, I still find it very funny.

What did you go on to do after Sixth Form?

After leaving Sheb I spent a couple of years trying to figure out what it was I wanted to do - I worked a few jobs locally and then in London, and quickly realised I wasn't ready for a nine to five.



Eventually I found my way to Sheffield University and studied English as a degree. It was at university I discovered journalism and, finally, a career path. I stayed an extra year in Sheffield to study a masters in broadcast journalism.

What are you doing now?

Since leaving university I've been working as a journalist and filmmaker for companies like the BBC, the Guardian, the Telegraph and The Times. Now I work for Channel 4 News and lead a team making films for our YouTube channel, our TV programme and social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat.

It's a job that's taken me around the world, introduced me to some truly inspiring people and to witness some incredible things. Like all jobs, it can be stressful and tiring but I rarely come home and feel like I'm wasting my time. The thing I love about my job is that it gives me a chance to do something I always wanted to do - and that's to tell stories.

In 2013 you were held in a Russian prison whilst reporting on Greenpeace activists - tell us about your experience.

I was working on a Greenpeace ship called the Arctic Sunrise - there were 28 Greenpeace activists on board, along with two journalists - me and Denis Sinyakov, a photographer from Russia.

Greenpeace had organised a protest in a place called the Pechora Sea - out in the Arctic ocean. A rig owned by a Russian company was drilling for oil and gas and Greenpeace was campaigning for a ban on drilling in such a remote and hostile part of the world - they said if the oil rig created a spill in the Arctic, it would be almost impossible to clean up and would seriously damage the environment.

The protest involved taking small speed boats from the Arctic Sunrise to the oil rig, where climbers would attach themselves to the

platform on ropes, forcing the oil rig to shut down production. My job, along with Denis, was to film and photograph the protest as it happened from boats on the water.

That was the plan, but before all the climbers could get onto the rig the Russian coast guard sent boats of its own, carrying sailors with guns. They pointed their pistols at the Greenpeace activists, fired warning shots into the sea and tried to steal the cameras Denis and I were using to record the events.

That meant the protest was cancelled and most of us returned to the Arctic Sunrise. Later that same day a helicopter flew over the Greenpeace ship and dropped Russian Special Forces onto the deck. Within minutes they had taken control and all of us on the ship were arrested.

From there we were towed back to Russia and eventually charged for being pirates, of all things. I was kept in a Russian prison for two months, isolated from the others, and had to share a cell with young Russians facing many years in prison for petty crimes.

For a while it looked like all thirty of us would spend many years in Russian prison. Thankfully protests against our detention were held globally, world leaders put pressure on Russia for our release, and after months of uncertainty and living in a freezing cold cell, eating some of the worst food I've ever tasted, we were released and sent home.

It was a truly bizarre and, at times, scary experience. But it wasn't all bad - it gave me perspective on what's really important to me. I wouldn't have the friendships or my wonderful family I have now without those difficult few months.

It also reminded me why I chose to be a journalist and the importance of holding the powerful and corrupt to account - what's happening in Russia today is partly because the world chose to ignore or deny that corruption.

As I type, a young American journalist named Evan Gershkovich is being held in a Russian prison as a spy - given the evidence, Russia might as well have called him a pirate too. I know what he and his family are going through, I just hope their efforts for his release, and pressure from around the world, will work this time.

What do you do to relax in your spare time?

I like to play football - even though my knees would prefer me not to - and I play too many video games, just like I did when I was sneaking into the computer room at school, all those years ago.

Any future plans?

My plans are to spend as much of my spare time with my two girls and wonderful wife as I can and to stay out of trouble with work.



OUR STAFF

2022 - 23

Governors

Nick Buckland	Chairman/Education
Paul Sanders	Vice Chairman
Alan Bowes	Finance
Lester Bird	H&S
Hugh Munro	
Rev Simon Leigh	
Andrew Orchard	
Tony Dolton	
Liz Priest	
Melissa Richards	

Head

Charlie Jenkins	Head
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SLT

Kullervo Maukonen	Director of Finance and Operations (from May 2023)
Matt Shaw	Bursar (until May 2023)
Fran Lovett	Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral), DSL, English
Emma Southern	Deputy Head Academic, English
Matthew Foale	Head of Prep School
Joanna Conway	Head of Marketing and Admissions

Chaplain

Rev Donna Leigh

House Staff

Stuart Clewley	Head of Boarding
Shauna Vetch	Pollard Housemaster
Felicity Shamsolahi	Ruddle Housemistress
Nick Law	Thorne Housemaster
Claire Cardoo	Way Housemistress
Charlotte Woods	Senior Matron
Angela Hawkins	Day Matron
Joy Van Weyenbergh	Day Matron
Lucy Taylor	Resident Boarding Tutor Pollard & Activities Coordinator

Graduate Assistants

Will Balkwill-Western	Graduate Assistant
Tom Fay	Graduate Assistant
Timo Parker	Graduate Assistant
Gaby Reeves	Graduate Assistant

Prep School Staff

Matthew Foale	Head of Prep / Prep 6 Teacher
Sam Willetts	Prep 5 Teacher
Di Jones	Prep 3 & 4 Teacher
Laura Emmerson	Prep 3 & 4 Teacher
Katie Tibble	Prep 1 & 2 Teacher
Cherry Roadnight	Reception Teacher
Kelly Henderson	EYFS Practitioner
Tommy Brock	Prep School Teaching Assistant
Alex Manners	Prep School Teaching Assistant
Karen Clarke	Prep School Academic Support Coordinator
Dixie Appleton-Wahl	Prep School Art Teacher

Senior School Teaching Staff

Rebecca Sadler-Smith	Head of Creative, Digital & Performing Arts (Music)
Harjit Kaur	Art
Kevin Parker	Music (Maternity cover until November 2022)
Julian Pomroy	Drama
Sam Samson	Head of ALN and SENCO (from January 2023)
Jamie Sanders	Head of ALN and SENCO (until January 2023)
Sara Chappell	Academic Support
George Drake	Head of Science (Chemistry)
Stuart Clewley	Science (Physics)

Chris Deakes	Science (Biology, Chemistry)
Marie Webber	Science (Biology)
David Yilma	Computing (from January 2023)
Craig Banyard	Computing and Digital Learning (until January 2023)
Claire Cardoo	Head of Maths
Andrew Quance	Maths, Woodwork
Lisa Parker	Maths, Head of Assessment, Music
Judith Aliberti	Head of English and Languages, Head of Horizons
Felicity Shamsolahi	English
Laura Davey	English, PHSE
Christine Fanet	MFL, Librarian
Liz Garnett	MFL
Ed Grey	Head of Humanities
Luke Wilson	History, RS
Ed Fox	History, RS
Bob Barnes	Business Studies, Psychology
Lucy Taylor	Geography
Robin Giles	Head of Sport and Outdoor Education, Head of Digital Learning
Kate Burges	Head of Sixth Form, PE
Nick Law	PE, History
Shauna Vetch	PE, Geography

Non-Teaching Staff

Emily Fenwick	Registrar
Lou Wivell	Head of International Admissions
Shouna Sibcy	Examinations Officer
Laura Clewley	Compliance Manager
Gemma May	Finance Manager
Gemma Dufty	Finance Assistant
Alison Reed	Finance Assistant
Nuala Derwin	Finance Assistant
Andrea Stairs	PA to Head & Operations Manager
Amy Bernstone	Receptionist
Dr Kylan Stray	School Doctor
Louise Newton	Science & STEM Faculty Technician

Housekeeping Staff

Rebecca Constable	Housekeeping
Jeanette Curno	Housekeeping
Cecilia Hall	Housekeeping
Lisa James	Housekeeping
Carianne Eastlake	Housekeeping
Karen Lewis	Housekeeping

Trish Parkinson	Housekeeping
Christine Phillips	Housekeeping
Ruth Burton	Housekeeping (until November 2022)

Catering Staff

Adam Gould	Catering Manager
Mandy Ager	Catering
Jane Elliott	Catering
Paula Evans	Catering
Cara Evans	Catering
Pauline Hancock	Catering
Karen Hutchings	Catering
Pippa Mobsby	Catering
Ellen Perrin	Catering
Celia Priest	Catering
Claire Summers	Catering

Maintenance and Grounds Staff

Mark Skinner	Estates Manager/Head of Maintenance
Mike Douglas	Groundsman
Steve Booker	Maintenance (until December 2022)
Matt Hopkins	Maintenance
Matt Hayden	Maintenance
Paul Ruiz	Maintenance
Tom Crowshaw	Maintenance

Minibus Drivers

Tony Smith	Minibus Driver
Ruth White	Minibus Driver
Richard White	Minibus Driver
Jeanette Whiting	Minibus Driver

Peripatetic Staff

Adrian Edwards	Brass
Emma Jose	Flute
Alexander Duncan	Guitar
Val Skull	Guitar
Vanessa McCarty	LAMDA (until December 2022)
Tracy Ray	Speech and Drama
Owen Marriott	Percussion
Ruth Cornish	Piano
Stephen Smith	Saxophone
Rebecka Slater-Lyons	Singing
Carina Smith	Strings



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Registered Charity No. 1142794
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