



From the Headmaster

Earlier this term, I led an assembly during which I introduced the Chimp Paradox, the mind management model by Professor Steve Peters. It espouses the theory that the brain is made up of three distinct components: the human (you), the computer and the chimp - who is instinctive, reactive, emotional and acts independently; in neuro-science speak - the limbic system. The chimp is very protective and will look for dangers and will be threatened by uncertainty. Natural and normal aspects of character, therefore, can often go into overdrive. There are various ways of 'taming the chimp', but principally, it is very helpful, not only to have a simple way of understanding how our minds work and that it is normal for our feelings to sometimes take over, but also to know that we do not need to be hostage to such feelings. At DH we take mental health very seriously and it is vital that we not only accept that children will face challenges but that they are equipped with the tools to overcome those challenges.

Through the use of assemblies, PSHE lessons, and through the curriculum, the children explore a range of skills that will help them successfully navigate the obstacles they will encounter. Whether it is academic pressure, the influences of technology or the vagaries of friendships, we support each child's ability to be resilient. In order to achieve this, we use a combination of different things: a high challenge, low threat culture; one that encourages children to try new ways of doing things, take a gamble, step out of their comfort zone. There are multiple opportunities to be tested, whether it be in a match, informal concert, presentation or audition.

Children need to develop positive strategies in dealing with stress; they also need to realise that they will face challenges throughout life. Pupils at DH are encouraged to become more resilient by changing their approach to perceived problems. They need to be able to communicate their feelings so that they can explore them and reason problems out in an empathetic supportive environment. We encourage children to talk to their parents, teachers or other members of staff and friends. If they need a little extra help, our Independent Listener, Marie-Claire Arrowsmith, is available by appointment.

The importance of supportive friendships, optimism and celebrating the success of others is emphasised on a regular basis. A recent example of this in action was when two Year 2 girls made a card for a classmate who had been awarded a silver star for gaining lots of House points. They celebrated with her - sharing the joy of her success.

As an ardent fan of Sir Ernest Shackleton, it was a privilege to welcome Henry Adams to talk to the children about his recreation of the 'Nimrod Expedition' to Antarctica. During the lecture, he spoke of the many setbacks he and his team had to overcome in order to realise their goal. Next term, the Year 7s will be studying the Endurance expedition from both a leadership and resilience perspective.

Such stories, though far removed in both time and location, provide valuable lessons in stoicism and fortitude; things that are sometimes lost in today's culture of immediate gratification.

I often use the expression 'bouncebackability' to describe the ability to deal with disappointment and over-come setbacks. As parents, our first instinct is to protect our children from all adversity but this doesn't allow children to develop strategies to cope with life's 'bumps in the road'.

I believe that the grounding we give to the children in our care allows them to thrive at senior school. As one senior school houseparent put it: *'children from Dorset House are invariably courteous, positive and completely committed to and involved with the life of the school; they are 'doers and givers' - a houseparent's dream! They go on to be very successful in their own right ... I suspect being nurtured in a friendly school like DH has much to do with this.'*

I hope you all have a good Easter break .

Matt Thomas



Focus On...Reading

Reading: Why, How and What

As part of Open Day this term, Head of English, Laura Hutchings gave a presentation about the benefits of reading and some of the issues that face parents. What follows is a shortened version of that presentation.

Why?

Look online and you will find numerous articles extolling the benefits of reading. Although the order may vary, you will almost certainly find some of the following reasons given:

- Reading exercises our brains
- Reading improves concentration
- Reading improves vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills
- Reading helps develop empathy
- People who read generally do better in life
- Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind

During their time at Dorset House children have to move from learning to read to being able to understand extracts taken from modern adult books such as *Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson (Common Entrance English 2018). They can only do this if they read on a regular basis and exercise their 'reading muscles'.

How?

Children are programmed to love stories, so start early. Bedtime stories and picture books play a vital role in making your children real readers. As they grow up you can use Kindles and audio books but there is nothing quite as good as a hard copy of a book. Research has shown that humans use different parts of the brain when reading from a piece of paper or from a screen. Children will remember more of what they read if they read from a book.

Set an example. If you want your child to read, then read yourself – but don't read on an iPad or tablet – you could be doing anything work-related.

By all means use a reward system to start with (stickers that build towards a cumulative target work well) but the aim should be for the books/stories ultimately to become a reward in themselves. Make the reward about finding time to read or talking about the book being read. Rewards should NOT be about ticking books off.

Keep a Reading Record book – make it a nice notebook and just record title, author and date finished. Don't ask for reviews – nothing kills the experience of a good book more than having to write a review or summary of the plot! There is no harm in series books. Parents get twitchy because they seem to go on forever but they give reading

confidence and are a security blanket for many children when starting out on a reading journey. Their value is in the fact that they are building future readers.

When?

Not only before bed - find a time when your child can devote 20 minutes or more to their book and give it their full attention. Is there time in the morning? Can they read in the car – without getting sick?! Is there an opportunity for you all to read as a family? Establish a routine to support your child to begin with. Once they get the reading bug then their book will go with them everywhere!

What?

There are more children's books available now than ever before. Here are just a few suggestions about where to find reading recommendations:

Amazon – 'People who bought this also bought...'
The Ultimate Book Guide (pub. Bloomsbury) – sadly not up-to-date anymore but contains a good core of suggestions. Available as ages 0 - 7, 8 - 12 and Teen)

Libraries – summer reading schemes

Book prize shortlists

Author websites

YouTube – Booktubers

Peer recommendations

But best of all by far – go and browse the children's section of a real bookshop with your child.

And finally...

You need to know what your boundaries are because modern Teen/YA books don't pull any punches with their language or content. By all means, stop them reading if a book is wildly unsuitable but remember that a book can contain an upsetting scene or idea but still be worth reading.

If a book is too difficult but they are enjoying it and getting at least some of the story then that's fine – they'll come back to it and reread it and get more out of it later. If, however, you have a child who needs to understand every sentence and word, a book that is too difficult will only create anxiety.

Rereading is also fine – there are plenty of books where you can get different things from a second or third reading.

Above all remember that:

Reading is a deeply personal matter – you should be very wary of trying to police the inside of someone else's head.

Laura Hutchings

Whole School



World Book Day

One of the great things about World Book Day is that you never quite know who, or what, is going to turn up. Efforts this year ranged from jeans and a T-shirt ('I'm Jack Reacher!') to a butterfly with beautiful wings and Mary Poppins complete with carpet bag and contents.

The popular old staples meant that we were able to take group photographs of Harry Potters (with a few Newt Scamanders thrown in for good measure), Where's Wallies, Disney characters (well some of them had started life in books!), Superheroes and spies. James Bond and his Bond girl (Amber) greeted people on the gate, The Twits welcomed pupils into the Pre-Prep, whilst Undercover Princesses stalked the corridors of Wildbrooks trying to avoid the dastardly Archer twins (*A Place Called Perfect*) and registers were taken by Town and Country mice and Bert the chimney sweep.

Some classes chose to theme their costumes and we had *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Year 3), *Winnie the Pooh* (Year 8 girls) and *Alice in Wonderland* (Year 7 girls). Hair, make-up and costumes for some outfits were truly outstanding and I would like to thank everyone for taking part with such enthusiasm. I know that planning for next year has already begun!

Laura Hutchings



Whole School



Whole School

House Competitions

Later in this edition, there is a report on the Inter-House Music Competition - one of the many occasions when children from Reception to Year 8 come together in their Houses to compete against one another with friendly, if rather noisy rivalry. Also this term, we enjoyed Inter-House Cross Country races for children in Year 3 - 8 and what, to many of us, is a highlight of the school calendar - the annual Inter-House Pancake Race.

On a sunny Shrove Tuesday, the whole school gathered on the Astro during morning break. The kitchen had provided freshly cooked pancakes and the pans were all at the ready. Enter Mylo...a very hungry black lab...

Fortunately, there were some extra pancakes and so we were able to continue but one member of the school community took Mylo's disgrace to heart!

The race was thrilling, of course, with some expert flipping from pupils and staff. In the end, Miss Oland of Wilkinson, chased down a rather surprised Mr Marconi from Munro in the final few metres to claim victory for the Reds!

Greg Weaver



E-Safety

We welcomed Karl Hopwood back to Dorset House for a session with our Year 8 pupils and also for two sessions - for Pre-Prep and Prep parents. Karl's calm and well informed approach is always appreciated and here are some notes from his parent sessions:

Aims

- To consider what children and young people are really doing online as opposed to what they might say that they are doing.
- To explore some of the risks and benefits of using the internet and online communications.
- To provide some possible solutions.

This is about education, **not simply blocking and banning** children from the internet. Blocking worked a few years ago, but now many young people have mobile devices which allow them to access the internet wherever and whenever they want to and so they need to know how to protect themselves when things go wrong.

Of course there is a place for some blocking – as parents we are confident and comfortable in doing this for the offline aspects of our children's lives; we should also feel confident to do this with the online aspects too. It is clearly inappropriate for children to access adult content and we can take steps to block this as parents. More information can be found at www.internetmatters.org

As discussed during the presentation – we can block content very effectively and exercise some control over what our children may be accessing at home and even on their own devices but when they spend time at a friend's house we have no idea of the levels of filtering that are in place. For that reason we need to ensure that when our children come across challenging content online they feel able to come and ask for help and support as necessary. Keeping the channels of communication open is crucial.

Peer pressure can be very strong when it comes to age appropriate content and we will continue to play our part in making it clear that age restrictions are there for a reason. We also reinforce the E-Safety message on a regular basis.

'Recite'

We were delighted to welcome back two familiar faces to judge this year's *Recite*. Drama provider, Mariamne Scott Kerr, got her first taste of the competition last year, whereas Julian Baldwin's previous guest appearance was in 2013. Together, they proved a formidable team. None of the entrants made it easy for them and some fierce negotiating was observed by the audience before the winners were finally announced!

As always, Year 2 started the afternoon with their own presentation. This year, we were treated to a medley of poems about the seasons and everything suggests that we are going to have some super individual entrants when they join the competition next year.

The individual section of *Recite* contained its usual mixture of old favourites and new poems - although the new and original were definitely more noticeable this year. It was also good to see that the younger children had not shied away from traditional poets. Years 5 and 6, for example, offered Emily Bronte, Philip Larkin and John Betjeman amongst others. Winners for this section of the competition were: **Harry Richardson** (Year 4) with *When Daddy Fell into the Pond* by Alfred Noyes; **Lucy Featherstone** (Year 6) with *Nature's Paintbox* by Matt Simpson and **Sebastian Darmon** (Year 8) with *Out in the Dark* by Edward Thomas.

The class poems are always a favourite, allowing, as they do, more scope for dressing up and acting. We had a crocodile (beautifully played by **Dylan Baldwin**) visiting a very frightened dentist (**Devon Sandell**); the tragic story of a boy killed in a farming accident (*Out, Out* by Robert Frost) and a haunting piece where fairies tried to steal away a human child (*The Stolen Child* by W. B. Yeats). Eventual winners were Year 4 for their choral recitation of *The Sea* by James Reeves, Year 5 for their clever presentation of *Cargoes* by John Masefield and Year 8 with *Impossible* by spoken word performer, George the Poet.

Many independent schools run competitions like *Recite* and more recently a national competition for older children has been introduced. Dorset House, however, remains different from many, in that all pupils from Year 3 upwards are asked to learn a poem by heart for *Recite*. Hopefully, these poems will remain with them for life.

Laura Hutchings



Prep



MPQs

Children in Years 5 to 8 listened keenly as local MP, The Rt. Hon Nick Herbert, described life at the House of Commons and in his constituency. When asked for questions, there was a sea of raised hands and a wide range of questions. We were really impressed by the thought behind them. Here are some of the highlights:

Have you ever seen John Bercow bullying anyone?

I couldn't possibly say!

Do you know Gladys the tea lady?

The steward in the members' tea room? Yes – I have seen her.

What do you think about Brexit?

I am strongly against it and I campaigned against it. We don't often have a referendum in this country – it was very unusual and even though I think it's wrong, we must implement what the people voted for by a majority - we can't turn around and say we don't like their answer.

Above are Year 8 pupils together with Matt Thomas, Chair of Governors, Willy Hockin and Nick Herbert

What is the hardest part of your job?

Saying no! You can't please everyone.

What is your favourite part of job?

I love being in the constituency and meeting people. Most MPs feel the opposite. There are some perks and great moments - meeting the Queen for example.

Do you approve of the behaviour at PMQs?

No - it is noisier than it appears on television and it goes 'over the top'.

What do you think of the Arundel by-pass?

I am very strongly in favour of it and it will now be done. A lot of traffic is held up in Arundel and people drive through middle of town to avoid it. The current network means that much more traffic passes through the South Downs and local villages. It needs to be built in a sympathetic way.

Prep

What is your view on the balance between male and female members of the House?

It is much better than it used to be but not good enough. We ought to have a balance but this will not happen until parliament is reformed. We do however have our second female prime minister.

What do you think of the housing crisis?

Lots of houses are being built without infrastructure but we have a shortage and prices are too high for most young people. Rents are very high too. It's never an easy issue. I understand why people don't want housing but there are lots of younger people who do want somewhere affordable to live. Any building needs to be sympathetic and with the infrastructure to support it. We need to find a middle way.

Do you speak with Theresa May?

Yes - ministers are MPs as well and during votes on Brexit, for example, they walk through the lobby with MPs. This is a time when MPs can raise points with them and it is a great strength of our system. This would not be the case in the USA.

Is there a need to modernise the House of Commons?

Physically it needs to be rebuilt – there are fire risks and asbestos - rodents and spores. This will be very costly. 7000 members of staff will be moved out to another building whilst things are being repaired. I would love to move parliament around the country but this would be difficult logistically.

Practices need updating too. For example, if an MP is having a baby, they can vote by proxy now. We need to preserve what's good but update too.

Have you met members of other parties?

I work mostly with my own party but do sit on committees with members from other parties. Debate appears to be very angry but behind the scenes, people get on much better. It is important to be able to disagree with someone without being angry.

Have you been interviewed by the BBC?

Yes – for local and national news.

What do you think of Donald Trump?

I strongly disagree with pretty much everything he says!



French Poetry Competition

Mme Green would like to say a big 'well done' to a group of Year 7 & 8 pupils who travelled to Lancing College for their annual French Poetry competition.

Everyone did really well learning the poems and perfecting their presentations, especially considering that they had just had a busy week of exams. She really appreciated their hard work and says that they were a pleasure to take on the trip. A special well done to **Ben (Year 7)**, for gaining second prize.

Later in the term, children in Years 2 - 8 enjoyed a visit from Onatti Productions, a French theatre company, for 'Ticket pour l'espace'.

Above are Phoebe, Ella, Sebastian, Harry, Edwyn, Ben, Jacob and Charlie at Lancing

Prep



Shackleton Talk

We welcomed Henry Adams to DH to speak about the Shackleton Centenary Expedition. Henry is the great-grandson of Jameson Boyd Adams: second-in-command to the Antarctic pioneer Ernest Shackleton on his 1908-09 Nimrod expedition to the South Pole.

Henry, a lawyer, together with Henry Worsley and Will Gow – also descendants of members of the original team – reached the 97 mile point where Shackleton and his team had been forced to turn back in the face of the most atrocious conditions imaginable.

They did this with barely an hour to spare on the exact day of the centenary.

Charlie Thomas (Year 7) reflects: “The team had to be really good at endurance. They had to pull a sledge with all their stuff on and they followed in the footsteps of the original team and trained for a couple of years and went to different snowy places. They were ordinary men rather than explorers. The most difficult thing was the mental challenge of getting fit and staying focussed.” As ever with speakers at Dorset House, ‘a forest of hands went up’ when children were asked if there were any questions!



Pupil Voice

During our ISI inspection last term, we produced a great deal of evidence to demonstrate instances where pupils made decisions. This included examples from Reception to Year 8 and on the second day, the Lead Inspector told us not to produce any more—he had seen enough!!

This term, a group of pupils organised a petition regarding the use of cartons of juice at school and once all the signatures had been gathered, they made an appointment to meet with Matt Thomas who listened carefully to their arguments and agreed that the plastic straws used were a particular nuisance - both environmentally and in terms of litter around the site.

As a result of the meeting, it has been agreed that we will use jugs rather than cartons in future.



Underwater Exploration

Year 4 have enjoyed a term of underwater exploration as they study.

Eliza Fearon wrote and illustrated a wonderful piece based on *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright:

*My box is fashioned from spiky starfish and a magic wand
and bronze shells with birdfish cales on the lid and sparkling
water in the corners. Its hinges are the tentacles of a giant
squid. I shall sit in my box and bounce on the belly of a big
blue whale then dive into the depths of the midnight zone -
face to face with a cookie cutter shark.*

I will put in my box :

*The black oily ink from a giant octopus,
The sharp beak of a parrotfish snapping at velvety plants,
The soft slimy scales of a slithering sea snake,
Fountains squirting out from mighty blue whales,
A snip and snap of a crab's claws tapping together,
Glimpses of tails from the pumpkin orange clownfish,
Fluffy blankets of algae from a soft silky kelp jungle,
Dancing tentacles of a glassy box jellyfish,
A sprinkle of pearly coral dust in the crystal blue shallows,
The smashing of waves against the hard rocks.*



Geography Field Trip

Year 8 pupils enjoy a Geography field trip ahead of their Common Entrance (CE) exams in June. The Geography coursework they complete following this is compulsory at CE and counts towards 20% of their final mark. The children go on the field trip in order to collect data and they begin the write up in the evenings over their weekend away. They also investigate coastal processes and the human responses to them. This supports their learning in class regarding the 'Rivers and Coasts' topic at CE.

The field trip began at Lulworth Cove. The effects of the waves on the beach were investigated and data on the beach profile, beach width and pebble size was collected. This was followed by a walk to Durdle Door to see the famous arch. The next day the children walked through the dunes at Studland Bay and noted the vegetation succession as they walked inland. At Ballard Point they saw how the weaker sands and clays formed the bays and the more resistant limestone the headlands. At Old Harry, the famous stack, they saw how landforms can progress from cave to arch to stack and stump.

That evening there was a table football tournament which **Mr Baldwin** and **Archie Cox** won.

In Swanage the next day, they investigated coastal management methods, linking it to the land use and the value of the land. In Swanage the children enjoyed a brief visit to an amusement arcade and some shops before travelling about 10 miles west to Osmington beach for fossil hunting. They had a wonderful time collecting lots of fossils before making their way back to the field centre. The final day included a visit to Durlston Castle in Swanage where a lottery grant has funded an excellent geological timeline over 100 metres. It forms a walkway to the entrance representing major events in the history of the Earth from its formation through to present day. There was also a good exhibition on local fossils.

Pre-Prep



Are we simply Playing?

Well, the answer to that is simple.

Yes, we are!

Forest School is deeply rooted to play and the understanding that children develop skills and knowledge when given time and space to undertake activities suited to them. The pure nature of a child-initiated, adult-facilitated activity, engages the individual and develops self-esteem, confidence, resilience and curiosity, through experiential, hands-on learning. All these attributes, promote a holistic approach to the learning and development of an individual and encompass the emotional, intellectual, physical, relational and spiritual aspects of a child's life.

A recent trip to Pill Pond saw the Reception, Year 1 and 2 children safely engaging with play in a stream, working out how to dam the water to stop the flow; tasting fresh ramsons (wild garlic); sliding down a muddy slope into the stream; looking for frog spawn and trying to identify flora and fauna. We have also been working with knots and learning how to make paracord people and keyrings, as well as survival bracelets and making rope using a Viking knitter.

On the Dorset House site or at Fleet Cottage, the children always enjoy the mud kitchen, lighting scallop-shell fires, hammocks, building dens, craft activities, tool work, creating something out of clay, and of course a hot chocolate and a snack made over the fire ...

Kate Bryant

Kate is one of our Forest School Leaders and she takes all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for a session every week. Year 3 also enjoy Forest School Sessions with Stuart Slade.

Pre-Prep

Travel Experts

Reception have been learning all about Man-made flight this half term. We have been floating on hot air balloons, seeing how far our gliders can fly and enjoying a trip to Brookland's Museum to see the old bi-planes and getting aboard Concorde. We ended our topic by being Neil Armstrong walking on the moon.

The **Year 1** topic this term was all about journeys, travel and transport, so we are very lucky to have the wonderful Amberley Heritage Museum almost on our doorstep. We wandered through the museum, past the Toll House and Old Fire Station, to the Southdown Bus Garage, where we were met by a volunteer, who told us all about the old buses. We all donned a vintage hat and two children were chosen to be the driver and the "clippy". Then it was all on to the open top deck of a bus from the 1930s, for a bracing, slightly bumpy, trip around the museum. As lunchtime approached, we decided to hop on the train back down to the barn where we had left our sandwiches. We spotted the old mine and wagons used in the days when the site was busy producing lime from the local chalk. After lunch, we visited the communications exhibit – the children needed lessons in how to dial and hold an old fashioned telephone and then had a great time phoning each other. We just managed to escape a heavy hail storm by nipping into the television and radio exhibit, before meeting Mr White for a lift back to school by more modern means.



Pre-Prep



The Hub

The Hub has proved to be an excellent addition to Champs and is used every day.

After School Club meets there and children enjoy toast and other snacks as well as games and puzzles.

There are regularly delicious cooking smells wafting through the building and a group of pre-school children and their parents enjoyed a lively Gingerbread Workshop with Mrs Maultby in February.

As part of their Polar topic, Year 2 have been cooking. They made sweet biscuits and designed them like a polar bear claw. In preparation for an Antarctic expedition the children turned their hands to savoury sledging biscuits that they spread with different toppings. The verdict was that they were rather salty but quite tasty!

Above is Erin Sherwell from Year 2 with her polar bear paw biscuit.



Is the world going to run out of chocolate?!

Year 3 became detectives and met in the boardroom at 'Chocolate Detective HQ' to find out what the chocolate crisis is all about. They analysed evidence, recorded their findings in their Detective Log Books and sorted evidence according to how useful it was in answering our enquiry question – 'Is the world going to run out of chocolate?'. We discovered that there are many factors contributing to the chocolate crisis, such as slow growing cacao trees, the growing popularity of dark chocolate and the increasing amount of chocolate being eaten in countries such as China.

Without proper intervention, it will not get better but Year 3 Detectives have a range of strategies to help ease the crisis. We even had a mini economics lesson on demand and supply!

Sarah Hobrow



Bunny Rabbit Tea Party

What makes a good Bunny tea-party? Reception know. We entertained our guests (Mummies, Daddies and Nannies) with a tea dance, some lovely poetry, songs and the fun Bunny – Cokey (see above). Then we served the yummy cakes we all had made. Carrot cakes of course (favourite of bunnies) and chocolate nests and a lovely cup of tea! A great tea party was had by all!

Bury Manor Pre-School

We have been very busy in the kitchen - creating delicious things to eat this term, including Valentine's Heart Biscuits for 'snack' and to take home and traditional pancakes with lemon juice and sugar. The children tossed the pancakes and had races in the garden after watching the big children's pancake race on the Astro turf!

During our walks we have searched for signs of spring, found very muddy puddles, have been caught in a violent hail storm and found ourselves sitting in sodden tractor tyre tracks!

After a tip off from Charlie Hughes, (a local farmer), we walked up to his fields to watch the fodder beets harvested which caused great excitement.

We have been visited by a Bee Keeper who explained exactly how honey was made and how the bees alerted each other to the location of the best flowers by demonstrating the 'waggle dance' and how bees don't just buzz, they also say "whoops" with their wings if they bump into each other in their hive!

The children foraged flowers to make honey which magically appeared in a beautiful hexagonal jar for us to take back to the classroom to make honey sandwiches.

The children continue to enjoy their walks to the Walled Garden, amphitheatre and woods where they make the most of the exciting dens the older children make during their play time.

For the end of term, the children of Bury Manor Pre-School and Cootham Pre-School will join together under a clear blue sky for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Crafts and Raffle.

Tracey Brooks

Bury Manor Pre-School



Sport

Swimming

On Monday 4th February, Year 5 and 6 girls and boys travelled to Handcross Park to compete in a swimming match. Despite few opportunities to practise their individual strokes during the winter months, Dorset House put on a good show. **Hamish and Flora Skinner**, and **Lucy Featherstone** secured second place in the freestyle relay and Flora also came second in the individual freestyle. This was a fantastic effort from all those who took part and a great way to spend a damp cold afternoon.

Cross Country

Dorset House hosted its fourth cross country relays at the beginning of March. With a record of eight schools participating, the atmosphere was buzzing. The course was run over $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, with four runners in each team. Storm Freya having descended on the country the previous few days, the conditions were very wet and made for a tough competition. The girls' event was won by Windlesham, with Dorset House second and Great Ballard third. The boys' event was also won by Windlesham, followed by Dorset House 'A' team and Dorset House 'B' team in third place. A special mention must go to **Flora Skinner** who ran a fantastic first leg and to **Fin Alun-Jones** who, on the second leg, pulled the team from fourth to second place. The last meeting of the term was held at Great Ballard and Dorset House athletes made the most of the firm surface and glorious weather. **Ella Lawson** ran a fabulous race to win the U13 event, with **Alice Crowley** taking the bronze.



Flora Skinner came fourth in the U11 girls and **Bella Boyce** second in the U9 event. In the boys' races, **Sean Scrase** came second in the U13 event and **Rocco Heggie** second in the U9 boys. Dorset House came third in the overall team event. A great result and well done to all those involved.

Netball

The U13 girls made the most of their last term of netball and played every match with determination and a passion for the game that they had learned over the years. The U13As played their first tournament of the season at Lancing College. They had wins against the Duke of Kent, Belmont School and LPW, and finished an incredible fourth out of twelve teams.

Sport

This team have had a good season and had successes against Prebendal, Lancing Prep at Hove, Handcross Park and the Priory School. The U13Bs had an equally successful season and had wins against Lancing Prep at Worthing, Pennthorpe, Brighton College and the Priory. A special mention goes to **Annabel Rowell** who has been a valuable player in both the U13A and B team and really progressed her goalkeeping skills. The most Improved U13 Player was awarded to **Katie Athron** and the U13 Player of the Season was awarded to **Maisie Taylor**.

The U12 girls competed in the IAPS netball qualifiers at Cranleigh School at the end of February. They prepared themselves well for this tournament, practising at every opportunity during their break-times and they deserved to do well. On the day, the girls took a little while to warm-up and get into the competitive spirit. The opposition was tough and after losing against some strong teams, Dorset House came into their own and played some excellent netball to win against Pennthorpe and Cranleigh Prep School. A great effort from all the Year 7 girls and we are looking forward to their prospects next year when hopefully they will have more height on their side! **Phoebe Hughes** displayed some incredible movement around the court and scored some great goals. The most Improved U12 Player was awarded to **Bria Williamson** and the U12 Player of the Season was awarded to **Alice Crowley**.

The U11s have gone from strength to strength and have developed their form as the season has progressed. The U11A team had a successful day playing in the Prebendal netball tournament. As with most tournaments played at this venue, it rained yet again. However, this didn't dampen the girls' enthusiasm and they played some great netball. Dorset House had wins against Oakwood, Westhill Park and Ditcham to reach the semi-finals and finish third overall - their best tournament result to date. This was a fantastic performance by the whole team who worked well together, displaying great comradery. The U11A and Bs have had individual successes against Penthorpe and the Towers, and the B team beat Brighton College. Well done, especially, to **Daisy Wilson** and **Truly Wilson** who have gained lots of experience through playing in a club outside of school and added their expertise to the Dorset House performances. The most Improved U11 Player was awarded to **Paloma Baramidze** and the U11 Player of the Season was awarded to **Truly Wilson**.

The most Improved U10 Player was awarded to **Eva Elliott** and the U10 Player of the Season was awarded to **Rosie Ormerod**.

The U9s played in a very enjoyable, albeit wet, tournament at Oakwood. They passed the ball and marked their players well and it was great to see that the school coaching sessions have eventually paid off! The girls were beaten by St. John's and Windlesham. They drew against Great Ballard and were pleased to have won against Oakwood. Well done to all the squad especially to the Year 3 girls - **Layla Owens**, **Olivia Finn** and **Georgia Forrest** for playing up a Year group. During their Thursday fixtures, the girls have progressed their ball handling and marking skills and have started to understand their positioning on court. The Year 3 girls were elated when, on a few occasions, they played in their Year group and beat Pennthorpe. The U9s drew against Cottesmore in what was a very exciting game and had successes against Prebendal and Great Ballard. The most Improved U9 Player was awarded to **Neve Meurer** and the U9 Player of the Season was awarded to **Olivia Boyce**. The most Improved U8 Player was awarded to **Olivia Finn** and the U8 Player of the Season was awarded to **Georgia Forrest**. It was a great start to their netball experience and we look forward to seeing what they can do next year.

The highlight of the season for the Year 8 girls was their match against the Mums! The atmosphere was fiercely competitive and the girls (plus a bit of support from the Year 8 boys), enjoyed the comradery. The match was close throughout but, the Mums just edged ahead in the final quarter to win 11-9.

Susan Wightman



Sport

Rugby

After a very successful initial group stage in the Sussex Schools' Cup, in which the U12s topped their group, there followed a series of very tough matches to determine the overall positions. The first was a great win over Warden Park, and a game that was finely in the balance at half-time. Enter **Ben Saunders** with an incredible five minute spell of rugby that saw him put in two sensational tries that started inside his own half. Next up was Brighton College and despite a gallant effort, this was just too big an ask from our boys, who had to cope with the extraordinary pace of their left winger. It was a similar story against Seaford, who relied heavily on their giant. The boys never gave up and made Seaford work hard for their win. And so to Finals Day at Brighton Rugby Club, where Heathfield were waiting for a game to decide 5th/6th overall position. All credit to the U12s for raising their game and playing some of their best rugby of the season in a 6 – 2 win. A spectator nearby leaned over afterwards and congratulated us on the high standard of rugby we had played. I had to agree - this was a real team performance and it was wonderful to look back at the progress these boys had made in what was a long season of rugby.

Obviously, there were some stellar performances from **Ben Saunders** but it was also wonderful to see the likes of **Sean Scrase, Harry Pearce, Jacob Fearon, Alex Bailey** and **David Morley** develop into some serious rugby players. Success breeds confidence and it was pleasing that boys such as **Edwyn Payne, Henry Brown**



and **Charlie Thomas** are now looking more at home on the rugby pitch. Next season promises to be equally as exciting. Oh and that spectator ... only the Chairman of Sussex Rugby!

And so, to the Windlesham Sevens. This is never an easy one, what with 16 of the top schools in the south-east attending. **Monty Burr** was the star of the show and his powerful running proved to be a huge bonus. When he was on the pitch we looked

Sport

unbeatable, and we ended up topping our group, booking us a place in the last four. Sadly, that was as good as it got, with Monty picking up an injury rendering him unable to contribute any further in the competition. All said and done, this was still a great result, finishing fourth overall. The most improved player was **Alex Bailey** and Player of the Season was **Ben Saunders**

The U11s contained a group of strong individual players, like **Hamish Skinner**, **Sebastian Anscombe**, **Isaac Blowey** and **Fin Blunden-Hare**. They produced some good wins against Lancing at Hove and Prebendal but will need to work together more as a team in order to get the better of others. Most improved player was **Daniel Simpson** and Player of the Season was **Sebastian Anscombe**.

The Year 5 boys were able to field two teams this season and both of them made good progress, with the A team picking up wins against Prebendal, Brambletye and Cottesmore. Worth noting are the performances from the likes of **Finn Alun-Jones**, **Xander Boyce**, **Rafferty Finn**, **Archie Gray** and **Gethin Wood** but also the progress up the ranks made by **Ollie Godfrey** and **Sam Waddell**. Most improved player in the A team was **Ollie Godfrey** and in the B team, **Sebastian Scrase**. Players of the Season were **Rafferty Finn** and **Zac Borthwick**

The current U9s are a team to look out for, a side that play some wonderful attacking rugby. I can genuinely say that tries here can be scored from any number of players, whether it be **Reece Brazier**, **Seb Marsh**, **Harry Richardson**, **Tom Hodgson**, **Rocco Heggie** or **Harry Wilmore**, such is the strength in depth. Their most improved player was **Ned Hafner** and their Player of the Season, **Rocco Heggie**.

The U8s had a good run of tag rugby matches which they all enjoyed with **Henry Godfrey** showing some wonderful defensive work. Their Most Improved player was **Jackson Black** and Player of the Season, **Henry Godfrey**.

Hockey

I am always a little anxious at the start of our short hockey season about how our boys will fare against other schools. All rather unnecessary as it happens because our boys always seem to perform remarkably well and this term was no exception. When played well hockey is a wonderful game to watch and some of the 1st and Colts A team performances this season were truly entertaining, demonstrating wonderful skills and team work

Apart from a rather tired performance against Cottesmore, the 1st team produced some excellent hockey.

There were victories against Prebendal, Lancing at Worthing and Lancing at Hove but strangely enough it was the defeat to Handcross that brought out the very best from the boys. There was some solid defensive work, including some monster clearances from **Monty Burr**; some mesmerising stick skills from **Zach Alun-Jones** and some clinical finishing from **Cosmo Portman**. All of this was kept together by the backbone of the side, **Ben Chaloner**, with his fine dribbling and tackling. The Most Improved Player was **Bill Morley** and the Player of the Season, **Zach Alun-Jones**.

The depth of talent in Year 7 and 8, meant that we fielded a very strong 2nd team which included several players who would not have looked out of place in the 1sts. Among them **Jack Woodage**, who demonstrated some good stick work and excellent finishing in front of goal. The Most Improved Player was **Sean Scrase** and Player of the Season, **Jack Woodage**.

For the 3rds, **Archie Cox** was Most Improved and **Henry Brown**, Player of the Season

The Colts A were unbeaten and played some wonderful attacking hockey. **Finn Alun-Jones** showed great stick skills and was supported well in attack by **Xander Boyce** and **Gethin Wood**, whilst **Hamish Skinner** proved to be a difficult goalie to get past. Their Most Improved Player was **Xander Boyce** and Player of the Season, **Finn Alun-Jones**.

There were some great performances in the Colts B from **Sam Waddell**, **Rafferty Finn** and **Archie Gray** but it was **George Redgrove** who stood out with his amazing work in goal. Most Improved for this team was **Archie Gray** and Player of the Season, **George Redgrove**.

Colts C Most Improved was **Arya Rafatnia** and Player of the Season, **George Game**.

The U9s won all of their games, with some good team work. **Harry Richardson** was their Most Improved Player and **Reece Brazier**, their Player of the Season.

The U8s produced some fine skills for such a young age group, with **Sandy Game**, **Henry Godfrey** and **Jackson Black** all showing great potential. **Devon Sandell** was their Most Improved and **Sandy Game**, their Player of the Season.

Greg Weaver

Sussex Golf

Congratulations to **Xander Boyce** (Year 5) who has been selected for the Sussex Golf Junior Academy.

Training starts over the Easter holidays and we look forward to hearing of Xander's progress.

Music



Christ's Hospital Jazz Experience

We were lucky enough to be invited to collaborate with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. When we heard them play we were astounded! It was a fun and interesting day where we spent time learning skills in how to improvise - we had no sheet music to follow on the day and had to play by ear. It was scary at first but we began to get the hang of it. It was great performing at the end of the day. We also discovered many things about the history of Jazz music.

Paloma Baramidze & Molly Ormerod

Bedales Music Day

Ten of us from Year 5 who are involved in the choir or learn orchestral instruments went with Mr Marconi to have a fun day of music making. We did some exciting singing pieces in rounds, a samba piece (which is music from Brazil) and two pieces for orchestra. The first was by Haydn and the second was a dance remix! Some of us were able to play on the timpani drums and on their large vibraphone.

We both worked with some of the Bedales pupils who were really good on the cello and trombone - hopefully one day we'll be able to play as well as them!

Zac Borthwick & George Game

Brighton College String Day

When we arrived at Brighton College, we were given a warm welcome by the lovely Music teacher. She asked us to take a seat and take out our instruments before she put us into groups to practise our individual pieces.

Later in the day, we all came back together to play the pieces as a string orchestra. To encourage us to follow the conductor, we were given balloons that we had to keep in the air whilst playing the music at the same time which was very funny.

At the end of the day, some of the parents came to listen to us play *'Harry Potter and The Sword Dance.'* After that, we packed up our belongings and received a lovely gift from the College before making our way back to Dorset House.

Sofia Thompson

Inter-House Competition

As ever, the heats were fiercely contested, and after over 130 performances the finalists were for the Juniors were **Sofia Thompson** (violin) **Jack Laing** (guitar), **George Redgrove** (trumpet), **Rosie Ormerod** (drums) **Fin Alun-Jones** (piano), **Anaïs Hafner** (clarinet), **Zac Borthwick** (cello) and **Xander Boyce** (voice). The Seniors were: **Maisie Taylor** (guitar) **Ben Saunders** (drums), **Paloma Baramidze** (trombone), **Tom Ellis** (violin), **Bria Williamson** (cello), **Katie Athron** (voice) **Ella Lawson** (piano), **Harry Pearce** (alto saxophone), **Tom Ellis** (piano) and **Molly Ormerod** (tenor saxophone).

The theme for the House songs this year was 'Musicals'. Hutchinson chose 'It's A Hard Knock Life', Munro 'Any Dream Will Do', Wilkinson 'The Circle Of Life' and Sims, 'Consider Yourself'. Much thought was given to costumes and stage direction which made for a stunning finale to the competition. **Alex Hodgkinson**, the Director of Music from Christ's Hospital, certainly had his work cut out choosing winners for each category. He decided on **Sofia Thompson** winning the Junior Musician, **Tom Ellis**, for his violin piece, as the Senior Musician and **Hutchinson** winning the House song. With all points added up from the heats and the final, the winning House was **Wilkinson**.

Jason Marconi



Music



Music



Swing Band 'Big Blast'

On Friday 8th March, the Dorset House Swing Band invited Westbourne House Big Band to join us for an afternoon of Swing and Big Band music. This included Reed, Brass and Rhythm section rehearsals, culminating in a joint bands performance for parents and the Prep school. The programme included '*Pennsylvania 6500*' and '*Goldfinger*' and also '*Crazy Rhythm*', performed as a fitting tribute to the late Mr Malcolm Gosden who taught Brass at both schools.

Music exams

Congratulations to all the children (and their teachers!) who passed their exams this term - we had a record number of children entered!

Of particular note are Distinctions for **Eliza Hayward** (Grade 5 Singing), **Bria Williamson** (Grade 4 Singing), **Ben Saunders** (Grade 3 Drums), **Zac Alun Jones** (Grade 2 Drums) and **Hamish Skinner** (Initial Drums) and finally **Ella Lawson** passing Grade 6 Flute.

Well done everyone!

Jason Marconi

Art and DT

It will come as no surprise that art was my favourite lesson of the week when I was a school girl at Oaklands, a school very much like Dorset House apart from being all girls back then.

My art teacher Mrs Ball, nurtured that love of making art and being creative, which led me on to studying at Winchester School of Art and later sharing that love of art through teaching. Speaking as both a mum and teacher, the benefit of having the opportunity to have time to just sit down and create something should not be underestimated. For children who want to do more art than we do in lessons, we have Art Club. Art Club at break times is ever popular and Thursday morning sessions are now attracting Pre-Prep children too, which is great.

Carly Harrison

Here is what some of the art club regulars have to say;

I love art club, it is so fun, and you can draw or make or craft whatever you want at your own speed.

Truly Wilson

I find art really relaxing and when I am in the art room it's a really happy experience. I love art and Mrs Harrison is a really understanding, kind and supportive teacher.

Lucy Featherstone

You can carry on with work in class or do anything that comes to mind. You can be really creative with what you do.

Daisy Wilson

I find art amazing because there are so many possibilities of stuff to make and do. I love that anyone can do art because there are so many types of art. I find it calming and it brightens my day.

Emma Marsh

I love art because it is so relaxing to have a project and have a challenge to finish something.

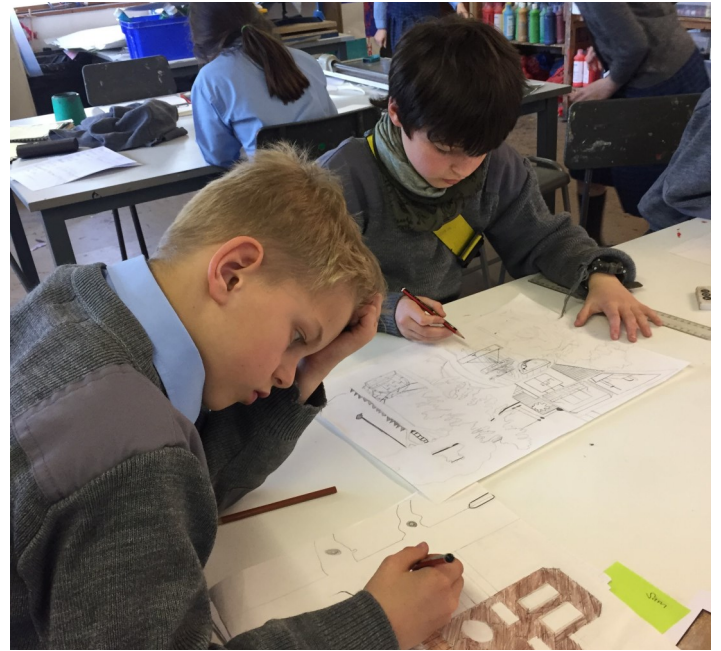
Lauren Wilkins

I love art club because Mrs Harrison lets you do whatever you want, she lets you be creative. She helps you lots and gives you arty advice. Art club also gives you the chance to catch up on work.

Paloma Baramidze

In art club I have been using the sewing machine to sew bookmarkers to sell to raise money for FEAST.

Jack Laing



Other News



Equestrian Update

The DH team enjoyed some great results this term at Merrist Wood Equestrian Centre.

The 70-75cm Team (**Sean Scrase, Neve and Brooke Meurer and Lauren Wilkins**) came 5th as a team finishing on a zero score.

Lauren came 3rd as an Individual which qualifies her for the National Championships at Addington in October.

The 80-85cm Team (**Sean, Brooke and Lauren**) came 2nd on a score of 4 faults which is just 1 pole down. Both Sean and Lauren had clear rounds and Brooke had unlucky pole in her first ever 80cm class.

This qualifies the team for Addington in October. They were 2nd out of 10 teams from all over South East.

Lauren also won the class as an individual so she has qualified for the National Championships as an individual as well.

Vicki Wilkins



Boarding

Spring Term News

It has been another fun-packed term in the Boarding House. We have welcomed in the new Gaps and Night Matron and have enjoyed getting to know them (and making sure they know exactly how much hot chocolate is needed – lots!) Wii Wednesdays have been a welcome wind-down on the dark and cold nights and Miss Bush has introduced origami which is proving popular. So too is the unusual 'Klask' which we bought for Christmas, a game that is a combination of table-football and air hockey which comes from Denmark. Our giant puzzle this term was a map of Europe, though a certain 2 ½ year old resident in the Manor unfortunately opened up our near completed map, which meant we had to start nearly from scratch! The pool competition has also been exciting, though the winner is yet to be decided as we go to press...

David Morley – Head of Boarding

Welcome

This term, we welcome three new members of staff. **Holly Jones** from Australia and **Will Arrowsmith** and **Kelly Bush** from New Zealand. We asked for their thoughts on the first term at DH:

Holly: *The Spring Term has flown by at Dorset House, however it has been nothing less than enjoyable! Initially it was difficult trying to remember all the children's names as well as the harsh contrast from 40 degree weather to a more chilly climate. However, nonetheless I think I have finally acclimatised with the help of the beautiful welcoming staff and students.*

My involvement in boarding has most definitely been the highlight. The numerous activities that DH has to offer keeps the children entertained and happy. I have especially enjoyed the 'Just Dance' evenings and the competitive nature of making the nightly hot chocolate treat (mine is better than Mr Arrowsmith's). I look forward to the summer term approaching and the rest of the school year

Will: *It doesn't seem possible that term 1 at DH is done! Spring term has flown by with long days of learning names to begin with, running to and fro, estates, PE, music, and generally making myself useful. It's been busy but great fun all the same, and I can't wait for the rest of the year with the wonderful children and staff at this beautiful school!*

Kelly: *The last 3 months have flown by and it has been a whirlwind of a journey getting to know the students both in the classrooms and while they are boarding. It has been eye opening to experience an array of activities alongside them. The staff and students have all been very welcoming towards us and have helped us to make it feel like home. The range of activities that have been on offer have been fantastic, especially our "wii Wednesday's" where we have a tournament playing either Mario Kart or Mario and Sonic Olympics. It has definitely brought out the competitive side of the students and the staff seeing who can come out on top and earn the most points before the end of the night. I am looking forward to next term and spending more of the evenings outside enjoying the evening light and I'm sure the children are too.*



Other News



FEAST Update

Having raised the money needed to continue to sponsor our eight Indian students in Tamil Nadu, we decided at the beginning of the year to try and collect enough to build another house. Since funding our first house in 2018, the cost has risen from £1,500 to £1,800. We knew that it would be a lot of money to find on top of our sponsorship commitments but we felt sure that pupils at Dorset House would rise to the challenge. And so it has proved... Initiatives to date have included making and selling bookmarks, pom-pom making workshops, making and selling Hama Bead keyrings and raffling a huge jar of sweets. A church service collection raised £129 and plans for the summer term include setting up a student-run second-hand bookshop and running a book club.



A spectacular river-based event, master-minded by a group of Year 6 students, is also in the planning stages.

We are delighted that Father Jeremias, founder of FEAST, is visiting this country again this summer. He will be joining us for an assembly on Monday 17th June. Any parents wishing to meet Father Jeremias are more than welcome to attend this assembly.

Should you wish to find out more about FEAST the charity's website can be found at: www.feastindia.org.uk Above are **Phoebe Hughes** and **Mia Finn (Year 7)** whose fundraising has totalled £159.60 and included pom-pom making and a raffle for a jar of sweets. **Coco Goss (Year 1)** pictured here with **Olivia Smith (Year 2)** has been selling her Hama Bead keyrings in the woods at break **Jack Laing (Year 5)** mastered the sewing machine in order to make bookmarks. He even managed to sell one to an important visitor!

Laura Hutchings

Other Charities...

Thanks to your support, Red Nose Day this term raised £180.

In addition, £600 was raised for the Intensive Care ECMO Unit at St Thomas' Hospital in London. This was for a very personal reason and below is a piece read by **Sean Scrase (Year 7)**, at a church service earlier this term:

As some of you will know, my older brother Rupert was very ill last term. Rupert was home from school and had seen the doctor as he did not feel that well. Early in the morning I heard him making funny noises and told Mummy who rang an ambulance. The paramedic said it was sepsis and took him with blue lights flashing to Worthing Hospital who diagnosed him with sepsis and multiple organ failure. He was put into an induced coma and taken to Southampton Hospital who then called the ECMO team from St Thomas Intensive Care Unit who came, put him on the ECMO life support machine and took him back with them in an ambulance to London where he stayed for 5 weeks. At one point my parents were told to expect the worst but, thank goodness, the ECMO Team were able to save him. Five years ago he would not have been saved.

Chess

Ned Hafner, Tom Hodgson and Sebastian Marsh qualified to play for the U9 county team for Sussex at the start of this year.

Ned went on to join this team as they took Silver in the south zone match in Bath to reach the English Primary Schools' Chess Association final in April in Nottingham.

Ned also won the U9 trophy at both the Sussex Junior Chess Eastbourne Grand Prix and Hastings Grand Prix.

P.A. News

Summer Ball

The PA and ball committee are working hard to bring you an amazing event. We still have 1 table of 12 people to fill so please get your tickets now for this one-off spectacular event as you won't want to miss out. There are also a few tables which are not full so do book a ticket and we can arrange a friendly table for you to sit at for dinner. The ball is open to friends and family too so please do invite them. A new Facebook events page has been set up with all the details of what's happening. There are some absolutely fantastic auctions prize lots including:

4 Tickets to Festival of Speed

4 tickets to Goodwood Revival – with members paddock passes

4 tickets to Qatar Glorious Festival – members Richmond Enclosure

4 tickets to Three Friday nights – members Richmond Enclosure (all days of your choice)

Classic Land Rover Experience for four

Private chauffeur driven Rolls Royce for the day/evening

Fully Catered Dinner party for 8 people

Rugby International tickets. (England vs Wales)

A Day's shooting

A Champagne cruise

1 Week in a Scottish holiday home for up to 8... and many others.



Next term we also have the Fun Run and Dads & Family camping trips to enjoy.

The **Family Fun Run** is on Sunday 18th May 2019 with 3 different events planned: 5km, 1km and toddlers' run. Everyone who enters will get a medal. You can walk or run the course and it is open to all. Dads & family camping is on Saturday 8th June. More details to follow on the Facebook page about this nearer the time.

Last term we raised £2700 and this term £2050 plus £380 for second hand uniform giving a total of £5130 in just 6 months and we are on track to hit the £40K needed for the riverfront facilities. We very much appreciate the ongoing support of the Parents of Dorset House. A huge thank you to the PA for all their efforts to make all the events so successful and for organising the upcoming events over the summer term.

Have a happy Easter and see you all next term.



*'Pupils are kind, happy, well-behaved and confident'. (ISI Report, September 2018)
Dorset House was given the top 'Excellent' rating in all areas.*



VISITORS WELCOME

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

(Please add Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)

Minibus pick-ups available

Day and flexi-boarding prep school for children from
Reception to Year 8

'Outstanding' Pre-School on site for children from 2