



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

AUTUMN TERM REVIEW 2019



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

By the time you read this we will know the outcome of the general election- whatever that may be!

Over the course of the term it has been fascinating to hear the thoughts of the children; particularly in the senior part of the school; political views are beginning to form - as is normal, some will have been 'borrowed' from what they have picked up from at home, I suspect. Hearteningly, however, the issues that are most talked about seem to be the most original and important to the children.

For me it is vital that young people have opinions, care and are willing to be vociferous whilst expressing their thoughts; they also want to do something about problems and issues that have made an impression on them. For example, three girls in Year 8 came to see me after a Theology and Philosophy lesson wanting to know who to write to and what they could do to help tackle injustice and resolve conflict in an area we were looking at. There is no doubt that apathy and indifference is a far from benign affliction in society; I, however, do not see this amongst our pupils at DH.

In this period of economic uncertainty, particularly outside London, the prep school market is highly competitive. It is noticeable that parents are doing their homework, visiting and comparing the range of choice available; encouragingly, however, we have had a large number of prospective parents this term. During the tour, I am often asked what sets DH apart from other prep schools and how we as a school reconcile our identity of being 'a greenhouse not a hot house' with rigour and our touchstone of being the best you can be. My response is that the culture throughout the school is one of high challenge, low threat; in other words, we don't underestimate the capability of the children and they are encouraged to stretch themselves but in an environment, however, where the stakes are not intimidating in the event of getting things wrong and making mistakes.

I hope that you have all had a chance to see the new school film; we have tried to encapsulate what we believe a prep school education should look like.

The combination of all that we offer, creates the whole and as you leaf through the pages of this newsletter, you will see, as usual, what a busy and vibrant term we have had. There have been so many achievements and triumphs: the Year 8 performance of 'King Lear', sporting success, the Nativity Play, the Christmas concert and Carol Service to name but a few.

Other exciting developments have been the building of the Pre-Prep Hall, which has been used for the past few weeks and the front office, which will be fully operational when we return to school in January.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Matt Thomas

Jake Wightman's visit (see page 6), inspired the children and gave them the opportunity to ask questions about what goes into the making of an elite athlete. Here are some Year 6 pupils admiring Jake's bronze medal.



Focus On...TaP

I have been part of the ISEB (Independent Schools Examination Board) focus group which was charged with reviewing the structure and form of Common Entrance examinations and although final plans have not been released, in the next couple of years, this exam will change quite considerably.

Prep schools are now using CE more flexibly - to suit individual contexts.

As a school, our first step towards the new format was to move away from the prescriptive Religious Studies syllabus and to launch our own Theology and Philosophy course—affectionately known as TaP.

This course is designed not only to be more interesting and relevant to today's world but also to help develop higher order thinking skills.

We regularly discuss questions such as, 'can you jump into the same river twice?' or, 'is it possible to use a ring of invisibility (Ring of Gyges) for good?'

Year 7 have this term been studying and investigating:

- ◇ Human evolution
- ◇ Creation stories
- ◇ The spectrum of belief
- ◇ The compatibility of Science and Religion

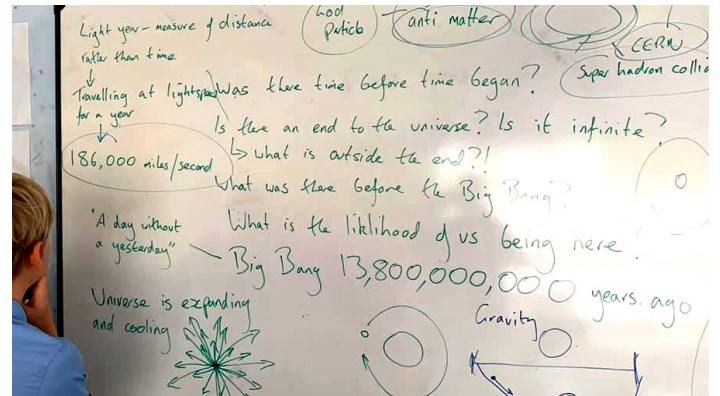
Year 8 have been looking at:

- Mohammad's life and the growth of Islam
- Kristallnacht and the persecution of Jews
- The creation of Israel
- The Arab/Israeli conflict in a geo-political context

Extended essays have been set with relatively long periods allowed for completion. This is designed so that children have the opportunity to plan and organise their time - not leaving everything to the last minute. Inevitably, this will trip some children up but it is excellent preparation for senior school and good for this lesson to be learnt in a 'low threat' environment!

It also promotes independent learning through research, essay planning and encourages original thought.

I hope it has also provoked some interesting conversations at home.



A Year 7 pupil ponders over the board at the end of a TaP lesson

CENTURY comes to DH

During September's IAPS conference in London, I had the privilege of watching a truly inspirational presentation entitled 'Harnessing the power of artificial intelligence to help all children thrive' by Priya Lakhani OBE, who is the Founder and CEO of CENTURY Tech. During her talk she outlined an imminent future vision of education and how AI and the power of algorithms will support children's learning alongside teaching.

CENTURY is an artificially intelligent learning platform and was built by data engineers, neuroscientists and teachers. It uses AI technology and learning science to provide a constantly differentiated and adaptive path for each individual pupil and offers real-time analysis and feedback to teachers. It identifies gaps in learning and understanding and will plug those gaps using animated examples, video clips and further practice; teachers will also be made aware of areas that need extra attention. Average weekly usage time is an hour per subject; current modules are in English, Maths and Science although History and Geography are due to be released soon. We will trialling the system over the next two terms and children will be able to access the platform both at school and at home. Staff and children will have training in the use of the system in January.

This is the cutting edge of technology in education and I hope you will agree that this will be a very valuable and exciting tool to support your child's learning. **Matt Thomas**

Whole School

Charity

People's generosity and the children's enthusiasm for finding ever new and more inventive ways of persuading others to be generous, never fails to amaze me.

First and foremost, this term we had Feastathlon! For this event **Ben Saunders, Jacob Fearon** and **Sean Scrase** challenged themselves to undertake the events that go to make up a modern triathlon, using the Olympic distances: swim: 1,500 m – bike: 40 km – run: 10 km. The boys spread the events over three days and raised an astonishing £1,166. Just to put that into context: three 12 year old boys, in three days, raised more than enough money to keep our 8 Indian students in school for another year **or** they raised almost exactly two thirds of a house! This was a hugely impressive feat and our congratulations go to all three of them.

Representatives from FEAST in Arundel went back out to Indian in November and so we were able to send Christmas cards with £20 in them as a Christmas present for each of our students. We also included lavender bags made by **Francesca** (Year 4) and handmade soaps made by **Bibi** (Year 6) for each student. I don't know about you, but I loved the idea of sending English lavender and soaps with English flowers in them all the way to Tamil Nadu!

Other money-making initiatives for FEAST this term have included



making pencil cases and book marks (Years 5 & 6) and, of course, selling our DH Christmas cards. Excluding the cards, these activities have raised another £232.

In addition to this, we have raised money for The Royal British Legion (£716.53) and Children in Need (£355.25) as well as a West Sussex based homeless charity – Turning Tides (£154.43 raised via a bake sale and busking at the Christmas Concert).

Our final venture this term has involved a charity based in Doncaster that works with schools and community centres in deprived areas. RE-Read collects good quality 'pre-loved' books and distributes them where they are most needed.

Unfortunately, their collection warehouse was badly affected in the

recent floods and they lost over 100,000 books. They contacted us, amongst other schools, and at the time of writing I am delighted to say that your donations have started to come in – and the floor space in my room is rapidly disappearing! Thank you all so much for all that you have done to help the children with their charity work this term. **Laura Hutchings**



Year 8 manning the stall at a bake sale for Turning Tides

Whole School

Remembrance

We were delighted to welcome Brigadier Alan Gordon, ex-DH Governor and great supporter and friend of the school, to preach at the Remembrance service at St Nicholas' Church in Arundel. Alan spoke directly to the children about remembering what has gone before but also about being positive about the future.

On 11th November, we always observe the silence at 11.00 am but this year, children from the Prep joined children from Bury C of E Primary School and parishioners to mark the 100th Armistice Day at the War Memorial in Bury Churchyard. On a bright morning, children read out the names of those from Bury, Houghton, Coldwaltham and Hardham who gave their lives in the First World War. Fr Peter Mallinson led the service and we hope to repeat this in future.



the inauguration of the village War Memorial in 1921

1000 Trees

We have been invited to join a parish-wide initiative to plant 1000 trees and I thought that the best way for us to take part would be to undertake to plant one tree for each pupil at the school. This needs careful planning of course and we are grateful to Mark and Elaine Payne (parents of Edwyn in Y8) for their advice. We plan to start this project next term and it will be ongoing until the goal is reached.

Matt Thomas



Whole School



GB Athlete Inspires

Pupils were treated to a visit by GB athlete Jake Wightman. The 1500m runner, who came 5th in last month's IAAF World Athletics Championships, spoke about his recent experiences in Doha and of winning a Bronze medal at last year's Commonwealth Games. Mr Weaver hoped that Jake's talk 'would inspire a new generation of athletes, some of whom were already in training for next summer's National Schools Finals'. Above is Jake with some of our athletes:

Flora Skinner, Rafferty Finn, Zach Alun-Jones, Sean Scrase, Ella Lawson, Phoebe Hughes, Alice Crowley, Molly Ormerod, Matilda Simpson and Lauren Wilkins.

I can & I am

You may remember that we had booked James Shone, from 'I Can and I Am', to come and speak to us at our Open Morning in September. James had, reluctantly, to cancel his visit as he had been invited to give a TEDx talk.

We are delighted that James will be able to join us for our spring term **Open Morning** on **Saturday 14th March**. Following a 16 year teaching career and having been offered a job as Headmaster in 2012, James was diagnosed with a brain tumour. After 27 hours of brain surgery James unfortunately lost the majority of his sight. However, James is a man who embodies a positive attitude to life and a determination to turn setbacks into springboards. As a teacher, this was at the heart of his pastoral message and his focus now is on spreading the messages of 'I Can & I Am' to as many individuals across the UK and beyond as possible. Put simply, the heart of his charity is to inspire confidence in every individual to enable them to know who they are and what they are able to do, rather than focusing on what they can't.

James will be speaking to pupils from Years 3 - 8 and parents. Please put this date in your diary - timings will be confirmed but the morning will run from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Prep



War-Time Tales

Year 4 stepped back in time to World War Two. Children met at the station to embark on their evacuation experience.

Henry said, 'I didn't like leaving my mum but the long walk did me good'. **Olivia** said, 'I really liked the walk along the river bank and when we were on the train. I felt like a real evacuee.'

The children were greeted by Lord and Lady Marconi at the Manor and were grateful to receive a bed for the night and some generous meals. **Sandy** said, 'I felt that the food was grand and I was surprised how nice it was.'

The children also enjoyed some singing with a visit from Reverend Twinley with his accordion.

Mrs Haine and Mrs Norris visited. They had both lived during the war and were able to share their memories and answer the children's questions about life as a child at this time. A visit from The Rainbow Theatre for an immersive theatrical production and a VE Day party completed this topic.



Prep



King Lear

If someone had told me, back in the 1990s when I was teaching 'King Lear' at A-level, that I would one day be helping to direct a Year 8 performance of the same play, I would have laughed. This year's production, however, was far from being a laughing matter. We had Lear gradually going mad, eyes being gouged out on stage, corpses galore and a couple of knife fights. It was easily the most complex play that we have tackled yet – both in terms of the staging and the acting required of the children – and they rose to the challenge in a way that I have not seen

before. Underlying all the bloody action of the play, was a sophisticated understanding of Shakespeare's verse and what was actually happening in every scene. I now feel a bit like Gloucester who says at one point: 'We have seen the best of our time'. My grateful thanks, as always, go to **Cherry Menlove** – without her amazing direction the play would have been but a shadow of its final self. The children had this to say: 'The last couple of months have been an unforgettable part of Year 8. The lead up to the performance was amazing and the actual night was one of the best days ever. The best bit of the play was the eye-gouging part. It

was horrific. Even though I wasn't a main part, I still felt that everybody was included and an important role.'

Matilda Simpson

'Every rehearsal was worthwhile and we kept altering the play in different ways until it was perfect. This performance has shown me that I have a real passion for acting.'

Henry Brown

'I'm really glad that I was involved... the most important part I found was learning to create the play as a team.'

Edwyn Payne

'I loved the experience and I will never forget it.'

Emilie Manger

'I wish I could do it again!'

Sean Scrase

Prep



Climbing High

Mr Nield, Miss Jones and the Year 5 children all enjoyed a wonderful couple of days in the Sussex countryside at Lodge Hill. The children had a go at archery, with **Harry Richardson** proving himself to be quite the Robin Hood by scoring an excellent couple of rounds with the bow and arrow, followed closely by **Anaïs Hafner**. **Coco Gray** also showed her prowess with the crossbow, not to be put off by her wrist injury! We also enjoyed the Crate Stack Challenge, with **Eliza Fearon**, **Olivia** and **Bella Boyce** showing really good communications skills in building the highest tower they could. **Reece Brazier**, **Rocco Heggie**, **Tom Hodgson** and **Ned Hafner** all proved to be wonderfully brave when scaling the heights of the Climbing Tower, and I was especially impressed with



Neve Meurer, **Barney Waddell** and **Harry Wilmore** in the Low Ropes Challenge, each of whom showed some amazing agility and teamwork to complete the course.

All in all this was a splendid trip, with comfy warm dormitories, plenty of wholesome food and loads of fresh air. Oh, and perhaps the wettest Orienteering course we have ever seen....! **Lee Nield**

Glorious Mud

Not perhaps what springs to mind when you hear about a French trip but for our Year 7 & 8 pupils, mud was one of the most enduring memories following a very busy few days at the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. As with many school trips, the journey on the ferry was also a highlight. On the way out, the weather was fair and so the cinema and cafés were popular choices whereas the return journey was rough and so there was rather less activity! During the trip to Mont St Michel, children learned

that the shops had inspired Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter novels! All the children took some French style clothing and they dressed up one evening before dining on snails, (**Bria** ate the most).

The mini farm was very popular, as was bread making where **Eliza's** loaf was deemed to be the best – made in the shape of a flower.

But the most fun seems to have been had on the assault course which involved a LOT of mud. The aim was to be the muddiest at the end of the course and the winners on this front were **Harry** and **Ben** and **Eliza** and **Lauren**.

Of course, there was a lot of learning involved, with each activity concentrating on a specific area of French language. The philosophy behind the programme is using practical spoken French to convey meaning in real life situations. *Pupils know that when they want something, they have to ask for it in French, [and] they do!* **Lisa Green**

Prep



Kids' Lit Quiz 2019

One of the highlights of the year for me is always the South England heats of the Kids' Lit Quiz. Admittedly, Dorset House have yet to win and move on to the British final in London – but I live in hope!

I particularly enjoyed this year's outing. It might have been the company (Year 7 & 8's finest readers), the weather (not raining!), the competition itself or the Christmas shopping and dinner in Gunwharf Quays – but it was a great day and we all had a good time.

The DH teams acquitted themselves well - winning some rounds and ultimately being placed 5th and 6th on the leader board. There was, however, one glorious moment when the two teams came equal first on the very first round and I dared to dream...

Oh well – there's always next year.

Many thanks to **Matilda Simpson, Edwyn Payne, Phoebe Hughes, Bria Williamson, Daniel Simpson, Paloma Baramidze, Romilly Bladd-Symms, and Izzy Hodgson** for playing so well and being such good company on the day.

Laura Hutchings



Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Year 6 had a rare opportunity to meet the great Engineer, I.K. Brunel at King Edwards 'school in Witley. They enjoyed a fast moving interactive lecture where he introduced a handful of his hundreds of great achievements which laid the foundations for our modern world today.

Paul Keane



Year 6 took advantage of some late autumn sunshine to perform their own scripts to the class, reflecting the relationships between Prospero and Ariel in 'The Tempest'. There were some very enthusiastic performances in the amphitheatre!

Pre-Prep



Oink, Oink...

Reception learnt lots of facts about cows and pigs at Goodwood Farm. We missed the rain showers but saw the pigs really enjoying their muddy fields. This trip supported our topic on Ourselves as we look at the food we eat and the farmers who provide it for us to buy at the shops.

Goodwood farm is a working farm so there were lots of tractors on the move and a great 'pooley' fertilizer machine! What fun!

Janet Maultby



Turrets, Towers & Tiaras

The trip to Arundel Castle is always a highlight for Year 1 – staff included. The volunteers who show the children around are so knowledgeable and enthusiastic, they really help bring our Turrets, Towers and Tiaras topic to life. This year we started the tour with a long climb to the keep, stopping off in the guards' room and small chapel on the way. The children listened wide eyed, as Fred our guide explained how the Sally Port was used and later enjoyed looking out at the spectacular views to Littlehampton on one side and along the Arun Valley towards school. Fred was impressed with the children's knowledge. They were eager to tell him all about the Battle of Hastings, the Norman Invasion and how the Normans built castles not only for protection, but also to show their power. Dressing up and re-enacting the battle was a great immersive experience, as was the opportunity to visit areas of the castle not usually open to the public such as the barbican and the terrifying oubliette. After lunch we had the chance to let off some steam with a run around the mown maze and a tour of the beautiful gardens. We are so lucky to have all of this wonderful history on our doorstep.

Karen Bentley

Pre-Prep

Hooray in a Manger

Not 1, not 2 but a 3-humped camel! This was 'Godfrey the Three-Humped Camel': this year's Pre-Prep Nativity. Reception, Years 1 and 2 enjoyed retelling the traditional Christmas story with the help of this very special camel. Year 2 led the way learning lots of lines to narrate and act as the main characters in the story with great support from Year 1. Reception shone as stars and angels, enthusiastically playing their maracas. All the children had such fun singing the lively songs and delivered a super dance routine as a finale.

This year we were treated to accompaniment by **Tom Ellis** from Year 8 who fulfilled the tricky role of keeping an eye on the children as well as the music!

Janet Maultby





Pre-Prep

Stop, Drop & Roll

Year 2 had a visit to Bognor Fire Station. The children were taught about firework and fire safety in preparation for Bonfire Night; they learnt to Stop, Drop and Roll if their clothing is burning; they were told to check their smoke detectors at home and nag parents about it and they were asked to learn their address and postcode in case they need to ring 999. The alarm bells rang and crew went to an emergency call out - the children were able to see the fire fighters on their return. The children were very helpful and used a fire hose to clean the dirty fire engine. A fun and very informative morning was had by all.

Sasha Metzger



Egyptologists

Year 3 have been learning about Ancient Egypt. We learnt all about Howard Carter's amazing discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and the treasures inside. We wrote diaries pretending we were Howard Carter, documenting the find and then we had a go at making our own Tutankhamun death masks. We were lucky that this year, Tutankhamun's real treasures have come to London! We were extremely excited to go on the train to the Saatchi Gallery to see the artefacts. Lots of our mummies and daddies came with us because they

also wanted to see the incredible treasures. After we looked around the exhibition, we made puppet theatres and acted out the 'Weighing of the Heart' ceremony. If your heart was lighter than Ma'at's feather, you were allowed into the afterlife. We had a wonderful time and will never forget it!

Sarah Hobrow



Bury Manor Pre-School



This term we have become a 'single use plastic free' nursery which has brought to us many unexpected benefits...homemade hummus, banana and chocolate chip bread, scones, bread rolls and oat cookies! Charlie and Sarah Hughes have provided us with fresh fruit and vegetables from Charlie's Farm Shop which are delivered to our door and my local butcher in Steyning has portioned and wrapped our Cheddar

in paper rather than plastic. The children have loved making and eating these delicious snacks and we have produced much less waste. We have made good use of our wonderful surroundings with long walks along the river, hill rolling, parachute and leaf fun in the walled garden and asking a very scary wolf, 'what's the time?' in the amphitheatre. The children were excited to see the Pre-Prep Nativity dress rehearsal

which gave them great inspiration to perform brilliantly in their Nativity. We ended the term with the children's Christmas party - joining with Cootham Pre-School and visited by our wonderful Father Christmas. There was delicious party food and a hysterical entertainer. I look forward to returning in January for more fun and exciting activities and I wish you a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. **Tracey Brooks**

Sport

Cross Country

Dorset House continued to perform well in cross country running this term. The U10 and U11 match at Seaford saw the U11 boys win the team event, with **Rafferty Finn** coming home in fifth overall as the first DH placed runner. In the U8 and U9 event the following week, the young athletes from DH ran very well and showed that in a few years' time, they too will be holding their own against the bigger schools. At the Windlesham Relays, Dorset House worked hard in the cold wind and challenging course of 0.9 km to compete against seven other schools. The mixed Year 6 team set off with great determination and lead for the first three legs, only to be overtaken and finished a close second to Windlesham. The mixed Year 5 team gave their all and finished a creditable fourth. Well done to all the runners.

Hockey

The most important event for the U13s in hockey this term was the IAPS qualifying round for the Nationals which was held at Hurst and involved 16 schools. Some aspects of the day were a replica of last year's U12 National IAPS tournament - both held at Hurst in wet and windy conditions and involving the same squad, with the addition of **Flora Skinner**. Dorset House was drawn against Danes Hill for their first match. Although we were disappointed to lose 1-0,



the opposition was apparently one of the strongest teams in the tournament. Despite the high standard, the girls played some great hockey, winning two matches and finishing a respectable third place in the Plate tournament.

The U13s competed in the Cranleigh hockey tournament during the first half of the term, which gave them the opportunity to play different schools including St. John's and Epsom School. The girls played well and found the afternoon hugely beneficial. The U13As have had a great season and have beaten the likes of Seaford, Lancing Prep at Hove, Penntorpe, Duke of Kent and Lancing Prep at Worthing, as well as drawing against St. Christopher's. They had a testing triangular fixture against Cranleigh Prep School and Danes Hill. They lost to the former 3 – 0 but had a phenomenal game against Danes Hill. The squad made some strong passes and worked effectively in defence. This, along with a couple of

spectacular saves from **Matilda Simpson**, gave them a draw against a team that had qualified to play in the IAPS National finals. A great result! Following on from these matches, the girls went on to beat Chichester High and then compete in the Windlesham hockey tournament. Here, they won two matches and drew against Worth and Great Walstead to finish third overall. The last match of the season was played in the beautiful surroundings of Lancing College. Their opposition from Lancing Prep at Worthing got little chance to think about their tactics as Dorset House were set to win from the whistle. What a superb match to finish the season! Well done to Ella Lawson for her great leadership skills as captain. The U13 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Mia Finn** and U13 Player of the Season to **Phoebe Hughes**. The U13Bs have gone from strength to strength throughout the term and have gelled as a team. They have faced some tough opposition - beating the

Duke of Kent and drawing against St. Christopher's. A special mention goes to **Emilie Manger** for her role as captain and for the team as a whole. They have shown great determination during their games and have made huge progress. The U12 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Lucy Featherstone** and U12 Player of the Season to **Brooke Meurer**.

Despite playing most of their matches on a small pitch this term, the U11s have made the very best of the situation and have played some great hockey. The U11As have beaten Seaford, Pennthorpe and St. Christopher's.

The U11Bs have played some tough matches and also won their games against Pennthorpe and St. Christopher's. Their stick skills have improved and they have a better understanding of the game. The girls have worked hard as a team and, towards the end of the season, showed signs of becoming a great squad of players. The U11 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Amelie Rimer** and U11 Player of the Season to **Annabel Toynee**. The U10 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Anais Hafner** and U10 Player of the Season to **Bella Boyce**.

The U8 and U9s have worked hard to pick up the basic hockey skills and are proving to be quite a competitive group of girls. They have played matches against Lancing at Hove and Worthing, and Pennthorpe. Since lots of schools play netball during this term, Dorset House has needed to divide coaching time between the two sports. A special mention goes to **Olivia Finn** for her tackling skills in attack and for **Layla Owens** for her enthusiasm in defence. We are excited about their prospects in years to come! The U9 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Beatrice de Courcy** and U9 Player of the Season to **Layla Owens**. The U8 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Anna Tustin** and U8 Player of the Season to **Erin Sherwell**.

Netball

Although netball is not our major sport during the autumn term, we have played some fixtures throughout the age groups, especially with the younger girls. The U13Bs played some great matches against Great Ballard and Prebendal, the U11s beat Seaford and the U10s had a win against Oakwood which will hopefully give them more confidence when playing fully next term,

The U9s have played five netball matches and a tournament. They have struggled a little with the fact that their opponents have been so much bigger than them. However, during the latter stages of the term, they have been working on passing more strongly and more quickly and trying to communicate more effectively with each other, which has helped. They thoroughly enjoyed playing in the Westbourne tournament despite the cold and wet conditions. The girls bravely played against teams that were quite a bit stronger than Dorset House but credit to the girls, their enthusiasm never faltered and they gained lots from the experience. The U8s have had a great season, drawing 4-4 in their first match against Cranleigh and beating Great Ballard. The highlight for the U8s, was the Westbourne High-Five Festival. Here, they had wins against Westbourne, Portsmouth Grammar School and Boundary Oak. They also played in the Oakwood High-Five Netball Festival where they didn't concede a goal. They thoroughly enjoyed playing in different positions and against different schools. The only game they lost this season was against Handcross Park. They have worked extremely hard at developing their ball skills and are developing into a great team. Netball awards were only given to the younger girls this term. The U9 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Alice Andrews** and U9 Player of the Season to **Olivia Finn**. The U8 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Kiana Rafatnia** and U8 Player of the Season to **Olivia Smith**.



Sport

Football

The 1sts had a roller coaster of a season. They faced tough opposition in Windlesham, Lingfield, Westbourne and Brighton College. After a challenging start to the season, the boys stepped up their performances and began to work as a unit, producing great team performances against Handcross Park, Cottesmore, Shoreham and Belmont. Although these resulted in losses, the application from the boys was outstanding and they showed a strong team spirit.

Hamish Skinner dictated the triangular matches with Belmont and Shoreham, scoring a vital 3 goals. The boys showed fighting spirit throughout the season and they were rewarded with comprehensive victories against Lancing Prep and Angmering School. Notable performances throughout the season came from **Jack Woodage**, leading the front line and the midfield generals of **Jacob Fearon** and **Zach Alun-Jones** bearing the forefront of our attacking play. **Gethin Wood** and **Finn Alun-Jones** stepped up from the Colts A and played a significant part in the victory against Lancing.

The U11As enjoyed a very profitable season, winning trophies at the Lancing at Worthing and Churcher's College Football Tournaments. In addition to this, they were runners-up at the IAPS Regional Qualifiers at Westbourne House and quarter-finalists at both the Lancing College



Sport

and Ardingly College Tournaments. They also travelled to Taunton to compete in the IAPS National Finals and despite not winning a game, did themselves proud, holding back some very strong opposition. It seemed that they were involved in a tournament just about every week. So what, I hear you ask, was the secret behind their success? A strong keeper in **George Redgrove**, quick off his line, with razor sharp reactions. A solid sweeper in **Tom Hodgson**, with an old-fashioned, no-nonsense approach. Two extremely fit and versatile wing backs in **Finn Alun-Jones** and **Rafferty Finn**. A very efficient and inter-changeable midfield squad in **Rocco Heggie**, **Reece Brazier**, **Xander Boyce** and **Sam Waddell**. And finally, a clinical striker and actual goal-scoring machine in **Gethin Wood**, who apparently, has almost reached a century of goals at DH! Simple. A big thank you must also go to the loyal team of parents who literally travelled up and down the country giving their much-appreciated support.

The Colts B and Colts C performed just as well, in fact the Colts C did not lose a single game all season – a record that their coach Mr Nield was extremely proud of. A special mention must go to **Ned Hafner**, who managed to score all 7 of his team's goals in their 7-5 win against Shoreham College (and that was even after the side were 3-0 down at half-time!) The U9As produced some encouraging performances and showed great character against some strong opposition. They picked up wins against Sompting, Handcross, Pennthorpe and Cottesmore, with the likes of **Jackson Black**, **Sandy Game** and **Henry Godfrey** showing their potential. On the whole, it has been a successful season of football for the whole school, with 16 pupils being selected for the Prep School Lions squad.

Greg Weaver

(Rugby will feature in next term's newsletter as this is the main rugby term).

Girls on Tour

The under 13 girls visited the Isle of Wight on hockey tour. For the Year 8s this was our second trip to the island and sadly our last. We arrived via ferry from Portsmouth and our first stop was the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary where we were shown around and met a lot of donkeys, some very old! We then headed to Ventnor Beach for lunch before the tournament.

The tournament was the Island Free School Mini Hockey Tournament where the Dorset House School U13As beat the Priory, TIFS A and TIFS B. Our U13Bs lost to the Priory, drew against TIFS B and also drew against TIFS C. We had great fun especially, as the weather was good and there was some great hockey played by both our teams. The next day of our visit we played Ryde. The weather was wet and windy, making it very difficult to play but we kept the team spirits up. The U13As won 8-0 but the U13Bs lost 3-0. Unfortunately, due to the weather, we did not play Edgeborough, but we were soaking wet and freezing cold so we were not too disappointed. Overall, it was a successful trip and all the U13 girls thoroughly enjoyed it.

Ella Lawson (Year 8)



Music



And all that Jazz

15 DH pupils travelled to Brighton College to join a 125 piece jazz band - and what a noise we made!

When we arrived, we set up our instruments and then tuned up with the head of music. There was woodwind, brass, guitar and percussion. We covered a range of jazz classics including 'Tequila' and even a cover of 'Havana'. We also experimented and improvised. After lunch we had sectional rehearsals. (Which was delicious - we had Katsu curry).

There was a big rehearsal before we had the chance to perform before parents.

Paloma Baramidze and Flora Skinner (Year 7)



Music

Rigoletto

During half term, the orchestra and choir were fortunate enough to be able to see the opera 'Rigoletto' at the Glyndebourne Opera House.

We sat in an incredibly well designed circular wooden theatre, high above everyone else, giving us a fantastic view of the stage. There was an amazing orchestra located below us and in front of the stage, with a wide range of instruments all playing in harmony and enhancing the performance.

The stage was a substantial size which allowed various props to be used for the different scenes and acts that were in the opera.

The acoustics were phenomenal. The singers' voices are trained so that they are able to be heard without microphones. They were singing in Italian but luckily there were subtitles on a screen above the stage so you could follow along. It sounded amazing!

Once the performance had finished, the main character Gilda, Rigoletto's daughter, came outside with everyone and some of us got a chance to meet her and take some photos.

Overall, it was a great experience and I was really impressed with the singers. Mr Marconi and Mr Thomas dressed appropriately for Glyndebourne but the pupils were a bit more relaxed!

Ella Lawson, Year 8
Head of Orchestra



Art and DT



Getting dotty!

Year 7 have been learning about The Queen of Polka Dots, Yayoi Kusama. Kusama is a contemporary Japanese artist who is known for her installations, sculptures and paintings. Aside from polka dots, pumpkins feature strongly in her work so rather than carving Halloween pumpkins we had a go at recreating one of her polka dot pumpkin installations. Year 7 saw how, by using mirrors, you can multiply the number of pumpkins, which is what Kusama does to create spaces that appear endless. Dots and circles have been a bit of a theme this term with Year 5 creating their own Kandinsky Concentric Circles paintings and Year 6 have been learning about Pointillism and the work of George Seurat. Xander Boyce, Gethin Wood and George Game even put their maths skills to the test and estimated how many dots were in Xander's finished painting. The children are often surprised by how many cross-curricular maths opportunities there are in art but in DT they need to apply their maths knowledge in nearly every lesson. Sophie Sitwell and I are both teaching DT this year and DT workshop has a new sander, workbench and many new hand tools, which Year 8 are using to make their bird boxes. Art Club is thriving and the art room is full most sessions with many new faces.

For the first time, we now have a Year 8 art prefect, **Edwyn Payne**, although I would also like to thank **Lucy Featherstone**, **Brooke Meurer** and **Jack Laing** who are a wonderful help too, especially on Thursdays when Pre-Prep attend.

Carly Harrison

Commemorative Panel

We are all very excited about the new Pre-Prep building which is so nearly finished. In addition to the hall, there will be a new office and you may remember that Mrs Farley began a large scale ceramic project last term for which every child designed and made a tile - decorated with something which epitomised the school in their eyes. This term, Mrs Farley returned to help staff to create their own tiles. The Art room was a very calm and quiet spot for an hour or two on a dark November night and we can't wait to see the finished panel which should be up by the time we return from the Christmas break. Do you recognise the design below? The children see this every day!



Art and DT



Christmas Card Competition

This is a highlight of the term for some children and everyone had the chance this year to decorate a Christmas card which they could take home. We were thrilled that Catherine Rowe, a local artist, agreed to judge for us. Catherine's designs are sold commercially, including on stationery and Liberty fabrics. She had a tricky job but in the end, the winners were:

Year 8	Phoebe Hughes (<i>see below left</i>)
Year 7	Brooke Meurer (<i>see above left</i>)
Year 6	Bibi Matthews
Year 5	Coco Gray
Year 4	Jackson Black (<i>see below for detail</i>)
Year 3	Thomas Sirett
Year 2	Jackson Morey
Year 1	Mills Sirett
Reception	Charlie Morey

Packs of the winning designs have been printed and are being sold for FEAST.



Other News

Staff News

This term we welcome **Sophie Sitwell** to the staff as teacher of Art and DT. Sophie Studied Stage Design at Central St Martin's School of Art and Design in London and has enjoyed a wide range of roles including being a founding member of a folk festival in Georgia and working as a freelance photographer and photojournalist in the UK and Georgia. Sophie ran a popular extra-curricular Photography class at Dorset House and is an experienced printmaker.

Ruth Comber joins us as Head of Learning Development and has already had an impact on the department with exciting plans for its future. Ruth has wide experience in this field and has tutored children up to GCSE level in maths and in KS1 - 3 in English.

Milena Thorburn returns to Dorset House after a year at a school in Thailand. Milena originally joined DH as a GAP student back in 2013 and continued to be part of the team during her studies at Surrey University. This year she is completing a PGCE and we are delighted to have her back. Milena is involved in many areas of school life and runs the boarding activities on Wednesday nights - reviving International nights with themed suppers and crafts included.



School Awards

It was with great excitement that we learnt that we had been shortlisted as Pre-Prep/Prep School of the Year 2020 by the Times Educational Supplement. There are just 8 schools in this category – many much larger than Dorset House and we are so delighted that the judges have recognised how much is achieved here, both inside and outside of the classroom. Dorset House currently in an exciting place and its success is very much a team effort. This category celebrates the hard work and dedication of pupils, staff and governors. We are fortunate to have a very supportive parental body which contributes to the genuine family atmosphere at our school.



Other News



Showjumping

This term is one of the busiest in the NSEA calendar and therefore the DH Equestrian team have been out in force. In fact they have attended 11 competitions including Grass Roots Showjumping, Jumping with Style, Eventers Challenges and Showjumping Qualifiers. We currently have 13 members of the squad - 5 jumping at Grass Roots level (under 70cm) and 8 jumping in the main classes. This year for the first time we are able to field a 90cm team which is very exciting and allows us the chance to try and qualify to jump at Royal Windsor and within the main arena at Hickstead.

We had a record 6 riders (**Jack Dace, Tilda Simpson, Brooke Meurer, Sean Scrase, Alice Crowley & Lauren Wilkins**) at the NSEA National Championships held at Addington in Buckinghamshire

which was an exciting stay away show in October with over 1000 ponies attending from all over the UK. We qualified a 70cm and 80cm Showjumping Team and **Lauren Wilkins** also qualified as an individual in 3 Showjumping heights and 2 Arena Eventing heights. Luck didn't quite go our way this year with the odd pole rolled but it was superb experience for all the riders and great fun too with mid-table placings for the teams, who were mainly competing against secondary schools. Our Grass Roots team (**Archie Gray, Mills Sirett, Tom Sirett & Sam Crowley**) have had an excellent term - they won both their qualifying competitions and then recently attended the Regional Grass Roots NSEA Championships where they secured 1st place in the 40cm class. Our next aim is to try to qualify some teams for the Eventers Challenge

Championship at Hickstead in May - we have secured a 3rd place so far in the 80cm but we need a 1st or 2nd team place to get to go. We have at least 2 more chances to qualify and in December we are fielding teams at 70cm, 80cm and 90cm which is an incredible achievement for such a small school. We also now have both **Alice Crowley & Lauren Wilkins** competing ponies in 1m showjumping classes but haven't quite got a team at this height..... yet!!!

The profile of our little school in the equestrian world is remarkable, we have a widespread reputation, even beyond the South East, of having great riders and being one of the teams to beat!

Thanks go to Vicki Wilkins and all the parents whose dedication and organisation have really taken this forward.

Boarding

Halloween Fun

After our spooky Halloween supper (with pumpkins carved by the Wednesday Boarders) everybody went and put on their costumes! We all met downstairs in Wildbrooks and then suddenly it went dark and staff came in from different doors trying to scare us!

Years 5 and 6 then headed off to the walled garden and 7 and 8 went to the woods for a 'tuck treasure hunt'. It was so difficult to find the bags of sweets in the dark, especially with staff jumping out from behind trees!

Once everyone had found a bag, we all went to the Barn where we had a choice of activities such as ping-pong, Halloween noughts and crosses, guess the weight of a pumpkin (2.4kg, which Will Smith guessed correctly) and a disco in the inner Barn.

There was also a best costume competition which one person from each dorm won – well done to **Lachlan Rae**, **Daniel Simpson** and **Charlie Thomas**, along with **Rosie Ormerod**, **Emilie Manger** and **Eliza Hawyard**.

The night was great fun as was the Christmas party which took place at 'Jump In!' at Burgess Hill.

Charlie Ashworth - Head of Boarding



Goodbye and Good Luck

We say a huge 'thank you' to our fabulous Gap students who have been involved in all areas of school life - from Forest School with Pre-Prep to matches and, perhaps most importantly, being an integral part of our boarding team. **Kelly Bush** has been a wonderful night matron and **Will Arrowsmith** and **Holly Jones** have brought energy and enthusiasm to the boarding house. Will loves all things outdoors and could never be beaten in football tournaments!



P.A. News

The autumn term began with the Headmaster's drinks, where it was great to meet so many new parents and hear about the plans for the school over the coming year. A big thank you to the PA for providing another amazing spread of food. Just last week the PA and a brilliant group of parents descended on the barn to 'deck the halls' in preparation for the Christmas Concert. I hope you agree it made the atmosphere very festive for the children and their families as well as an amazing backdrop to a wonderful evening of music.

The PA also came out in force to create fun and games in the barn for all the children on Bonfire Night. We took the decision to use the funds we raised in 2018/19 to pay for 50% of the costs of the fireworks in conjunction with the school. We also raised £350 in Umbrella sales that evening thanks for an early shower which thankfully cleared just in time to enjoy a spectacular fireworks display. Next term, look out for the Neon Disco on Friday 17th January for all years and the Quiz on Friday 20th March.

One date that is a MUST for your diary is the DH Summer Party taking place from 7.30pm – midnight on Saturday 20th June 2020 in the grounds of the school, there will be live music, food and fun. Look out for tickets going on sale in the New Year.

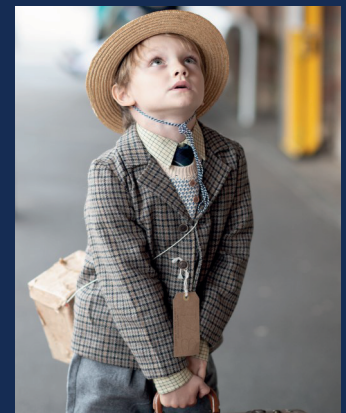
Thank you again for your ongoing support of the PA events and activities.

The Dorset House PA 2019/2020





Shortlisted
Pre-prep/prep school of the year



OPEN MORNING
SATURDAY 14th MARCH 2020
10.00am—12 Noon

For news updates, please visit:



- Minibus pick-ups available
- Day and flexi-boarding Prep School for children from Reception to Year 8
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