

DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

AUTUMN TERM REVIEW 2021



From the Headmaster

I was asked recently whether as a head, I am 'still involved with the children' by a member of staff from another prep school. I reflected on this, rather strange, question for a moment before answering, indeed yes and that is why I love coming to work; but more than that all staff at DH know and are closely 'involved with the children', no matter what their job title. The oft-used description of being a 'family school', is not an empty one here, it is simply what we are. As a school of 150 or so pupils, we are genuinely, a close -knit community and as one parent recently remarked, 'the family atmosphere is palpable'.

I was also asked about my philosophy when completing a form for a magazine editorial and I was able to respond that it is honestly reflected in that of the school, in that you only have one childhood and that it is to be cherished. It is vital to give children opportunities to succeed and not to underestimate what they can achieve if given the right support and encouragement. It is also important that in, what I often describe as a 'high challenge – low threat' atmosphere, children are free to make mistakes and to learn how to cope when things don't go to plan – both inside and outside the classroom.

Our strong House system fosters relationships across the Year groups and also encourages some very healthy competition. It was great to see this in action with our younger children when Year 1 took part in an inter-House football tournament recently.

Flicking through the draft pages of this newsletter has really brought home quite how much has been accomplished at DH since September.

Year 8 started the term in the Peak District on their postponed leadership course. Apart from the huge fun of going down lead mines and seeing how rope makers used to live underground, they were really put through their paces. They did leadership tasks, cooked, washed up, swept and cleaned. They also spent two challenging days out in the hills during which each person had a chance to lead their group. In the evenings and at the end of the course, we engaged in some really useful reflection on personal qualities and leadership.



This was excellent preparation for their applications for positions of responsibility. Every child in Year 8 wrote a formal letter of application to me; they then had a formal interview with Laura Hutchings and me during which we asked some pretty searching questions. There are (as with any Year group) a huge range of characters and personalities each with their different strengths; but I can tell you every single one had something to say. Every single child has something to offer; and that is what we believe about all children at DH. Since then, Year 8 have really taken ownership of their areas and a significant number have been made up to full prefects. The new Year 7 and 8 programmes of study have had a really successful start both in and outside of the classroom. Staff and pupils alike have been excited by the changes, with staff able to think creatively and develop new ideas whilst



ensuring that the children are well prepared for their senior schools.

We started our line-up of careers talks with a fascinating presentation on Cyber Security. (Thank you, Mr Marsh.) As part of their Theology and Philosophy Year 8 attended an online lecture by Fredrick Naftel on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism in October.

As mentioned later in the newsletter, Year 7 raised over £400 selling some extremely impressive products they made for the charity 'Operation Smile' as part of their Business Enterprise project. They were guided by Mrs Harrison and Mme Green but had a great deal of autonomy whilst planning this project and bringing it to a successful conclusion. They then reflected on what they had achieved and what advice they would offer to the next cohort.

Years 7 and 8 received their Surface Go devices at the start of term and are using them in many lessons; they have been a great success.

We have had some terrific feedback about what we are doing from senior schools. Ed Venables, the Director of Admissions from Wellington said: "It sounds genuinely brilliant and I can certainly see how it will be an enormous benefit for the young people in helping them really make the most of the final crucial two years with you before going to senior schools." Alison Withers, the Director of Admissions at Brighton College also said: "I know a lot of work has been put in behind the scenes to launch this exciting new curriculum which mirrors our ethos too."

As a staff body and school, it is always very gratifying to receive feedback from parents about how their children feel about DH:

"Just to say thank you so much for such a wonderful, engaging, half term. My son has really enjoyed it and told me the other day how much he loves going to school. Apparently 'it has pretty much everything you could need, except for rockets' !!!???"



News

REMEMBRANCE ADDRESS

It was good to be able to return to St Nicholas' Church in Arundel for our Service of Remembrance and this year we were joined by Ed Moorhouse.

Ed is a former Lt Col. in the Royal Marines. In a varied career spanning 27 years, Ed served around the globe' including appointments and operations in the Middle East, Far East, the Great Lakes region of Africa and in the United States, where he worked as a Foreign Policy specialist in the British Embassy in Washington DC.

He also undertook operational tours in Iraq in the early 2000s and as a Company Commander in 2010 in Sangin, Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, conferred by the then President of the United States, Barack Obama. This was in recognition of meritorious, gallant and distinguished service during coalition operations in Afghanistan.

He concluded his service commanding the Royal Marines Barracks in London and the Royal Marines Reserve City of London. So many in the congregation were moved by his words that we decided to reproduce his address here:

I was asked if I would say a few words to bring some context to this time of year when we as a nation stop, pause and remember those who have served their country and those who have laid down their lives to protect our freedom and liberty. I am very conscious that the congregation is in the prime of life and learning. To that end, I will not speak of the realities of modern warfare for this is something that no veteran likes to speak about or re-live. Nor will I labour the geo-political point -in-time in which we live and the strategic myopia of the West's withdrawal from Afghanistan and the humanitarian catastrophe that is now unfolding.

Instead, I would like to ask two simple questions – why do people, only 5 years older than the eldest pupils in the congregation, fight for their country and secondly, what is the most important quality that they must possess?

In my experience, people fight for two reasons: one - a love of



country and secondly, the friendship of the person next to them - be that in an armoured vehicle, fire-trench or patrol base. **Our Country:**

First to our nation. Notwithstanding the constraints of COVID over the last couple of years on travel, speaking as a parent in his 40s our world has shrunk and the opportunity to travel and experience when you leave Dorset House is amazing – the opportunities you have are so exciting. The world is magnificently varied in climates, cultures and peoples. However, the world is also a place of conflicting ideologies. Like many in the congregation, I have travelled and seen firsthand the alternatives.

There is only one ideology that allows humanity to reach its true potential. It is the ideology that you have been born into – it is the freedom and liberty that is a liberal democracy based on a free market and capitalism – it is based on three words: flag, faith and family.

Perhaps this difference is best captured by the America's greatest orator, peacemaker and President when he said that: 'regimes planted by bayonets do not take root'.

These freedoms and liberties have been hard won – the names on every war memorial in every town and village up and down this land remember those men and women who have safeguarded the society we cherish today by making the ultimate sacrifice.

It is the role of the armed forces to protect and defend these freedoms – to paraphrase George Orwell:

'We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm'.

We live in a magnificent country and the opportunities that await you are numerous, exciting and dynamic – please aim for the stars. I say this knowing that it is beholden to a small number of people to protect your dreams and the routes that lead to these opportunities.

These people serve not for money, but for the duty and longheld privilege of serving one's country to ensure that the collective (that's you - learning, hoovering knowledge like great ocean sponges) have the time and space to optimise the freedoms and liberties that Orwell's 'rough men of violence' gave – and still give their lives to protect.

This simple notion is ancient and binds the warrior to his country.

It is thankfully timeless and resilient to the insidious erosion that some seek to promulgate, from their privileged vantage points, to the hypocritical detriment of the freedoms they enjoy. **Friendship:**

From Country to Friendship. Friendship is the glue that binds together fighting men – it is a brotherly love that is based on reliance and respect of your kinsman to your left or right, in the knowledge that when it all goes horrible wrong you will not be let down by that person.

Friendship is also the key in making life – with all of its trials and tribulations, all of its ups and downs – the wonderful experience that life is.

Friends you make at Dorset House will provide bonds that, in many cases, will last a life-time. They will provide that person you can rely upon, that person to laugh with, to laugh at, to laugh together.

They will be that confidant, that soul mate, that mucker, that brother from another mother or sister from another mister. Friendship is about communications, it is about talking and that simple human activity of sharing space, sharing silence, sharing time. Friendship is not at the end of furious fingers scrolling across a tablet or mobile. Friendship is not some vanity exercise uploaded on TikTok or a swipe and thumbs up on a social media platform. Friendship is about breaking that toxic strangle-hold that humanity has slept-walked into with social media.

Friendship is taking time to digitally divorce yourself from the internet, to laugh with the friend, to ask advice of that friend, to break bread with that friend – to enjoy that human-to-human contact – to simply say "how's it going?"

My best friend was also a warrior, an officer in the Irish Guards. We rode motorbikes together, we drank Guinness (far too much of it), he made me laugh, his wife despaired at our stupidity – he was a brother from another mother, in his words. He was killed leading his company of guardsmen in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan 10 years ago leaving behind a wife, daughter and son – his legacy was the freedom we enjoy.

Human-to-human contact is the sustenance of life – a life that is so easily taken from us in the blink of an eye. A life taken as I prepared to marry, and he was to be my best man.

Not a single day goes by that I do not think of my best friend; and not a single day goes by when I know a young, inquisitive 12-year-old, my godson, who cannot remember him asks – 'what was Dad like?'

Please cherish your friendships.

Compassion

Finally, people often asked what is the most important quality of a warrior?

Is it bravery, courage, cunning, intelligence, physical prowess? Yes, these are all important. But to me, that most important quality is a human quality that is as important to those who serve their countries to defend freedom and liberty, as it is to a pupil enjoying the educational journey at Dorset House.

That quality is compassion.

Some would think this is a strange quality to champion – especially probably Mr Orwell.

However, a warrior, a marine, a leader without compassion is a danger to all: a danger himself, a danger to his foe, or critically a danger to the civilian or subject he is duty bound to protect.

Compassion, to those who serve, and those who lead those who serve, is about having a moral compass that stands scrutiny to that moment of contemplation when a simple question is asked – could I have done better?

A wise man of considerably more experience than me captured this moment of self-scrutiny – he reminded himself of the 3 Ms – his mother, his mentor, his maker – what would they think of his actions and that compassion he had or had not shown – would they have expected him to do better? Compassion is an individual thing, it something that only you can quantify and only you can distil. It is the polar opposite from the narcissistic one-upmanship that all too many posts appearing on social media display and promote.

It is an individual act of modesty, of humility and all too often an act of loneliness and courage of leaving the comfort of the flock to do what is right – it is something that does not need to be cyber-trumpeted – it is an act that the 3Ms would expect

Charity News

and would be proud of. It defines you; it defines your moral compass.

I represent a generation of servicemen and women who have fought for the last two decades in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas around the world. The scaring of modern warfare is considerable. My young warriors, some only five years older than you coming to the end of your educational journey at DH, have seen too much; young minds adulterated by things no eyes should see, no ears should hear or nose smell. Two of my former marines have taken their own lives in the intervening years, others have attempted; many have and are seeking help to quieten and dispel the demons that haunt their every day.

Many of the Afghan and Iraq veteran diaspora struggle with its aftermath. To some the street is now their home, whilst others rely on the support of charity. Please remember this when you next pass a young man sitting in a shop doorway, chaotically surrounded by his life's possessions; his eyes listless, his age advanced, tattoos faded and old military headdress the only indicator to the service he gave – for the liberty, freedom and opportunity you now enjoy – and show, all I ask.... Some compassion. THANK YOU.





Thank you!

Dorset House has a long tradition of involvement with many charities and this is an area in which the pupil voice is particularly strong. Children will often put forward their ideas for charities to support or come up with ways in which to raise funds. As we gave thanks at our Harvest service, we collected items for the Petworth Food Bank and these. together with a donation for £60 were sent to this local charity. A non-uniform day for Children in Need raised £360 The children designed Christmas Cards and the commission earned from these raised £500 for local homeless charity, Turning Tides. The collection at the Remembrance service raised £300 for the Royal British Legion. In addition, we have been able to

transfer £1040 in annual sponsorship and Christmas gifts to FEAST from funds raised previously. The DH Mind fundraising started at the end of January with the 'Move for Mind' initiative organised by Mr Bardouleau. In true DH style, the children, staff and parents embraced the challenge, becoming quite competitive as the weeks progressed. Mrs Manger decided to take on the London Marathon for Mind and Mr Bardouleau was rewarded for his fundraising efforts with a free place . There were a range of activities, games and competitions for the children in the week running up to the marathon followed the week after by a tin can alley and homemade bracelets for sale, organised by Year 6 during breaktimes. The total raised from these ventures was an amazing £268.49 This was a welcome addition to Mrs Manger's fundraising page which reached a total of £9418.49. Huge thanks to the DH community for their support throughout the year.

Business Enterprise Project

For the second time this year, DH pupils set up stall at the Arundel Farmers' Market.

This term, it was the turn of Year 7 who had been working since the beginning of term on their Business Enterprise Project.

Mrs Harrison made Art lessons available for them to work on producing a wide range of Christmas items. It took a little while to ensure that everyone understood about quality control for items being sold to the public but once the project was underway, the children worked with enthusiasm.

They had great ideas and there were some interesting discussions where the group learnt about listening to others and being gracious, even if your ideas were not adopted.

The purpose of the project was to learn about costs and profit and the children put forward ideas as to which charity to support. In the end they voted for Operation Smile a charity which helps children born with cleft palates. On the day, two members of the class volunteered to act as mascots and Hadley dressed as Santa whilst Barney appeared in a striking home-made Christmas tree costume.

We have had such positive feedback about the children who were left to serve customers and talk about their products and the charity. One customer described them as, 'smiley, enthusiastic and polite'. At the end of the session, the stall was all but sold out and £405 was raised.



One of the many good things about this project is that each group can pass on what they have learnt to the next group.

The feedback forms completed by the children were fascinating and very positive. All the children were delighted with the sum raised which was double what they had expected. They also suggested making more stock and everyone agreed that the cards were the best items as 'everyone needs cards' and 'they looked very professional'.

Well done, Year 7 - we are all very proud of you!



Forest School

At Dorset House the outdoor environment is central to our curriculum and ethos, whether it be playing in the woods at break time or attending a Forest School (FS) session. The Pre-Prep children enjoy regular sessions with a qualified Forest School leader who provides opportunities for the children to learn through exploration and play, as well as learning more about the environment around them.

Forest School itself is based on a fundamental respect for children and for their capacity to instigate, test and maintain curiosity in the world around them. It believes in children's right to play; the right to access the outdoors (in particular a woodland environment); the right to access risk and the vibrant reality of the natural world; and the right to experience a healthy range of emotions, through all the challenges of social interaction, in order to build a resilience that will enable continued and creative engagement with their peers and their potential.

FS is based more on the process of learning than it is on the content - more on the 'how' than the 'what'. This means that Forest School practice steps boldly out of the shadow and limitation of 'planned activities' and ventures collaboratively into the realms of the unplanned, unexpected and ultimately unlimited. The FS environment gives children the time and space to explore and learn in their own way. They are gaining skills which will go on to benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Through different activities, facilitated by the FS leader, the children are encouraged and enabled to learn lifelong skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and risk - assessing. Not to mention the benefits that the outdoor environment has on our mental health and general wellbeing. Activities include cooking on an open fire, role play in the mud kitchen, natural art, whittling sticks, toasting marshmallows, lighting a fire, building dens and shelters, sawing wood, creating homes and habitats for woodland animals and identifying different trees, plants and berries.

Ali Fentiman Forest School Leader



Pre-Prep

Reception

It has been lovely to welcome the new Reception cohort into Dorset House School this term and we are well and truly settled in! It has been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic to learn and to make new friends. As always, we start our reading adventure right from the start and we are already terrific readers! The children have loved spending their time in the book corner, exploring the different genres, and the delight on their faces when they realise that they can read some of the words on their own is very special! We have explored our first two topics so far which have been 'All About Me' and 'Celebrations'. The children always enjoy talking about their families and sharing their 'All About Me' books. In our 'Celebrations' topic, we have found that there are lots of different celebrations that happen all around the world, some that we celebrate, and some that are new to us. For example, when we looked at the Jewish New Year Festival of Rosh Hashanah, we found that one of the foods that they eat is apple dipped in honey. We tried this and it was delicious! For one afternoon a week, the children have a Forest School lesson with Miss Fentiman. They love this lesson and they get to explore lots of different activities in the woods. In particular, they enjoy using the clay and one week they made some very sweet hedgehogs. Another favourite weekly lesson that the children have enjoyed has been our cooking lesson with Mrs Manger. Each week the children make a different tasty treat to take home and try and for our first ever lesson, we made a picture of our face on a pizza!

As usual, we ended the Autumn term by performing our Nativity, *Lights, Camel, Action!* The Reception children played the very important role of the angels and even helped the Disco Star to perform his dance! The children worked very hard to learn the songs and their dances and it looked fantastic.







Nativity



Lights, Camel, Action!

The children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have been very busy this half term practising for the Nativity. The Bethlehem Broadcasting Company is recording a dazzling dance to celebrate the special occasion of Jesus' birth and the cast is jam-packed with nativity celebrities. Personalities, including some funky camels and a disco star, have come together again to recall their roles in the miraculous story. It's a Christmas celebration like never before, with dance styles ranging from tango to line dancing and ballet to disco. The judges have gathered their scoreboards, dancers are waiting in the wings and the audience is assembled for *Lights, Camel, Action!*

P.S. The cast were so excited to receive a special message recorded just for them by Kai and AJ from `Strictly'. What a special treat!

Thank you to all the Pre-Prep staff who worked so hard to make this production possible - it really is one of the highlights of the school year.

















Pre-Prep



Year 1

Our Topic this half term has been all about 'Houses and Homes'. Year 1 know that a good way to find out information is to visit a museum and talk to experts, so with lunches packed and warm coats on, we headed for the Weald and Downland Living Museum in Singleton. We started the day with a little wander before finding our lovely guide making drop scones by the fire in one of the old houses. She showed us some interesting old tins and containers and we guessed what might have been in them. Then it was time to get on with some chores. We polished the brass, turned the mangle and beat the carpets in the small Victorian house. We popped upstairs to make the beds and heard that the oldest child had to do the worst job of all – emptying the toilet bucket. After a picnic lunch by the lake, we headed for our next workshop. This one was all about building with wood. The highlight was being able to use a two man saw and a splitting maul to make a wooden peg. Trips like this bring our Topics to life, the class had a wonderful day out.

Karen Bentley



Year 2

'Keeping things Healthy' has been the theme in Year 2 Science lessons. The children have looked at exercise and what it does to our bodies, they listened to each other's heart and measured pulses. Healthy food and diet have been a big part of our Science too and Year 2 headed off around Champs to carry out a favourite fruit survey on all the children and adults they could find! They then converted the results into a bar chart. Year 2 decided that, although biscuits are not healthy, they very much enjoyed making Polar Bear claws and Pudsey biscuits and it is OK to have one occasionally as a treat! **Sasha Metzger**

Year 3

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Haslemere Museum. We took part in a mummification workshop and saw a real Ancient Egyptian mummy! We had fun taking the organs out of a pretend mummy, although we weren't so thrilled to hear about how they got the brain out through the nose! We enjoyed decoding hieroglyphs, looking at artefacts and trying to work out from X-rays how the museum's mummy had died. After that, we mummified our teddies – complete with death masks and amulets tucked inside the wrappings.

Evacuees 2021



Luckily, no teddies were actually hurt in the process of our workshop and they are all happily back home safe and sound, with all their insides intact! Sarah Hobrow



A Rite of Passage...

DH children always look forward to their evacuation experience and this year was no exception.

They waved goodbye to their parents at Pulborough station and stepped back in time, as evacuees. Honor said, 'It felt so real to be leaving and it made me sad.'

They arrived in Amberley and walked along the river to the Manor, carrying their suitcases and gas mask boxes. Greeted by Lord Marconi, they were ushered into the warmth of the Barn. However, it was not long before they found themselves hunting for coded messages and joining in some wartime activities.

The children also experienced a week of rationed meals at school. Missing out on pizza, pasta and puddings was quite a challenge for some! They enjoyed a wartime drama workshop, run by the Rainbow Theatre Company. To celebrate VE day, the children made sandwiches and biscuits and decorations for the classroom. Janet White

Prep

Peak District Leadership Trip

We left Dorset House at 8 am and our drive lasted around 6 hours.

Once we arrived at the bunkhouse in Derbyshire, we unpacked and were then split into two groups, each with one instructor and 2 teachers. Then we went on a walk up a hill called Lose Hill. On the way down from the VERY big hill, we had to find our own way back. I really enjoyed it. When we arrived back it was getting darker as it was approaching 7 o'clock, and we were all very hungry. We had a quick break outside and then Group 1 started preparing and cooking dinner. This consisted of pasta, pizza and salad and for pudding we had ice cream. Once we finished supper we chatted for a bit and then went to bed at around 10 o'clock. The next morning (Thursday) we got up and prepared to go on a hike. This was lots of fun and we were out for nearly 7 hours. We had to race back for the last bit as it started to thunder and we needed to get off the hills. Once we arrived back from the hike group 2 began to make supper. For supper we had bolognaise and then we went into the sports hall and did some team building games. We were in our two teams and we had to work together to untie a long rope of knots whilst still holding on to the rope with one hand and we were not allowed to let go. It was great fun and it made me think very hard!

The next day (Friday) after breakfast, we all got in the minibus and headed to the caves. The first cave we looked at was an old lead mine, and it was filled with water. We travelled through it on a metal boat and had to wear hard hats because the roof was so low. It was really interesting: we learnt all about what the miners used it for and what hard lives they had.

We then got in the minibus to go and visit another cave - this one was called The Devil's Arse! We learnt that thieves used to go and hide in this cave and stored all the things they stole there. They used to trick people by saying that if you went into the cave, the devil would come. This was to keep people away from the cave.



Later on, people offered the cave for rope makers to come and live in to make ropes for the lead miners to use, as it was dry inside it. We then learnt how they made rope, and went on a tour around the cave. We also found out why it was called The Devil's Arse (some of the vents make a rude noise when it rains and the water level rises!).

After lunch, we got in the minibus again and went to get some ice cream and then we went orienteering around the area. We were split into groups and we had to find as many of the places on the map as we could, and we were not allowed any help! There were also things we had to find out for bonus points!

When we got back home we played outside, and then we ordered fish and chips for supper. Once we finished that, we had some cake as it was Finn's birthday. We went and played some games in our dorms and then had some hot chocolate and went to bed.

The next morning (Saturday) we packed up and had to clean everything up - and then we said goodbye to the bunkhouse, and headed home.

Jack Laing

The Tempest

Year 6 were delighted to be invited to Hurstpierpoint College recently for a Prep Schools matinee of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The play took place in Hurst's New Bury Theatre – an arena that Jackson Black described as, 'breathtaking... it was so big it was like it was going to swallow us up'. Two DH old boys were in the cast:

Prep

Sam Hayward played Caliban and **Henry Brown** played a member of the ship's crew, but was also understudying Prince Ferdinand.

Having studied the play in class this term, all the children knew the basic story – some aspects of the production, however, provoked some interestingly analytical responses: 'I didn't understand why some people were waving sticks around... so that didn't work as well as they wanted it to.' 'I found it interesting that they used at least ten girls to play Ariel. It was odd but it worked very well.'

'At one point in the play they projected the girls' faces onto the stage so that it almost looked 3D. They all spoke in unison so that added a bit of creepiness to it.'

'I loved how they had real instruments for sound effects instead of just a computer – I thought that the production was AMAZING!'.

'I was prepared to see a King of Naples but instead I saw a Queen of Naples and I now wish Shakespeare had written it that way.'

And finally...

'It was interesting how they spoke Shakespearian.' (!) Many thanks to Hurst for inviting us, Mr Thomas and Mr Owens for coming with us – and Year 6 for their enthusiastic and thoughtful reviews. **Laura Hutchings**





Lodge Hill Fun for Year 5

Year 5 had a wonderful trip to Lodge Hill this term as part of the leadership programme. Here is a photograph of some of them doing the Crate Stack Challenge, where they have to work together as a team to build the highest stack they can. The children also enjoyed a low ropes course, archery, orienteering, the climbing tower and a high zip line. All agreed that it was a fantastic two days of fun! **Lee Nield**

Career Talks

We are very grateful to Julian Marsh who visited DH to talk to Years 7 and 8 about Cyber Security.

This was the first in our programme of talks about career choices and we are keen to ensure that by the time they leave us, pupils have been able to learn about a wide range of different careers.

Mr Marsh's presentation was fascinating and he was able to answer the many and varied questions posed by his audience.

Prefects

The Year 8 Prefects have been very proactive this term. Rosie, Sofia, Xander and I have held four meetings. The aim was to catch up with everyone's achievements and plans plus a chance to share ideas. Bibi and **Finn** have been holding School Council meetings with two representatives from each Year in the Prep. They are introducing ketchup bottles at lunch instead of sachets, with the support of the Eco Prefects, Ollie and Archie. (Ollie has also been doing some work on the environment outside of school by planting a tree for the National Trust. (See Right)). Our Charity Prefect, Jack, has been extremely busy helping to raise £300 for the Royal British Legion, £500 for Turning Tides, over £200 for Mind, £360 for Children In Need and the Year 7s have made just over £400 for their Business Enterprise Project for Operation Smile. This totals an amazing £1,760 and we are only one term in! **Jack** is also the ICT Prefect. He's started an ICT club with microbits and coding robots. He's also helped the teachers to get students at home set up with online learning. Next, he is going to update the information boards in the ICT room. The Pre-Prep Prefects, George and Lachlan, were working closely with Jack at the start of the term for the charity 'Mind'. They've also been attending Pre-Prep assemblies and making sure they are aware of all the upcoming events.

Sam, the Events Prefect, has done very well by organising the Harvest Festival, the Remembrance service and Bonfire night. Our Sports Prefect, Gethin, organised a Year 5 – 8 Football Tournament, everyone was welcome to play. Izzy, who is the Boarding Prefect, also created a Football Tournament, she reads stories at night for Years 5 and 6 and has helped with ordering tuck and handing it out on Thursday evenings. She holds meetings with two Boarding Reps from each Year, organised a Bake Off and she helped with planning the boarders' party.

The Pastoral Prefects, Zac and Annabel, have done a great job with looking after everyone and making them feel happy and comfortable. They've started to clean the summer house and figure out what they need for it so they can use it for a quiet place to talk to people. In her other role as Science Prefect, Annabel has been a great support to Mr Keane and Seb Scrase has been helping Mrs Harrison. Our Library Prefect, Edward, has assembled a few people from each Year to help with organising the library, he's also held some meetings. We're all really looking forward to getting stuck into 2022 and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rafferty Finn, Head Boy.

Tree Planting

As part of the Queen's Green Canopy campaign, **Ollie Godfrey** planted a beech tree today at Northwood, on the National Trust's estate at Slindon.



Over the last seven years, the National Trust has undertaken its largest woodland restoration project ever, planting 15,000 trees on the 185-acre Northwood, which was cleared for food production in both World Wars. Until quite recently, the area which has now been planted up, was shown on maps as 'War Ag fields', reflecting the role of the old War Agricultural Executives in requiring land to be ploughed up for the growing of cereals and vegetables. Now, woodland will in due course cover the area of a mediumsized farm, with all the environmental benefits that gives rise to. Ollie is involved in a number of environmental initiatives on the school campus, said, 'It was great to see what the National Trust are doing at Northwood and to make a contribution to the project'.

Photo courtesy of Charlie Waring

Music

The Autumn term is always action packed for the Music department! It was wonderful earlier in the term to be able to perform to audiences in the informal concert series for Years 1-4 (it will be Year 5-8's turn to dazzle in the Spring). For both Year 1 and 2 it was their first opportunity to do so, and they were really special occasions, full of happy and confident children singing their hearts out every child even sang a solo! In a similar fashion, the children in Years 3 & 4 had their first chance to show off on the instruments they have started to learn. These concerts are an important rite of passage at DH and it is exciting to see the children develop over their time here and to witness their progress as they perform in Year 8.

Emily Han joined us this term and as well as assisting me in class, she has been regularly supporting those working towards scholarships and exams and helping with accompaniment for the orchestra and Swing Band. She and her partner, Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido, gave an inspirational performance to our Year 1 pupils.

While our musical plans this year have been stopped in their tracks, the Christmas spirit is in full swing as I write – I can hear carols being rehearsed in three different venues! Some of the older children have organised ensembles to busk around the school to play us into the Christmas holidays... Jason Marconi





Sport

Hockey

It has been great to finally start playing hockey matches again. After missing last year, due to Covid, it was a slow start for the girls as they had no experience playing on a large astro pitch. In each game they have gone from strength to strength and both the U13s and U11s are beginning to use the space to their advantage. It was lovely to welcome Kuda Kamwaza, from Brighton College, to host a Hockey Masterclass for all girls in Years 3-8 to help progress their skills further.

The U13s have had a solid hockey season. Captained by Izzy Thomas, who has made some incredible saves this year and stepped up in her captain's role, the team kicked off their season with a draw against Lancing Prep at Hove. It was a great opportunity to use the space and practise what they had worked on in training. A promise of a McFlurry if they could remain unbeaten was the perfect bribe to secure a win and draw against Windlesham and Lancing Prep at Worthing, respectively. The girls suffered a slight knock in a heavy defeat against a very tough Handcross side, but it was great to see them dig deep at half time and raise their game. It was a huge learning curve, and they came out fighting at the U13 Windlesham tournament! U12 Most Improved Player was awarded to Bella Boyce and U12 Player of the Season to Eliza Fearon. U13 Most Improved Player was awarded to Annabel Toynbee and Player of the Season was Izzy Thomas.

The U11s are starting to adapt to the size of the large astro which will stand them in good stead for next year. They attended a hockey masterclass at Lancing College and all the Year 6 girls developed their ball control skills and game sense. The Rising Star trophy was given to Layla Owens for her impressive defensive skills and powerful clearances. The greatest victory for the U11s was their win against Lancing Prep at Worthing. It was clear to see all their training and experience had paid off. The score was 3-0, with goals from Harriet Howgate and Francesca Morris-Warburton The team showed camaraderie and were very excited with their victory! U11 Most Improved Player was awarded to Alice Andrews and Player of the Season was Olivia Finn. The U10s have dug deep this season and are showing great potential. They have enjoyed the challenge of training with the older girls, and it is brilliant to see the progress they have made. They have had noticeable wins against Cottesmore, Lancing Prep at Hove, Windlesham and achieved a respectable draw against Handcross. The U10A Most Improved Player was Bella Wilmore and Player of the Season was Bea Belgeonne. Most Improved Player for the U10Bs was Florence Evans and U10B Player of the season was Erin Sherwell. There have only been two hockey matches for the U8s and U9s. Iris Alun-Jones has used the experience gained from her hockey club and her excellent ball control to boost the U9 team's performance in their hockey matches. Beginning the hockey season with a win against Lancing Prep at Hove, it was brilliant to see the girls start to pass the ball into space. The U9 Most Improved Player was awarded to Honor Macmillan and Player of the Season was Iris Alun-Jones.



U8s have remained unbeaten in their hockey matches, securing solid wins against Pennthorpe and Lancing Prep at Hove and have gained a wealth of experience from each game. The U8 Most Improved Player was awarded to **Mills Sirett** and U8 Player of the Season was **Sophie Ratcliffe**.

Tag Rugby Festival

A team of Year 5 and 6 girls took part in a Tag Rugby Festival at Angmering School. Captained by Bella Wilmore, they grew from strength to strength throughout the tournament, securing four wins, one draw and three losses. The girls played fantastically as a team and there were some great tries scored by Sophia Bassett and Olivia Finn. It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to try a new sport and many have found a new love for tag rugby. Bella Wilmore received the 'Player of the Day' medal for Dorset House, recognising her darting runs, ball distribution and the leadership skills she demonstrated as captain. The girls are raring to go for the next festival













Sport

Netball

Although this term is predominately our hockey season, there have been a few netball fixtures and tournaments enjoyed by our younger girls. The U10s have enjoyed a series of netball tournaments. The U10A team kicked off their run of success at the U10 Windlesham Festival, winning every game. The speed of movement, flying interceptions from Olivia Smith and superb shooting from Bea Belgeonne impressed both the parents and coaches and gave us a taste of the impressive play we expect to see in the netball season. Following on from their success, they continued to win all of their matches at the U10 Cranleigh Festival, with Kiana Rafatnia showing her talents in both attack and defence. It was lovely for both the U10A and U10B teams to attend the Oakwood tournament together and cheer each other on. Tiggy Allum and Anna Tustin were brilliant in every position. The U10 Westbourne tournament

was the last fixture before Christmas and although the U10As came third, they narrowly lost by one goal to the overall winners, Windlesham, in a goal-to-goal battle in the semi-final. The U10s show excellent potential and a special mention should go to **Georgia Posnett** and **Lilla Skinner** for their high work ethic throughout the tournament.

It has been amazing to see the U9s progress this season. They started the season with a brilliant win against Farlington. It was great to see the speed of their movement, brilliant man-to-man marking and flying interceptions from **Strawberry Frizzell**.



They have had a very successful netball season and continued their winning streak, securing wins against Prebendal, Shoreham, Great Ballard and only losing to Cranleigh by 1 goal! Their last game of the term saw the U9s triumph with an incredible 13-1 victory. All the shooting practice really paid off. We have been impressed with their sportsmanship and hard work this term and we look forward to continuing their netball season after Christmas, as they are shaping up to be a good team. The U8s have had a good start to matches at Dorset House. They are all eager to learn and are shaping up to be a versatile team. Wins against Great Ballard, Boundary

Oak and Shoreham have given the girls a boost of confidence. They really enjoyed their first Festival at Cranleigh School.

They played lots of mini matches and learnt lots of new skills. **Emily Rojas-Garner** and **Flora Lewis** scored most of the goals but all the U8 girls should be proud of their hard work this term. **Girls' Football**

It has been exciting to finally start to introducing inter-school football matches. The girls have embraced the introduction of football into the curriculum and many show great potential. The U13s have had a brilliant start to their football season, remaining unbeaten. The first of the victories came against a Shoreham



side, who put up a good fight, but the DH girls pulled out an impressive performance, winning 10-1. It was a similar situation against Lancing at Worthing, with both DH teams scoring a wealth of goals and making solid tackles. Notable performances came from **Olivia Boyce** and **Coco Gray**, who made crunching tackles and distributed the ball well around the pitch to provide opportunities for our attackers. **Inter-House Football**

To end the half term the Girls' Inter-Houseouse Football Tournament was held for Years 5-8. Sims, Munro, Wilkinson and Hutchinson prepared for the battle to see who could come out on top. War paint, banners and even a giant teddy bear mascot were used to warn off the opposition. Accompanied by a rainbow background, the girls battled hard in every match. It was great to see the Year 8s step up as leaders and role models to the younger children. The overall results were decided by a penalty shoot-out, as Wilkinson and Sims tied on points. Sims were declared the winners after a nail-biting penalty shootout. It was lovely to hear the crowd of parents cheering on the girls and they were rewarded with a DH special match tea, provided by our fabulous kitchen ladies.

Year 1 and 2 also participated in their own Inter-House Football Tournament. It was an exciting competition with one point separating the top two teams. Hutchinson managed to steal the win with a last-minute goal against Munro. It was brilliant to see the progress that the children have made, and all children received three Os for their sportsmanship and great effort. Well done to all Year 1 and 2 children! **Steph Oland**

Head of Girls' Games



Sport

Boys' Football Ist XI

The 1sts had a fantastic season, and one that is still on-going due to the success in the County Cup. The boys have thrilled us with the strength across the Year groups, forming a strong 1st and 2nd team. The first team had convincing wins against Shoreham College, Handcross Park and Pennthorpe, scoring some outstanding team goals and defending well as a team. We drew matches against Belmont, Cottesmore and Cranleigh, matches which could easily have finished differently, with strong team performances. The County Cup run.... thank you to all parents for supporting the boys and giving us the DH Roar (Heggie) to push the boys on. We have been very fortunate with the draws entitling us to play at home. So far, we have reached the quarter final stage of the competition, beating Longhill, St. Catherine's Eastbourne and Uckfield. All three ties have been against large state schools with a combined number on roll of 3325 students! Each tie has brought its challenges, from different styles of play, to the different characters (those in attendance will understand this!). The boys stepped up to the challenge in every match, physically and technically, winning 3-2, 4-3 and 2-0. This has transferred into the Wednesday fixtures and our physicality and energetic performances have been a shock to many teams we have played. Notable performances: Gethin Wood currently on 20 goals for the season, leading the front line with his powerful runs in behind, and terrifying defences. The midfield generals of Finn Alun-Jones and Rafferty Finn have been instrumental in our success, with their determination and distribution from the centre of the pitch. Lastly in the defensive unit, Archie Gray and George Redgrove have been 'rocks' at the back - Archie with his last-ditch tackles and George Redgrove making some fine saves. The boys have developed an understanding of what it takes to win these big matches and are taking every performance in their stride. Long may the Cup run continue! Player of the Season was Gethin Wood and Most Improved was Archie Gray

2nd XI

Some say that the key to a strong 1st team is a strong 2nd team and this certainly was the case this season. Any number of players could, and did, step up and play in the 1sts should they be required. **Barney Waddell** showed his credentials in goal, whilst **Edward Crowther** and **Harry**



Anderson put in some strong performances. Ned Hafner and Seb Scrase managed to score plenty of goals – most of them in a game against Pennthorpe. Player of the Season was Edward Crowther and Most Improved, Harry Anderson.

Colts A

The team really had to dig deep this season, with many boys having to step up to the challenge of A team football. There was a pleasing start with a win over Lancing at Worthing and a good run at the Lancing College Tournament in which they reached the final of the Shield. Dylan Baldwin hit good form with several goals and Gus Gray began to realise the demands of playing centre midfield. For much of the season, Henry Godfrey and Jackson Black propped the team up with their wonderful ability and determination but they also had Jensen Bladd-Symms to thank for his wonderful goalkeeping, which kept the boys in the game so often. The finest performance was saved for the last game against Cottesmore, in which the team stuck to a rigid plan and snatched a thoroughly deserved one goal win. The defence, led by Rafferty New that afternoon, was superb. Player of the Season was Jackson Black and Most Improved, Gus Gray. The Colts B made significant progress this term. The team had some tough games but showed great resilience, with James Ratcliffe and Wilf Davies putting in some great shifts. James Ratcliffe was Player of the Season and Cosmo le Page, Most Improved.

U9s

The A team have had a successful season, losing only one match to Westbourne House 4-1. The remaining fixtures have been pleasing, comfortably beating Oakwood, Prebendal and Pennthorpe. The boys had many



entertaining, hard-fought draws against Lancing Prep at Hove, St Christopher's and Handcross Park. I struggle to pick out specific, individual notable performances, due to the strength in this team! A massive well done to **Benji Toynbee, Jack Posnett, Daniel Sherwell, Harry Redgrove, Sam Crowley** and **Sam Richardson**. Two Year 3 boys have stepped up to the challenge in playing in the U9A this term, which is a tremendous achievement in itself. For playing with confidence and being an important player to the team, I want to highlight Stanley Winter and Roddy Cleghorn for the progress they have made this term, well done! Player of the Season was Harry Redgrove and Most Improved, **Jack Posnett.**

The U9Bs also only lost one game and scored plenty of goals, many of which came from **Zachary Binney** who was their Player of the Season whilst **Henry Annison** was Most Improved.

The U9Cs learnt how to defend well but struggled to find the net at the other end. Plenty of effort and enthusiasm however, from all the boys and their Player of the Season was **Paxton Clough-Humphries** and their Most Improved, **Rufus Borthwick**.

Cross Country

Earlier this term, DH competed in the Seaford Cross-Country Races. This involved teams of boys and girls across Year 3 to Year 8 running against a large number of other schools. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and there were some notable successes. Sam Crowley was first over the line in the U9 boys' race with the team finishing runners up. A special 'well done' should go to Mills Sirett, Olivia Finn, Bella Boyce and Neve Meurer, who all came in the top ten runners, but a special mention should be given to Mills Sirett, Year 3, who was competing in a Year 4 race. In the Y8 boys' race, the team of Rafferty Finn, Gethin Wood, Rocco Heggie, Finn Alun-Jones and Xander Boyce all finished high up and if it hadn't been for the extraordinary performances from the Ardingly runners, would have won the event for a second time, having come first back in 2019. In the end they settled for second place.

Greg Weaver

Director of Sport

Art and DT

It's been a productive term in the art and DT department. Year 4 have been working on World 2 pencils cases and made chalk pastels sketches inspired by Henry Moore's wartime studies. Year 5 have been learning about Miro, Matisse and Picasso and making whirling whizzers in DT. Year 6 have been going dotty creating pointillist studies. We did a bit of maths one lesson and worked out one of their paintings had about three thousand dots! After making Christmas crafts for the Business Enterprise Project, Year 7 have been using the printing press for their lino block project and using the fret saws in DT to make toy animals. Year 8 have been experimenting with the photographic technique of cyanotype and in DT they have been industriously making their bird boxes.

Carly Harrison



Art and DT









Boarding

In early September, it was great to be back in the boarding house. The sun was still shining in the evenings and so we got to go out onto the astro or on the pitches to play cricket.

When it grew colder, the Thursday night boarders went back to their favourite activity - movie night and I got to hand out the tuck which is always popular!

On Wednesday nights, we have fewer boarders and so we are able to do different activities.

One Wednesday evening we went to Littlehampton and had fish and chips from Fred's and then did back flips on the sand.

As the end of term draws near, we are doing Secret Santa and we have tried to keep it secret this year—but I don't think we've really managed it! We have had to postpone the boarders' party which is a big shame but we are looking forward to it next term. We welcomed the new Year 5 boarders and they have made a great start. The Year 5 and 6 boarders have really enjoyed being read to by either me or Miss Oland before bed and they look forward to having their hair done at Miss Oland's salon.

It is a great shame that boarding had to be cancelled at the end of term but we are all looking forward to it continuing in January.

Merry Christmas everyone! Isabella Thomas Head of Boarding



Bury Manor Pre-School



We were so pleased to be able to welcome Diddi Dance and our parents back into the class to collect their children and talk to their teachers; it has made a huge difference to the end of our days.

The children have made great use of the leaves in the woods and have loved jumping off of the climbing frame into a huge mound.

They have taken their wheelbarrows to collect pinecones for Christmas tree decorations, have made golden sparkly handprints and a beautiful feathery fairy with an acorn cup hat for their tree. We have ended the term performing a traditional Nativity with an audience, the Christmas party, a visit by our wonderful Father Christmas and a Christmas Diddi Dance special!

I look forward to seeing everyone in January for more fun and exciting activities and wish you a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! **Tracey Brooks**

Other News



Centurian

Here is Head Boy **Rafferty Finn** following his century (111 not out) against Horley in the Sussex Junior Cricket Festival in July. He also debuted for the Wisborough Green senior 2nd XI league side and played again for the Sunday non-league team.

Tennis Success

Sophie Ratcliffe in Year 3 enjoyed some amazing tennis successes over the summer holidays. All her hard work and dedication in training is really starting to pay off with some impressive results:1st Storrington U8 red ball and U9 orange ball; 1st Horsham Park U8 red ball; 1st Weald U8 Red ball; 1st MTC U8 Red Tour Storrington.

She's also had considerable success at Grade 3 competitions which attract the best players across a region:



2nd 93rd Woking Open U8 red ball; 1st Northumberland Open U8 red ball; 5th Sussex County Championships U9 red ball; 1st Sussex County Championships U8 red ball. She has also been selected by Tennis Sussex LTA to train at County level and will hopefully go on to represent the County in competitions such as the County Cup.

An Ambitious Target

While most of us were thinking of ways to relax over the course of the summer holidays, **Harry Richardson** in Year 7 set himself a challenge for charity. He settled on the idea of swimming 15,000 meters over the school holidays which equals to 1,250 lengths of the pool. In relative terms this equates to swimming a longer distance than the height of both Mont



Blanc (4,808m) and Mount Everest (8,849m) or half the length of the River Adur or 46 times the height of the Eiffel Tower. After 60 days of swimming... he met the 15,000m target but was adamant to keep swimming to see how many metres he would smash it by. He totalled 21,528m - 6,528m over his target so he is really pleased! That's an average of 359m a day for 60 days straight (or 2 months): 1,937m of open water and 19,591m of pool. In distance that's about 13.5 miles. He raised over £1000 for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

Riding High

This term has seen some tremendous success from our older DH riders. The highlight was in October when **Neve Meurer** and **Lachlan Rae came** 1st in their team event at Keysoe, Bedfordshire. Our smaller riders have also done exceptionally well, with a couple of 2nd placings for **Coco Gray, Lottie Laing** and **Thomas** and **Mills Sirett** in their team events and even a 1st place for **Gus Gray** and **Thomas** and **Mills Sirett.** We wish our riders all the best for next term, no doubt the new year will bring surprises and hopefully prizes!! Huge thanks go to Hayley Sirett who organises our riders and to all the parents who support them.







Activities

It has been a busy term on the activities front, with exciting new additions to our extracurricular timetable, including archaeology, fencing, goalkeeping, STEM and musical theatre. Sport-wise, Mr. Weaver's Monday night cricket session has kept those vital skills ticking along during the winter months and the boys in Year 1 to 4 have, as ever, relished reinforcing their football skills with Aaron, even as the nights have drawn in.

Isaac Jolley, from team GB fencing, has been teaching the children core skills, and they have had a ball getting to grips with the foils and helmets!

In Musical Theatre, the children have been learning songs and dance routines from popular West End shows, and in Cheerleading the Prep children are mastering the art of technical tumbling! Harriet, our resident 'flyer' even required specialist shoes!

The Pre-Prep Archaeology Club has been a roaring success, with Amie from Timeseekers treating the children to sessions on cookie excavations and artefact handling; artefact interpretation and drawing; facial reconstruction; experimental archaeology and making Neolithic pottery. Antoine, our STEM ambassador, has been teaching the pupils how to program autonomous robots, giving them the ability to perform a range of tasks. The students create the code and upload it to the Microbit controller board that then controls their robots. This showcases the variety of applications that programming has nowadays, and helps the students master the basics of programming. **Sarah Posnett**

Other News

Online Safety

Karl Hopwood had been advising us regarding e-safety for many years. He visits once a year to speak to all the children in age appropriate groups and also to meet with parents. This year, for the first time, we arranged on online sessions and as ever, it was so helpful to learn about developments in this area.

Here is an outline of Karl's talk:

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 young people all 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/pornography and we can take steps to block this as parents. More information can be found at www.internetmatters.org

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.



Learning Development Update

This term, we welcomed Sarah George as our new Head of Learning Development. Sarah says:

'I have worked with Dyslexic children and those with other Learning Difficulties for over twenty years, having trained as a Level 5 Teacher of SpLD at Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre back in 2000. I have had a varied career, having previously worked as Learning Support Teacher at Pennthorpe and Handcross Park before spending four years in Norwich teaching, training and screening at the Indigo Dyslexia Centre. When I returned to Sussex from Norfolk, I became Head of Learning Support at Seaford College Prep School and later at Moon Hall School for Dyslexic pupils in Reigate. I have also recently served as Interim Head Teacher at Moon Hall School in Dorking before the school moved over to the Reigate site this September. I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my varied and incredibly interesting career and have never stopped learning!'

Parents' Association







It was wonderful to have the opportunity to see many of the parents and staff together at the start of this term with the school being able to host Headmaster's Drinks for the first time since 2019. For a twist, it was held in the walled garden rather than the Barn, and I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking this added a special, almost magical feel to the evening. Perhaps the change of venue will become permanent. We also had the return of the fabulous DH fireworks night. Again, it was not quite in the School's usual style in



order to keep everyone safe but it was still a wonderful evening that was enjoyed by children and parents alike. Sadly, thanks to the ever-bothersome Covid situation we were not able to hold a Christmas Party as we had hoped. I am very pleased to say though, that we shall be running some events in the next two terms! We have the Children's Disco returning in January, which has been very popular in previous years. There will also be the Parents' Quiz Night taking place in March, hosted by the returning Quiz

Master, Matt Thomas!

I'm excited to say a Summer Party is in the planning stages. Watch this space for further information over the next term, but please save the date for what we hope will be a fantastic night. Have a wonderful Festive Break.

Luci Howgate Parents' Association Chair









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independent school awards 2020

Shortlisted Pre-prep/prep school of the year





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