



BENENDEN

2019/20 VOL.1
AUTUMN

THE TERMINAL

A SUPERIOR SHOW!

Sister Act wows sell-out crowds

In this issue...



Scientists Visit CERN
Physics students explore the world-famous research centre



Fogle Inspires Pupils
The adventurer spends a morning at Benenden



Learning from the Past
We devote a special feature to the study of Classics



From the Headmistress

Welcome to the first volume of this year's magazine, which reflects the enormous breadth and depth that a typical Benenden term encompasses.

This Autumn has offered us highlight after highlight, including **Sister Act** (which graces this issue's cover) the launch of the Choir's Christmas CD, the start of construction on a

second Microlight, the trip to Grenada, speakers including Clare Balding and Ben Fogle, the Christmas fair – complete with Ferris wheel and ice rink! – and, of course, election events aplenty.

It is always a pleasure to welcome our new girls to Benenden and it is lovely to see them all settling in so well. This term we have also welcomed three new Heads of Department in Science and it is only fitting that we devote some space in this issue to finding out more about them and their vision for their departments. Two events – the first Science Soirée, in which we showcased pupils' scientific research projects and welcomed some eminent industry experts, and the trip to CERN – were wonderful examples of the aspirations we have for our scientists at Benenden.

We are very grateful to the advertisers who have helped make this edition possible.

Our in-depth subject focus this issue is on **Classics** – a subject that is hugely popular here at Benenden but one that is often misunderstood by the public. Hopefully this fascinating special section will debunk some common myths about Classics!

Now that the new School Hall and Music School is taking physical shape, excitement among the girls is very much growing and it is lovely to read their views about the new development.

In fact, it really is an extremely exciting time at Benenden, with a great deal of new initiatives, ideas and activities for the girls to engage with, and I am delighted to welcome you to this edition.

With very best wishes

Samantha Price

CONTENTS

News

- 3 Choir Release First Christmas CD
- 4-5 Sister Act
- 6 Benenden Commemorates War Pilot Who Died Saving the School

Academic

- 7 GCSEs and A Levels 2019
- 8 Professional Skills Programme
- 9 STEM Research Soirée
- 10 Upper Fourths Make Gothic Films
- 11-17 **Classics Special:** What A Classic!; 'It Covers Every Skill Set You Need': A Focus on Classics; Lower School Girls Love Latin; 'These Languages Are Not Dead!'; Classics Beyond School; I Love Classics!; Classicists in Italy
- 18-19 Meet our New Heads of Science
- 20-21 Benenden Diploma
- 22 Diploma Girls in Stratford

- 23 Success in Financial Education Award, Atwood Inspires A Level English Literature Students, Product Design Day
- 24 MicroDrone
- 25 Model Rocket Cars
- 26-27 Election
- 28 Private Viewing of Students' Artwork, Art Workshop with Fashion Dean
- 29 Careers
- 30-31 Speakers: Ben Fogle, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton, Clare Balding

Trips

- 32-33 Girls Visit CERN
- 34-35 Grenada
- 36 Russia
- 37 Nepal

Co-Curricular

- 38-41 Model United Nations
- 42 Building a Second Microlight
- 43 House Dram
- 44-48 The Weekend

- 49 CCF Field Training Day, Cadets in Canadian Adventure
- 50-51 Music
- 52 DoFE Students Travel to the Peak District
- 53 Fireworks
- 54 Water Knockout

Outreach

- 55 Charity
- 56 Benenden in the Community

Around Benenden

- 57 Anti-Bullying Week
- 58-59 Clubs and Societies

Development

- 60-61 Excitement Builds for the New Hall and Music School
- 62 New Parents' Dinner, Hong Kong New Parents' Dinner

Comings and Goings

- 63 Welcome to Benenden
- 64 Meet the Head Girl

- 65 Founders: A Pupil's Perspective
- 66 Staff Farewells
- 67 New Staff
- 68 My First Week

Sport

- 69 Lacrosse, Fencing
- 70-71 Netball, Conditioning and Performance
- 72 Equestrian, Trampolining
- 73 Hockey
- 74 Cross Country Run, Tennis Regional Finals

Parents and Seniors

- 75 Parents' Events, BSPA
- 76-77 Two Generation Sports
- 78-79 Carol Services
- 80-81 Seniors, Seniors' Advent Services

Exeat

- 82 Looking Forward to a New Hall
- 83 From the Archives

Front cover picture Front cover shows Lexie Dykes as Deloris and Sophie Southall as Mother Superior in Sister Act

Choir Release First Christmas CD

Benenden schoolgirls aimed high in the Christmas charts as their first festive CD went on sale.

The Benenden Chapel Choir, comprising 36 pupils from Benenden School, saw their latest album, *Make We Merry*, hit the shelves on 29 November.

Their first commercial CD, of David Bednall's *Stabat Mater* in 2016, earned critical acclaim, including an Editor's Choice award from Gramophone, coverage on BBC Radio 3 and a five-star review from *Choir and Organ* magazine.

This latest recording features the choir performing original Christmas carols by three of the most highly-regarded contemporary choral composers, David Bednall, Bob Chilcott and Sarah Quarel.

Edward Whiting, Director of Music at Benenden, said: "The response to the first CD was excellent and if we can get anywhere near that reaction again then we will be delighted.

"This is very much the second album we wanted to make. In many ways it's more accessible than *Stabat Mater*: it's more upbeat, involves more instruments and we think it's great fun. We hope the listening public agree!"

The album was recorded over four days in March in two locations – Tonbridge School's Chapel and St Dunstan's Church in Cranbrook – to suit the styles of the different pieces.

It also features some of the foremost young instrumentalists on the UK scene – London Metropolitan Brass, who trained at the Royal Academy of Music, cellist Rebecca McNaught and percussionist Kizzy Brooks.

Headmistress Samantha Price said: "We are incredibly proud of the girls; they have put an enormous amount of work into this CD and they have inspired the younger girls to follow their example in years to come.

"It will be the perfect soundtrack to my family Christmas, and I hope to many other families' festive celebrations."

The recording, released through Regent Records, is available to buy on CD from classical music retailers and from the School and is widely available online (see full list at www.benenden.school/merry)



NEWS IN BRIEF

Success at ESU Debating Competition

In November Catherine Pearce, Oreoluwa Adeogun and Roya Power competed in the first round of the ESU Debating competition. They made a very strong case against compulsory voting and successfully qualified through to the next round as one of the top three schools.

The ESU Debating competition is the oldest national debating competition in the UK and hundreds of schools up and down the country take part in a series of local, area, regional and national rounds.

Refurbishments in Marshall



Our Estates Team were busy over Half Term carrying out some refurbishment work on the toilets and washrooms in Marshall.

This is part of our boarding houses refurbishment programme, which began with new Hemsted washrooms last year, and we look forward to bringing other houses' facilities up to this standard.

DofE Volunteering Garden Project

A group of girls have dedicated their volunteering work to creating a peaceful garden on the school grounds where the students and staff can relax and get away from the stresses of everyday life.

As part of this project they are creating a geodesic-domed green house to culture new plants for the garden.

Benenden Features on the BBC

Benenden featured on the Sunday Politics show in September. The programme looked at our partnership work with The John Wallis Church of England Academy as part of a discussion about the Labour Party's proposals for private schools.

Some of Benenden Chapel Choir with their CDs on the day they arrived at School



"The opportunity to capture the magic of our choir in a medium that will outlast our Benenden careers is very special and such an honour."

Poppy Worlidge,
Six Two

"Not many teenagers get an opportunity to have a copy of their own performance on CD for general release. We have been waiting for a long time for the final edit and we're incredibly excited! Who knows - perhaps it might even be a Christmas Number One album!"

Clemmie Simpkin,
Upper Fifth

One of the sleeve pictures captures a quintessentially festive Benenden scene!



NEWS IN BRIEF

TES Independent Schools Awards Finalist

We were delighted to be informed in November that we are a finalist at the TES Independent Schools Awards, in the Independent-State School Partnership section, for our work with The John Wallis Church of England Academy.

Competition for the awards has been fierce with TES editor Ann Mroz saying: "The schools that have been shortlisted should be proud – it's a remarkable achievement."

We will be up against seven other schools in our category at the ceremony in London on 7 February.

Scholarship Lunch

The Scholarship Group meets twice a term for an informal lunch in the Café, discussing ideas and puzzles related to our theme.

This year our theme is the Benenden Futures Institute and students have been set the task to research and evaluate issues that humanity will face in the future.

The girls had some excellent ideas during discussion, ranging from climate change-related issues to artificial intelligence. They have even come up with ideas for potential solutions to these problems and will continue to work on these.

Celebrating the International Year of the Periodic Table

In October the whole School took part in singing the Elements song to celebrate International Year of the Periodic Table.

After a fairly speedy start and great enthusiasm from the students the second run-through involved all year groups standing up and singing a verse, along with the staff.

Research says that singing is good for mental wellbeing and there certainly was enjoyment in this fusion of science and music!

British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition

Three of our outstanding and highly committed Mandarin students, Zaza Sunthornsarathun, Carlotta Wright and Yun Kim, represented Benenden and took part in the British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition in December.

We are now awaiting the results.

SISTER ACT

At the end of November the School was taken over by singing nuns as Sister Act fever engulfed the site! The School Musical was, as ever, top quality and wouldn't have looked out of place on a West End stage. Here we talk to some of the girls involved in the performance.

The Lead

Lexie Dykes had perhaps the most pressure on her shoulders playing the lead role of Deloris.

After the cast list was released and a short meeting at the end of the Summer Term commenced, the Sister Act cast were tasked with learning lines and lyrics before the start of term.

Excited and (mostly) prepared, three months of intense, tiring but very fun rehearsals ensued and after what seemed like no time at all, show week arrived and four performances awaited us...

The rehearsal process was not only enjoyable but all of us learnt so much from the experience and our singing, acting and dancing improved massively. We built up great friendships and the cast became very close.

Doing a comedy was a contrast to *Les Misérables* and *The Sound of Music*, but the best thing about it was that there was always something hilarious to laugh about in rehearsals. This was our first musical with lots of dancing in it and the cast was hesitant at first as it took a while to master doing all three disciplines at once. However, in the end our most enjoyable scenes were those with the big routines in them.

Despite exhaustion and many of the cast falling ill, the performances were a success and we were very sad when we knew it was over. For the Six Ones and Six Twos, it was our last Benenden Musical, making closing night even more emotional, but we already can't wait to come back and watch the next one!

The Benenden Musical is always entertaining and a pleasure to be a part of and although I have enjoyed being a part of previous productions, the cast and I definitely feel like this was one to remember.

I, on behalf of Team Sister Act, want to say a massive thank you to Mrs Lennon, Mr Whiting, Miss Lawman and Mr Fitz for all the support and direction they gave us – it wouldn't have been possible without them!



Doloris slips out of the convent to a bar

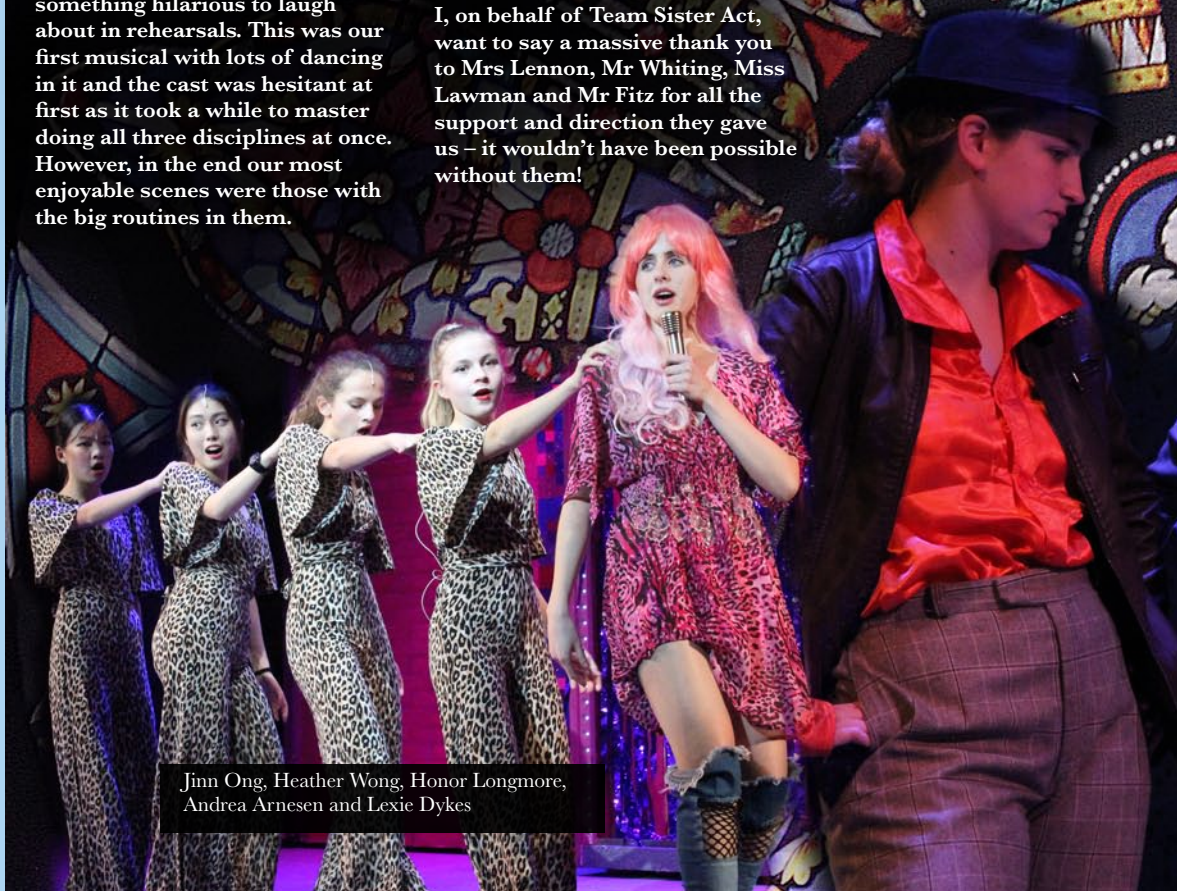


Curtis on the hunt for Doloris

Audience view

"It's really great fun. It's laugh a minute. The villains are excellent, there's a really sharp humour there. The nuns are singing and dancing in time with each other, they work really well together, and it's very well choreographed. A very slick operation."

Georgina MacLeay



Jinn Ong, Heather Wong, Honor Longmore, Andrea Arnesen and Lexie Dykes

Behind the Scenes – The Tech Team

Two members of the Tech Team, Nicole Lee and Anna Stuttaford, discuss being sound and lighting operators.

Doing tech for school musicals is a time-consuming but rewarding task. And of course it is difficult to work with actors, as they are all divas!

But in all seriousness, working backstage with the Benenden crew is a lot of fun, and we have a great time. As sound and lighting operators, we have to be focused throughout the whole show, and it is much more obvious if we mess up.

Rehearsals can be tedious, but it is worth it when we get to see the final product onstage. We always wonder, 'Will this show be finished in time for the performance dates?' And somehow, they always pull it together.'

Although doing tech is a thankless job with no glamour or curtain calls, we love doing it and look forward to our next production.



Nicole Lee



Anna Stuttaford

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minna Named as Young Economist of the Year

Six Two Minna Moody-Stuart fought off competition from around the world to be selected as the overall winner of the Young Economist of the Year competition.

The competition is run by the Royal Economic Society (RES) in association with the Financial Times and is open to all Year 12 and Year 13 students studying A Level either in the UK or internationally.

Entrants were asked to submit a 1,500 word essay on one of five titles.

Minna's winning entry was the topic of 'The Universal Basic Income is the best solution to handle the large scale displacement of labour due to automation in the coming years. Do you agree?'

Minna said: "The entire process was hugely rewarding and I would really encourage others to be ambitious and find similar opportunities to be challenged and stretched!"

Her essay was published on the Financial Times website.

Upper Fifth Learn About Financial Planning

The Upper Fifth have been learning how financial plans need to be adapted for different stages in life, family circumstances, financial circumstances and level of income and expenditure as part of their Finance classes.

To put this all into practice, in September they interviewed a variety of Benenden staff and made suggestions regarding potentially suitable financial products for their different situations.

Tatler Praises Food and Sport

Benenden is delighted that the quality of its food has been recognised in the annual Tatler Schools Awards.

The School was named as a finalist in the Best Food category at the awards held in October at the Landmark London, Marylebone Road.

The following week the magazine declared the School as one of the best schools for future Olympians, saying: "Benenden's stellar Olympic pedigree is without doubt".

The Ensemble

Scarlett Mansfield was part of the ensemble cast.

Being part of the ensemble for Sister Act has been a really enjoyable experience. It is a great role to be able to see all the production work that goes into creating a musical and all the laughter! We also don't have the stress of having to learn lots of lines or put it all together, which we have all seen takes a great amount of hard work.

Sister Act has been a great production to be a part of and I think everyone can agree that the show was absolutely spectacular from start to finish, and really highlighted just how much effort, from all the cast and crew, has gone into such a wonderful performance.

Sister Act in Numbers

114	Lights	88	girls involved in the production
28	set changes	72	nun costumes
1,090	audience members	26	radio mics
221	costume changes	12	band members in the pit
138	sound cues	1	male staff member dressed as a woman

Audience view

"The show is excellent – it's funny, with brilliant comic timing, choreography and the set is clever. It's really fun, a great night."

Tom Falcon

Audience view

"It's unbelievable – that's the only word I can use. It's amazing that the kids can do this."

Prapai Buri



Clockwise from left: Ella Allfrey, Praew Kambhato, Arielle Levack, Mia MacLeay, Clara Smith, Sophie Southall, Jessica Popoola, Leia Baig, Honor Longmore, Lexie Dykes, Sophie Apthorp, Rachel Mak and Daisy Smither

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girls Excel in New Exam

All Benenden students recently entered for a new language exam have passed with a Merit or Distinction grade, including Six Two Mariena Teo who won a coveted Best Candidate Award.

The eight entrants flourished in the Chartered Institute of Linguistics (CIOL) Real Lives exam series – a brand new format for testing practical, applied language skills in real-life scenarios.

The exam series is based on situations which have authenticity and urgency which will appeal to students who don't always immediately recognise the usefulness and relevance of learning another language. This year the focus was on listening skills.

All candidates receive a certificate from the Chartered Institute of Linguists and Mariena was invited to the awards evening in November in London.

Iona Wins Prize in Poetry Competition

In September Six One Iona Warne was awarded Bronze in the Canterbury Festival Schools' Poetry Competition - a competition that received more than 1,000 entries.

The theme of the competition was 'moon voyage' - inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first manned mission to land on the Moon which took place on 20 July 1969.

Iona said: "I've never really considered myself a poet, so this award was surprising and extremely flattering."

Iona read out her poem at a presentation evening at the University of Kent.

Laura in the Studio For Blockbuster Movie

Marshall Hm and Teacher of Music Laura Bursey Faulkner had an eventful Half Term at AIR Studios in London, where she was recording the soundtrack to the new Dolittle film that is due to be released in January 2020.

The film stars the likes of Robert Downey Jr, Antonio Banderas, Michael Sheen, Ralph Fiennes and Emma Thompson.



Benenden Commemorates War Pilot Who Died Saving the School

Pupils from Benenden School held a special Remembrance Sunday service in honour of a French pilot who died while saving the school buildings from a doodlebug 75 years ago.

Dignitaries and relatives joined pupils and staff to pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by Capitaine Jean Maridor (Free French).

On 3 August 1944 Capt Maridor, a pilot with 91 Squadron RAF, died while successfully preventing a flying bomb from hitting its target: the buildings of Benenden School which at the time were being used as a wartime military hospital.

Flying over the coast at Rye, he spotted a V1 flying bomb and set about the chase in his Spitfire. He made repeated attempts to shoot it down but was unable to ground it. As it neared the school buildings, which at the time had a large red cross on the roof, he closed to within 50 metres and let off a final salvo. The resulting explosion destroyed the doodlebug but also tore off the Spitfire's right wing, sending it plummeting to the ground.

Capt Maridor died in the crash. It was eight days before he was due to marry his fiancée, WAAF Section Office Jean Lambourn.

Among the guests to Benenden were members of Jean Lambourn's family as well as Colonel Patrice Hugret, the French Air Attaché, and Group Captain Mike Foster who was representing the Royal Air Force.

In the presence of staff, pupils and the School's Combined Cadet Force, Katie Stewart, the daughter of Jean Lambourn, unveiled a plaque in memory of Cpt Maridor. Guests also had the opportunity to view some of the artefacts and archive material the School has on file about Capt Maridor.

Headmistress Samantha Price said: "As a School and as a wider community, we are forever grateful for the ultimate sacrifice paid by Capt Maridor. In this anniversary year, it was entirely fitting for us to come together on Remembrance Sunday to celebrate the life of Capt Maridor and his astonishing bravery which undoubtedly saved the lives of many."

Mrs Stewart said: "It was a lovely tribute and a very moving service. I'm just so happy that the School keeps the memory alive, it's such an important thing."



Capitaine Jean Maridor with his fiancée Jean Lambourn; he died eight days before the couple were due to marry in 1944



Katie Stewart, daughter of Capt Maridor's fiancée, with the plaque she unveiled at Benenden School



The CCF marches to the plaque unveiling ceremony

Top photo: Dignitaries at Benenden School with the new plaque honouring Capitaine Jean Maridor. From left, Group Captain Mike Foster representing the Royal Air Force; The Rev Iori Price; Charles and Sarah Perrott (niece of Capt Maridor's fiancée); Katie (daughter of Capt Maridor's fiancée) and Will Stewart; Benenden Headmistress Samantha Price; Colonel Patrice Hugret, the French Air Attaché

GCSEs and A Levels 2019

We were delighted to return to School in September on the back of another strong year of exam results in the summer.



Some of the top A Level performers at Benenden School. Lexi Hardee, Bea Fair, Millie Metherell, Florrie Barker and Mimi Nation-Dixon

A Level

- 24 per cent of grades were A*, the highest grade available.
- 56 per cent of grades were A* to A.
- 80 per cent of grades were A* to B.

In this year's results almost a quarter of all grades were at A* – the highest level – while more than half were A* or A. Overall, 80 per cent of grades were A*-B.

These impressive results come against the backdrop of a tough national picture, with the proportion of top grades falling to their lowest level in a decade amid the biggest reform of exams for a generation.

This summer marked the third and final year of these reforms, with the exception of a few foreign language qualifications this year, which are aimed at making the courses tougher. Students had to adjust to new qualifications with new, more challenging content and modules being removed to place greater emphasis on final exams.

As ever, Benenden results included numerous stories of individual achievement. Twenty-three students gained two or more A* grades, with two of these girls gaining four A*s each and six gaining three A*s each. An incredible 63 girls gained ABB grades or above

Ninety per cent of girls achieved their first or second choice of university destination. The cohort of 94 students is going on to study subjects as diverse as Medicine, Engineering, Computer Science, Finance, Liberal Arts, International Relations, Geography and Social Anthropology, and Animal Behaviour and Welfare. One girl will be studying Sport (Sports Performance) and is currently training with the rowing squad at Team GB as well as playing Lacrosse for Wales.

Studying abroad is a popular option, with a number of students off to the US, including one to Yale, as well as one to McGill in Canada and another to Australia.

Headmistress Samantha Price said: "Many congratulations to our students on their excellent performances this year.

"We know the Class of 2019 will go out and make a hugely positive difference in the world."

"I'm happy, relieved and very excited for what it means for the next few years. I've really tried to throw myself into everything at Benenden - it paid off and I've loved every minute."
Caitlin Gluckstein,
on her 3 A* grades and an A

"I thought it was an accident! I keep thinking I'm going to refresh the page and they're going to go down."
Bee McDougall, who was Benenden's
top performer at GCSE

GCSE

- 35 per cent of all grades were at Level 9
- 60 per cent of all grades were at Levels 9 and 8
- 20 per cent of girls achieved nothing less than a Level 8 grade in the subjects graded 9-1.

As reforms to the exam system make GCSEs tougher than ever before, pupils at Benenden excelled in the summer, achieving an increase in the proportion of top marks.

A third of all results were awarded the coveted Level 9 – the new top grade introduced as part of Government reforms aimed at making GCSEs more challenging. This rose from 30 per cent last year.

Overall, 60 per cent of all grades were at Levels 9 and 8, which are equivalent to an A* on the old system. This represents an improvement on last year's excellent results, when 57 per cent of grades were at this level. Overall, 78 per cent of all grades were at Levels 9-7 (equivalent to an A under the old system).

Headmistress Samantha Price said: "What a wonderful set of results! The girls should be immensely proud that all their enormous hard work and dedication has paid off so incredibly."

Twenty per cent (18 girls) of the 89 girls in the year achieved nothing less than a Level 8 grade in the subjects graded 9-1.

Three other girls achieved at least ten of the new Level 9s, with 11 more celebrating at least nine Level 9s each.

The school's value added – what it adds to what a student might be expected to gain – is 1.04. This means for each subject, each girl is gaining on average one whole grade above what she might otherwise have achieved.

Most girls at Benenden take at least ten GCSEs, complementing this with some optional qualifications such as the Extended Project, a short course in economics and financial literacy accredited by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, a Further Maths qualification and the chance to study other languages such as Russian, Arabic, Korean and Japanese.

Professional Skills Programme

Our innovative Professional Skills Programme teaches Sixth Form pupils the practical skills they need to thrive in the workplace. Six Two Georgie Nunn gives us a rundown on what it has covered so far.



In the Professional Skills Programme this term, the whole of the Sixth Form have received training on some extremely important skills from a broad range of speakers.

Starting in September, we had multiple sessions with a few speakers, including one from Durham University, to talk to us about how to write an impressive,

and persuasive, personal statement. Chris Davies, a graduate coach, then taught us how to kick-start our careers post-university.

We also learnt how to stand out from other employees and get ahead of everyone else when we become graduates. Mrs Northridge gave us a talk on financial issues for a university student. We all took away really useful ways to financially manage the next part of our life.

We were also taught how to use Excel in the workplace by Mr Chéneau-Château; a really important skill for our generation's future.

Our most recent speaker was Phil Parker from the Lightning Process – a training



Graduate Coach Chris Davies talked about kick-starting your career after University

course that focuses on the science behind how the brain and body interact. We were really lucky to have him come to Benenden and teach us a range of ways to manage stress and anxiety during A Levels.



The Launch of the Enterprise Challenge

The end of the Autumn Term saw the launch of the hotly-anticipated Enterprise Challenge. Part of the Professional Skills Programme, this challenges Six One girls to set up and run their own businesses.

The girls have been split into 12 groups and each group has to come up with a business idea and then – through research, product development, digital marketing and various other avenues – develop it over the Spring Term.

During this time there will be a round of preliminary pitches to an internal panel in which the teams present their businesses before they are whittled down to a select few for a grand Dragon's Den-style final at the end of the Spring Term.

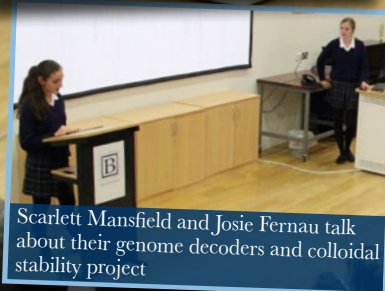
Last year's winning team – Benenden Bottoms, who sold navy tracksuits with Benenden printed across the bottom in pink – were so successful their business is still running and taking orders!

You can look forward to a detailed report on the Enterprise Challenge in the next issue of The Term.

Alexandra Hamilton spoke on her visit to Melton Labs



Saiesha Gupta talked about developing green batteries using Ionic Liquids



Scarlett Mansfield and Josie Fernau talk about their genome decoders and colloidal stability project

STEM Research Soirée

At the start of December we held the first Benenden STEM Research Soirée, in which girls gave presentations about their research projects and industry experts offered their guidance and experience.

You might have thought you were witnessing university presentations as eight students from Benenden - Alexandra Hamilton, Scarlett Mansfield, Josie Fernau, Fara Bakare, Saiesha Gupta, Lily Phillips, Lucy Elliot and Cordelia Cook - presented their research projects across STEM subjects.

The girls were incredibly impressive and showed what innovative work they have carried out, led and directed by Sue Harris, our Coordinator of STEM Outreach. We were joined by students from The John Wallis Church of England Academy who presented on their Nuffield Research Placements.

The keynote speech was given by

Professor Steve Rose from the University of Oxford and Imperial College, in which he encouraged students to take part in STEM work where the answer isn't at the back of the book!

Professor Martin Snowden and Dr Nazanin Zand from Greenwich University and Professor Robert Palgrave from UCL joined Professor Rose in a speed mentoring session which was so interesting and inspiring for our students.

Thanks to the support from parents who attended and we hope to make this a regular event since so many students are inspired and excited to get involved in the range of STEM research projects running here at Benenden.



Sue Harris, our Coordinator of STEM Outreach, talks to girls before the Soirée



Professor Becky Parker, our Head of Physics, talks to the audience



Students got a chance to take part in speed mentoring with visiting academics



The STEM Research Soirée was a chance for girls to showcase the amazing work they have been doing

In December the Upper Fourths went on a trail of Gothic clues around the site during English

Upper Fourth Make Gothic Films

During the second half of term the Upper Fourth studied Gothic literature in English. Inspired by the likes of Dickens, Brontë and Poe, in December it was their turn to get creative and make their own films, using the Gothic surroundings of the School.

Filming their Gothic films in the school grounds




Girls reviewing their footage

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WHAT A CLASSIC!

Over the next six pages we explore the fascinating – and incredibly popular – subject of Classics.





The Classics Team: from left Danielle Fairey, Joelle Gilbert and Martha Burns

‘It Covers Every Skill Set You Need’: A Focus on Classics

It is quite apt that, as a Head of Department for a subject as broad and wide ranging as Classics, Joelle Gilbert has a variety of interests in which she is very adept in her own right.

A keen violin and piano player, a Choral Scholar at Cambridge, a high-level Hockey player and qualified rugby referee, Mrs Gilbert worked in the Intelligence Corps of the Army before fate intervened that led her on a path to working here at Benenden.

As she was about to embark on a Gap Year, Mrs Gilbert was contacted by a friend at Eastbourne College who, knowing she had just graduated from studying Classics at Cambridge, told her there was a job teaching Classics available at the college.

Mrs Gilbert applied for the job, ended up working there for seven years, becoming Head of Greek and meeting her future husband at the school.

A love of Classics was cemented in her early teens, but it was at A Level that Mrs Gilbert decided the subject was what she was really interested in, and she is quick to state its importance.

“Classics is a subject that is the bedrock of all subjects in the curriculum,” she explains. “Maths, Science, Engineering, Art and Architecture, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, and of course Languages – all of these are encapsulated by the study of ancient Greece

and Rome – and it is hard, if not impossible, to find a subject that can possibly rival this.”

Mrs Gilbert has now been at Benenden for just over seven years, during which time she has seen a variety of changes.

“Girls in the Lower Fifth now have a choice whether to study Latin or Classical Civilisation, and Classical Civilisation has been introduced at GCSE. In my opinion this opens up Classics to a wider audience – I do understand that Latin and Greek are not for everyone – and now pupils can still study the ancient world in translation, expanding their knowledge and analytical skills, and thoroughly enjoy the sheer breadth and depth of the subject.”

She adds: “We haven’t had a Classics trip for a few years, so everyone is very excited for our trip to Rome and Pompeii.” (see page 17)

The subject has had exceptional exam results in recent years at Benenden and Mrs Gilbert is quick to make sure she and her team don’t rest on their laurels.

“As a department we expect high standards at all times,” she says. “Between the three of us in the team we have excellent subject



knowledge and I think we are a great team and really work well together.”

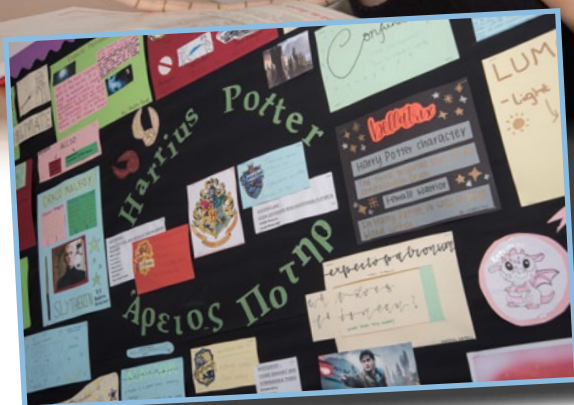
“We try to be innovative, so for instance we will do things like grammar raps with the girls to try to make the subject more memorable,” she adds.

It seems to be working, as aside from the first-rate results at GCSE and A Level, there are currently 59 girls studying at GCSE, and four Six Twos are looking to study Classics at university.

In an environment where girls are encouraged to push themselves and step outside their comfort zone it is easy to see why the subject is becoming increasingly popular, as Mrs Gilbert explains: “The girls really enjoy Classics. They know it is tough and that it can be challenging, but it helps them develop skills they can apply to any subject.”



When their teacher throws them the grammar rat, pupils have to answer a Classics question!



The Upper Fourth explored the Latin meanings hidden in the Harry Potter series

How Classics is studied at Benenden

Year

Fourth	All girls - Latin
Upper Fourth	All girls - Latin
Lower Fifth (GCSE Foundation Year)	All girls – Latin or Classical Civilisation; Top set Latin also study Greek
Fifth (GCSE)	Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation are all options
Upper Fifth (GCSE)	Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation are all options
Six One (A Level)	Latin and Greek are options
Six Two (A Level)	Latin and Greek are options

Exam Results

Qualification

GCSE - 2018	Greek: 10 Entrants. 6 Level 9s, 4 Level 8s Latin: 20 Entrants. 11 Level 9s, 7 Level 8s, 2, Level 7s
GCSE - 2019	Greek: 1 Entrant. 1 Level 9 Latin: 22 Entrants. 13 Level 9s, 8 Level 8s, 1 Level 7
A Level - 2018	Greek: 3 Entrants. 3 As. Latin: 9 Entrants. 5 A*s, 1 A, 2 Bs, 1 C
A Level - 2019	Latin: 4 Entrants. 1 A*, 3 As



‘These Languages Are Not Dead!’

Joelle Gilbert offers her appraisal of why Classics is still vitally important.

The diversity of the study of Classics is what sets it apart. It is a subject that allows us to glimpse into bygone eras, but also to open our eyes into humanity itself, and aspects of humanity that can be both familiar and shockingly foreign.

It allows us to engage in conversations that have been going on for millennia. This could be anything from if war is ever justified, to how democracy should function or the poor behaviour of youths (a situation bemoaned by Socrates) and to hopefully learn from the past and apply to the modern world.

Classics is truly interdisciplinary, long before the word itself was even invented, and the skills learnt as a result are immeasurable. Critical thinking and complex problem-solving, an ability to balance a detailed analysis with big-picture thinking, high levels of analysis and communication – it sounds too good to be true (akin to the CVs of those on the Apprentice), but it really is the case, and really ought to put an end to the unhelpful questions such as ‘why study dead languages?’. These languages are not dead!

To summarise the variety in careers that can come from having a Classics background, one has to look no further than JK Rowling, Chris Martin, Baroness Greenfield, Robert Millikan, Jonathan Evans, Sigmund Freud and Karl Marx.

Many of the world’s greatest thinkers, scientists, writers and problem-solvers had a love for the ancient world.



Lower School Girls Love Latin!

Latin is a new subject for many of the girls when they join Benenden at Fourth and they soon realise how valuable it can be.

Latin has helped us in many different subjects. We have been looking at Diploma themes which include Growth and Journeys. Our grammar skills have been improved considerably by coming up with small rhymes and dances to help us remember tenses and more.

Latin has helped us in creative writing and languages. In English when we are set a creative writing task I am now more confident after learning Latin.

This is because I now can think of all the different ways that we translate Latin sentences to English ones. This includes VSO (verb, subject, object) – they are put in that order because this is the order when you analyse a sentence. It has also helped me in Languages as many of the words and vocabulary we learn are similar to the vocabulary we may learn in Spanish and French.

In Latin we have been linking to our Diploma theme but in a way that is more disguised than in many of the other subjects.

In the second term of Fourths we looked at Journeys and that was all about different Roman stories or leaders that had been on more extreme journeys than we would come across today. We have also been thinking about change. We did this by looking at Roman education and how it has changed compared to education today.

In conclusion Latin has helped us in so many ways, which is one of the reasons I enjoy it so much. It also involves every student in each lesson.

Latin has taught me, and many others, more than expected and we can't wait to continue it again next term.

Martha Dutton, Upper Fourth



When I first joined Benenden, I was a complete beginner in Latin so the first few lessons were a bit confusing. However, we all quickly adjusted and since the classes were lots of fun, we began improving at a fast pace.

We started by learning about verbs and grammar at the same time as doing weekly tests to help our vocabulary knowledge. Throughout the year we learnt more verbs and continued to improve our understanding of sentence structures, tenses, cases etc.

In our Latin lessons, we have done a few enquiry topics, which has helped bring the language to life. Learning it through these topics also helped us with the Benenden Diploma. In the first term, following the theme of Identity, we learnt how to describe ourselves, our pets and our families, and in the second term we learnt about the journeys of Odysseus. This was fun as we became experts in our own journey and others could present their posters and teach us about theirs as well.

During the year, we did a lot of pair/group work and this was also useful since we could help each other learn faster and not make as many mistakes.

Studying Latin has helped me understand how English has evolved from Latin, both in language structure and vocabulary (therefore helping me with both). It has also helped me learn more about our history.

Dina Power, Upper Fourth



Classics Beyond School

Two Benenden Seniors explain their pursuit of Classics at university and beyond.



Nadia Chang at the Colosseum, a visit funded through an Oxford University grant

‘I could study many different things’

It is really not easy to know exactly what you want to study for the next three or four years of your life when you're 17. That certainly was the case for me.

I loved my Latin and Greek lessons at Benenden and as a result, I toyed with the idea of studying those languages further at university level. It then came as a very pleasant discovery that a Classics degree did not merely consist of the study of ancient languages, but also Literature, History, Philosophy, Art... I could go on.

Instead of focusing on a single discipline, through a Classics degree I would be able to study many different things, which I was reluctant to give up, all under the umbrella of the same degree – an opportunity I didn't really come across when browsing other UK undergraduate courses.

Oxford was then the university of choice for me – I loved the city and the faculty when I visited on the open day, and the four-year degree instead of the typical three years in the UK was an added bonus. I am of the completely unbiased opinion that to study Classics at Oxford is an unparalleled experience – nowhere else would you really be able to debate your ideas with world experts in a one-on-one tutorial setting or have ancient art

tutorials in the Ashmolean Museum.

Through the generous university grants in my second year I was even able to travel to Rome fully-funded to gain a better understanding of the Roman history and art modules I was taking at the time.

Four years after beginning my Classics degree, I am again faced with the prospect of what to do with my life after graduating. However, studying such a multi-disciplinary degree as Classics has helped me develop further fundamental skills in critical thinking and analysis which 17-year-old me was somewhat lacking in all those years ago.

I still have no clue what I want to do in life, but who really does? And who even needs to know how the next few years of their life will even pan out?

What I do know is that it is important now more than ever to retain an open mind, and I am grateful for all the years I spent interrogating and exploring the different perspectives of the ancient world and peoples, who were certainly not as different from us as one might first think.

Nadia Chang, who left Benenden in 2015 and graduated from Oxford this year

‘My spark of inspiration must be attributed to Classics’

“What languages do you study?”

The pet peeve of a Linguistics student. Studying Linguistics at Cambridge – the theory of how language works universally – means that I do not have to specialise in any specific language; I am allowed to quench my thirst for cross-linguistic grammatical knowledge. However, my spark of inspiration must be attributed to Classics.

Having done Latin to A Level, language structure and grammar have fascinated me with its paradoxically simultaneous complexity and simplicity. Humans tend to seek the most straightforward solution, to minimise computational effort.

This drive for ‘simplicity’ in cognitive terms often results in linguistic complexity: Latin has five declensions for nouns alone, not to mention verb conjugations and other grammatical features. Latin has shaped most of the modern European languages and has influenced the inflectional morphology (ie forming past tenses, plurals etc) and phonology (ie pronunciation) of languages such as French, Spanish, Italian and many more.

The overall regularity one observes in classical grammar helped me realise my love of linguistic analysis and pattern spotting – a skillset central to the study of languages and encouraged me to dip my toe into Linguistics. As it turns out, I didn't look back.

Other than assisting me with grammatical terminology, and giving me a historical framework of European languages, Classics has helped me appreciate language: Greek and Latin were used millennia ago, and yet it inspires academic research to this day.

I think this fact alone encapsulates the beauty and mystery that language has to offer as a human means of communication and expression – no other species has yet displayed such an affinity for words and sentences, and it allows us to communicate with generations past and future.

Linguistics is not just hours of hard-core grammar lessons – we look into the history of language, the psychology and human neurology of language acquisition, processing and production. I have found this deeply rewarding and eye-opening.

How do people know how to use language? How has our use of language changed since the Greeks? Why?

Steph Jat, who left Benenden in 2018 and is studying Linguistics at Cambridge



Steph Jat says Classics was inspirational

I have always enjoyed Classics and I am really hoping to continue it at university.

I love the broadness of the subject. There are so many different directions in which you can take your study of Classics, allowing you to specialise in the parts you really enjoy.

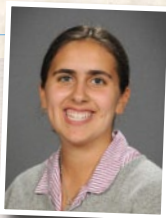
I particularly like the literature side. I enjoy comparing classical literature with modern poems, plays and novels which I study in English Literature.

Reading the literature in its original language hugely enhances my analysis and understanding of the text. I enjoy the philosophical and ethical questions that arise from ancient literature. At university I will be able to take this further as there is a big focus on Philosophy in a Classics degree.

I do enjoy the language side as well as it is a nice break from essay writing and demands a logic and patience which is different to literature. I have found it surprising while studying Latin and Greek A Level how much my other subject, English Literature, has been enhanced by them.

Studying Classics has really helped me understand English grammar and has widened my vocabulary. The subjects frequently overlap which is very helpful and shows how adaptable and influential Classics is in academia.

Eliza Antelme, Six Two



I love studying Classics because the ancient world is so far reaching that you can still relate it to another topic you are interested in.

I did not always think like this, especially when I first started learning Latin in Year 7. Then I thought it was redundant – ‘Why am I learning a dead language?’ I used to ask myself.

However, the satisfaction of translations and being able to interpret texts for myself, among everything else, eventually won me over.

Following A Levels, I am hoping to study Classics at undergraduate level. I have not really thought beyond that. I have, however, concluded that I would like to do one of the following: pursue a military career, become an academic or try my hand at politics.

Mariena Teo, Six Two



The concept of unlocking the mysteries of the ancient world by delving into the variations of antiquity such as art, culture, archaeology and literature constantly draws me towards Classics.

Looking at ancient frescoes in Pompeii allowed me to explore this. Learning more about, and seeing, Roman painting was eye-opening since I had not paid much attention to it before, but it was a whole other fascinating area of Classics to be explored.

All these different areas complement one another very nicely as you find parallels between them but there are some contradictions that correct knowledge you thought you knew for sure.

Therefore Classicists are continuously making new discoveries and questioning ‘concrete’ facts so the subject is far from dead! Classics has something for everyone; as Mary Beard states: ‘Adventures in Classics are something we can all share.’

Poppy Worlidge, Six Two



As someone who had not studied the subject in depth but had always been fascinated by ancient history and early civilisations, taking Classics was like teetering on the platform edge deciding whether to bungee jump or not. I knew that I would ultimately enjoy it, but I didn’t know what the experience would be like. I am extremely happy that I chose Classics for my GCSE.

I have found it to be a really enriching experience, learning new information every time I walk into the classroom. We have covered a lot of topics that my friends haven’t, so it’s interesting to talk about different things we know and compare our knowledge.

Although I realise that knowing that Deimos was the God of Terror who brought confusion and shock to battlefields won’t lead directly to a vocational job, it has certainly encouraged me to take more ‘bungee jumps’ in my own learning and has ultimately broadened my skills across all subjects, as well as develop a true interest of my own.

Scarlett Mansfield, Fifth



I Love Classics!

We asked some of our Classicists – both students and staff – what drives their passion for the subject.

I began learning Latin late in my school career as a lunchtime and after-school club and loved it from the moment I started.

Learning the GCSE and A Level in such a condensed timeframe was a challenge and it was the first time I had ever noticed that if I worked hard at something, learning ten vocabulary words for instance, I could get better at the subject.

Until that point, I thought I was either good at something or terrible at it and there was nothing I could do to change that. I think this still rings true: many students succeed in Latin and Greek because they are committed to working hard and are captivated by it, not because it is easy.

I remember sitting in one Latin lesson and realising that if I weren’t there, learning how to translate some bit of Tacitus, then nobody would be able to translate him in the generation after me, and so on. This was when I decided that I wanted to be a Classics teacher and started to teach myself Greek.

It is such a privilege to understand that our language, philosophy, justice system and literature have become what they are because of the classical world and in turn it is even better seeing young people fathom this for themselves.

Martha Burn, Teacher of Classics at Benenden



It was a book token, option choice and a school cruise that set me on the path of becoming a Classicist.

I loved my book about the Greek heroes and was particularly impressed by the trick of the Trojan horse.

In Year 9, I opted for Latin when given the chance to further my interest and curiosity. When in Six One, I was lucky to be able to visit key ancient sites such as the Athenian Acropolis, Pompeii and Knossos.

Classics at UCL led to teacher training as it was the only way I could see to continue having Latin in my life!

I am fascinated by realising the root of an English word in Latin or Greek. The real and the fictional characters that emerge from classical literature show that over two thousand years later human emotions and behaviours have not changed; tragedy still has the power to move us, the art of rhetoric is still important today.

What some people dismiss as dead and useless is far from it. This is what drives me to continue teaching and inspiring a love of classics in students whether it be in the classroom or taking them on a trip to Italy or Greece.

Danielle Fairey, Teacher of Classics at Benenden



Classicists in Italy

During Half Term Fifth to Six Two Classics students swapped the drab grey skies of England for the sunshine and culture of Rome and Pompeii. Jade Lee tells us all about it.

Starting at Tivoli, we spent several hours exploring Hadrian's Villa – the retreat of the Roman Emperor Hadrian. The best part of this landmark was the unforgettable reflecting lake as you entered the Villa surrounded by rosemary and dandelions.

On our second day, we were lucky to experience clear skies and a sunny day to enjoy the one and only Colosseum. This prominent monument blew all expectations away and was truly the heart of Rome.

We then travelled south to Sorrento and the Bay of Naples. From there, we made our way to Pompeii.

The bittersweet feeling of awe in its beauty as well as the dark history that laid in Pompeii stuck with all of us through the hours we enjoyed there.

Some of us got the chance to visit the Villa of Mysteries which was a few minutes' walk from Pompeii. The remarkable frescos from left to right were most definitely a highlight of the trip.

Looming in the background in Pompeii was Mount Vesuvius, the single volcano that took out the city and the one we were climbing the following day.

It was hot, sunny and sweaty but we all made it up there to enjoy the view of Naples and catch a glimpse of the smoking crater.

With the trip coming to an end, there was one more stop that everyone was looking forward to – shopping in the streets of Sorrento!



The girls in the ampitheatre in Pompeii

At the Roman Forum



Of course, tasting Italian pizza was a must!



Latin students at the Herculaneum

"As a Classics student, getting to visit some of the most symbolic locations from ancient literature and classical history has undoubtedly enhanced my understanding and fascination of Greek and Latin and has been one of the most rewarding experiences."
Amelie Jat, Six One

Anna Kane, Poppy Worlidge and Amelie Jat enjoy the sun in Pompeii





Becky Parker joined us as Head of Physics this term



Daniel Clinch is our new Head of Chemistry



Christian Brady is our Head of Biology

Meet our New Heads of Science

This term new Heads of Department started in the three Science subjects. Six One Sophie Brokenshire interviewed these staff leaders about their roles and their passion for their subjects.

Sophie: What do you love most about your subject?

Daniel Clinch, Head of Chemistry: What got me hooked on Chemistry when I was at secondary school was firstly the exciting visual aspect of the subject, but beyond that and deeper than that was the realisation that this subject gives you a different vision of the world around you, and you start to understand why things behave as they do. You learn the secrets of all the different things that surround us and you appreciate everything you see in a whole different and deeper way. That's when I really started to feel that the subject was resonating with me and that's what I hope to instil in people I teach.

Prof Becky Parker, Head of Physics: I love Physics because what we're aiming to do in Physics is try and understand the ultimate universe and how it started, how it progresses through time, what's the nature of time. But then as well as those huge, big mind-blowing concepts we're trying to understand (for example) what makes this table, if you then delve down really deeply to try to see what this table's made of you get to atoms and then you get to elementary particles like electrons and then you go into the nucleus and you see quarks and then you try and work out how they interact. We're all made of stardust, we're all made of stuff made in stars and how do you understand that better. And of course all the other stuff which isn't such large-scale like how does electricity work, and forces, and how do you know how much heat energy to put in to make a nice cup of tea. As well as all that side you have to learn how can Physics solve things like the climate crisis, how can Physics help to understand the limits of AI. All those big questions, Physics has such a large part to play.

Christian Brady, Head of Biology: Biology is such a wide field within Science and really is at the core of how all things work on the planet. Everything really does stem back to living organisms: all our food, nutrition, how we breathe air, how oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged in plants and animals, how all the different chemistry of a planet really is derived and transferred through living organisms. Physics is also important within understanding how living organisms, living systems and biological systems work but essentially Biology is all about understanding the physiology of living organisms.

Sophie: What do you want girls at Benenden to get out of your subject?

DC: What I'd really love to foster is confidence in the subject, confidence to take on the challenges that the subject can sometimes present. I think it's a great subject for developing independent learning and also I'd like to instil the belief that a career in STEM-related subjects can open lots of doors for future careers and is an exciting place for girls to look for their futures beyond school.

BP: First of all I want them to love it because I love Physics and one of the big things which always worries me is why doesn't everyone love Physics! It's also so useful for them because if they're going into engineering, if they're making new technology, if they want to develop



Mr Clinch demonstrates the visual excitement of Chemistry

their mobile phone, if they want to work in finance: Physicists are everywhere in those big jobs where you need analytical skills, you need problem-solving skills, you need to be curious, apply your analysis to solving big problems about the world. I want them to see what possibilities there are for careers, I want them to think 'this is an amazing subject' and what I really want them to think is how can they contribute themselves and that is something I feel very passionate about – how can we bring what we teach in school to be more contributing to real science.

A whole group of my Six Ones are going to be analysing data from the Spitzer Space Telescope to then contribute suitable sites to look at when the James Webb space telescope gets sent up by NASA. Last year four Year 10 girls actually discovered a new class of star with this project and the key thing I think most people don't realise is that school students can make really valuable contributions in Science. It's partly because they're bright and they're interested and they are not set in ways of thinking, they can think outside the box.

So not only do I want girls to love Physics but I want them to contribute and see how they are Physicists, because everybody needs to be a scientist in this modern technological world so we need them to be equipped with these skills.

CB: In Biology principally I'd like them to really enjoy the subject and have that excitement and that enthusiasm to understand how different biological systems and living organisms function, and to bring in different skills from the other STEM subjects such as Chemistry and Physics knowledge and be able to apply that in real life and into future studies. It would be amazing for students to go

ahead and study Biology or Biological Sciences at university and be part of that field of the ever-developing research and technique and understanding.

Biology is crucial to understand because it really is the core foundation to many day-to-day and life factors that people are interested in.

For example, nutrition. Diet and exercise is something which pretty much everybody considers or takes part in, and having a biological understanding of how different foods or how different exercise influences the body and influences overall health and wellbeing, that all stems back to understanding basic Biology.

Sophie: What is your vision for the Department?

DC: I'd like it to continue to be a place where exciting things happen in the classroom. I'd like to really capitalise on the fact that we've got some fantastic learning opportunities for girls to do things in the subject that are also outside the classroom so we have some extraordinary projects that go on in this department and I'd really like to bolster those opportunities. I'd like girls to see this building and this subject as a place where they can come and do research and really push themselves.

There's an opportunity at this time at Benenden, but also at this time in this country and the world, for girls to be looking at STEM, and looking at Chemistry as part of STEM, as a real opportunity and a really exciting area in which to work.

BP: We've got lots of ideas across the whole of Science to do with creating a Benenden Tree of Science where we put some of the early pioneer women who started in Benenden on the roots and see all the amazing science they have done, and how we can stand on their shoulders; and what current Seniors are doing and what current girls are doing in science to show the possibilities for girls to continue with this fantastic scientific legacy from Benenden. In Physics I want us to do what I did at my last school which was to put an experiment in space, and I want us to contribute to NASA conferences. The next time we go to CERN I want us to present. I want our students to be innovative amazing physicists of the future and I want them to love it as well, I want them to really understand it, feel as though they've got the measure of the subject, they feel confident and then they feel confident to go on and contribute to new Physics of the future.

CB: My vision for the Biology Department is to really enthuse, excite and invigorate the teaching and learning for the students by bringing new teaching strategies, exciting resources and technology which helps bring Biology to life.

One of the most exciting things about Biology is the fact that the field is always changing and updating with new understanding through new developments in technology, new techniques and new research – there are new discoveries every day, every week within biology which is brilliant because we can bring that into lessons, bring that into the classroom and try and enthuse the students into understanding the most recent developments, and potentially they will be going away to university studying and even developing some of these techniques themselves.

Celia Royde and Ayotola Fowora
exploring the growth of organs



Upper Fourths learning robotics
as part of their Diploma

In Spanish the girls made a time capsule of
the different holidays they have been on

Benenden Diploma



The Benenden Diploma is our bespoke curriculum for the Fourth and Upper Fourth. It is structured around six themes which each become the focus of work for that term and are explored across subject boundaries. Below we look at how some of the subjects have linked the girls' learning into their respective themes this term.

Fourth – Theme of Identity

In Geography the Fourths learnt about the identity of the Earth, from how it was formed to specific places around the world that make the Earth so unique.

Girls considered a broad range of world religions and how people's identity can be shaped by their beliefs, as well as studying Christianity and Christian beliefs in more depth in Philosophy and Religion.

In English girls carried out creative writing and biographical writing around the theme of identity – considering personal courage in particular.

In Spanish girls have been learning to introduce themselves and talk about where they come from, their families and some more information about themselves.

In History the Fourths looked at personalities and qualities of different people (William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Harold Godwinson) to assess who would be best to be King of England.

In Drama girls took part in a court case where they each adopted the identity of a different character, including lawyers, the accused and the Judge.

French students read about Tintin's voyage sur la lune (Destination Moon) and researched the city of Paris.

In Music girls explored identity through 'Musical Me', Desert Island Discs and music that tells stories from the Romantic era.



"We talk a lot about the Diploma theme which is quite fun. For Science we went out to find invertebrates in the woods at Benenden and we found toads! We were also identifying bacteria. In Geography we covered the identity of the Earth. We looked at a rainforest, Angel Falls and Antarctica. In French we looked at poems and then we were asked questions like 'if I was an animal or a colour, what would I be?'"

It's taught in a different style to my last school in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong you have to learn it by memorising it but in the UK they give you ways to learn – fun ways like quizzes. It's more interactive and I find it easier to get it into the brain than just memorising it."

Rosalyn Chiu, Fourth

Upper Fourth – Theme of Growth

In Maths girls explored growth by looking at finance and percentage increase and decrease and powers.

Geography students studied population and how the population of the world has grown exponentially and the impact that has had on specific countries.

The growth of new ideas such as Protestantism and during the Renaissance, and how the childhood and adolescence of Kings and Queens like Henry VIII, Mary I and Elizabeth I impacted them was studied in History.

In Philosophy and Religion girls studied Islam and considered how the religion has grown in terms of followers and its prominence in the media.

Girls studied *The Secret Life of Bees* about a teenage girl growing up in America during the implementation of the Civil Rights Act and her search for a role model and her place in the world in English.

In Spanish girls looked at holidays and personal interests – considering what they do, what they used to do and what they want to do in the future, all the time exploring changes in tastes and attitudes.

In History Upper Fourths looked at Henry VIII at different stages of his life, from a young boy to death. They also looked at how opinions about Henry VIII changed throughout his life.

Art students have looked at artwork and imagery to create a composition for a painting that is personal to them. Each week the progress and growth of the painting is documented in the sketchbook to show how the work has developed.

In Drama girls looked at what causes young people to be homeless and how the environment in which you live and go to school can impact on your ability to function within your family, society and as an individual.

Upper Fourth Music students looked at adolescence through the Blues and Rock'n' Roll music which inspired the first true generation of teenagers in the 1950s and 60s.

Benenden Diploma Project

An integral part of the Benenden Diploma is the research project in which Upper Fourths are tasked with writing a 1,000-word essay or undertaking a practical project with a written report on a subject they chose. Here one girl, Tilly Taylor tells us about her project.



Project Title: How are guide dogs used to help blind people?

One evening, my older brother said: "I've found a documentary about how guide dogs are raised."

So we all sat down together to watch this documentary. It was so sweet to see all those little yellow lab puppies that are only one day old when they start their training. We also have a little yellow lab Willow, who is now one.

Both of those reasons, put together, inspired me to do my project on how guide dogs are used to help people who have gone blind.

So during these coming months, I am going to explore this subject. I will be fundraising for the charity Guide Dogs For The Blind: a bake sale for both us and dogs, cakes biscuits and dog biscuits. So it would be greatly appreciated if you could come along!

Other project titles included:

- How can I build a scale model of Anne Frank's house?
- Why have humans evolved to have language when other animals haven't?
- How are supermaterials used in fashion?
- How does schizoaffective disorder affect young people in the 21st century?
- Are we born prejudiced or is it learned?
- How has colonisation affected Nigeria?
- What are the impacts of plastic pollution on Vanuatu(/Tuvalu)?
- Why do we sleep?
- How does scuba diving affect the coral reef ecosystem?
- What was the impact of the Berlin Wall for the people of Berlin?
- How does social media affect mental health in teenagers?
- Knife Crime: Why do people do it?
- What went wrong with Apollo 1 and how did Apollo 2 come back and make it to the moon?

Diploma Girls in Stratford

To enhance the Fourths' understanding of their Diploma theme Identity, in November we embarked on a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon to learn all about Shakespeare. Here is what the girls had to say.

The Miniature Shakespeare Competition

During the trip, the teachers held a Miniature Shakespeare Competition. We were put into groups and had to make a play of a scene of *The Tempest*. The scene could be your choice and you could use costumes, make-up and some people even used sound effects. The winners of the competition were Hanna Spencer, Skye Stapleton and Fathia Abbas. Well done all for participating, everyone did really well.

Olivia Ching

The Royal Shakespeare Company

We went to the RSC in Stratford to do an acting workshop on *The Tempest* and looked at costumes. The acting was really fun with boat captains, narrators, monsters and loads more really fun stuff. After that we went to look at costumes. That was a really cool experience because we got to see costumes worn by actors, such as Judi Dench and David Tennant.

Out of all of it I think our favourite part was probably the acting course because having a course from a professional was pretty cool – it felt like we were proper actors.

Maia Balogun and Tami Bankole



Trying costumes at RSC helped the girls' understanding of the Identity theme

Shakespeare's Birthplace

Stratford was amazing, it was loads of fun to bond with our year. On the first day before we went to the hotel, we looked around the house he grew up in.

When we saw the size, it was a bit of a shock to the system; it was quite small! Honestly though, it was all they needed, and they made the most of it. It was a pretty little cottage where his whole family could live and work, and his school was just down the street. It's really cool that we could see where such an incredible and inspiring man was born. There was a room for eating, a parents' bedroom, a boys' bedroom, a girls' bedroom and a workroom. One of the rooms had been changed into a space where they could show us lots of things from Shakespeare's time.

Annabel Behrens



Outside Shakespeare's Birthplace



Battle Skills Workshop



Preparing for battle!

Warwick Castle

On one day, we all went to Warwick Castle. We went around and visited different parts of the castle. We first learnt about the Battle of Hastings by acting it out ourselves and we loved it.

After this activity we wandered around different rooms in the castle and saw lots of interesting scenes with wax dolls. Next we went to have a packed lunch in an underground room and we chatted to our friends about what we had seen so far and relaxed. Then we went to a battle workshop and learnt about lots of fun and exciting battle strategies. This was my favourite part of it.

Later on we had lots of fun learning about different Medieval weapons and we laughed a lot. Overall, we had lots of fun and we loved Warwick Castle.

Astrid Hall

My favourite part was the weaponry workshop where we learnt about how to fight on the battlefield. We had the chance to hold the weapons and learn how to use them which was very interesting. Overall it was a great day and I made a lot of new friends.

Eliza Denning

Warwick University

On the last day of the Stratford trip we visited Warwick University where we got a tour to see what life there is like. We split into groups and got private tours from different students there. We saw their sport department and learnt about all the sports they could play. We saw where they could hang out and all the academic blocks including the library. Science is taken very seriously at Warwick and they have a separate campus for the subject.

Skye Stapleton and Annabel Behrens



Girls who passed the Award in Financial Education

Success in Financial Education Award

Twenty-two Upper Fifth students have been studying for the London Institute of Banking and Finance's Level 2 qualification, Award in Financial Education.

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE and provides an introduction to public finance and the economy, financial management skills and enterprise. The objective of the course is to provide students with the skills and knowledge to manage their money well and make sound financial decisions.

Students take two examinations to achieve the Award, both of which are on-screen testing,

enabling results to be accessed immediately after the examination has been taken.

The students have all enjoyed their study and everyone performed well in the examinations, with 18 of the 22 students achieving the top grade of Merit. Some of the students will now be taking an additional written examination in the summer to achieve the Certificate in Financial Education qualification.

Atwood Inspires A Level English Literature Students

In September, A Level English Literature students went to the Odeon in Tunbridge Wells for a live streaming of In Conversation with Margaret Atwood, in which the acclaimed author discussed her Booker Prize-winning *The Testaments*, the sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*. Six Two Sophie Cook tells *The Term* all about it.

Students at the live-streaming of the launch of *The Testaments*

I do not think that any of us were quite expecting the impact that Atwood's words had on us – the evening left us with plenty to think about.

The release of the new novel, which documents the lives of three women in the setting of Middle Gilead, was exciting for many who had read *The Handmaid's Tale*. However, there was a bitter sweetness to the event as it became obvious why the novel was written.

The Handmaid's Tale was a warning from Atwood to the

world that if they continued without caution, they would find themselves in a Gileadean-esque society. Reassuringly, Atwood said she had not returned to her dystopian world for so long because the world had hit such a crisis that she deemed it necessary – we had taken heed of the warning and we were safe. However, the election of President Trump in 2016 reignited this fear within Atwood and *The Testaments* was written.

We found it astounding that a society that is usually deemed 'extreme' and 'impossible' is such

a reality in the eyes of Atwood that she deemed it necessary to publish another warning.

We must take notice of this warning and see the novel as a call for action. It is pivotal to the future of our generation that we make a stand against this as, in the words of Atwood, 'giving up is not an option'.

It is clear that we should be scared about the current global situation, but this fear should be used to jump-start us into direct action, not to beat us into submission.

Product Design Day

In November, the Design and Technology Department attended an engaging and highly inspirational series of talks in the field of product design. Each speaker specialised in a specific topic such as material engineering, moral considerations in design and the open question: what really is design?

Creative designer Daniel Charny spoke on the responsibility of a designer to consider society and how best a product can benefit its users. Anna Ploszajski expressed her passion for material engineering, with specific focus on what allows a material to exhibit certain properties. Pascal Anson, a senior lecturer at Kingston University, discussed the importance of resourcefulness and the creativity to shape the materials to a wide variety of products.

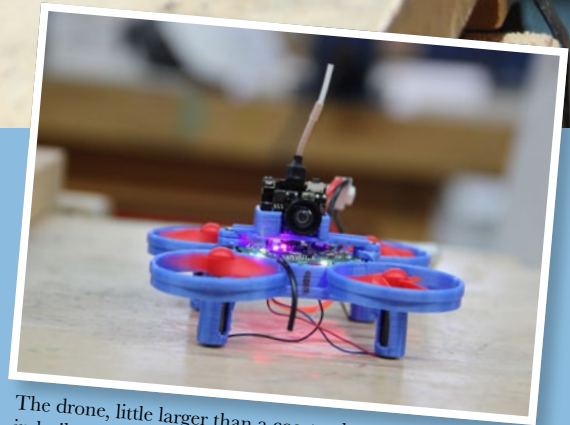
Fashion designer Wayne Hemingway reflected on his journey from selling clothing at a thrift store in London to becoming a world-renowned designer. He discussed the great importance of considering morals as a designer through a highly thought-out, provoking talk.

Finally, Bibi Nelson discussed a series of experiments she conducted testing the limits of design. This included suspending 1,000 LEDs over an Aston Martin, manufacturing 5,000 litres of paint and spending 32 hours studying the interaction of bedbugs.

The day offered a powerful insight into the working life of a product designer and the modern adaptations we can use to positively impact society and our surrounding environments.

Cordelia Cook with the MicroDrone, which she has constructed as part of an engineering project

Cordelia practises flying the drone in the Technologies lab



The drone, little larger than a coaster, has an in-built camera, operated by a battery

MicroDrone

As part of Engineering Club, Cordelia Cook, Six Two, has been building a MicroDrone. Here, she tells us about the challenges she faced.

The building process

- The Chassis was 3D printed at school using an example frame. However, to ensure it was a more accurate shape I had to file it down so that it would fit the other components.
- I had to push the four motors through the chassis. This was difficult as the chassis had warmed up and so had changed shape slightly. We then attached the propellers to the motors.
- We connected the motors to the motherboard and although the propellers were spinning the drone wasn't lifting. We soon realised this was because I had connected them backwards and so they were counteracting each other. This stopped the drone from flying because it was effectively trying to fly into the table instead of away from it. Another lesson learnt!
- Therefore, we had to take them out and redo this process. As I was more careful in checking the instructions (endlessly!) this fixed the problem and the drone flew.
- I had to change the design of the way the battery and camera connected to the motherboard. Our new design resulted in only requiring one battery for the drone (instead of two) which allowed the drone to be lighter and more manoeuvrable – a definite advantage.

Programming the drone

- Before we were able to fly the drone, we had to program it. This involved downloading 'betaflight' onto my computer. This was a complicated and difficult process and my GCSE computing was not up to the task. Luckily, I had some help.
- We had to set the flight mode, aligning the motors so they would work and hopefully be able to level the drone when we flew it.

Setting up the drone

- Once it was programmed, we connected the remote to the drone. We were then able to attempt to fly the drone.
- Once we had fixed the issue of the motors being the wrong way round, we paired the camera with the VR headset so you could fly from the point of view of the drone.
- Flying using the VR headset was very disconcerting because you felt like you were moving, and this led to many crashes.
- These crashes resulted in the camera becoming disconnected from the motherboard and the motherboard from the battery. This meant the drone was completely out of action and had to be rushed to drone A&E (also known as the DT block). The drone has now made a full recovery, as you can see in these pictures!

The launch prompted some wonderful reactions!

Model Rocket Cars

In October the Fourths, along with eight students from The John Wallis Church of England Academy, had a fun – and competitive! – day designing Model Rocket Cars.

Pupils started the day with a talk about aerodynamics and rocket motors and then spent the rest of the morning designing and building their own rocket cars.

After lunch they programmed an electronic stopwatch using the BBC Micro:bits and then it was time for the event the girls had all been waiting for... the racing of the cars!

All the hard work in the morning paid off and one of the cars recorded an impressive speed of 51mph.

In the afternoon the girls designed a poster and ended a busy day with a Maths workshop on calculating speed. They all had fun and excelled at the design and build work.

Girls tested the cars ahead of the final race

Pupils worked together to bring their designs to life

Using a hot wire cutter to streamline their designs

Girls learn programming skills

Election

Election fever gripped Benenden in December. To coincide with the General Election in the final week of term, we held a mock election and a local constituency hustings event.



Hustings Event

On the final Friday before the election, we held a Question Time-style event in which pupils from Benenden and other local schools were able to quiz candidates from the main parties in Benenden's parliamentary constituency. Hermione Barnes reflects on a strong night for democracy.

Benenden had the amazing opportunity to hear the candidates for the MP for our area, Maidstone and the Weald. Representatives from Labour, the Greens, Lib Dems and the Conservatives attended. Students from Sixth Form were given the opportunity to ask them questions on areas that concerned them. It was helpful, especially for girls who were going to be able to vote, to be able to ask any representative from a political party the reasoning behind their party's policies.

It was a very informative evening and especially interesting for Politics

students as they got to hear MPs discuss areas such as the NHS, mental health, tax, the economy and of course Brexit. It gave people an insight into how politicians will agree and differ with some of their parties' views. As with all political debates, there was some tension between the candidates and we got to hear them debating against each other to hear a two-sided argument.

Overall, it was a very interesting and insightful experience into the politics of the area and how politicians act with each other in real life.



Conservative Helen Grant ultimately successfully defended her Maidstone and the Weald parliamentary seat in the election



Our mock election candidates with their parties' representatives

"I wouldn't be a Tory and proud of it, if it was just going around looking after people who are wealthy."
Helen Grant, Conservative

"If this dreaded Brexit happens we've got to spend some serious money to invest in schools."
James Willis, Liberal Democrat

"There are disastrous (NHS) figures about waiting times, about operations being delayed and postponed. The worst figures ever are happening now."
Greg Levitt, Labour

"Tax is a good thing. It funds our NHS, our armed forces, builds roads - even though I don't agree with building roads. It frames our society."
Stuart Jeffery, Green

First-Time Voters

Thoughts from two of Benenden's 18-year-olds ahead of voting for the first time

"Given the current political climate, I am very excited to be able to vote and participate in the upcoming election due to the unpredictability of the results. Being an A Level Politics student, I am aware of the significance of this election and look forward to casting my vote."

Stephanie Thain, Six Two

"I think it is vitally important that we exercise our right to vote (especially as women) after the long battles that were fought in order to get it and so for me, the prospect of voting for the first time is incredibly exciting. I am glad that as a Politics student, I can use the knowledge I have gained to inform my decision, and as a voter, have a say over my future."

Kitty Thomson, Six Two

Mock Election

Four girls in the Sixth Form battled it out in our internal mock election.

Sophie Brokenshire reports on the campaigning.

Over the past few weeks Benenden has been preparing for a school election where all the parties running in the Maidstone and the Weald constituency were represented by internal students. The candidates introduced themselves and their party's policies in whole school Prayers, with Alice Churchill representing the Conservatives, Minna Moody-Stuart for Labour, Kitty Thomson for the Green Party and Oreoluwa Adeogun for the Liberal Democrats.

Frantic social media campaigns then followed after physical posters were restricted to just ten throughout the school. Tactics included memes, House visits and pledges. We were then lucky enough to have a Hustings take place in Benenden which saw the real candidates face questions generated by the Sixth Formers and Upper Fifts which enlightened people further to the way in which they would vote. It was certainly an interesting evening where candidates responded to questions on the most pressing issues to Benenden students such as Brexit, the voting age and social policy.

However, the evening was quickly over and unfortunately not all the students' questions were answered. In order to remedy this, the internal candidates were then asked to take part in Upper School Prayers on the Tuesday before the end of term. This was a critical event as it was the day that voting occurred within school, so it was a final chance for all the candidates to promote their parties.

Voting opened at 9.00am with all candidates voting in Houses which acted as constituencies in order to replicate a real First Past the Post general election. This was an extremely useful experience as girls were able to understand how politics in this country works.

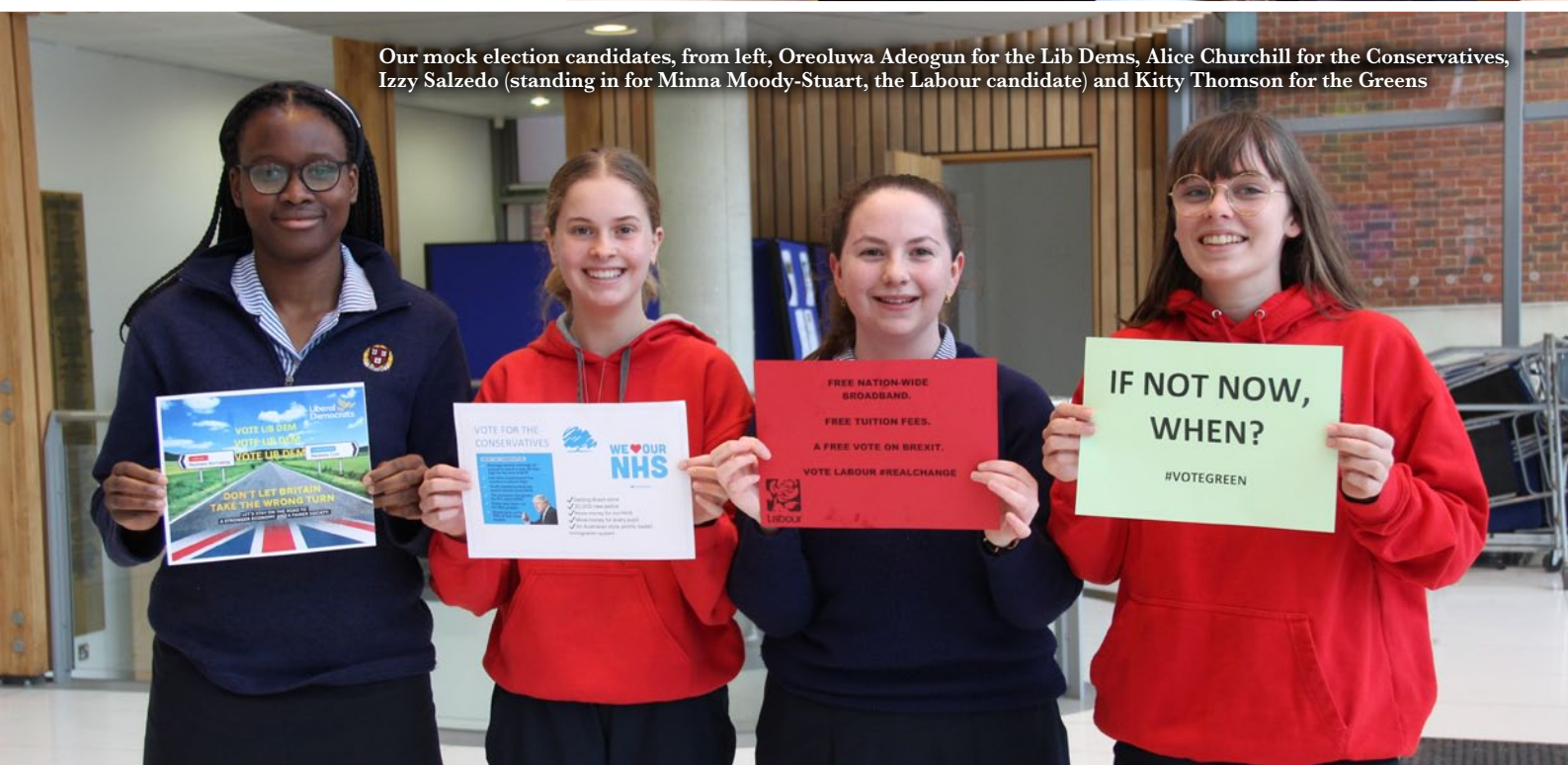
The school was split into 11 constituencies: one for each boarding house and one for the staff. The result was extremely close with nine constituencies decided by five votes or fewer.

The Results

The overall result was a hung parliament with five constituencies voting Conservative, five Liberal Democrat and one Green – so perhaps we're not quite an accurate barometer of the UK's voting intentions!



Our mock election candidates, from left, Oreoluwa Adeogun for the Lib Dems, Alice Churchill for the Conservatives, Izzy Salzedo (standing in for Minna Moody-Stuart, the Labour candidate) and Kitty Thomson for the Greens





Girls were proud to see their artwork exhibited at Smallhythe

Private Viewing of Students' Artwork

In November some Summer Artwork, along with new work, from Sixth Form Art Students and Upper School Scholars was on display at Smallhythe Studio Gallery in Tenterden.

Parents had the chance to take in a private viewing of the work at the small, but beautiful, setting for an exhibition before it was opened to the public for a week.

The atmosphere at the private viewing was very celebratory of individual students' success and high achievement overall from this very talented group. Needless to say the exhibition was also very well received by the general public.

"I began to look at my own work differently, and view it as 'art' rather than coursework or an exam piece, and I really enjoyed attempting to explain my inspiration and artistic choices."

Iona Warne



Esme Heath with her work



Iona Warne's work was exhibited at Smallhythe Gallery



The girls' artwork was very well received by everyone

Art Workshop with Fashion Dean

At the end of November we were pleased to welcome Dejan Agatonovic, the Dean of Fashion at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), when he spoke to the Six One Art students about their careers.

SCAD describes itself as the most comprehensive art and design university in the world, offering 40 inspiring majors in four locations: Savannah and

Atlanta in the US, Hong Kong and Lacoste in France, with the option for students to rotate their degree across all four locations.

Mr Agatonovic has worked as a ready-to-wear, footwear and embroidery designer for numerous London-based brands, including Alexander McQueen, Stella McCartney, Matthew Williamson and Bellville Sassoon.



Dejan Agatonovic spoke to Six One Art students about their careers



Dejan Agatonovic is the Dean of Fashion at the Savannah College of Art and Design

Careers

Autumn is a crucial term for university applications but also for giving pupils lower down the School an insight into careers they might want to explore.



Dr Fiona Cornish running practice Medicine interviews

Medicine and Law Talks



In November Dr Nicki Perry visited to give a fun, interactive talk for those interested in the sciences, the study of medicine or who would like to discover more about the senses and the brain.

She gave an interesting insight into the 'forgotten' sense of proprioception (awareness of the position and movement of the body) and how we all perceive colours.

Also in November our lunchtime Careers Club speaker was Kate Hughes, who works as a Legal Director for Cripps Pemberton Greenish (CPG). She was joined by Fredrick Pawlik, a trainee with CPG, to talk to girls who are thinking of a career in law and the many and interesting varied paths one can follow.

Oxbridge Information Evening

In November we held an information evening for students and parents, focusing on the challenge of applying to Oxbridge, the qualities that admissions tutors look for in an applicant, and dispelling some of the myths.

In addition to our own students, parents, and teachers, we had the pleasure of welcoming more than 100 guests from local schools.

Our guest speakers Dr Sam Lucy (Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges) and Dr Lynn Robson (English Faculty's Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Oxford) were introduced with an inspirational speech by Mrs Tyler and gave an excellent presentation which was followed by answering questions from the audience. This insightful talk was followed by informative presentations by Dr Allen, Head of Higher Education

and Professional Guidance, and Mrs Swales, Sixth Form Oxbridge Coordinator. The evening ended with Lara Gliksten, Benenden Senior, talking about her experiences of studying at Cambridge which was a real treat for all.

- Upper Fifts and Sixth Formers visited Oxford in November where they were given tours of colleges by Benenden Seniors and Mrs Swales. A trip to Cambridge will take place in the Spring Term.



Study Abroad Roadshow

In October the Careers Department hosted a lunchtime Study Abroad Roadshow, open to all students. We were delighted to welcome an exciting and diverse range of overseas study options from Europe, Canada, the US and the Far East.

The drop-in event, in the Science Atrium, provided an excellent opportunity for girls and staff to gather information and interact with university representatives from different parts of the world.

The Roadshow was well attended and we were pleased to welcome a visiting school, Battle Abbey, to the event as well.

Sixth Form Careers Evening in the City

Sixth Form girls enjoyed a special Careers Evening in November, with 50 students travelling to Rathbones' London office for an event put together by Emily Aldrich, an ex-Benenden parent and the Founder and Managing Director of Aldrich & Co. Here, two girls give their feedback on the event.

Bee McDougall, Six One, said:
"The event focused on a variety of City-based jobs, such as finance, law and entrepreneurship. Each sector had a panel of speakers discussing their career path and experiences - including some Benenden Seniors

"The sectors briefly reconvened to discuss the most essential points raised, before we were treated to some food, and given the opportunity to talk to all of the speakers".

Amy Woodthorpe, Six Two, said:

"I enjoyed the careers event at Rathbones because I felt it gave us a really exciting insight into what working life is like. Everyone was very helpful and lovely to speak to afterwards, and I look forward to getting in touch with some of them!"



The Rathbones event was a great opportunity to hear what employers are looking for in graduates

Ben Fogle

In November adventurer and broadcaster Ben Fogle spent a morning with us. He led the whole school assembly before running three separate Q&A sessions for different year groups. He then held a book-signing for pupils during morning break. Amelie Woolf, Six One, tell us more.

On 19 November we had the pleasure of Ben Fogle coming to speak to us, about some of the amazing adventures that he has been a part of all around the world.

He recounted many of his extraordinary experiences including climbing Mount Everest - initially with Victoria Pendleton, the Olympic gold medal cyclist, who sadly had to stop after suffering from altitude sickness - and rowing across the Atlantic with James Cracknell, the two-time Olympic rowing gold medallist.

As well as talking to us about these successes, he also spoke about some of the challenges he has had to face and overcome. Some of these included contracting a flesh-eating bug and capsizing in the middle of the Atlantic, knowing that he had to somehow carry on with his journey.

It was also incredibly interesting to hear about all the research that he did, looking into the underwater activities of crocodiles in Botswana, as so little is known about this aspect of their lives.



Ben Fogle gave a fascinating insight into the hard work – physically and mentally – to succeed

After telling us about these amazing adventures he also gave us a lot of inspiring advice for the future. He urged us all to challenge ourselves and spoke about the value of risk taking and the sense of achievement you feel after completing your aims. He also spoke about the importance of putting effort into everything you do in order to succeed, as nothing in life comes easy.

It was a fascinating lecture and we all felt incredibly lucky that he had taken the time to come and speak to us.

"I loved talking to the girls and hearing their questions and I hopefully inspired them with my wild tales!"

Ben Fogle

Notable Roles

In addition to being a well-known television presenter and author, Ben holds numerous other notable roles including as a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, ambassador to WWF, Tusk and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and Patron of The Red Cross and United Nations.

Left: Ben Fogle with the Lower Fifts after he spoke to them about his experiences



Sabrina Cohen-Hatton



At the start of term we were joined by Sabrina Cohen-Hatton who left the girls enthralled as she talked about her career and life experiences.

Life experience is something Sabrina certainly has a lot of. From being homeless as a teenager, she joined the fire service at 18 and has risen through the ranks to become one of the UK's most senior female firefighters.

She talked about overcoming adversity and how to handle highly stressful situations. Afterwards she chatted to girls, many of whom wanted signed copies of her book.

Five things I took away from the talk - Isabella Scott Wells, Six Two

- "When making decisions, be open-minded to other options that you didn't think of before."
- "Your failures don't define you - just because you couldn't do something doesn't mean that you won't get better at it."
- "Don't be afraid to speak out about things that you think are wrong even if everyone around you doesn't have the same opinions."
- "Persevere through hard times, it will be worth it."
- "Don't be afraid to ask for help even if you think people will judge you."

Clare Balding and Benenden's Sports Scholars perform the 'Mobot', which Balding is credited with inventing

Clare Balding

Sophie chats with Clare Balding



In September we were joined by broadcaster and author Clare Balding for an evening in which she answered questions about her career and her views on sport. Before taking to the stage, she was interviewed by Six One student Sophie Brokenshire.

What was the most interesting thing about working on the Olympics?

The chance for a nation to make a mark, you suddenly get a tiny nation being on the world stage and massively making a name for themselves.

Hopefully in a world that is less inclined to go to war – I'm not saying war doesn't exist anymore – we are more likely to assert our dominance over another nation through sport and that's a lot healthier, I'd say. I love that feeling that everybody's immersed in this multi-sport event that every nation in the world, near enough, is represented in. I really enjoy that and that you go to different places.

London 2012 in particular, at the time it changed our definition of ourselves. I think before that we were very inclined to think we weren't capable of hosting it so well. If you think about that summer how everyone was focused on the Olympics and Paralympics – and we set a new standard in terms of Paralympic sport in how it was hosted, how the village was built, how the sports were presented, participation but audience as well – and I just love that we were all engaged in something so positive and you compare that to now and you just think 'God, give us the Olympics again'.

Why did you choose to broadcast sport in particular?

I read English at university and I wanted to write and for a very short time I thought I wanted to go into politics and then I decided against that. I didn't so much choose sport, I just started in an area where I had knowledge so if I'd had knowledge at business or real knowledge of politics I would have started there but I started with sport, and in many ways by chance started in radio and that offered opportunities.

I genuinely love sport and I do think it represents more than just what is on the pitch. I've never wanted to use sport as a way of getting to somewhere else. For me sport is the endgame, it's not a vehicle to get somewhere else.

How can we achieve gender pay equality in journalism?

The highest-paid people are in executive management or they're the top end of what they call 'talent'. With broadcasters the only way is with complete transparency of what people are paid for the days they work. Not just a general number – because nobody knows how many days Gary Lineker does for his enormous salary – and until

you know that you can't really make a judgement. You have to say, and in some ways the BBC does do this, 'we are the BBC, people want to work for us, if they are good enough to present the Today programme after maybe they've done two years when they were learning the ropes they then are worthy of earning exactly the same as everyone else who is presenting the Today programme per shift'. If you're then asked to do a lot of publicity and marketing around it, which is kind of how they get around the 'some people have a higher status than others' then pay them separately for publicity days, don't pay them more for doing the job that everybody else is doing perfectly well.

Transparency is one of the ways. Representation is obviously improving all the time but some newspapers are pretty poor, not just in terms of having female writers but in terms of the sort of stories they write about women compared to the sort of stories they write about men. In sport it should be dead level because everybody's playing sport – but it's not. You'll get no coverage at all of women's sport until somebody is photographed in a top that they think is... and therefore suddenly they get attention. It doesn't always happen and I hope that Dina Asher-Smith will get a lot of attention at the World Athletics Championships because of what she's doing on the track but I think there's a terrible inconsistency in it.

Do you feel there is a pressure on being openly gay in a seemingly conservative industry?

I don't actually. I don't feel any pressure at all but that's because I am completely comfortable and really happy and really proud. Therefore if I can make more people feel like that I don't see why it has to come with pressure, any more than there is pressure being blonde or pressure being right-handed or pressure being 5ft 7in – all the other things I can't control. There's no association of shame with them so I think my job is to make sure there is no association of shame from me or from anyone I work for and I don't think there is.

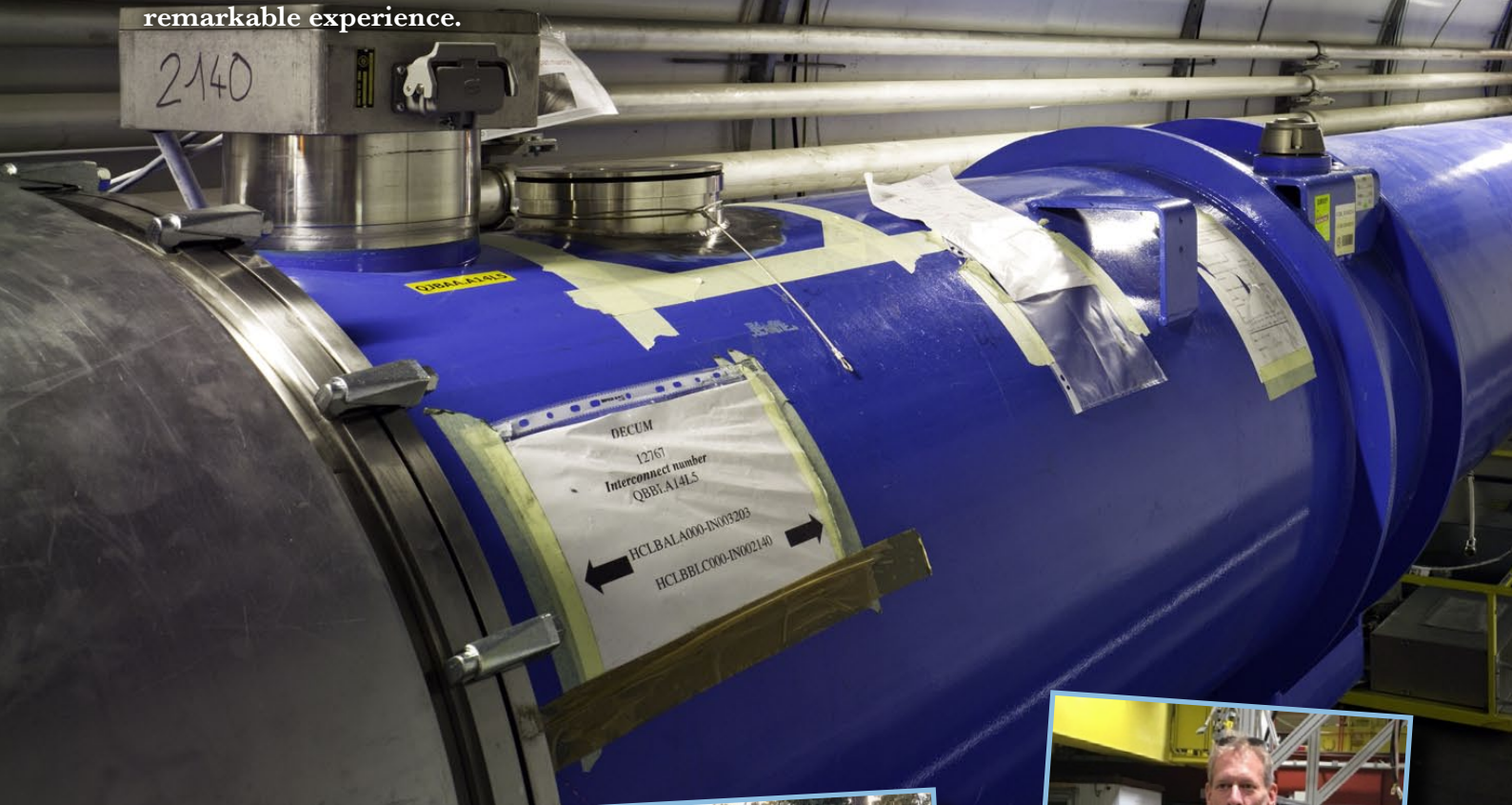
You just go 'this is who I am, it's what I am,' it has no particular relevance to my job other than by being honest and open I think it makes me better at what I do. I think it also increases my confidence and I think that's quite a key factor for anyone working in a lot of businesses but anything that involves trying to either tell a story or set an agenda or direct people's attention this way or inspire confidence in them that they trust you. I think it's massively important that you are therefore honest about who you are.

Girls Visit CERN

At the start of November seven girls from Benenden and seven boys from The John Wallis Church of England Academy travelled to Geneva to visit CERN, one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research. Here Lily Phillips, who was part of the group, tells us about a remarkable experience.



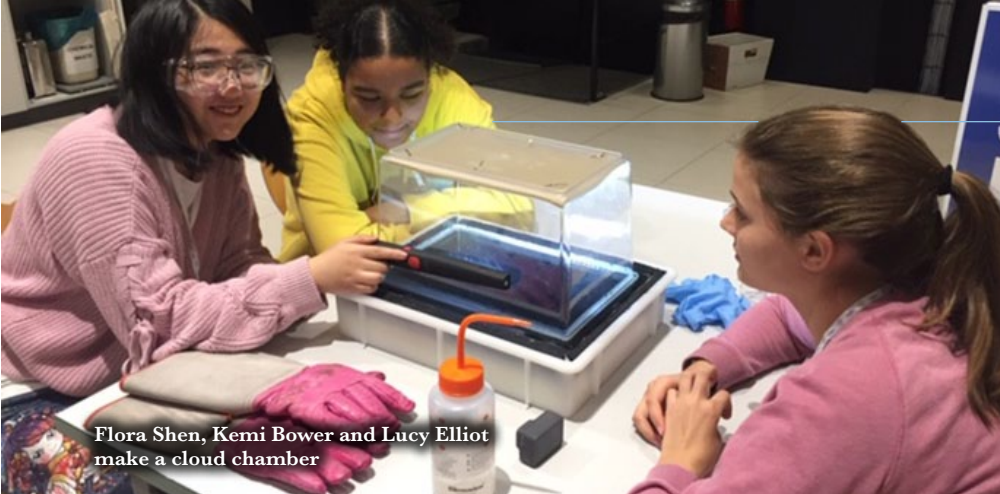
Lily Phillips, Cordelia Cook and Lauren Croucher explore CERN



The theoretical physicist is our hero!



Professor Jeffrey Hangst, one of the only people in the world who knows how to make antimatter



Flora Shen, Kemi Bower and Lucy Elliot make a cloud chamber

After an early start on Friday, we travelled to Gatwick airport and flew to Switzerland – all of us excited for what lay ahead.

Once we had dropped off our bags, we got on a tram to CERN to take part in our first activity – making our own cloud chamber.

A cloud chamber, made by soaking the bottom of a fish tank in alcohol and placing this on dry ice, is used to observe particles such as muons, alphas and electrons. The super-saturated alcohol vapour is ionised as particles move through it and so tracks form. Ironically, the best cloud chamber was made by a group of non-Physics students from John Wallis.

After seeing our chambers in action, we were then taught about the physics behind them in more detail. After a quick walk through the particle garden, we headed to dinner at a traditional Swiss restaurant, and then back to the hotel for an early night – ready for the early wake-up on Saturday.

On Saturday we started with a Q&A session with a data analyser and particle physicist to find out more about how CERN works and to explain some of the physics behind working

theories on the origin and expansion of the universe (such as foam theory).

Afterwards, we were taken to the Synchrocyclotron where we found out how protons are accelerated (using electric fields – a topic we had just covered at Benenden). We were then driven to the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) and were taken on a tour of the machinery 100 metres underground – the tour was only possible because of the CMS being upgraded so we were really lucky to get that close to such an important part of the Large Hadron Collider.

We then had lunch with our tour guide so we could gain a further insight into what he does at CERN. After this we went to the Antimatter Factory and for most of us, this was the highlight of the trip.

Using Professor Parker's connections, we were given a tour of the Antimatter Factory by one of the only people in the world who knows how to make antimatter. Professor Jeffrey Hangst explained the theory behind both antihydrogen's nature and manufacture – the expected characteristics being the same as hydrogen and how its manufacture would be a challenge given the difficulty of creating and

slowing down antiprotons.

We then went to visit the Globe of Science and Innovation and of course the gift shop to round off our CERN experience.

On Sunday, after packing up, we headed to a park in Geneva for their Remembrance Service. Although the service was in French, we all wanted to observe the two-minute silence and watch the parade. We then headed to the Museum of the History of Science.

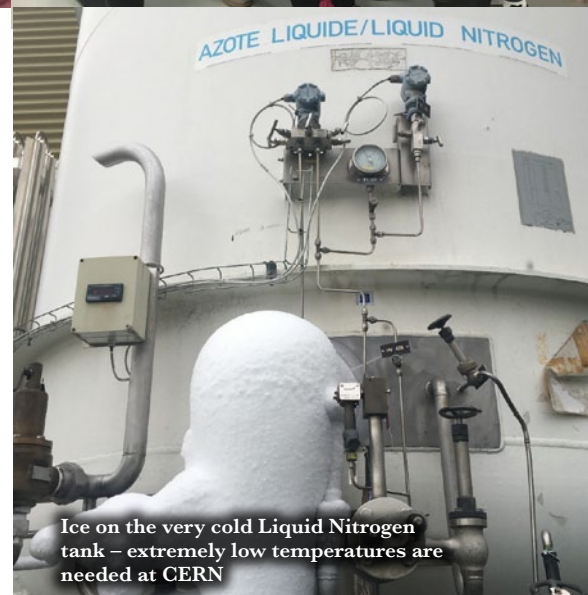
Highlights included the world's first battery, electron microscope and general measuring apparatus (like compasses and weighing scales). We then walked to St Peter's Cathedral and up quite a lot of stairs to look over Geneva.

Finally, we headed to the airport and back to school – ready for Physics in Period 1 the next morning.

Overall, it was a really enjoyable and educational experience – it was amazing to witness what goes on at CERN first-hand and Geneva was a really beautiful city. A massive thank you to everyone who made the trip possible.



Hard hats are needed to see one of the detectors 100m underground



Ice on the very cold Liquid Nitrogen tank – extremely low temperatures are needed at CERN



Emily Wong and Lauren Croucher gave CERN a thumbs-up



The first electron microscope at the Museum of the History of Science

Exploring Particle Physics

CERN is home to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a particle accelerator that pushes protons or ions to near the speed of light, colliding them at four points around the machine. It consists of a giant ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures that boost the energy of the particles along the way.

The LHC's aim is to answer an array of particle physics questions.

LHC at a Glance

- Circumference: 26 659 m
- Dipole operating temperature: 1.9 K (-271.3°C)
- Number of magnets: 9,593
- Number of turns per second 11,245
- Number of collisions per second: 1 billion

Grenada

During Half Term 16 girls went to the Caribbean island for a combined Scuba and Biology trip. Highlights included seeing octopus, turtles, stingrays and nursing sharks and visiting an amazing underwater sculpture park.

Several girls completed their PADI Advanced Scuba Course qualification during the trip and the group also completed a Fish ID and Underwater Naturalist course to help them understand the different eco-system in which all marine life lives.

On the final day the group were given a shock when a reef clean-up dive saw them collect over 60kg of rubbish. Here, two of the girls tell us about an amazing week.

Each day we would get up, eat an amazing breakfast of pancakes, and set off on the boat to our first dive site.

The weather throughout the whole week was absolutely gorgeous, and we would spend the journeys sunbathing, playing music and chatting.

When we reached the dive site we would then put on all our gear, which we had already prepared before setting off, something that we definitely got better at throughout the week!

The water was a beautiful turquoise and the visibility was perfect, as well as it being so warm that often we didn't wear our wetsuits!

However, this was nothing compared to what we would find under the surface: stunning coral, endless colours and patterns of fish, and an incredible range of other wildlife, ranging from octopus

and lobsters to sharks and turtles.

We would then surface for around half an hour's break, in which we spent our time jumping off the boat, snorkelling and sunbathing some more. Afterwards, we would do our second dive of the day before heading back for a delicious lunch at the hotel.

Following a break at the hotel we would set off on our third and final dive of the day, then come back to the hotel and have free time, in which we swam in the pool and relaxed in our rooms, and then sat down and had dinner together.

We also did a few wreck dives, and reef clean-ups – it was incredible to see how much litter we found in just one tiny spot on one small reef in the Caribbean Sea, and was really eye-opening to experience the profound effect that rubbish has on aquatic life.

My favourite part of the trip definitely had to be one of the afternoon dives, in which a small group of us went down, only to about five metres, and found around 30 stingrays swimming beneath us.

They were feeding on squid being dropped by a fishing boat above us, and we soon found ourselves entranced by this most spectacular view, staying down there for over an hour.

Coming up we found the most beautiful sunset: a perfect way to end such an amazing day.

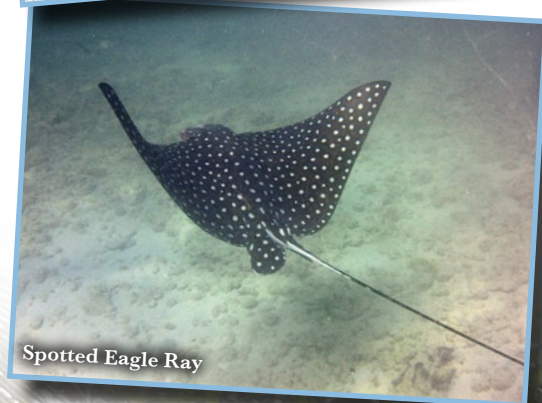
The whole trip was the most fantastic experience, we learnt so much about our extraordinary surroundings and the marine life, as well as having a lot of fun and getting to know each other in the process. We were all very sad to have to leave and come back to rainy England!

Kate Gouriet
Six One

Into the water!



Annabelle Grut meets some rays



Spotted Eagle Ray



The group were blessed with gorgeous weather throughout the trip



Izzy Selby explorers underwater



The girls performed some wreck dives



The underwater sculpture park



The girls loved the sculptures at the underwater sculpture park



The plastic found floating in some spots was eye-pening



Some of the 60kg of rubbish the girls collected at the end of the trip

The Grenada Scuba diving trip was phenomenal, it allowed me to complete both my open water and advanced course. The open water course is the first course which any diver has to complete. Through this course one learns the techniques needed in order to be a safe and successful diver.

When we arrived in Grenada this was the course we completed. For many of us it was our first dive in the sea; despite it being slightly daunting at first, it was beyond incredible to complete it. Whilst we were out there girls completing the Open Water course were also able to complete their advanced. This course was incredible, allowing us to go down to depths of 30m but also teaching us how to Scuba dive in a simple way, allowing less oxygen to be used up in a shorter amount of time, and how to dive with the current.

Completing the advanced course meant we saw a greater variety of sea life including a Black Tip Reef Shark, turtles and stingrays at shallower depths. The whole experience was surreal, and it was a trip of a lifetime that will not be forgotten.

Izzy Selby
Six One



True Blue Bay
Boutique Resort

Russia

During October Half Term, 23 Sixth Form students embarked on a trip to Moscow and St Petersburg. Six Twos Hermione Barnes and Isabella Scott Wells report.

While in Moscow we were able to have a wide range of experiences.

We were first able to visit Red Square at night, which included the famous St Basil's Cathedral with its colourful domes, and also take an outside look at the Kremlin.

We were shown around the city by our tour guide Natalya, travelling a lot on the Russian Metro, which contains statues and murals in every station, making for a beautiful interior.

We had the opportunity to go inside the Kremlin which allowed us to see where Vladimir Putin works as well as where previous Russian leaders such as Stalin had lived. We were also able to see the body of previous Russian leader, Lenin, who was embalmed by the state and kept in Moscow.

In the evenings, we were treated to many fun activities such as watching an ice hockey match played against the national champions CSKA and visiting an old arcade with classic soviet-era games for us to play. To finish our time in Moscow, we visited a Second World War museum. It was very interesting to see the perspective of the war from the other side of Europe.

Our travel experience from Moscow to St Petersburg, an overnight train, was definitely an experience! With four people per cabin room, it was a bit close! That evening we had the wonderful opportunity of experiencing a Russian folk dancing act followed by a traditional dinner in a palace.

The next day, we visited the Peter and Paul Fortress and Prisons and had a very engaging guided tour.

Next we visited the Hermitage, which was very interesting, especially for the History of Art students. This had incredible artwork and was a great experience. Then we had the amazing opportunity to see the Russian ballet at the famous Mariinsky Theatre, which was spectacular for our last evening.

The next morning, we had a well-earned lie-in before departing for the airport.

Overall, this was an educational, interesting and fun trip which we really recommend to anyone who has this opportunity in the future.



Posing with (somewhat reluctant!) Kremlin guards



Antonia Webb, Mariola McElroy, Julia Nabavi, Hermione Barnes and Georgie Nunn enjoying the view of Moscow



The Ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre

Nepal

As we went to print 17 Benenden girls were a few days into an incredible trek in the Himalayas in Nepal, where they will eventually reach Annapurna Base Camp at an altitude of 4,130m.

We will feature a full report in the next issue of The Term magazine, but for now we can catch up with their first few days in an amazing country courtesy of Barry Imms, our Head of Outdoor Education, who is leading the trip.

6 December

The flight from Heathrow to Abu Dhabi was a pleasant one with so much food and beverages – Etihad really looked after us.

The adventure has well and truly begun.

7 December

We have arrived in Pokhara after a long coach journey which took us through beautiful scenery. The girls thoroughly enjoyed seeing the diverse culture of Nepal but are now ready to experience everything that the trekking will offer, albeit a little apprehensively.

We have an early start tomorrow before we walk from Nayapul to Bhanthanti which will be challenging towards the end as the girls get their first real taste of Nepalese steps.

9 December

We have had a great day today and are now at Ghorepani which is 2,750m. Tomorrow we will summit Poon Hill (3,200m) early and then walk to Chuike for a very cold night stop.

The girls have been amazing and in good spirits; they even broke into song and dance on the trail. We have started writing the postcards for those who have asked for them and the girls have genuinely been revising, even at lunch break.

10 December 2019

We had an early start (5.00am) to make the ascent of Poon Hill for sunrise. It is a difficult 450m elevation going from 2,750m to 3,200m. A cold but very rewarding start to the day, we have now sat down for breakfast before we head off for a longer day of walking as we trek to Chuike.

The group is in good spirits and a few have faced their own challenge this morning. Moving down in elevation, everyone will feel much better as the oxygen increases.



Goodbye England! The girls and staff in Heathrow



After a long coach journey the girls arrived in Pokhara



Trekking from Bhanthanti to Ghorepani



Happy faces as the girls reach the Annapurna Conservation Area



Early morning walk to the summit of Poon Hill

MUN

Autumn has been a busy term for our Model United Nations team. Over the next four pages we summarise the array of conferences they have participated in and the invaluable experiences they have benefited from.



Elizabeth Fairweather picked up an Outstanding Delegate award at Reigate MUN

Our Russian delegates at Cambridge



Marianne Balogun engrossed in the action at Cambridge



Carlotta Wright in debate at Reigate

Cambridge University International MUN – 13-15 September

Benenden represented the Russian Federation and Myanmar in a range of committees and councils. We had an extremely successful conference with a large number of Benenden resolutions being debated, excellent participation in committees and a strong performance in General Assembly by members of both delegations.

In addition to all the usual benefits of going to a Model UN conference, the girls got to stay in Clare College for their accommodation, they attended a formal meal at Wolfson College and had a talk on applying to the university. This gave all girls, whether aspiring to study at Cambridge or not, an invaluable taste of university life.

The General Assembly and Closing Ceremony taking place in the intimidating environment of the Cambridge Union Society Hall was a great finale.

The girls earned a string of awards, including Honourable mentions for Nicole Lee and Honor Gibbs, Highly Commended Delegates for Issy Young, Mira Reichenbach, Eliza Stevenson-Hamilton and Lavinia Webb, and Distinguished Delegate awards for Sophie Moody-Stuart and Lily Locke. Our Myanmar delegation won the Best Delegation Award.

Reigate MUN – 5 October

We represented Ukraine, Equatorial Guinea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Even though the group were largely inexperienced delegates the girls got involved in a number of committees. Some of their success can be put down to involvement in a Fifth-only special weekly MUN preparation programme.

Several of those Fifths who wrote resolutions had them debated. In particular Amelia Lewis had her resolution passed in committee and it was very nearly debated in General Assembly. Scarlett Mansfield did very well dealing with the pressures of Security Council. Jamie Barbour and Carlotta Wright also had their resolutions discussed in committee, doing very well to field tricky Points of Information (POIs) from other delegates. Aliya Adebowale and Annabel Kearsey offered excellent amendments and Tabitha Graham made some insightful POIs. Well done to all the Fifths who took part.

Of the more experienced Benenden representatives, Lily Phillips was an excellent chair in Disarmament and Security. Elizabeth Fairweather and Oreoluwa Adeogun also had their resolutions discussed in committee.

As delegates of DPRK they did very well balancing views which were hard to defend, with constructive resolution writing and debate.

Overall Benenden girls did much to improve the level of debate in committees and also got involved in General Assembly, making speeches and asking POIs.

We gained several awards, with Oreoluwa Adeogun and Elizabeth Fairweather both named Outstanding Delegate, Amelia Lewis a Highly Commended Delegate and our DPRK delegation were named Highly Commended Delegation.

The Oxford Modern Art Gallery was packed with MUN delegates



Amelia Lewis made some excellent speeches at Oxford



Our award-winning team at Royal Russell: Keara McKie, Alice Halblander-Smyth, Annabel Kearsey and Fara Bakare

Royal Russell MUN – 19-22 October

Benenden MUNers represented China and Sri Lanka and played a full part in proceedings throughout the conference: from two excellent Ambassador speeches at the Opening Ceremony and speeches and POIs in committee through to speeches and POIs during General Assembly.

Excellent resolutions had been produced prior to the conference, so lobbying was effective for the Benenden delegates, with several resolutions making their way to debate in committee.

Fara Bakare's outstanding resolution on 'improving water sanitation and hygiene in conflict zones' was debated and ultimately passed, nearly making it to General Assembly. Keara McKie made a significant impact in the Environment Committee, contributing both resolutions as well as passing on some very pertinent wisdom. Alice Halblander-Smyth and Annabel Kearsey did extremely well when stepping up to be China.

We were delighted to gain some awards: Distinguished Delegate awards for Sri Lanka delegates Fara Bakare and Keara McKie, and a Distinguished Delegate award for Annabel Kearsey. We were also given a Highly Commended Delegation award for Sri Lanka – so double congratulations Keara and Fara!

Oxford Global MUN – 15-17 November

Representing eight different countries and spread across just three committees, this was a different approach from usual, but it worked really well and all the girls, both experienced Six Ones and relatively new Fifts, all got into their stride really well, putting in tremendous performances.

Three girls were active in the Commission on the Status of Women, with Praew Kambhato being one of the main submitters of successful resolution and Amelia Lewis making some excellent speeches. In the Security Council Bee McDougall was very strong as Germany, helping in attempts to solve the troubles in Somalia.

The remaining girls participated in a Future Crisis Committee set in 2050 – attempting to solve issues relating to Climate Change and Antarctica. Oreoluwa Adeogun and Keara McKie remained very involved in proceedings and Katie Chapman excelled in her very first conference.

As well as the main debate sessions, the girls also sampled an evening crisis debate which went on until midnight on Friday evening. Even though we didn't stay for all of it, the experience of being there and having some involvement was very good.

The girls were treated to an excellent social on the Saturday night. Located in the Oxford Modern Art Gallery buildings, girls had the option of a private viewing of a very thought-provoking art exhibition before heading to the basement for a disco.

It was a fantastic and full weekend. All girls did extremely well but in Closing Ceremony Benenden received two awards, both Outstanding Delegate Awards. Well done to Annabelle Grut and Fara Bakare.

‘MUN Has Taught Me Essential Life Lessons’

In the Autumn Term many girls experience the excitement of debate for the first time. We asked two seasoned MUN members to share their experience over the past few years.

When I first attended an MUN session in the first term of Upper Fourth, my first thought was ‘well this will definitely be a first-and-last-time thing’.

But watching all the older girls stand up, strut up to the podium as if they were about to give their presidential election speech as the first female President of the US and speak with such confidence, charisma and courage, it simply amazed me.

Towards the end of the session I surprisingly had this feeling of enjoyment and fascination, so I thought why not come back next week. Next week turned into the whole term. And then the whole term turned into three years.

MUN has not only made me into the confident, intellectual and friendly person I am today, but it has also taught me essential life lessons that I don’t think I could attain anywhere else. From how to conduct effective research on anything to how to make friends in a heartbeat, MUN has given me the best opportunities, from being able to attend an elite conference in Paris to going to highly distinguished conferences around England.

If I had to give one piece of advice to anyone debating MUN it would be ‘Just Do It!’ You have absolutely nothing to lose.

If you know me, you would find it very hard to believe that I haven’t always been this confident. But it was MUN that brought that out for me and who knows, maybe it will do the same for you too. So, I challenge you, give it a go, one go.



Fara Bakare with her award at Oxford

Fara Bakare, Six One

Nicole Lee debates a point at Cambridge



I have been involved with MUN since Lower Fifth. Through MUN, I have gained confidence in public speaking, as well as an interest in current affairs, politics and debate.

MUN also helped me become more empathetic as we often have to discuss international issues that might seem distant and esoteric to us personally, but can influence millions of people.

My favourite part of MUN are the conferences. Through preparing for conferences, I have learnt how to quickly and critically research for questions that do not have straightforward solutions.

Having to make alliances with people who do not necessarily agree with your stance on the question can be difficult, but extremely rewarding.

Debating resolutions are also lots of fun and you learn a lot when people bring up solutions that you might not have thought of or discuss things that you did not research.

I have also made so many friends from all around the world through MUN conferences. This has widened my world view and made me consider different perspectives with every issue.

Although conferences can seem daunting, they are generally welcoming environments and the best way to improve at MUN as you are surrounded by experienced chairs and delegates.

Nicole Lee, Upper Fifth



Growth and development are discussed in the Economic and Financial Committee



Voting in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Benenden MUN

On the final Monday of the term we hosted our 12th Model United Nations conference.

BMUN12 comprised around 400 students and staff – and the standard of debate once again was extremely high.

Despite the absence of the School Hall, the Opening and Closing Ceremony in the Sports Hall worked well. Linked to this venue change, instead of the usual General Assembly towards the end of the day we trialled a number of plenary sessions where committees joined with another who had been debating associated issues, making use of the flexibility of the SCN classrooms.

Plenty of good debate was had, with each committee led ably by Benenden chairs. Challenging discussion topics once again varied hugely, including questions on nuclear pollution, rights of the Kurdish people, human rights violations in Sudan,

plus military control in Sudan. Security Council debated the question of Kashmir. In addition we successfully held a Special Committee, based in the 1970s, which looked at potential changes to the Equal Rights Amendment of 1923.

Overall, BMUN12 showed Benenden MUN at its best. A very big thank you to everyone who took part. Although we try to prioritise giving awards to delegates from other schools we had to give credit to three of our girls who gained Highly Commended Delegate awards: Honor Gibbs as Indonesia in Disarmament and International Security, Lavinia Webb as Saudi Arabia in Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee and Katie Chapman as Gerard Ford in Special Committee (Historical Crisis).



Our Christmas decorations had an international flavour thanks to MUN



Sasha Ariff and Momoko Eliot chairing the Special Committee



Dua Zaida, Elizabeth Fairweather, Momoko Eliot and Lily Phillips address the Opening Ceremony

Tightening the aircraft's frame are, from left, Oreoluwa Adeogun, Zara Webb, Catherine Pearce, Izzy Selby and Aressa Raja-Ridzwa

Girls unload the kit in October



And we're off! The project gets underway



The project sees pupils from Benenden and John Wallis working together



The budding engineers from both schools hard at work in November



Annabelle Grut tightens a bolt on the frame

Building a Second Microlight

A group of Benenden pupils, joined by their friends from The John Wallis Church of England Academy, have begun building a Microlight, inspired by the success of the previous project which began in 2016. Zara Webb, one of the Benenden girls taking part, explains more.

This term, 18 of us Benenden girls and four John Wallis pupils began the 18-month-long project of building a Microlight. This project was carried out two years ago, and so well that we were able to have another go at it – something which we heard is very rare for the same school.

Over Half Term all the equipment arrived, which was donated to us by the British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA) on one condition: that we return to them a fully built and functioning aircraft. Everything arrived packed in large wooden boxes with many extensive manuals which told us exactly how to build it.

Every Thursday evening, we come together for an hour and a half to build various aspects of the aircraft. Recently we have been focusing on the cockpit and have already used a varied range of equipment.

For example, last week I used an electric drill and saw to carve a hole large enough to fit the plane's battery – something that must be in place perfectly!

We usually split up into smaller groups to build one specific thing each session – and then at the end we all come together and assemble what we have all been working on into a part. I've really enjoyed what we have done so far and we have all already gained so many skills from the project.

We are really excited to see how the project goes as we progress in building it. I am particularly excited for when we can fly it – and see how far we have come. I'm sure it will be a fantastic 18 months and that we will learn so much in the process.

PREVIOUS PROJECTS

This project follows in the footsteps of two significant engineering projects in recent years:



Microlight #1 2016-2018

A team of 28 girls spent 18 months constructing the first Microlight, and they all had the chance to be flown in it at a special flying day in July 2018.



Caterham Seven 2018-2019

Last year a team of 19 Sixth Formers built a Caterham Seven 240 – a classic lightweight sports car. It was completed during the Summer Term and displayed at Speech Day.



Donald Trump makes a guest appearance!



A large range of characters took to the stage, from priests to bridesmaids



Marshall was named the overall winner

House Dram

Armed with a theme (A Microcosm of Society), a few tubes of paint, a pile of cardboard and bags of enthusiasm, our six intrepid teams of producers launched themselves into the 48 hours of fun, sweets and mayhem that is House Dram!

This event is new girls' introduction to Drama at Benenden. Having launched at 2.00pm on the first Friday, the Six Ones had two days to put together a performance piece that included every girl in their House in some capacity. Whether acting, dancing, tech, costume, painting or programme making, everyone has a role to fulfil and everyone gets stuck in - well of course they do, the honour of the House is at stake!

This year's winners

- Overall Winner – Marshall
- Best Script – Hemsted
- Best Actor – Annabel Kearsey, Echyngham
- Best Dance – Hemsted
- Best Use of Costume – Norris
- Best Use of Tech – Marshall
- Best Programme – Marshall



Hemsted presenting their programme



Annabel Kearsey was Best Actor

Celia Royde, in the Fourth, shares with us her first House Dram experience.

My first weekend at Benenden was a flurry of auditions and rehearsals. Fara gave us all the title of our play – Goals Up – and the adventure started!

We were all given a piece to work on for our auditions and when the auditions ended everyone was very nervous of who they would be: dancer or actress! All the nerves were buzzing around Guldeford. I got the part of Billy, an awkward young boy who wants to try out for the basketball team. After learning our parts we were all allowed to relax, knowing that tomorrow we would be doing our first rehearsal.

The first rehearsal was mainly just learning our lines and sorting out when and how to say our lines correctly and after that we started planning and staging the piece. The dancers started learning their dance which already looked incredible after only a few hours. After the day of rehearsals we were all ready to relax and get some sleep, because the real show was tomorrow and we all needed lots of energy for it!

After a good night's sleep we had a few more rehearsals and then we were ready to perform. Other houses performed before we did and they all did amazingly which just pushed everyone to try even harder. As we got onto the stage everyone was feeling nervous. After the blackout it was time to perform!

We may not have come out as the winners but we did really well and tried our best. I can't wait for House Dram next year and I know it will be brilliant!



Medway hitting the dancefloor

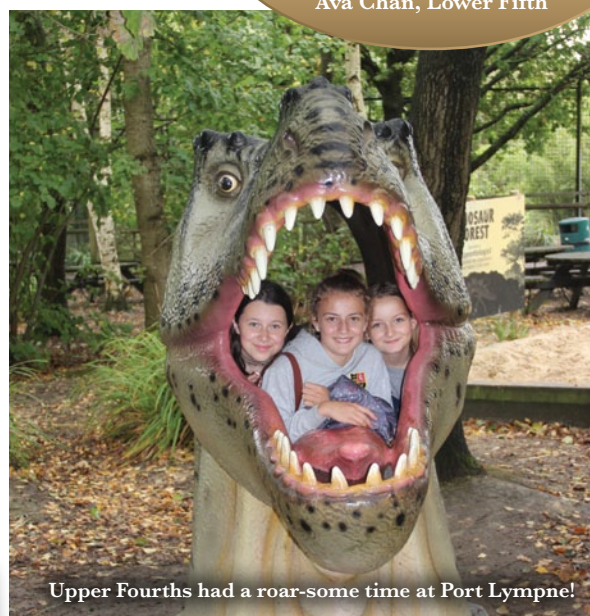
The Upper Fourth enjoy a trip to the beach

The Weekend

"The laser tag game is my favourite Weekend Programme event so far. It was my first weekend so it was nice to meet up with new schoolmates during the game. It was also my first time playing laser tag and I enjoyed it very much."
Ava Chan, Lower Fifth

In a boarding school such as Benenden, having an exciting, educational and entertaining array of activities for girls at the weekends is vital. Following a review of our offer, this year's Weekend Programme is undoubtedly better than ever before – but don't take our word for it! We asked girls what their favourite weekend events were and over the next few pages we share with you their responses.

"I liked going to Pizza Express as it was fun and nice to spend time with all my friends."
Rosalyn Chiu, Fourth



Upper Fourths had a roar-some time at Port Lympne!



Visiting Camber Sands is a great way to unwind



The Sixth Formers tackle baking in October



We were joined by some feathered friends in September



Archery was popular

"My favourite Weekend Programme events have been the lunches out, which allow us to have a break from work and have a few hours to chat and relax."
Hermione Barnes, Six Two



The Fourths display the sweet trees they made in October



The Fourths' roller disco



The inflatable climbing tower attracted girls of all ages



Family afternoon tea for the lower Fifth



The Fourths enjoy Dino Golf



The Upper Fourths enjoyed Port Lympne, despite the wet weather



The Lower Fifth enjoy some delicious dinner



The new Fourths enjoy a roller disco on their first Saturday

"The bowling was really fun and it was nice to go out with friends out of school. I really enjoyed it even though I didn't win!"
Amelia Sandford-Anderson, Upper Fifth



The new Pizza Oven at the Eco-Classroom hosts its maiden event, for the Upper Fifth



Fifths try their hand at go-karting



Sixth Form cookery night



Port Lympne's residents were nonplussed by the girls



Three year groups enjoyed Segways on-site: here the Fifths give them a go



"My favourite Weekend Programme activity was when we went to Bluewater, because I got to hang out with my friends and go to lots of shops!"
Tami Bankole, Fourth



A. The Lower Fifth learn the fine art of make-up in a special workshop in November. **B.** Sixth Formers had the opportunity to explore wine tasting in November. **C.** The Lower Fifth tuck in at Pizza Express! **D.** The Fifths travelled to Somerset House in London for the ice skating. **E.** The Fourths enjoying gingerbread crafts. **F.** Girls battled it out at the afternoon of inflatables. **G.** The Ferris wheel was extremely popular at the Christmas fair. **H.** Sixth Formers enjoying Reeling at Harrow in November. **I.** The Upper Fifth take to the go-karting racetrack in November.



"I am very grateful for the Weekend Programme, especially, as an overseas child, it provides a feeling of homeliness. Personally, my favourite trips are trips to any restaurant – as the only way to girls' hearts is through food!"

**Fara Bakare,
Six One**



A. All smiles at the Christmas Fair. B. Enjoying the 'snow' at the Christmas Fair. C. The Christmas Fair even included an ice rink! D. Upper Fifts try out aerial hoops. E. The Fourth to Lower Fifth enjoyed an 'inflatable fiesta' on the final Sunday. F. The Fifts' Trampoline Social with Tonbridge School. G. The Christmas Fair on the final weekend was spectacular. H. Wreath Making in December. I. The Fifts tackle an Escape Room in November.



The CCF numbers more than 90 Cadets from Benenden and John Wallis

CCF Field Training Day

In October the Cadets took part in a Field Training Day at Pippingford Park, a military training area in East Sussex.

The new recruits – Chard Troop (made up of Fifts) – took part in activities that included navigation training, building shelters and tents, cooking with an introduction to the MOD's Operational Ration Pack, command and leadership tasks and archery. It was a gentle and fun introduction to the Benenden School and The John Wallis Combined Cadet Force, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The Kitchener Troop (Upper Fifth) finished their Advanced Fieldcraft by conducting a full blank firing ambush. They then went on to construct an aerial ropeway, putting their Royal Engineering skills to the test. This final task now allows them to proudly show off their Basic Engineering badge.



The Cadets tackle various challenges, including mud, on their Field Day in Sussex

Gundulf Troop (Six One) were instrumental in the running of the day by leading on many of Chard Troop's activities.

The Cadets put a lot of energy into every task they were faced with.

Cadets in Canadian Adventure

Over the Summer Holidays two Cadets, Lily Maclean Bather and Zara Webb, took off to Canada for six weeks of adventurous training hosted by the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Force.

They took part in a walking expedition which they both said was challenging but very rewarding with amazing views. Both also completed a mountain biking and canoe expedition.

Group expeditions are great, but they even had to stay in their own shelters with not even a watch to tell the time - telling the time by the sun it was then!

Zara said: "The best part for me was definitely the graduation parade where I was lucky enough to be the Platoon Commander - it was an incredible experience being able to give commands at such a large parade."

For Lily the highlight was the march into camp after the 18-day expedition. She said: "It was awesome, especially with the full bagpipe band and the whole camp lining the road in!"

In addition, Safia Dovell helped host the Canadian Cadets over here in England. This involved fieldcraft and army training and Safia has come away with some awesome ideas and skills and looks forward to putting them into practice back at the contingent.



Lily Maclean Bather in Canada



Zara Webb said the adventure training was an 'incredible experience'

New Banner

The CCF took receipt of their new standard (pictured above) that will accompany them at all formal parades. The Officers and Cadets would like to say a big thank you to the Benenden School Parents' Association who made a generous contribution so this could be purchased.

CCF Cadets Receive Eagerly-Anticipated Badge

In October CCF Cadets received the eagerly-awaited Tactical Recognition Flash (TRF). The TRF is a badge that identifies to which unit an individual belongs.



Music

Thea Simpkin, in the Lower Fifth, sums up a busy musical term.

This term has been very eventful for the Music Department, from the launch of the Chapel Choir's CD (see page 3) to the memorial service for Jean Maridor (page 6), not to mention all the incredible Sarol Services (pages 78-79).

In October, two brilliant Scholars' Concerts were put on in the local church and at School. They were a great opportunity for all the Music Scholars to display their hard work, and members of the community and School to enjoy an evening of amazing music. Then, in November, a service was held to mark the 75th anniversary of the death of Capitaine Jean Maridor. This was a very special and thought-provoking occasion. The music played (by the Symphony Orchestra) included pieces from French composers such as Ravel's Pavane, and also English pieces such as Nimrod, by Elgar.

Many lunchtime concerts and informal 'MiniTunes' also took place throughout the term, providing musicians of all ages with

a chance to showcase their efforts. The Big Play and the Big Jam gave instrumentalists of all ages the chance to work together. We also enjoyed concerts given by members of the music staff – Ms Brooks (percussion), Mr Caldon (trumpet) and Mr Chapman (guitar).

At the end of November, four fabulous performances of *Sister Act* were put on; this was a great opportunity for the Drama and Music Departments to work together in order to produce a marvellous performance.

One of the most profound highlights of music at Benenden were the carol services. The Senior's Advent Service begun Advent wonderfully with carols sung by Lower School Chamber Choir. Chapel Choir then went up to London (to St Peter's Eaton Square) to sing in the London Seniors' Carol Service before the launch of the CD.

Finally, we ended the term with two other superb carol services, one for the Lower School in St George's Benenden, and the other for Middle and Upper School in St Dunstan's, Cranbrook.



Lucy Weir at St George's



In the Lower years, all girls have the opportunity to try out music in lessons



The Big Jam in October involved pupils of all ages



Hester Darwall and Zoe Cohen demonstrated their impressive trumpet playing skills to the Fourth and Upper Fourth in form order



Ella Cohen at St George's playing in the Scholars' Concert



Choir Practice in October

DofE Students Travel to the Peak District

In October Half Term ten students in Six One travelled to the Peak District to complete their Gold DofE Practice. Here one of them, Sophie Brokenshire, tells The Term about a testing three days.

Day One saw us practising map reading and navigational skills. Everyone took it in turns to lead the group in the assigned direction and while there were a few wrong turns taken eventually we all got the hang of it.

Despite sore feet the views from the top of Mam Tor were worth the trek to the summit, as was the cake in the coffee shop we stopped at before heading back to camp.

Day Two was the first day in which we had a full pack on and the weight of the

rucksacks, along with the 20 miles we had to trek, made setting off that day a struggle but once we made it over Jacob's Ladder (a near vertical ascent at points) morale was raised.

However, when it started raining and it became clear we wouldn't make it back before nightfall it was hard to keep in high spirits. After a few rounds of semi-cooked pasta all of us were ready for the final day.

When Day Three came it was a relief to us all – everyone was tired and just wanted to go home. As we climbed over our final

hill, we knew there were only a few miles left, with all of us frantically looking out for a church spire where the final checkpoint was.

Needless to say the coach journey back was mostly quiet – all of us had dozed off.

While this does sound a bit miserable it was so rewarding once we had done it. DofE is such a good way to test your limits and I am definitely glad I had the opportunity to do it – even if that wasn't clear at the time!



There may have been some debate about the best route!



The girls climb Mam Tor



The DofE's trusty mascot and map!



Planning the next day's journey

Fireworks

As ever, staff and students had a real treat in November when the skies were lit up for the annual Benenden School fireworks display.

A clear sky meant everyone could thoroughly enjoy the multi-coloured pyrotechnic display. It came a week after the School hosted the village fireworks event during Half Term, stepping in because the usual venue was unavailable.

The fireworks provided a wonderful spectacle

The School display was held a week after the village's event



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Water Knockout

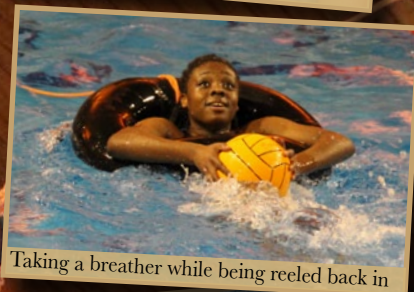
In the final week of the term girls battled it out in the annual Water Knockout – which is always wet and wild!

Competing in Houses, girls in the Fourth to Upper Fifth took part in a variety of madcap races in the pool, cheered on by their housemates. A prize is also up for grabs for the singing and cheering, ensuring this is the loudest night of the School year!

The event this year had a Disney theme, with the costumes and songs reflecting the theme. The winners in the pool were Norris, the best dressed prize went to Marshall and the winning cheerleaders were Hemsted.



Girls got into the Christmas spirit



Taking a breather while being reeled back in



Girls competed in different challenges



Water Knockout is always energetic and exciting



Aiming for the target, under the watchful eye of the cheerleaders!



The Marshall girls, who won the best dressed prize, cheer on their swimmers

Charity

Supporting charities is an incredibly important part of Benenden life and this term the community have once again excelled. Here, we showcase just a few of the girls' charitable initiatives.



Tackling Canoeists' Everest

Six Ones Izzy Selby and Zara Warne are taking on the Devizes to Westminster Kayak Marathon, an annual 125-mile, 77 portage race taking place over the Easter weekend. They explain more.

The race is famously known as the canoeists' Everest, with many trying each year and sometimes even fewer than half the crews completing it. Neither of us has ever kayaked before so we are training three times a week on the water, and most days off the water in the gym and on the kayak ergometer.

One of the most difficult parts of the training is the portaging – this is where we have to get out of the boat

(quickly, 77 times during the event!) and carry our kayak on our shoulders while running to the end of the lock.

Through signing up for the race we inspired Mr Commander and Mr George to also take on the challenge! We are delighted that in completing this extreme challenge we are raising money for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity – and at the time of writing have raised over £2,600.

Krispy Kreme Sale



Girls held a Krispy Kreme sale in the Café in October on behalf of the three charities we are supporting as part of the Nepal Expedition – The Gurkha Welfare Trust, PAHAR Trust and Bloom Nepal School. They raised £380 in total.

Operation Christmas Child



Three girls, Momoko Eliot, Lucy Hargrave and Izzy Selby, collected 80 shoeboxes from pupils and staff in aid of Operation Christmas Child, giving a gift to a child who has never received a gift at Christmas.

Pyjama Party in aid of SANG

At the beginning of term Karo Omo, who is the founder of Sanitary Aid for Nigerian Girls (SANG), spoke in Prayers about period poverty and her charity, which was established in January 2017 to address the needs of 65 per cent of the Nigerian female population who do not have access to sanitary pads. This inspired Intersoc to organise a fundraiser for the charity. Fara Bakare, Six One, takes up the story.

The fundraiser was an evening pyjama party in SPLASH. Girls had to come dressed in their PJs and ready for a dose of fun – Intersoc recreated a 10th birthday party theme for the event.

On arrival, there were some classic tunes booming in the hall; the girls danced and showed off their best

moves. Then there was a game of musical chairs!

There was lots of dancing and an array of food ranging from cookies, sweets and fizzy drinks to nachos, hot dogs and popcorn. An outstanding MC kept the vibe at 100 and vibrant decorations lit up the hall.

I am proud to say Intersoc managed to raise £3,000 for Sanitary Aid for Nigerian girls from entry fees, t-shirts, food and donations. This money will be used towards the drive to support women across Nigeria and to provide girls with sanitary products at no costs.

Art Fundraising



Through a raffle and sale of post cards at the Smallhythe Gallery, the Art Scholars and Sixth Form Art students have so far raised £214 for The Art Room, a charity which creates a safe art room within inner city schools for art therapy.



The pyjama party raised £3,000 for Sanitary Aid for Nigerian Girls

Lily Phillips making friends at Tenterden Hub

Benenden in the Community

Life at Benenden extends far beyond the boundaries of the School. Our Volunteer Programme started its third year in September and is bigger and better than ever. We have more than 100 girls involved, supporting 15 local organisations and engaging on a weekly basis in more than 20 different activities.

Two Six Ones talk to The Term about their experiences.

As part of the Outreach Programme, each Tuesday a group goes to the Tenterden Hub.

We spend around an hour there every week – making and taking orders for teas and coffees, talking to the people there and occasionally helping to run bingo!

Going to the Hub is extremely rewarding, especially given that the majority of the people there are elderly, and so have a completely different perspective on many aspects of life and have plenty of experiences to share and discuss.

Escaping the 'Benenden Bubble' once a week is a nice change and getting to know all the people who attend the Hub is really interesting.

Bee McDougall



Bee chatting with guests at Tenterden Hub



Keara helping a John Wallis Primary pupil with his reading

Every Tuesday afternoon I volunteer at John Wallis Primary School, with a group of ten people.

On arrival, we usually split up into groups with some helping out with the Year Ones and others with the Year Twos. We usually read with children with a range of abilities, with the books being the classic 'Biff and Chip' books. All the children have made enormous progress this term. However, some of the kids are very naughty and try and skip pages while we are not looking!

We also carry out a range of other activities, including science experiments and making soup – which are all enjoyable activities.

Overall, it is a really rewarding experience and I have learnt so much from it. Furthermore, I have gained a lot of patience, and it has been really nice each week to get to know the children.

Keara McKie



Girls put their best (odd socked) feet forward for Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week

In November National Anti-Bullying week took place – giving a chance for everyone to reflect on the importance of kindness, and how to tackle cruel behaviour. Poppy Worlidge, our Anti-Bullying and E-Safety Grey Jumper, tells us how the School embraced it.

This year's theme 'change starts with us' helped us all think about how each small action makes a big difference. Through my role, I aim to raise awareness of this and when the opportunity of Anti-Bullying Week came along, the Benenden community responded to this message really well.

I first sent out an email explaining that we would do an 'Odd Socks Day' where the students would wear funky socks to celebrate individuality and uniqueness. Initially I said that it was for Fourths to Lower Fifths but then due to popular demand I changed it to the whole school!

Mrs Franklin very kindly replied to my email offering to do a 'Wacky Waffle Bar' with lots of different coloured toppings in order to further this message of individuality. It went down a treat and it was lovely to see everyone taking part with his (shout out to Mr Whiting's daring wardrobe of navy and black socks!), or her, odd socks.

Throughout the week, I also introduced the idea of 'unprompted gestures of kindness'.

The students emailed me with a nomination of someone who had gone out of their way to do a kind act for them that week. I got many nominations and I picked three winners who were Larissa Wallner, Ella Allfrey and Jessica Popoola.

When I read these names out in Prayers, I was happy to see the support that everyone gave each other. Furthermore, it prompted lots of students to just have a good think about doing nice things for others, even if they did not actively take part by sending me an email.

I also helped the Upper Fourths create their anti-bullying presentations for the Fourths in Form Order. This consisted of songs, poems, PowerPoints, skits and more! Seeing the girls coming together to make a stand against bullying and actively raising awareness for it with such a positive attitude was fabulous.

It was a great week and I believe that it allowed the Benenden community to shine in its welcoming environment.

Benenden Clubs and Societies

Below is a taster of some of the student-led clubs and societies on offer at Benenden

Amnesty Club

A student-led group that works in alliance with Amnesty Youth. The Amnesty Club aims to spread awareness of global affairs and to support Amnesty's movements through fundraising, as well as planning events to support those with limited human rights or campaigns against unjust affairs.

Benenden Theatre Group

The Benenden Theatre Group are keen actors who practise monologues and small extracts from plays to improve their speaking skills, self-confidence, learn about drama and have fun.

MedSoc

MedSoc discusses new discoveries and ethical issues surrounding medicine. They draw upon scientific knowledge and moral judgement to discuss topical questions.

Psychology Society

The Psychology Society discusses a range of interesting topics, some that are included in the A Level syllabus, like schizophrenia, and others that aren't, for example: 'What makes a psychopath?' and 'Are fandoms the new cults of the 21st century?'.

Prism – LGBTQ+

Straight equality committee, Prism – LGBTQ+, educates students on LGBT matters, fundraises for and plans events to support charities. They also provide a safe space for LGBT youth to feel welcome and comfortable in the Benenden community.

Intersoc

Intersoc is an international cultural awareness society that educates people about global issues and fundraises in aid of causes that would otherwise be ignored. It aims to explore the variety of cultures in Benenden.

Word Factory

Word Factory is the School's student-led creative writing magazine; each term they encourage students to write stories or poems on a theme and then publish them for the rest of the School to read.

Clubs and Societies

Without its pupils, a school is just a collection of empty buildings. That's why the energy and involvement of the girls is so important to Benenden. One of the best examples of this approach is through the array of student-led clubs and societies, some of which we are delighted to showcase in this special report.

Debate Club

This term Debate Club has been revitalised by Izzy Salzedo and Ireoluwa Morakinyo who have challenged their peers with controversial and thought-provoking questions.

One of the most heated debates was whether private schools should be abolished, and other topics have ranged from 'Should former imperial countries pay reparations for slavery and colonisation?' to 'How urgent is climate change?'.

The club have been so happy to witness newfound confidence among members when expressing their views. There is also an exciting collaboration with the Psychology Society in the works which will add an interesting new dimension to discussions.

Debate Club has allowed people to break through year group boundaries, with younger students engaging those at the upper end of the school in fiery discussions.

The year ahead promises to be filled with intellectual debates and everyone is welcome to come along and join in!



Alice Churchill and Oreoluwa Adeogun engaging in healthy debate



The Bubble podcast can be found on Spotify

I set up 'The Bubble' this year with the aim of creating a safe space for pupils at the School to practice their broadcasting skills and share their interests with the public. The podcast movement has been growing over the past few years, so it seemed only natural to set something up.

The Bubble Team and I released our first series called The Twelve Days of Christmas at the beginning of December, which consists of interviews and relaxed discussions about Christmas-related topics.

We are going to use these 12 episodes as a foundation to develop our podcast in the future. Please have a listen by searching The Bubble on Spotify, Castbox etc and look out for any new content.

Podcast Club

The Podcast Club is working to create and produce a podcast called 'The Bubble' in which speakers are invited to talk about different topics every week. Ella Cohen, who is part of the team behind the podcast, tells us more.



Eco-Committee

One of the most prominent committees and groups is the Eco-Committee, made up of Roya Power, Oreoluwa Adeogun, Leia Baig and Kate Gouriet. Six One student Fara Bakare talked to them about their hopes and aspirations for the future.



What is the main objective for the Eco-Committee this year?

We want to drastically reduce our environmental impact.

We have implemented Meatless Mondays and are working towards reducing single-use paper and plastic usage, organising an environmental speakers' night which would have numerous well-known speakers and MPs, improving the recycling process in School and educating Benenden students about why these issues are so important and so urgent.

Do you feel Benenden is an eco-friendly school and what are you looking to change in the Benenden community?

Benenden, in its current state, is lacking in terms of environmental action. However, the recent swell in support suggests a growing change and with the help of the community and the aims of the Eco-Committee this year, we hope to change this. There are some sanctions and provisions that would help regulate our wastage and increase our friendliness.

This change has already begun to be implemented, as can be seen through Meatless Mondays where the food menu on a Monday does not have any meals with meat in the ingredients.

How do you plan to get more people involved in making the School more eco-friendly?

Meatless Monday signifies Benenden's first big step in the direction of an environmentally friendly school.

Not only are we drastically reducing our emissions and waste through cutting down on meat, we are joining a powerful movement that will further our other aims.

The support we've received from the student body and staff has been overwhelming, which suggests a willingness to make similar changes in other areas. Eating less meat, beef especially, has a major impact on the environment.

Our community has been able to acknowledge the harrowing impacts of livestock production, the incredible levels of greenhouse gases produced, the wasted use of water and energy as well as the increase in land for farming and is now striving for a better planet.



Discovering Waste

This term Benenden Eco-Committee had the honour of visiting Country Style, the facility to which Benenden sends its waste, and we are proud to have discovered that 0 per cent of all Benenden's waste goes to landfill.

Instead, every ounce of our rubbish is either recycled into new materials or used to generate energy. We had the privilege of meeting the Country Style Management Team who were incredibly passionate and knowledgeable regarding the complex steps taken to ensure that everything sent to the plant ends up

back in our daily lives as useful products. We dove behind the scenes into certain (occasionally smelly) areas, including an exclusive section of the facility that dealt with the breakdown of woods.

From separating papers through hand picking, to extracting metal using magnets, the Eco Committee had access to the massive variety of approaches used to tackle the problem our waste presents. We are inspired and proud that our school supports such an outstanding institution, and one which is vital in reducing our community's environmental impact.

3 September

9 September

12 September

Excitement Builds for the New Hall and Music School

Now that the buildings are rising out of the ground, the new School Hall and Music School are becoming a reality for the girls. We asked some of the pupils what they were most looking forward to from the new facility. Here, we are pleased to share a selection of their views.

“I can’t wait for soundproof music rooms!”

Imogen Cleary, Upper Fifth

“It’s going to be an environment in which I, as a Music Scholar, can feel the music and bring more passion to what I’m doing.”

Subomi Ajibola, Lower Fifth

“It will look nice and go well with the rest of the buildings.”

Amelia Drayson, Lower Fifth

“It’s more space for us to all be together comfortably and to enjoy it. It will be used for a lot more than just Prayers because it’s a nice space, it’s nice and open. The windows looking out onto the Rose Garden are really nice. It’s like the old hall but modernised.”

JB van Pelt, Six One

“The acoustics will be better.”

Elizabeth Smith, Upper Fourth

“The windows in the hall make it more open.”

Riya Chandarana, Lower Fifth

“It’s going to look a lot nicer and more modern.”

Sophia Kirkwood, Upper Fourth

“It’s very spacious and the acoustics should be better.”

Claire Wong, Lower Fifth

“I’m excited about the way the new hall is going to use the space as well as how it looks and the music rooms are going to be really cool. In music practice we are fighting for different music rooms.”

Clemmie Thomas, Upper Fourth

“The design’s cool!”

Nicola Tsang, Lower Fifth

“It will be easier to get out. It used to take such a long time to get out and you’d think ‘I’m going to be late for lessons’.”

Lauren Nathanson, Lower Fifth

“There will be better acoustics and socials will be better. The old hall was really dark and this one will be really bright.”

Annabel Airey, Lower Fifth

“It’s a good change, it looks better.”

Davinia Warriner-Brown, Lower Fifth

“The soundproof music rooms because I play the trumpet and it’s really hard to practise when you can hear everyone else.”

Hester Darwall, Upper Fourth

10 October

15 October

18 October

1 November

19 September



26 September



30 September



3 October



“The design looks really nice and modern.”

Nicole Wong, Lower Fifth

“It’s going to look like an American university in the Ivy League.”

Beany Fricker, Six One

“It will sound better, you’ll be able to hear more.”

Scarlett Hindmarch, Upper Fourth

“Because the old hall was so long some of the houses had trouble hearing. This is going to have better acoustics. It’s quite boring if you can’t hear what’s happening.”

Bea De Groot, Lower Fifth

“I’m excited that friends will perform in a professional environment.”

Sophie Apthorp, Six One

“It’s really nice and really chic. It’s going to be so much bigger and will fit everyone in and the music rooms will be really nice.”

Sophia Cassidy, Upper Fifth

“The vibrant courtyard will ensure thousands of happy memories.”

Megan Harman, Upper Fifth

“The smaller recital hall will be good for lunchtime concerts; I’m most looking forward to having more space to practise.”

Lexie Dykes, Six One

“Having a decent acoustic will make a difference.”

Jade Lee, Lower Fifth

“I like the amount of space.”

Charlotte James, Lower Fifth

“It will be better, you will be able to see things – in the old hall it was very dark.”

Izzy Hasson, Upper Fourth

“It’s going to look like an art gallery. The window is really nice. I don’t go in the Rose Garden much but now we are going to be in there much more.”

Jessie Wareing, Upper Fourth

“There will be more performing spaces so we can hear the girls perform.”

Nicole Lee, Upper Fifth

“I’m excited for the new space, the rooms and places to practise and I look forward to performing in them. The balcony looks really cool.”

Tiffany Ayankogbe, Upper Fifth

“I like that you can sit at both ends in the hall, it will make it more inclusive.”

Lully Rhodes, Lower Fifth

“It will be bigger and more interesting to look at. It makes you feel like you are at one with nature.”

Milly Smith, Lower Fifth

“I’m looking forward to the Seniors’ Courtyard. We’ll be working out there in the summer and chatting.”

Eliza Stevenson-Hamilton, Upper Fifth

A Student’s Perspective

Six Two student Megan Chan writes about her tour of the construction site in November.

As I am applying for an architecture degree in university, I wanted to extend my knowledge and use this golden opportunity for some first-hand experience by observing the building site.

I was given a detailed tour. It was fascinating to see each process and very eye-opening as I have never seen all the interior supporting structures exposed like this.

I was guided up and down the entire premises and even looked closely at the working scene. I took many photographs for reference and further investigation. Furthermore, as I saw the plans for the new hall earlier on in the year, I can picture how it everything will be put together to form this elegant structure.



Megan Chan meets Buxton Contracts Manager David Bean during her site tour

8 November



13 November



19 November



25 November



New Parents' Dinner

In November more than 60 parents of girls who joined Benenden at the start of the year attended the New Parents' Dinner at Ironmongers' Hall in London.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity to meet fellow parents, the leadership of the School and members of the Benenden School Development Board. Guests were treated to music by talented Benenden instrumentalists Tiffany Ayankogbe, Josie Lomax, Lucy Perry and Lucy Weir during the drinks reception and a superb solo by violinist Luisa Blat Serra in the Livery Hall before dinner.

Chair of the School's Development Board, Margaret McDonald-Kelly, introduced the work of the Board and the progress of the Centenary Vision, including the All-Weather Sports Pitch and Pavilion, Weston Crescent staff housing and the new School Hall and Music School currently under construction.



The extraordinary generosity of parents and our alumni community has enabled the School to continue to provide first-class facilities throughout its almost 100-year history as well as provide bursary support to give more girls the opportunity of a Benenden education.

Samantha Price explained that the next phase of the School's development – including the expansion of the bursary programme, the extension of meaningful partnerships with local schools such as The John Wallis Church of England Academy, and the construction of new staff housing to attract and retain talented, enthusiastic educators – will be key to us retaining our position at the forefront of girls' education.



Hong Kong New Parents' Dinner

In October we held an equivalent dinner in Hong Kong, when 30 people gathered at the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Development Board member Susanna Jat, Director of

Music Edward Whiting and Director of Development Kyle Johnson, held an informal dinner which offered guests an opportunity to meet and spend time with fellow parents.

"Benenden has been an amazing adventure full of opportunities! I can't wait to see what comes next!"

**Ruby Ross-Bason,
Fourth**

"It is like a second home to all, no matter where you are from."

**Audrey Bao,
Fourth**

Welcome to Benenden!

Some of the girls who joined us in September tell us what they think of Benenden so far.

"Three things about the School really struck me from the start: The outstanding kindness shown to me by everyone, the outstanding quality of teaching, and the outstanding food!"

**Octavia Dawson,
Lower Fifth**

"I have enjoyed everything about Benenden so far. The food is amazing and the staff are very friendly."

**Olivia Ching,
Fourth**

"Benenden has been great so far; the food is amazing, I've discovered my love for Lacrosse and everyone has been so welcoming and kind. I have made some great friends and I am really enjoying life here."

**Perdita Leighton,
Lower Fifth**

"I found it easy to settle in because of all the support I was given."

**Charlotte James,
Lower Fifth**

"Benenden welcomed me like a member of their family."

**Astrid Hall,
Fourth**

"Benenden really underpins its philosophy - A Complete Education. It has given me so much exposure towards not just academics, but also sports, performing arts, personal and professional development and much more."

**Ava Chan,
Lower Fifth**

"It was daunting at first, but was soon filled with some of the best experiences in my whole life!"

**Nicole Vaktiskjold-Palm,
Lower Fifth**

"No words can describe how much fun I've had at Benenden. It has been amazing."

Iris Deng, Fourth



Left to right: Rosalyn Chiu, Phoebe Kinnings, Alexandra Cauter and Alice Sismey



Left to right: Flora Bishop, Tami Bankole, Georgina Millett and Charlotte Murray



Left to right: Skye Stapleton and Saphy Lees

Meet the Head Girl

Issy Wilson outlines her aspirations for the year.

My role as Head Girl involves liaising between pupils and staff in order to maintain a coherent functioning body. Throughout my time at Benenden, I have looked up to the Head Girl as someone who is approachable and supportive of others as well as being a strong and inspiring role model. I hope I will be able to live up to this.

As well as addressing the whole school after Prayers in the morning, there is a lot going on behind the scenes. I am part of a team of 20 Grey Jumpers who are brilliant to work with. Each week I chair a meeting in which we discuss any issues and things that are going well at school. We also review various events and committees held during the term such as Pupil Forum, Cultures Week, the ACE Talks and many more.

Our aim for this year as a prefect body is to increase the amount of public speaking that students do. In order to do this, we are launching Junior ACE as well as the

ACE evening that the Grey Jumpers last year launched. Junior ACE will create an opportunity for every student in the Fourth to Lower Fifth to have an opportunity to improve their public speaking skills in a safe and familiar environment. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to present this to larger audiences as they gain confidence. Alongside this, there are more occasions to speak in Form Order to a select number of year groups about various topics. Hopefully, this will enable students to feel much more confident in themselves about public speaking by the time they reach Six Two.

Furthermore, the Benenden podcast is being introduced (see page 58). This is an



Issy Wilson, centre, with her Captains, from left, Charlotte Roberts and Teniola Adesanya

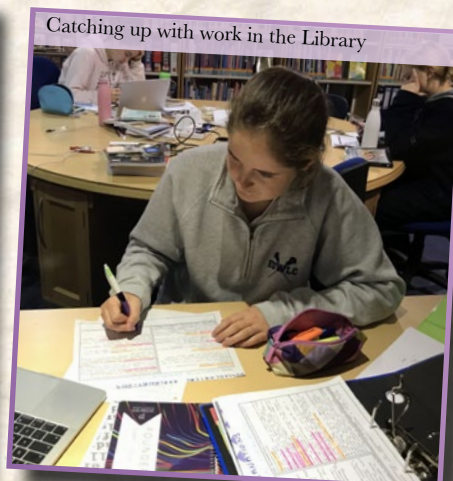
opportunity for students to talk about issues that are important to them and have a recorded discussion to which other students and staff can listen.

I am really enjoying the role so far and have learnt so much already. I'm looking forward to the next two terms and seeing all our hard work pay off.

Being Head Girl means the usual Benenden schedule is even busier! Here we take a quick glimpse into a week in the life of Benenden Head Girl, Issy Wilson, as compiled by Teniola Adesanya.



The slightly daunting task of speaking in Prayers



Catching up with work in the Library



Then of course there is the matter of doing the 'day job'! Psychology A Level lesson



Head Girl meets Headmistress! A weekly meeting with Mrs Price



Weekly Grey Jumper meetings are an opportunity to discuss a variety of issues affecting the School

When girls reach Six Two they are allowed to use scooters around the site



Founders: A Pupil's Perspective

Entering a new school year always requires a bit of getting used to after the summer – but no more so than the move from Upper Fifth into the Sixth Form. Six One Sophie Brokenshire, who was new to Benenden at the start of this term, explores life in Founders.

This year has begun with a period of transition for the Six Ones – the move up to Founders.

There has been an adjustment from the daily life of the Junior Boarding Houses as everyone's rhythms have had to change accordingly.

The predominant change in the Founders environment is the greater freedom that the students are allowed – suddenly washing, cleaning and putting on the dishwasher all need to be worked into the day.

While this led to a few people oversleeping in the beginning, it has led to a "more comfortable environment," as one student put it – away from check-ins from the Matrons.

However, probably the best thing about Founders is baps, the evening snack. While probably not the best for the waistlines, sometimes a doughnut is the only thing that gets you through an essay...

Despite all these changes, for some students the change has been bigger still – 11 new girls, a mixture of domestic and international students, joined the year group in September. All recount being apprehensive when starting but being pleasantly surprised when they realised what a welcoming environment Benenden was.

Everyone has engaged with the challenge: swim club, DofE, tennis, netball, engineering and yoga are some of the clubs that the girls have found themselves involved in. One student voiced what many had been thinking a month or so in, saying: "It feels like we have been here far longer than a few weeks!"

International students say the time zones have not been a problem and some call home most days.

However, living in Founders is only one half of Sixth Form – the other is A Levels. Everyone seemed to believe that while the jump in work was large it was certainly manageable if adequate time was allowed but you need to be doing subjects you love – ten hours a week is a long time to spend on something you hate.

In terms of tips, students said "set aside time for work – don't leave it too late". Workload is not only greater but also significantly less structured – you have to be able to keep on top of it all or it quickly piles up.

From the new Six Ones the main advice seemed to be along the same lines: "Make sure you are aware of what needs to be tidied up definitely – it can be clean in the morning but by the afternoon it can become a pigsty!"

Staff Farewells

Anna Wynne (18 years)

Visiting Teacher of Harp

Anna joined Benenden as a harp teacher in January 2001 and in that time has made a quiet but very significant contribution to our musical activities.

Although the harp is something of a minority instrument with rarely more than three or four students playing it across the year groups, its role is often significant. Anna's pupils have frequently played at high-profile events in and out of school, and have accompanied the Chapel Choir in performances of Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols. Furthermore, the harpists have always risen to the occasion when needed for orchestral works, playing with great sensitivity, confidence and musicality.

In addition to her many playing and teaching commitments, Anna has over the last four years studied to become a lawyer and is now embarking on an exciting career change. We are very grateful to her for all she has done for Benenden and wish her every happiness and success in this new chapter.

By Edward Whiting



Beth Davis (15 years)

Kitchen Porter

Beth Davis (née Croucher) started at Benenden in May 2005. She worked both in the Housekeeping side – working in Hemsted, Medway and Echningham – and in the Catering Department at the weekends.

In 2011 Beth also joined the ranks of the Tuition cleaners, so alarm setting became vital to get her here by 6.00am! In 2016 Beth decided to move back to the Catering Department.

Beth therefore has seen all areas of the Domestic Department. Beth was a great team player; she had a lot of knowledge of the department and was always happy to pass it on. She always mucked in and was happy to help whenever she could – she was never one to stand still.

She will be sorely missed but we are happy she will get more time to spend with her husband Nigel.

By Sue Franklin



Simon Bennie (8 years)

Assistant Head – Boarding and Pastoral Care, Teacher of English

Simon joined Benenden in September 2011 as Housemaster of Elms and teacher of English where he quickly established himself as an excellent pastoral and classroom practitioner. Simon has a tremendous intuition for supporting teenage girls and he was a much-loved Hm for both his ability to support and nurture the girls in his care alongside ensuring they developed their independence and sense of responsibility. In September 2018 he stepped up to the role of Assistant Head - Boarding and Pastoral Care where he has ably led and developed many school initiatives with a particular focus on working with the girls to develop our Equality and Diversity Committee and the work of the Anti-Bullying team.

Simon has a wonderful and rather witty sense of humour which has not gone unnoticed and will be hugely missed by the pastoral team, as will his eclectic taste in music!

Thank you, Simon for your dedication and commitment to Benenden. We wish you and Sally every success and happiness with the next stage of your career as you move to China to take up a Deputy Head Pastoral post. Greatly deserved but you will be missed!

By Anne Wakefield



Martin Lander (3 years)

Director of Finance and Operations

We thank Martin for all that he has done during his three years with us as well as the strong relationships he developed with Benenden village. We wish him all the very best.

By Samantha Price



Selected Other Leavers

Caroline Wheat (6 years)

Academic Support Tutor

Sally Bennie (3 years)

Professional Skills and Internship Coordinator, DHM in Limes

Jean Calcabrina (3 years)

Resident Matron, Limes and Oaks

Jo Winter (1 year)

Deputy Director of Development

New Staff

Meet some of the staff who are new to Benenden this term.



Daniel Clinch
Head of Chemistry

I am originally from East Kent; however, teaching has since taken me abroad to places such as Thailand and Singapore. I am arriving at Benenden after six years teaching IB Chemistry and Sciences in a school of over 3,000.

My wife, two children and I are very happy to settle once again in this area that we love and I'm very much enjoying working with the students and staff at Benenden.



Professor Becky Parker
Head of Physics

I live near Canterbury with my husband and daughter. She sails a lot so I have spent many holidays at the side of lakes or the sea. I love music and play the bassoon.

I have taught nearly all my life, mainly in schools in Canterbury, and in the last few years I set up a small charity to support and encourage school students and their teachers and technicians to contribute to cutting edge research in the sciences.



Sarah Wood
Hm Hemsted

I have just had a gap year after teaching Biology at Dulwich College for 21 years. During my time there I had a number of positions including Deputy Head of the Middle School and Director of Co-Curricular Activities.

With the school I was also able to indulge my passion for travelling and took students to far-flung destinations all over the world each summer as well as skiing each Easter.

• See pages 18 - 19 for interviews with Mr Clinch and Professor Parker

Selected other starters:

Dominic Archer
Physics Technician

Holly Clarke
Graduate Assistant

Barbara Friksstad
Visiting Teacher of Norwegian

Edurne Gil Garayoa
Spanish Assistant

Milly Jones
Graduate Assistant

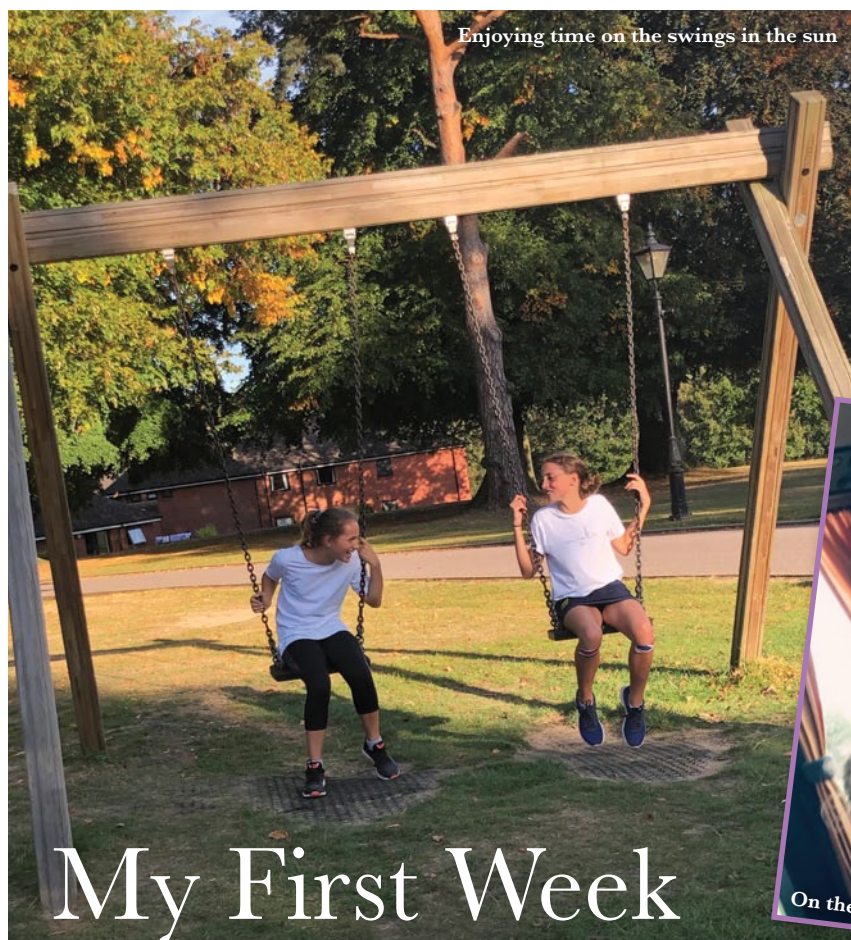
Michelle Kearsey
Academic Support Tutor

Sylvie Pry
PA to the Deputy Head
Academic and the Executive
Director for Curriculum and
Professional Excellence

Carole Shepherd
Visiting Teacher of French

Aurelia Thommerot
French Assistant

Emma Wright
Graduate Assistant



The start of the new school year in September saw many new faces arrive. One of our Fourths, Georgina Millett, kept a photo diary of her first week to share her experience with us.



Lacrosse

Despite a number of tournaments becoming victims of the weather, we have played more than 100 challenging fixtures in this first term.

There have been highlights on an individual and team level in every match across all year groups. Having had an unusual number of drawn matches, in their most recent performance the 1st team ground out a strong win against St Catherine's. Our youngest players have made a very positive start to this new sport, demonstrating their significant potential and tenacity at U12A, B and C level.

We are very proud to have a number of girls on National Performance programmes for various countries, including England, Wales and Spain. Stand-out 1st team player Saskia Willetts was deservedly called up to the England National Programme earlier this term.

Next term sees the culmination of much of the Lacrosse players' hard work as we travel to the National Schools' Lacrosse tournament in Aldershot, as well as county tournaments for various age groups.



Fara Bakare takes on Benenden Senior Olivia Bullman on Two Gen



The 1st Lacrosse team huddle after a 9-7 win v St Catherine's in November

Congratulations to Echyngham Hm and Sports Teacher Lucy Lynch, who captained England to their third consecutive Lacrosse European Championships victory in Israel over the summer and in the process became England's first ever centurion, winning her 100th cap in the semi-final win over the Czech Republic

Lucy Lynch celebrates with her England teammates in Israel during the summer



Sarah Bayne Cup for Lacrosse
Lily Thornton

Lacrosse Stickwork Cup
Isabelle Murray

Lacrosse Improvement Cup
Maggie Cassidy



Our U13s compete against Dulwich Prep on a bright December afternoon

Fencing

The Benenden Fencing Team has had an extremely busy and successful term, writes Cordelia Cook, Fencing Captain.

We have competed in many competitions including the Kent County Schools competition and the Stennick Cup. Our fencers did well in each of the competitions and many members of the team received medals and trophies.

In addition to competitions, we regularly attend Tenterden Fencing Club, allowing us to increase match experience and fence against different opponents.

Amongst our team we have had many personal successes. In particular we are delighted that Amelie Woolf has been selected for the South East Fencing team after some great performances. This is a huge achievement and well deserved.

Fencing Colours

Senior
Cordelia Cook



Amelie Woolf, Cordelia Cook and Charlotte Elliot at the Kent County School Championships in November



Rosaly Chiu and Eliza Denning in action at the Stennick Competition



Our U16 team were 2nd in the Kent Netball Finals

**Sarah Ainslie Netball
Improvement Cup
Eden David-Etuk**

Netball

It has been an exciting term on the Netball courts. Here we summarise some of the highlights.

U13s on Tour

October Exeat weekend saw the U13A squad participating in the Masterclass Sports Tours Girls' Schools Association Netball Tournament held over two days at Condoover Hall in Shropshire.

On the Saturday we competed in seven matches against strong opposition where we gained wins against Cranford House and The Marist School. Finishing 5th in the section, we progressed to the Trophy competition for the following day.

Unfortunately, day two brought the need for sub-coats and waterproofs over sunglasses and sun cream! However, the girls competed hard and following some narrow losses finished 18th out of the 25 schools attending.

Meeting with England Netball player Eboni Usoro-Brown was a huge plus to the weekend adventures. It was a very enjoyable trip and the team had lots of fun. Notable mentions go to Ella Jankovich-Besan as Most Improved Player and to Atifah Pampam as Player of the Tournament.



With England Netballer Eboni Usoro-Brown at the GSA tournament

Kent Netball Finals

Over the November Exeat weekend our U14, U16 and 1st Netball teams participated in the Kent Netball Finals.

Benenden were one of only two schools to have teams qualify in all the three age groups, following preliminary tournaments held earlier in the term. The day proved not to disappoint with an excellent standard of Netball on display and matches were highly competitive. The tournament concluded with Benenden 1st and U14 teams coming 4th and 3rd respectively.

With the U16 team achieving 2nd place, they follow in the footsteps of last year's U16 team in progressing to represent Kent as one of eight schools to attend the London and South East Tournament in January.



In action at the Kent Netball Finals



All smiles in practice in October

Netball Colours

Senior 1st Team Full
Saskia Willetts
Pandora Mann
Lily Thornton
Catalina Burguera

Junior
Georgina Millett

Intermediate
Olivia Woolhouse

Encouraging Progress

It is encouraging to see the girls are so enthusiastic, with us fielding 31 Netball teams from 14 squads.

We have developed our format for target-setting across all age groups and squads, with the introduction of OneNote – an online communications tool. This allows the players greater input into their development, recording of their progress and building on communication with their coach.

The Fourth and Upper Fourth Performance Programme has continued this term and it is encouraging to see the girls working hard. With the programme led by Mrs Glynn-Brooks who also coaches girls of a similar age at county level, it exposes Benenden players to similar expectations and guidance. These age groups have also been introduced to a new initiative to encourage them to improve their ball handling skills. This will help them develop a strong skill base on which to build their Benenden Netball career as they progress through the School.

It was great to see 30 girls turn up for the first round of assessment for the Wall Ball Bronze Award. Three assessments will be carried out each term. Now on to Silver and then Gold!



Netball training in October



Wall Ball Bronze Award

Conditioning and Performance



Scholars will now receive a bespoke programme

Having re-launched the Sports Scholarship Programme in November, the Sports Scholars were treated to an individual or small group session with James Wild – the England Lacrosse, Surrey Storm Netball and Harlequins Rugby Strength and Conditioning and Performance consultant.

The girls enjoyed a session, exploring strength and will receive a bespoke programme to support their individual needs for the sports they play.

The scholarship programme is now broken down into three key performance zones - sport, physical conditioning and mental conditioning. James's session forms part of the support in the physical zone.

The Scholars are looking forward to meeting world class rugby coach Russell Earnshaw from the Magic Academy to explore innovation next as part of the mental zone.



**Catherine Slade Cup
for Swimming**
JB van Pelt

Equestrian

The Equestrian Team have competed in dressage, show jumping and eventing competitions this term.

At the beginning of September Charlotte Roberts, Epernay Balcomb-Hellier and Lily Hill travelled to Beechwood Equestrian Centre in Essex to compete in a qualifying competition for the NSEA National Dressage Championships. The team did very well to achieve 2nd place and qualify and in addition Charlotte was delighted to win the Preliminary Class.

Over Exeat Epernay and Lily were joined by Tallulah Haycock to compete in the NSEA National Eventing Championships. The team were competing in the top class of the day, the 1m class where they had to complete a dressage test, a show jumping round and a cross-country round of 19 demanding fences. The standard of performance at a national competition is always very high and all our riders performed well. The team was thrilled to achieve 2nd place and thus become Reserve National Eventing Champions. In addition, Epernay was 4th as an individual and Tallulah was 6th.

In November Lily travelled to Bedfordshire to represent Benenden as an individual in the NSEA National Plate Championships in both the Preliminary and Novice dressage classes. She rode extremely well to win the Novice class to become National Plate Champion and in addition was 4th in the Preliminary class.

Also, in November Megan Harman made her debut for the Equestrian Team at a show jumping competition at Petley Wood Equestrian Centre. Megan jumped in the 80cm class and did well to come 46th in this, the most popular class of the day. Tallulah also entered as an individual in the 1m and 1.1m classes where she jumped clear in the 1m to claim 14th place and despite catching a pole in the 1.1m she achieved 5th place.



Lily Hill was Novice Individual Champion and 4th in the Prelim at the NSEA Plate Championship

Trampolining

It has been a great start to the year for the Trampoline Club with new and existing trampolinists making fantastic progress.

Already a huge number of British Gymnastics Trampoline Awards have been achieved thanks to the determination and focus of the pupils. The introduction of the trampoline rig has been a great asset, enabling the higher level trampolinists to learn a range of complex skills, including double somersaults, here at School.

We have also had some brilliant results at competitions. The highlights include:

- Charlotte Wainford finishing 9th at the Friendship Cup in Prague.
- Sara Wiberg and Charlotte Wainford finishing 3rd in the Elite category (U19 and U14 respectively) of the SE Schools Trampoline Championships and therefore qualifying through to the Southern Zone Schools Trampoline Championships next term.
- Fantastic performances at the Kent grades G & H competitions with the U15 girls' team (Sophie Blake, Maggie Cassidy, Lara Gibbs and Tilly Taylor) winning the grade H team event. There were also some good individual results at this event:
 - Sara Wiberg 1st in the U19 girls grade G
 - Sophie Blake 3rd, Lara Gibbs 4th, Tilly Taylor 5th and Maggie Cassidy 7th in the U15 girls grade H
 - Bea Lees 5th and Emily Campbell Lambert 7th in the U19 girls grade H



Kent grade G and H Trampoline competition

The standard of Trampolining at Benenden is continuing to rise at a great rate and we are excited to see what can be achieved during the rest of the year.

Hockey

We have had a busy term of Hockey, during which the girls have competed in a variety of different fixtures, the biggest one being the Kent County Hockey Tournaments.

We had some very tough competition but the girls have shown great strength and potential for the future of Hockey at Benenden. The U12s and U14s in particular were very close to getting through to the next round, just missing out on goal difference.

The seniors have shown real dedication this year and have moulded as an effective team. They have currently won all their friendly fixtures and had a great result in the Mel Clewlow Cup by reaching the quarter-finals against some well-rehearsed teams such as Sevenoaks and Kent College Canterbury – they are a very promising squad for the future.

To finish off the Autumn Term the Lower Fifth and Fifth took part in the Inter-House contest. The competition was fierce considering the weather was cold. All Houses were determined to win and showed great team spirit, but the team crowned winners this year were Guldeford, followed closely by Medway. We look forward to the Fourth and Upper Fourth Inter-House competition next term.

**The Chris Smith Plate for
Commitment to Hockey**
Lauren Baker

Inter-House Hockey

Middle School

1. Guldeford
2. Medway
3. Norris

Hockey Colours

Senior

Minty Loxton-Barnard



Competing at the Kent County Hockey Tournament



The U12s at the Kent County Hockey Tournament



Guldeford were the Lower Fifth and Fifth Inter-House winners



The U12 and U13 in action against Roedean in October

Cross Country Run

The race was run in lovely weather

The School Cross Country event in September was optional this year and slightly longer than usual at 3.28km, so it was wonderful to see so many girls taking part, from Fourth up to to Six Two.

It was a beautiful day with perfect running conditions, and the atmosphere was filled with nervous excitement as the girls filed into the starting pen as they waited for Mrs Price to sound the starting hooter.

Every competitor should be proud of their amazing efforts, but a special mention must go to Minty Loxton-Barnard who won the race in an impressive 13 minutes 59 seconds, finishing with a smile.



Minty Loxton-Barnard won the race



Ruby James approaches the finish



The final sprint

The top 10 runners:

Minty Loxton-Barnard (Six Two)
Susannah Southall (Upper Fifth)
Charlotte Wainford (Upper Fourth)
Ruby James (Fifth)
Ellie Montagu (Upper Fourth)
Alice Sismey (Fourth)
Kara Dimond (Fifth)
Maddy Warnes (Lower Fifth)
Amelia Roberts (Lower Fifth)
Eleanor Roberts (Upper Fifth)

Tennis Regional Finals

Following on from a successful summer in the round robin group matches, our Y9/10 Tennis team qualified for the South East Regional Finals at Gosling Sports park after winning against Bede's in the Area Final.

We played two matches on the day against Putney High and Culford. Both schools had exceptional teams and the standard was extremely high. Unfortunately, we lost both matches but the team gained valuable experience.

Nevertheless, Benenden finished in the top 16 schools in the country with 252 schools entering initially. Congratulations to Alicia Cheng, Amelia Drayson, Katie MacLeod, Sunniva Kelly and Lavinia Webb. They should be proud of their achievements. We have a young side and there is the possibility of reaching these stages next year. Well done!



Our Regional Finalists Alicia Cheng, Lavinia Webb, Katie MacLeod, Sunniva Kelly and Amelia Drayson

Tennis
Improvement Cup
Marina Crawshay

Parents' Events

Fiona Bruce-Smythe, Chairman of the Parents' Events Committee, summarises an incredibly sociable Autumn Term.

The Autumn Term has been another busy one for the PEC. After the excitement of Two Gen, and the New Parents' Drinks, we kicked off the term with a dog walk and pub lunch at Bewl Water. The weather was still kind, the dogs all behaved (ish) and we ended up in The Bell in Ticehurst for a superb bowl of butternut squash and coconut soup!

Our Lower Fifth Lunch this term was at the Opera Tavern, always a good venue with delicious Spanish and Italian-inspired tapas. Following on from that, we had a most informative walking tour, lead by Lou Cohen, from Little Venice to Camden, taking in the Regent's Canal and spotting a few minor celebs on the way!

The Fourth and Upper Fourth Lunch at the Wallace Collection in November was another success and we had a super turnout for a delicious lunch. Tickets for our annual Highgrove Christmas shopping at Clarence House event sold out in 24 hours! It really is a superb way to start the festivities – we all enjoyed a glass of fizz in the Queen Mother's drawing room before splurging on Christmas tree decorations (even a Corgi with a Crown) and Highgrove-inscribed wooden spoons to name a few! Our final event of the term culminated in our Christmas wreath-making workshop with the wonderfully talented Sophie Leathart followed by a delicious lunch of sea bream and celeriac puree followed by spiced poached pears in panna cotta.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their dedication and hard work this term, you truly are a wonderful team.

Please do keep an eye out for our other events for the Spring Term and sign up quickly to avoid disappointment!



Parents Belinda Smith and Jane Smith with their finished products



The wreath-making in November has become a firm tradition

Forthcoming Events for Parents

18 January	Burns Night Reeling
23 January	Parents' Lecture: The RAP Project
6 February	Lower Fifth Parents' Drinks Party
5 March	Upper Fifth Parents' Lunch
12 March	Fifth Parents' Lunch
27 to 30 April	Parents' Trip to Porto

BSPA

The Benenden School Parents' Association (BSPA) has been busy again this term. Michelle Kearsey, the organisation's Chair, outlines the Autumn activities.

We were delighted to help host the New Parents' Drinks in London, which is always a lovely occasion for parents of new girls to get together. The room was packed with excited parents eager to see their daughters at the Exeat the next day.

We also held the AGM and first BSPA meeting of the academic year in October. If you have any comments that would help the School know what it does well or to help it improve in other areas then please do pass these on to your House reps so that they can be discussed at the next meeting in February 2020. Many House reps helped organise coffee for parents before Exeat or Half Term pick-up. We hope you have found this helpful in breaking the journey and as a forum

for meeting other parents in your House.

There are two forthcoming events we would like to draw parents' attention to. The next BSPA Lecture is on Thursday 23 January 2020. Deana Puccio, from The RAP Project, is speaking on safety issues for teenage girls and how we, as parents, can try to ensure our girls are safe and as streetwise as possible. She will also cover sexting and social media and how they are influencing girls' attitudes. Tickets are selling fast so if you don't want to miss this opportunity, you can book a place via the link in the Bulletin. Deana will also be speaking to two year groups of girls that afternoon so that we are all hearing the same message.

Also, Lower Fifth parents are invited to the Lower Fifth Drinks Party, being held in London on Thursday 6 February, and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

A huge thank you to all of the BSPA Reps and PEC members for all of their hard work and dedication. They have all helped to make Benenden that little bit better for the staff, girls and particularly the parents. All of their work is voluntary and it is very much appreciated. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your girls and the BSPA looks forward to working with you in 2020.





Of course there were plenty of pets in attendance at Two Gen!

Two Generation Sports

As ever, our annual Two Generation Sports event was a fantastic occasion and the School was filled with families enjoying some good-natured, but still competitive, sport. Lower Fifth Ava Chan tell us more.

The annual Two Gen event saw families of all ages enjoying a wonderful sunny afternoon.

The event started with Benenden girls teaming up with their parents in various sports tournaments including Croquet, Badminton, Rounders and Tennis.

The tournaments were filled with excitement and tension as all teams actively participated, putting in 100 per cent effort to win each point. After the sports tournaments there was a barbecue on Guldeford Green. Renowned for excellent food, it was not a surprise no one could resist joining the queues to taste Benenden's cuisine.

The event ended with prizes presented to winners of the sports tournaments and gifts given out to lucky raffle ticket winners. See you next year, Two Gen!



A successful Croquet shot

"I'm a new student here so it was my first time participating in the Two Gen event. I played Tennis with my dad. Although we didn't win, it was lots of fun. I can't wait to try out other sports next year!"

Emily Hollands, Lower Fifth



Good-natured competition is the name of the game



The Badminton was full of smiles as ever



The Benenden Seniors v First Team Lacrosse ended in a thrilling 7-7 draw



Tennis is always a popular activity at Two Gen



We were blessed with such good weather that sunglasses were definitely necessary



Parents and girls enjoyed a delicious barbecue



This one went to VAR!

2019 Winners

Tennis

Sara and Thomas Wiberg

Florence and Tim Gibbons

Milly and Angus Smith

Charlotte and Kate Murrar / Phoebe and Guy Kinnings (joint winners)

Cosi Remers and Anna Allen-Jones

Croquet

Verity and Andrew Woodward

Tilly and Miles Dymock

Octavia and James Dawson

Olivia and Paul Latimer

Eleanor and Fabian Roberts

Badminton

Samira and Barkha Amin

Rounders

The Bears

"It's exciting to see everyone get to know each other, the parents and the girls. It's a great time to enjoy delicious food and bond with each other through sports and we had wonderful weather this year! It's also lovely for the parents to get to know the School and find out more about life at Benenden."

Nicole Wong, Lower Fifth

Carol Services

On the final weekend of term we were treated to two lovely carol services.

The services were held off site while the new School Hall is being built, but still captured the unique charm of Benenden carol services. Our Choirs sang beautifully and the readings were poignant and very confidently read. Guests enjoyed mince pies and refreshments back at School after both services.

The Lower School service was held at St George's Church, Benenden and the church was packed with pupils and their families.

The Middle and Upper School service was held at St Dunstan's Church in Cranbrook where

a capacity 650 people enjoyed a memorable service. It opened with every person lighting a candle and the electric lights being switched off, creating a dramatic spectacle.

Both services began with Once in Royal David's City, commencing with stunning solos, and featured carols including O Little Town of Bethlehem, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing and Come All Ye Faithful. The carols were interspersed with readings from pupils. The retiring collections raised money for The Weald Family Hub, our whole school charity for this year.

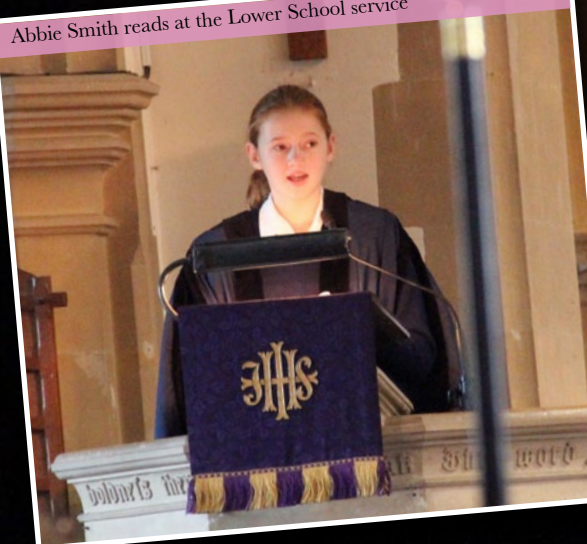


More than 650 people attended the Middle and Upper School service



Headmistress Samantha Price reads from John

Abbie Smith reads at the Lower School service

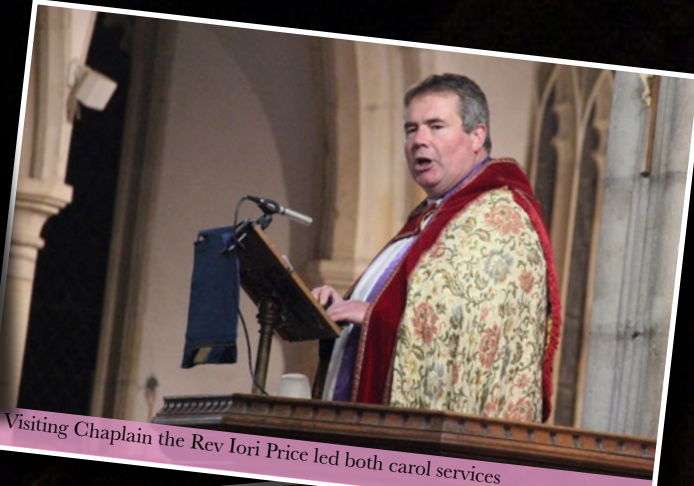


The candlelit procession gets underway





Girls enjoyed the candelit aspect of the Middle and Upper School Service



Visiting Chaplain the Rev Iori Price led both carol services



Sixth Formers experienced their carol service in St Dunstan's for the first time



Head Girl Issy Wilson reads at St Dunstan's



The Chamber Choir were in fine voice at St Dunstan's



The Lower School service was held in St George's, Benenden



Seniors

Our Seniors play a valued part in Benenden life. In collaboration with the Benenden School Seniors' Association (BSSA) we are delighted to host a variety of events that bring former pupils back together, and we frequently welcome Seniors who come to share their expertise with current pupils.

Five Year Reunion

A record number of 60 people attended the 5 Year Reunion for 2014 Seniors in October. Hosted by BSSA Chair Sally Everist at The Antelope in Eaton Square, 55 Seniors enjoyed drinks and chat, rounded off by Benenden Brownies!



Life Workshop

This is now the fourth year that Phoebe Cripps, a Benenden Senior, has run a two-hour Scholars' Life Workshop.

Her tuition on how to draw shadows and build the form through the observation of light and dark is fundamental to excellent observational work, but hearing it from a visitor always helps.

Industry Networking Event

In November, Seniors working in the Food and Drink Sector held a successful networking session kindly hosted by Eliza Elliott and Verity Creasey at the Rude Health Café in Fulham.



Music Scholars Hear From Opera Singer

In October we welcomed back Benenden Senior Susan Daniel who gave an illuminating talk to the Music Scholars about her career as an opera singer and the various places across the globe it has taken her.



Girls Given Lacrosse Tips

In September we were lucky enough to be joined by Camilla Hayes, a Benenden Senior, who shared top tips with some of our Senior Lacrosse players.

Camilla had recently returned from the European Championships in Israel with a gold medal with Team England. She has also played in the National Collegiate Athletic Association for American powerhouse Maryland University and is, without doubt, one of the best midfield players, and draw takers, in the world.



The Chapel was full for the Advent Service at Benenden



Seniors' Advent Services

In December we held our traditional two Advent Services for Seniors.

Our Benenden Advent Service on Tuesday 3 December was uplifted by the singing of the Lower School Choir. We are very grateful to The Rev Iori Price for conducting the Service. Seniors agreed that the Homily he gave emphasised what truly matters at this time of Advent. During the splendid Christmas lunch Seniors and Honorary Seniors were delighted to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

The Seniors' London Advent was held at St Peter's Eaton Square the following day. The Chapel Choir were joined by David Bednall on organ, Kizzy Brooks on

percussion, London Metropolitan Brass and conducted by Edward Whiting, all combining to produce magnificent music.

During A Song of Peace the choir were again joined this year by a group of Seniors, which marked the enjoyment choral singing has brought to so many over the years at Benenden.

We were delighted to have both David and Bob Chilcott at the Service as the Choir sang works by each of them. The beautiful church of St Peter's was almost full with 300 people attending the Service. The BSSA provided sparkling wine and mince pies to round off a wonderful evening.



Kitty Wilson HS spoke at the service at Benenden



Seniors enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch following the service



The Seniors' Advent Service at St Peter's Eaton Square



SCHOOL MONITORS 1929

BENENDEN SCHOOL
SPEECH DAY

BENENDEN SCHOOL.
SPEECH DAY, 1929.

THE COUNCIL,
MISS SHELTON, MISS HINDLE AND MISS BIRD
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 6th.

Please reply to
The Secretary,
Benenden School,
Cranbrook, Kent,
by May 27th.

P.T.O.

2.30 SPEECHES.
THE SCHOOL SONG.
GOD SAVE THE KING..
3.45 and 4.30 TEA.
4.5 and 5.5 DANCES AND MIMES.

There is an Exhibition of Paintings in the Studio, and of
Needlework, Handwork and Carpentry in the Craft Rooms.

Cars will leave the School for Cranbrook Station punctually at
the following times:—

4.45 for the 5.9 train.

6.10 for the 6.32 train.

Will all those who wish to have places reserved for them in
Cars for either of these Trains, sign their names on a paper provided in
the porch, before 4 o'clock.

MIDAS.

Music by Chopin.

BALLET IN ONE ACT.

Midas consents to act as judge between the quarrelling
Gods of Music, Pan and Apollo. He rashly prefers Pan's Pipes to
Apollo's Lyre. The infuriated Apollo curses Midas and bestows
upon him a pair of Ass's Ears, which Midas for very shame hides
beneath a Phrygian cap. His body-servant discovers the secret and
longs to disclose it, but knowing the penalty will be death, he
whispers it to the reeds, but even the reeds cannot keep the secret
and whenever the wind stirs they seem to say—"Midas has Ass's Ears."

MUSIC.

Prelude in F Major
Prelude in B Minor
Prelude in A Major
Prelude in C Major
Prelude in A Minor

"Midas has Ass's Ears"
Apollo
Pan
The Quarrel
Midas

APOLLO'S SONG.

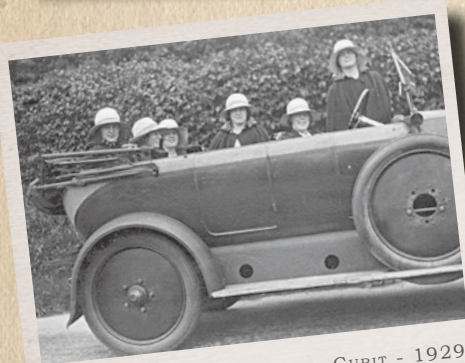
Nocturne in G Minor
Study in E Major
Ballade in A^b Major
Nocturne in C Minor

Childhood
Girlhood
Manhood
Age

PAN'S SONG.

Study in G^b Major
Study in F Major
Study in A^b Major
Fantaisie Impromptu in C Minor
Prelude in F Minor
Prelude in A^b Major
Prelude in F Major

Dryads
Fauns
Water Nymphs
The Wind
The Decision
The Curse
"Midas has Ass's Ears"



HALF TERM OUTING IN FATHER CUBIT - 1929

Looking Forward to a New Hall

Extracts from Miss Sheldon's Speech Day speech, 1929

My Lord Bishop, Mr Sloman, Mr Roscoe, Ladies and Gentlemen; it is a real pleasure to welcome the Bishop of Dover here today, and we are all grateful to him for what he has said this morning... I should like to tell Mr Sloman how much we appreciate his coming, and how pleased we are to see him. We feel it a very special honour to have the Headmaster of the oldest school in Kent here, so many people have, I know, made a special effort to come today, because they are closely connected with Tonbridge School through their sons or brothers or fathers...

With regard to the development of the School since last Speech Day, two wings have been added to Norris and Medway... I am sure that you are all as anxious as we are to see the final buildings under way. I expect that

the prospect of a new School Hall is particularly near your hearts.

Our numbers are now 212 and we cannot of course increase until we get our new buildings. Do persuade friends who may be intending to send their daughters here to enter in good time. This is as necessary in these days for Girls' Public Schools as for Boys'...

The School gained 25 School Certificates... there are several girls working for the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificate. One of our VI Form is doing her First M.B.... We shall soon have two Seniors at the London School of Medicine... four Seniors at Oxford and Cambridge, one of whom won a Scholarship in History at Somerville...

I am—as usual—ending my speech on a note of thanks, and I am always so afraid when this happens year after year, of sounding stereotyped, but one of the things for which we, Miss Hindle, Miss Bird, and I most value Speech Day is that it gives us an opportunity of saying thank you to the people to whom we really are grateful—to the Council for the unsparing way in which they give their time to the affairs of the School—to the Parents who are our very friends—to the Staff for all that they do—to the School themselves, for after all, we can only stand by and watch them and its traditions, and this generation do seem to be building in the way we should all most wish.



VISIT TO THE SNOWDEN COLLIERY 1929



LAX TEAM, 1929

BENENDEN SCHOOL



BENENDEN SCHOOL
MAGAZINE

From the Archives

Below are extracts from previous editions of the Benenden Magazine pertinent to the Autumn Term of those years.

5 Years Ago – 2014

Jesus Christ Superstar

Over a period of three months around 60 girls were presented with the chance to put on a full blown musical: 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. In every rehearsal every girl gave their all, in order to ensure this production would be a success and we have never known a cast to work so well together and to become such close friends in such a short period of time - by the end of it we truly felt like a family.

20 Years Ago – 1999

A Great Company

A Great Company – the title is taken from one of the School Prayers – was an affectionate romp through the history of the School. Performed on Sunday, 21 March at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, the cast included the Headmistress, the Chair of Council, former staff and students, members of the office and domestic staff right down to the youngest of the present students. A capacity audience of 1100 enjoyed a wonderfully exuberant and professional evening which accurately caught the spirit which has suffused the School for three quarters of a century; into the bargain, the performance also raised £13,000 for the Seniors' Bursary Fund.

25 Years Ago – 1994

Hollywood Star Drops in on Rehearsal

Samantha Mathis, star of Pump up the Volume and Super Mario Brothers, surprised the cast of the School Play when she popped into a rehearsal. Miss Mathis was taking a break from her work produced by Pippa Cross, wife of School Drama Department member Graham Lee. Miss Mathis said she was impressed with what she had seen and told the girls how she had begun her own acting career in High School Drama.

50 Years Ago – 1969

The Junior Dramatic Competition

The Junior Dramatic Competition was a new experience for me, and I may as well confess that I had some misgivings about scenes from Shakespeare being performed as a competition by such a young cast. I was pleasantly surprised, however, by the standard reached in giving effective performances. This was largely due to the well contrived costumes, the ingenious sets and the obvious enjoyment of the actors, which they were able to communicate to their audience. This is the main purpose of any theatrical performance.

70 Years Ago – 1949

The Ballad of Benenden, A Pageant

What are Pageants for? To give us a glimpse of the colour and romance of the past, to stress its continuity with the present, and for the sheer eternal fun of dressing up and pretending that we are other than we are. The Pageant of the story of the House fulfilled all this to our infinite pleasure and profit, and if ever a place cried out for a performance of a pageant it is this one. The surrounding country and the Park, with its view of the church tower, added a solidity to the scenes. That church, those great trees, those gentle slopes and distant hills had actually looked upon the bright reality of the past which the Pageant was striving to create.

AUTUMN TERM 2019 MOST POPULAR

Form which has borrowed the most books:
Six Two

Lower School's most borrowed book:
Smile
by Raina Telgemeier

Upper School's most borrowed book:
The Puzzle of God
by Peter Vardy

School's most borrowed DVD:
Mortal Engines (2018)



Pupils enjoy the annual Benenden School Fireworks, 8 November 2019



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