



BENENDEN

2018/19 VOLS.2&3  
SPRING & SUMMER

# THE TERM



## BACKING BUSINESS!

Jogging bottoms team  
win Enterprise Challenge

*In this issue...*



### School Hall Demolished

Work underway on exciting  
project



### World Record Bid

Girls aim to set new cookie  
landmark



### Arts Festival

2019 event is the best yet



## Welcome from the Headmistress

Welcome to the second volume of The Term in 2018-19, summarising the second two terms of this memorable year.

At the time of writing we have just enjoyed another lovely Speech Day and we are basking in glorious sunshine, yet this edition harks back to the snowfall in late January and includes everything

in between, including such varied events as the Choir singing in Notre-Dame, our latest group of Diploma graduates, a truly wonderful Arts Festival, six girls throwing themselves from an aeroplane and our first Follow that Product Day.

As you know, our ethos here at Benenden is to equip the girls so that they are fully prepared for modern life. Within this approach, we help them to develop the necessary skills to pursue entrepreneurship opportunities once they have left School (although some do run businesses while still at School!) and it is therefore entirely appropriate that some of the winning team from this year's Enterprise Challenge grace the front cover of this magazine. The Benenden Bottoms' business idea was simple yet remarkably effective and

we hope their success will inspire next year's Six Ones and those who follow in future years.

Continuing the theme of inspiration, the girls' artwork, which we are pleased to showcase in the Art Special, is absolutely superb. The creative subjects are incredibly important to us and the sheer quality on display in these pages is sure to encourage even more girls to express themselves through their art.

We are also delighted to bring you the latest progress on our new School Hall and Music School: the most ambitious development project in Benenden's history which has been made possible by the extraordinary generosity of the Benenden community. We are very much look forward to you seeing how much has been achieved when you return after the summer holidays.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Term.

With very best wishes

Samantha Price

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Front cover picture shows  
Julia nabavi, Ailis Osobase, Poppy Worlidge and Clara Smith, some of the Benenden Bottoms team who won this year's Enterprise Challenge



# Benenden Girls in Cookie World Record Bid

**In May Benenden pupils created an enormous version of the School logo using more than 3,300 cookies in an attempt to set a new world record.**

The girls are hoping to set a new official Guinness World Record for the longest continuous line of cookies. The current record stands at 1,916 cookies, set last year in Turkey, but we laid a line of 3,336 cookies. The 315-metre long line spelt out the 'B' from Benenden's well-known logo.

The attempt had to be carried out following strict instructions and the girls have submitted all their evidence to the judges and are keeping their fingers crossed until they hear whether their efforts have been ratified and the world record is theirs. We hope to hear either way during the next few weeks.

As part of the challenge, the girls had to be involved in the creation of the cookies so across three evenings in the run-up to Muck-Up Day, every girl in Fourth to Upper Fifth had the chance to cut the dough into cookie shapes. Then on Muck-Up Day itself the Sixth Formers laid out the cookies on the All-Weather Pitch, ensuring each one overlapped slightly to create a continuous line.

Once the final few cookies had been laid (on baking parchment, to ensure hygiene!) and the relevant photographs had been taken as part of the world record evidence, the girls were able to dash onto the pitch and devour the cookies!

The entire event was conceived by the girls themselves and was the culmination of weeks of planning and hard work as part of the activities on Muck-Up Day, a traditional day when the Sixth Formers who leave Benenden in the Summer take charge of the School, excluding lessons of course!

The current record-holder for the longest line of cookies is Turkish company Turyag, whose line of 1,916 cookies measured 153.28 metres in May 2018.

**See page 69 for more on Muck-Up Day**



Sixth Formers, dressed in their Harry Potter-themed Muck-Up Day outfits, record the historic event



Fernanda Wood counts the cookies under the watch of one of our two independent validators

*"This was such a mammoth logistical task but the girls have done extremely well to pull it together and I have been incredibly impressed with their organisational skills and their teamwork."*

Headmistress  
Samantha Price

*"We thought that trying to set a world record would be fun but also would be a real challenge that we could get our teeth into – and this was literally the case with this world record attempt!"*

Six Two Fernanda Wood,  
who led the world record bid

*"It was lovely seeing the whole school come together for such a fun event and the atmosphere was fantastic."*

Head Girl  
Freddie Flintoff

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Girls in National Business and Accounting Final

In June Minna Moody-Stuart, Izzy Salzedo, Mariena Teo and Dua Zaidi competed in the final of a National Business and Accounting competition called BASE.

The competition, run by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), involved engaging in a business challenge, where the students had to present an investment recommendation for a charity.

It was a great achievement to win a place in the Final, having competed against over 500 schools to do so.

### Forest Gate Exchange

Over 20 years on from the then Benenden Headmistress Gillian duCharme's TV documentary in which she exchanged places with the Head of Forest Gate, we are delighted to have renewed the friendship between our two schools.

In the Summer Term ten students in Year 9 at Forest Gate visited Benenden and shadowed a partner pupil for the day. Before the end of term they reciprocated the gesture and we experienced a day in Forest Gate Community School in East London.

They got on famously and had a fabulous time.

### Mental Health Awareness Week

The theme for Mental Health Awareness Week this year was body image.

A group of girls who make up the Benenden Mental Health Committee were busy throughout the week in May encouraging everyone to love their body and look after their mental health, through posters and eye-catching artwork with positive messages, as well as daily emails with tips, videos and information.

### New Hold Music

Songwriting continues to be an area of music which really resonates with the girls and there have been some fantastic original songs emerging this term.

The School's new Hold Music is one of them: Make Happy by Imi Denby-Jones.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Psychology Research Success**

In March the Six One Psychology students won the inaugural Psychology Research Methods Competition held at Badminton School and jointly run by our two schools.

Students needed to design, implement and present a piece of psychological research of their own choice which follows the scientific and ethical conventions of standard Psychology research in the field.

**Ionic Liquids Research Visit**

Three Benenden students, Lucy Elliot, Flora Shen and Saiesha Gupta, were recently invited to visit the Materials Centre at the University of Leicester, to continue their research into the development of green batteries using ionic liquids.

The invitation came about because of the group's research into ionic liquids here at Benenden.

**Bev's D-Day Honour**

We were delighted to see Bev Mortley, who works as a gardener at Benenden and as Sunday evening matron in Limes and Oaks, on the front page of a national newspaper in June!

Bev, who is a 1940s re-enactor/dancer, was visiting her grandad's grave in Banneville-la-Campagne war cemetery on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and was privileged to be featured on the front page of The Telegraph in her US Red Cross uniform with Normandy veteran David Edwards.

**Chinese New Year Celebrations**

As billions of people all over the world came together to celebrate the start of the Lunar New Year in February, Benenden girls had a Chinese-themed evening with the traditional Lion Dance, the Lantern Riddles and a Chinese Banquet.

The school Mandarin teachers handed out the traditional New Year Red Envelopes to wish the girls good luck. The girls from all year groups enjoyed this exciting event full of activities which raised awareness of Chinese culture.

# Benenden School Begins £19m

**In March Benenden began work on the exciting project to construct a new School Hall and Music School.**

Headmistress Samantha Price and Caitlin Gluckstein, one of the Captains of School, formally began the demolition of the existing Hall on 26 March, signalling the start of the most ambitious construction project in the School's 96-year history.

**Headmistress Samantha Price** said: "Today marks a significant day in Benenden's history. The Hall and Music School are at the very heart of school life and this redevelopment will dramatically enhance the experience of each and every Benenden girl for generations to come."

"We are equally pleased that, through our multi-purpose new Hall, we will be establishing one of the foremost concert halls in the South East which will be available for use by the community."

**Benenden's Head Girl, 17-year-old Freddie Flintoff,** said: "The girls are incredibly excited by the prospect of these new facilities and we are all in the Hall every day so it's a really important space to us."

"The designs for the new building look amazing – it's just a shame that I'll have left the School by the time they're built but I'll definitely be coming back to see them!"

The demolition of the existing Hall and Music School buildings was completed during the Easter holidays, with construction work beginning in May. The project has been designed by the multi award-winning Guy Hollaway Architects and the main building contractor is Buxton Building Contractors Ltd, while seven other companies have responsibility for elements of the project.

The project has been funded through sensible borrowing, School reserves and generous donations by the School community through The Heart of Benenden campaign.

The Sixth Formers held a farewell movie night in the Hall in January. The final event in the Hall was a whole school service on Thursday 14 February, the day before the start of the Half Term. Following a final rendition of the School Hymn, all the pupils and staff processed outside to hear Father Hux bid a final farewell to the building, before Grey Jumper Rose Bennie and our other School Captain, Isabel Radford, closed the Hall doors for the last time.

After the service, many of the girls took the chance to touch the brickwork as a poignant farewell!



# Hall and Music Redevelopment

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pizza Oven Takes Shape

Thanks to a very kind donation from the Benenden School Parents' Association (BSPA), girls will now be able to try out some delicious home-cooked pizza, courtesy of a pizza oven that has been installed near the path down to the Eco-Classroom and is literally made in Benenden – the base of the oven is made from the old Hall and Music Wing!

### Gold DofE

Well done to our seven Benenden girls who successfully passed their Gold DofE Expedition in the Lake District during June. One of them, Grace Mankelow from Six One, said: "Our Gold DofE expedition gave us all the biggest sense of achievement. Although challenging at times, it allowed us to develop our strength and perseverance. We all proved how determined we were even through the great difficulties that we faced. Overall it was a great experience."

### Musicians Release Music

Benenden Senior India Footer has just released a single, Speeches, on Spotify under the name Findia Scooter.

Six One Poppy Worlidge, along with her sister Mia who left Benenden in 2017, have just released an album on iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music and all major music platforms, named Voice Notes.

### Six Two Art Success

Many congratulations to Six Two Georgina O'Brien who has had her piece accepted onto the online Young Artists Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy.

Congratulation also to Sophie Butt, also in the Six Two, who has been shortlisted as a finalist for the Young Fashion Designer Award.

### Photography GCSE

Owing to popular demand, we have decided to offer Photography GCSE from September 2019, so current Lower Fifth may choose it as one of their options.

It is for those students who have a specialist and major interest in photography – for those with a more passing interest, doing some photography is still a possible part of Art GCSE.

### About The New Development

Benenden has outgrown its previous Hall, which was built in 1938 when the School comprised 200 pupils. Benenden now numbers 550 girls, with 300 staff. The spectacular new School Hall and state-of-the-art Music School is scheduled to be completed in late 2020 and is the flagship investment of the School's Centenary Vision, a programme of enhancements to Benenden's curriculum and facilities ahead of its centenary in 2023.

The new development will feature

#### School Hall

- A new School Hall with a capacity of 750 people
- State-of-the-art acoustics
- Retractable seating so that the Hall can be used for a variety of events
- Bar area and catering facilities
- A stunning full-height glass wall in the Hall making the most of the building's position in one of the most beautiful parts of the School site

#### Music School

- A Recital Hall with a capacity of 150 people
- More than 20 practice rooms and classrooms
- A smaller performance room, IT suite and recording and performance booths
- The Music School will be linked to the School Hall by a bridge through a stunning atrium which will flow into the new courtyard outside



Samantha Price and Caitlin Gluckstein say a final farewell to the Hall on 26 March

10 April



The School Hall demolition is underway

25 April



The Hall is reduced to rubble

30 May



The Music School foundations are in

21 May



Remains of the original building, dating back to the 9th century, are carefully exposed

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Lucy is Financial Journalist 2019**

In April Lucy Hargrave, in the Six One, was named as the London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) Young Financial Journalist 2019 (16 to 17-year-old section).

Lucy was awarded the prize after judges asked students to show off their journalistic skills and financial know-how by writing an 800 to 1,000-word blog or article. In the first judging stage, each article was reviewed and marked by an internal panel of judges. Guest judge Iona Bain – Young Money commentator and author – said Lucy was “a talent to watch”.

The judging was carried out by three final year undergraduate students from Bath University who announced Sasha Ariff and Rosie Taggart as competition winners.

**Spanish Play**

The Fourth through to the Fifth took a step back in time and enjoyed a trip to the Wild West in May as part of a Spanish play.

The play, performed entirely in Spanish by educational languages performance company Onatti, told the story of a saloon that needed to make money and make it fast, so the owner's daughter organises a talent show.

**Salters Festival of Chemistry**

In May we took a team of girls in the Fourth to the University of Canterbury Department of Physical Sciences to take part in the Salters Festival of Chemistry. The festivals are an initiative of the Salters Institute and their aim is to promote the appreciation of Chemistry and related sciences among young people.

The team, competing against 14 other schools, had to complete four challenges throughout the day, involving both chemical analysis and problem solving.

Techniques they used included column chromatography, electro chemistry and chemical displacement. The day finished with a show using liquid nitrogen, where balloons were shrunk, bananas crushed and flowers shattered.

Some of the girls with the poppies they made



## Girls Make Remembrance Poppies

**The community at Benenden School, like so many, have relatives that fought during the First World War. Some survived to return home, others lie in foreign fields that are forever a bit of Britain.**

As part of their Enquiry Week in the Summer Term Lower Fifth girls spent time in the Design and Technology Department making poppies in recognition of those who fought during the Great War.

The poppies were turned into a beautiful and eye-catching display for the Arts Festival weekend and then on Speech Day they were available to purchase, with proceeds going to our CCF charities: Dare to Live and Walking with the Wounded.



Creating the poppies included technical expertise



They poppies were made as part of their Enquiry Week

## Philippa's Sneak Preview of a Whole New World!

**A Benenden Fourth was the envy of many of her peers when she got to see a new part of Harry Potter World before any members of the public. Philippa Kearsey explains how this came about.**

Back in February, I had the opportunity to audition for a commercial shoot for a new part of Harry Potter World in London. The new part was Gringotts Bank.

I had lots of fun at the audition but there were many children there so I never imagined I would be given the part. One week later, I got a phone call from my agent saying that I

had been offered the part. I was very excited!

The shoot had to be kept a secret as Warner Brothers had not announced what the new part of Harry Potter World was going to be. The crew and I were going to be the first to see it.

When I arrived, I was put into makeup and wardrobe, then shortly after it was time to

enter Gringotts Bank.

It was spectacular and just like the film. I could not believe that I was seeing this amazing creation before anyone else. It even had goblins at the cash desks!

Everyone involved was so friendly and treated me so well. I really enjoyed the shoot and it was a magical experience.

## Freya is European Champion

**Benenden has a European Champion in its midst after Upper Fifth pupil Freya Hunter became U18 European Powerlifting Champion at the end of April.**

The achievement was made even more significant as, at 16, Freya was competing against girls up to three years older than her and she had revision for her GCSEs to contend with as well. Freya had already set two world records for her age group competing in the British Power

Powerlifting Championships last year.

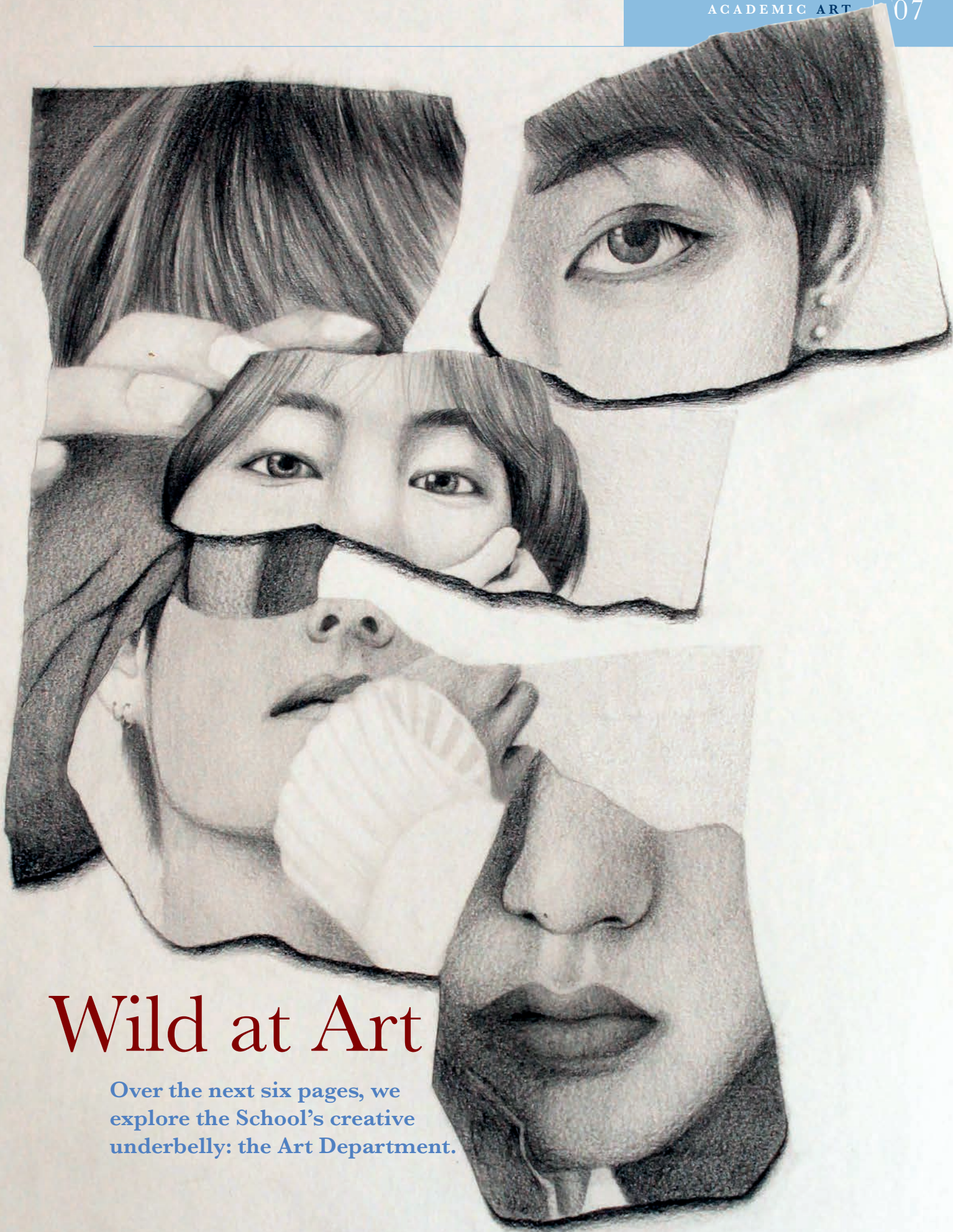
The competition took place in Suffolk and Freya had to complete three lifts in three different techniques - squat, bench press and deadlift. She lifted 87.5kg in the squat, 47.5kg in the bench press and 110kg in



Freya Hunter is the U18 European Powerlifting Champion

the deadlift.

The win qualified Freya for a place in the World Championships, which unfortunately she was unable to attend as she was sitting an exam that day.



# Wild at Art

Over the next six pages, we explore the School's creative underbelly: the Art Department.

Image by Pantara Kambhato, Upper Fifth

# The Art of the Matter

Head of Art, Philippa Futrell, shares with us her approach to Art at Benenden.

Philippa Futrell's love of art and teaching at Benenden is unquestionable. In fact there are now only three members of academic staff who have been here longer than Mrs Futrell, who joined Benenden in 1990.

Mrs Futrell was already a qualified graphic designer when she joined the school 29 years ago. But it was a trip she had just been on at that time that led her away from the world of graphic design and towards working at a school.

"I went on a fundraising trip to Bangladesh and it really got me thinking about the importance of education," she explains. "I realised that I wanted to contribute as an educator."

Through nomadic early years that saw her move from Canada, to England, to Scotland and then back to England again (all by the time she was 15!) one consistent factor in her life was a love of the arts. She inherited the creative traits of her parents and when they lived in Glasgow was thrilled to be part of the Glasgow School of Art. After a Foundation year at Canterbury School of Art she went on to gain a degree in graphic design from Middlesex and worked in that field until her moment of epiphany in Bangladesh led to her going back to the University of London to carry out her PGCE and become a teacher.

When Mrs Futrell joined Benenden in 1990 it was her first teaching post and it is something she has never regretted.

"Benenden focuses on nurturing the strengths of their staff – this was not an establishment that would require me to teach my second subject, Religious Studies, which I was hopeless at, but focus on being the best Art teacher I could be, and you certainly wouldn't want me on the sports field either!" she explains.

The unique nature of Art as a subject and the benefits it can have are not lost on Mrs Futrell.

"Often girls are worried about making mistakes, they want to know the right answer, but the great thing about Art is that there are no right answers. It is open to individual interpretation.

"The subject allows girls to expand their creative thinking and go off on different tangents – they can visualise their thoughts and feelings and in that respect it is also a great wellbeing tool."

Of course this can have its challenges, as Mrs Futrell encounters. "Lessons are very much student based – we strive to find a route to help them achieve the ideas they have in their head, enabling them to learn appropriate skills. "Apart

Philippa Futrell has worked at Benenden for 29 years





The Art tea, from left, Jessica Large, Philippa Futrell, Jade Taylor and Kate Linforth

from teaching skills with paint and dry materials in the Lower School most lessons are addressing students' individual needs."

During her career at Benenden Mrs Futrell was Deputy Housemistress for Elms for five years, a role she very much enjoyed, before becoming Head of Art in 2014. Since then she has put her own stamp on the Art Department, expanding both the Artists in Residence and Scholars programmes, exhibiting students' work outside the School and creating the Benenden Gallery Newsletter.

"I wanted to increase contact with artists – if we can't get girls out of Benenden as much as we would like, then it is important to get artists in.

"We've also made the Scholars Programme more formal – girls are expected to enter competitions for instance and are the backbone of external exhibitions."

However, it is the popularity of one artform that has instigated the newest initiative.

"The offering of GCSE Photography has been something I have wanted to introduce for a number of years and will be an exciting subject to sit alongside Fine Art, especially as we have a specialist teacher lined up."

As for the girls themselves, Mrs Futrell says that they have generally always had a very positive attitude towards Art.

"On the whole they embrace the experience and don't cut themselves off from what we offer. I think they like the idea it is their work they are moving forward, it is how they want to express themselves."

And this ties back to another important benefit Art can have for students, as Mrs Futrell explains.

"Girls zone in on their Art and for a while can forget about the outside world. In fact some girls, even if they are no longer studying Art, come to the studios and do work as a way of de-stressing."

"That is why I also think it is important that we fundraise for The Art Rooms – an art therapy charity we support in London."

In her 29 years here Mrs Futrell has seen a lot of physical changes on the site, and as she admits herself "things come and go – nothing stands still".

But there is something that hasn't changed, as she says:

"We are teaching girls here who will go out and make a difference in the world."

## 'You Can Bare Your Soul in Safety'

**Benenden's Art Technicians explain why they love the subject.**

It is a treat for me as a practising artist working within the Art Department at Benenden to be surrounded by such creative individuals.

Being able to assist the students with their work and sometimes have an input is as much an inspiration to me as it is to them.

I understand the struggles with the creative mind and the misconception that Art is a soft subject. It takes great drive to be able to come up with a unique idea and see it through to the end result. Given the pressures that all students have throughout their school careers, this is no mean feat.

As a member of the support team within the department I have the unique position of an enabler; my knowledge of contemporary art and a constantly changing skill set can really help the students achieve their goals which is something I truly relish.

For me, working within this department is a daily pleasure; I have struck gold and am incredibly happy to be part of a superb team.

**Kate Linforth**



Art has always felt like home, offering a place of peace, clarity and acceptance, somewhere I could understand myself and others.

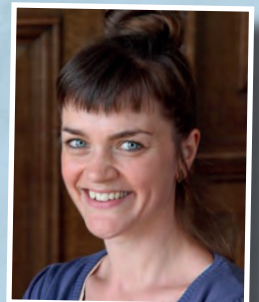
Art offers a place where you can bare your soul in safety, and for this reason it is a privilege to be working in the Art Department sharing this journey with the students.

Despite all the challenges that come with being creative I believe that it is good for the soul. I don't think I fully appreciated the depth of this until becoming a parent and seeing what art could offer for the wellbeing of my children.

In the words of my eight-year-old: "When I make art, part of my head gets really busy and lets out everything that I am thinking, and then the other part of my head slows and calms down."

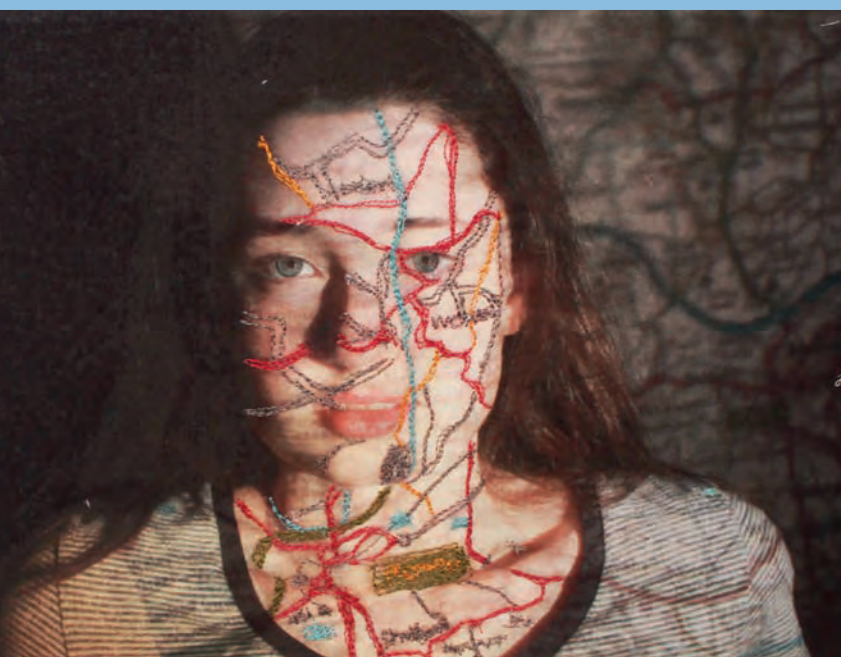
This for me says everything about the power of creativity.

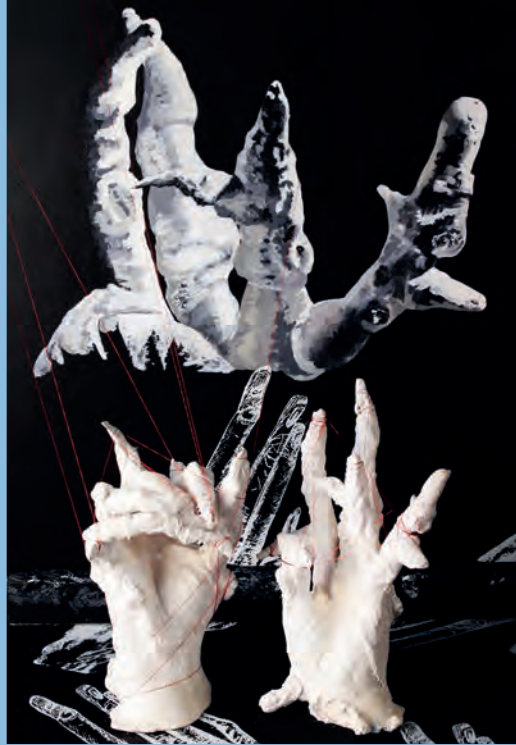
**Jessica Large**



# Art Summer Exhibition

The breadth and depth of artistic talent at Benenden is probably not better showcased than at the Summer Exhibition that takes place at the end of Summer Term each year. We are pleased to share some of the many highlights on these pages.







## Saiesha Takes Home Prestigious National Photography Prize

Upper Fifth Saiesha Gupta is leading the line of budding photographers at Benenden after she won a prestigious national photography prize earlier this year.

Saiesha won the 'Better Environment' category of the competition for her photograph 'Pashmina', and took home a prize of £150 in vouchers and a trophy at an awards ceremony. Her winning image was also displayed in a special exhibition at the Espacio Gallery in London between 27 and 30 March.

The photographic competition was organised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and gave young people, aged between 14 and 18, the opportunity to get creative with their cameras and smartphones, and explore the real issues that impact society.

This year the competition asked students to take a photograph exploring what the phrase 'better lives' means to them. They were encouraged to think about how health, relationships, education, the economy and the environment all contribute to society and people's lives.

The judges were overwhelmed by the quality of the entrants, and there were

more than 506 images submitted by students from 160 schools in the UK.

Describing her photo, which shows a herds-woman called Jinpa tending to her livestock of pashmina goats in the Himalayas in Ladakh, India, Saiesha says: "With no food or shelter in close proximity the woman leads a tough lifestyle – however, she is happy. She believes that a simple lifestyle away from materialistic ideals within nature is the most suitable environment for her. She spends her days taking care of her livestock, discovering the beautiful valleys of the Himalayas as she finds new land for her goats to graze on. Jinpa believes that she can appreciate the serenity of her environment much better through living a nomadic life."

Benenden Headmistress Samantha Price said: "We are incredibly proud of Saiesha's success in this competition. She is a very talented photographer who has worked extremely hard and we are lucky to have a wonderful Art Department here at Benenden who have supported Saiesha's

passion for photography. Competitions such as the ESRC's are invaluable for encouraging young people to push themselves to ever greater achievements and we hope that Saiesha's success this year will inspire other young people in future."

Winners were divided across the five categories of the competition that explored important issues in the social sciences: Better Economy, Better Education, Better Environment, Better Health and Better Relationships. The entrants came from a range of schools and colleges, which will also receive the same prize amount as each winner.

Professor Jennifer Rubin, Executive Chair of ESRC said: "There were some brilliant entries to this year's ESRC Photo Competition. My congratulations to all of our prize winners, who displayed a breadth of social science research and have helped to show how social science can contribute across a number of areas from the economy to the environment."



Saiesha poses with her winning photo

# Wearing Their Art On Their Sleeve

An Art A Level and degree can lead you into all kinds of careers. Here, two Benenden Seniors tell us where their love of art has taken them.



I needed no encouragement to draw and paint as a child. My mother, who painted many watercolour portraits, did a picture of me, aged four, having fallen asleep on my colouring book, crayon still in hand.

When I was nine she took me to the Sargent exhibition in London where I was mesmerised by the impressive life-like paintings. My curiosity and interest in art were very much inherent. Sargent continued to be a hero for the other artists with whom I studied at The

Florence Academy of Art.

Since graduating from the three-year painting programme, I have continued to find my own individual style, away from the consistent critique and advice from the instructors. I felt this took some time, with the challenges a young artist can face, but remembering the support and encouragement I had always been shown at School and home, I am now finding my own stride.

I was very lucky to be offered a teaching role at The Academy during my third year of my studies. In this role I found how, when discussing another student's drawing or painting, you were then able to gain insight into your own work.

I have also come in to teach the girls at Benenden, and that has further emphasised the core rules learned at the Academy, as well as knowing that it is sometimes safe to break them. When modern and traditional art want to lock horns, it is refreshing to know that you can put a foot in both camps.

Being interested in other artists' work, and being open to a variety of styles, allows me to avoid having tunnel vision with my own work.

My main focus is capturing an expression as well as a likeness of the face, whether human or animal. I am fortunate to be able to paint and draw from my home in Kent, working mostly on commissioned portraits in both charcoal and oils.

You can see more examples of my work on my website - [www.phoebecripps.com](http://www.phoebecripps.com)

**Phoebe Cripps, who left Benenden in 2009**



I was lucky enough to have really wonderful Art teachers throughout my entire school career, before and during my time at Benenden; this had a huge impact on my A Level choices, degree and now career.

I enjoyed Art at Benenden not only because of the staff who were immensely talented, patient and so devoted to us but also because of the various avenues of Art we were able to explore. Since having left Benenden I realised just how fortunate we were to have such fantastic facilities in which to broaden each individual artist's journey.

The staff at Benenden spent so much time with me in order to meet certain criteria I needed to gain entry onto my degree. Having chosen to study Makeup for Media and Performance at Arts University Bournemouth, I was given the opportunity to experiment with makeup, make moulds of the life model and age casts of her; I was treated so incredibly well by the Art Department in order to fulfil what I really wanted to and this was made clear to me because the Art Department were so encouraging and supportive.

Studying Makeup, in its own form of Art at degree level, was challenging and there was a lot more work than I expected there would be on a degree like this. However, I definitely felt prepared after having spent a lot of my last two years at Benenden in the Art Department.

I absolutely loved my degree course and having completed it nearly two years ago now I am a freelance makeup artist specialising mostly in music videos, short films, TV and weddings.

It is not an easy career choice, and I look forward to getting more work in TV and hopefully soon on feature films, but there is no doubt in my mind that my time spent in the Art Department with the amazing staff at Benenden is a huge contributing factor as to why I am doing what I love as my job!

**Millie Glenister, who left Benenden in 2014**

## Current Students on Art



I am not drawn to creating art for one specific reason. There is the whole procedure behind making a composition, which I find a very therapeutic process, whether going through the motions of stretching and priming the canvas, marking up the portrait, or mixing the paints.

There are also many frustrating aspects of painting that keep me obsessed rather than push me away, as without the downs I wouldn't be able to appreciate the ups.

However, in my opinion, when someone engages with what you have created, it is one of the most rewarding experiences. This happened to me about a year ago now.

In that moment, being treated like an artist opposed to a student made me realise that this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I want to create art that interacts with the people and share my work with the strangers around me.

**Georgina O'Brien, Six Two**

I chose Art as an A Level as it lets you explore different topics that you are interested in; you can express your ideas through different mediums unlike other subjects.

It's different to other A Levels in the sense that rather than having a set syllabus, the learning is more individual and student-led, which is an aspect I really like about the subject.

In the future I hope to develop my artwork through further education.

**Grace Mankelow, Six One**



What I enjoy about Art is the way that it is unlike other GCSE subjects. Although there is a basic criteria that is necessary to fulfil, you can then take those guidelines and you have the freedom to create whatever you like; whether it's exploring light and dark within portraits, or landscapes. Personally, I love the way one can express emotions among art, and that it is fun and relaxing at the same time.

As for future careers, with the amount of technology we use, I believe that careers like graphic designers and animators will be an interesting media to have the opportunity to explore. Then there is of course the potential of an architect, interior designer or a tattoo artist, which all require a skilled, artistic mind along with a passion for the subject.

At the moment, I would love to go to an Art School, and see where that takes me.

**Esme Heath, Fifth**





The Benenden Bottoms team were victorious, with more than £6,000 turnover

# Girls Step Into the Dragons' Den

**One of the highlights of the Spring Term is the Enterprise Challenge. Part of the Professional Skills Programme, this challenges Six One girls to set up and run their own businesses.**

The standard this year was particularly high with the 12 teams embracing the Enterprise Challenge and turning Founders, and the School, into a hive of marketing activity and entrepreneurial endeavour.

After a huge amount of research, planning, product development and website crafting, the girls launched their businesses in February. They then battled it out over several weeks with digital campaigns, posters, presentations in Prayers and face-to-face marketing. After a round of preliminary pitches in the middle of March, internal judges whittled the 12 teams down to five who would take part in the Dragons' Den-style final.

This event, the culmination of the Enterprise Challenge, involved each team giving an eight-minute pitch in which they presented their product, marketing plan, sales, consumer response and financial details. Each presentation was then followed by in-depth questioning from the panel of Dragons, made up of successful businessmen and women from the Benenden parent body.

After a series of clear and coherent pitches and a range of original and quality products, the Dragons were left with the very tough task of selecting a winner.

After much deliberation Benenden Bottoms were declared as the victorious team. The team's idea was simple – designing and selling navy tracksuit bottoms with Benenden printed across the bottom in pink – but they achieved an impressive turnover of £6,500.

While there was only one actual winner, all the girls have 'won' in terms of learning a huge amount that they will be able to draw on in the future and talk about in interviews for university, internships and jobs.



The Dragons, l-r, Head judge Margaret McDonald-Kelly, Kate Murray, Guy Johnson and Richard Southall



The BenZen team explain their cash flow during the preliminary pitches



The BenZen team model their product during the preliminary pitches



Despite the nerves there were plenty of smiles during the finale of The Enterprise Challenge



Professional website designer Jason Hunt shared top tips with the budding entrepreneurs



Girls risk getting close to the Dragons!



Parent Richard Southall helped the teams with their finances



The Benenden Best Bites team field questions from the Dragons



Navy Days focused on personalised puffer jackets



Benenden's Best Bites sold a cookbook

**‘We’re excited to see what the future holds!’**

**Clara Smith,**  
who was a  
member of  
the winning  
Benenden



**Bottoms team, tells us all about the Enterprise Challenge and a burgeoning Benenden business.**

Throughout the Spring Term we were busy launching our new business, Benenden Bottoms, to the School.

Our idea originated as we knew that, around School, trackies have always been a big hit as they’re great for after school and weekends, so we endeavoured to sell comfy but also stylish personalised Benenden trackies to the School community, including students, staff and Seniors.

We branded them Benenden Bottoms with the slogan ‘get back on track(ies)’, as our aim was to try to redefine tracksuits as being lazy or unattractive clothing. We also used the hashtag ‘love your bottom’ as we wanted our brand to be a promotion of self-love.

By the beginning of March we had managed to make more than £2,000 profit, as well as sending more than £450 to our chosen charity Mind, which supports those with mental health issues.

We have all thoroughly enjoyed the process and loved working with each other, as we were all in Hemsted together for either three or five years. We think that this was one of the keys to our success as we were all happy to spend time together, whether this was working out the logistics of the designs and finances or delivering our trackies around the Houses.

At the moment we have just re-launched Benenden Bottoms as Bottoms Up and have already taken our first orders to make trackies for other schools so we’re really excited to see what the future holds!

## Business Battle

**This year’s Enterprise Challenge teams came up with a diverse range of businesses:**

- Beads&Co – Handmade beaded rings and necklaces
- Beanz4Teenz – Beanie hats
- Benenden Bottoms – Navy trackies with Benenden printed across the bottom
- Benenden Hoodies – Hooded tops
- Benenden’s Best Bites – Cookbook containing recipes of Benenden favourites
- BenenZen – Relaxing treat boxes
- Girls’ Night In – Cinematic experiences
- Navy Days – Customised Benenden puffer jackets
- Rework It – Customisable t-shirts
- Silver Touch – Quality jewellery
- Stuff for Students – Shop offering items not supplied by LASS
- Tuck to You – Deliveries of sweet treats

# Preparation for Life

**The focus of the Six Twos' Professional Skills Programme during the Spring and Summer has been on practical life skills.**

Having learned the art of business and workplace skills when they were in Six One, this year the Six Two have been concentrating on mastering some of those practical skills that come in useful at various times through our lives.

In a dedicated four-week series of workshops, the girls covered the following:

- Everyday DIY, plumbing and electrics
- Car maintenance
- First aid for gap year and beyond
- Tips for getting a job and creating your own luck.

Perhaps unfairly, during the DIY session staff had rigged up a system so that when girls were carrying out drilling, they drilled into a water pipe, which necessitated learning some essential plumbing!

In addition to these four sessions, the girls were given a talk from Sue Franklin, our Domestic Bursar, on how to cook on a budget ready for their time after Benenden.

The girls were given a £10 box of food and spices and were challenged to put their creative minds together to cook up a storm. We were delighted with the varied selection of great dishes they produced, including lentil curry, meatballs with cheese middles, lasagne, dhal, sweet potato cottage pie and chicken noodle soup. They are most certainly ready for the next stage in their lives!



Alexandra Silk tries her hand at drilling



Alexandra Higham is caught out by the drilling challenge rigged to quickly become an emergency plumbing lesson!



CPR is a vital life skill



Learning how to put patients in the recovery position



Some of the Six Two show off their culinary creations



Tilly Hastilow changes a tyre

Ella Thornton and Iona O'Sullivan get to grips with essential car maintenance



# Fly Club at Benenden

Several girls have been part of a rather different club this year – they have been investigating the genetics of the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* in Benenden Fly Club.

They have been learning about the fruit fly life cycle, why it is used as a model organism for genetic investigations and how to distinguish between male and female flies.

During the winter a virtual lab was used via the internet where crosses between flies were set up and genes followed through generations. Pupils investigated classic monohybrid and dihybrid genetic inheritance as well as looking at dominant and recessive alleles of various genes.

This summer the girls have had hands-on experience with making genetic crosses of real fruit flies!

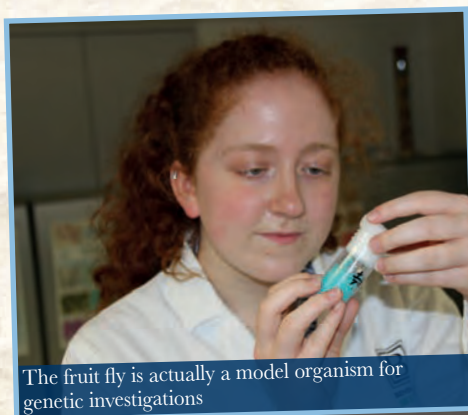
The genetics of the sex-linked white gene has been explored, as well as a mutation called vestigial that causes the flies to develop very small wings.

By performing the relevant fly crosses between mutant and wild type (normal) flies, the girls have been able to follow the inheritance of these traits and show Gregor Mendel's classic 3:1 ratio which first proved that organisms must have two copies of each gene.

We have also made some humane fly traps to attempt to capture and look at some native Benenden fruit flies!



Girls have been investigating the genetics of the fruit fly as part of Fly Club



The fruit fly is actually a model organism for genetic investigations

## Girls Attend Inaugural Lonsdale Lecture

**Towards the end of the Summer Term four Six One students - Lucy Elliot, Flora Shen, Elizabeth Fairweather and Lilly Phillips - were invited to attend the inaugural Lonsdale lecture at UCL Department of Chemistry.**

The lecture, organised by Dr Rob Palgrave, was the first of many planned to celebrate the work of Kathleen Lonsdale - an eminent female crystallographer who proved in 1929 that Benzene was a flat molecule.

The afternoon began with a lecture from Dr Claire Murray from Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron science facility. Dr Murray spoke about the importance of women in science and engineering roles and explained her work with gender equality.

The Keynote speech was delivered by Professor Judith Howard from Durham University, a world-renowned expert in her field.

After the event two of our students, Lucy Elliot and Flora Shen, spent several minutes discussing Professor Howard's work with her and were invited to contact her to further their discussions.

The afternoon was a fantastic insight into the world of research for Benenden students and allowed them to experience study at one of the UK's top Chemistry departments.

## Decoding the Human Whipworm

**A number of particularly keen Biology students have taken part in a fascinating research programme this year, decoding the human Whipworm genome as part of an Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) initiative. Biology Teachers Dr Anna Thomas and Val Ross explain the project.**

The human Whipworm is a parasite of the intestine that causes huge problems globally, especially in the developing world where access to medical care and clean water is difficult. It is estimated that in the order of 600-800 million people have the infection, with a large proportion of those being children.

Genomes are comprised of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) which is essentially a code of four different chemicals (bases) known to us as Adenine (A) Guanine (G) Thymine (T) and Cytosine (C).

The double helix of DNA has two chains or strands held together by hydrogen bonds which effectively coil around each

other to make the helical shape. Specific locations of DNA in a genome are sectioned into genes. These genes code for specific proteins that carry out every function within living cells. Being a code, it lends itself very well to computer analysis.

The human Whipworm project originates from the Cambridge Sanger Institute, the birthplace of the human genome project. The girls have been working to analyse the data created from chemical DNA sequencing of the Whipworm parasite.

They have been using software to investigate areas of the worm's genome and double-check the DNA has been correctly

annotated into genes. This is done by verifying the DNA has elements of a fully functioning gene (for example a Start codon, ATG and a Stop codon TAG, TAA or TGA).

It is hoped a fuller understanding of the worms' genetic structure will allow new drugs to be created to combat this infection.

Several girls attended the annual conference and exhibiting their findings at St Bartholomew's Hospital and The London School of Medicine in early July with staff from the Biology Department and Sue Harris, Benenden's STEM Outreach co-ordinator, who established the project within the school.



Dr Jonathon Hare is a physicist, television presenter and a science communicator

## Girls Learn About Work of Harry Kroto

**As part of Materials Matter week Six One Maths students were treated to an excellent lecture by Dr Jonathon Hare, a physicist, television presenter and a science communicator.**

Dr Hare's lecture was about the work of Harry Kroto and the discovery of fullerenes (allotropes of carbon) for which Kroto shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1996. It was a very insightful lecture as Dr Hare was fortunate to have been part of Harry Kroto's team.

The maths behind the chemistry took off when Dr Hare showed the girls the shape of a fullerene molecule called C60. The spherical structure consists of 60 atoms of carbon connected by single and double bonds represented as a truncated icosahedron.

This is a three-dimensional solid made up of 12 pentagons and 20 hexagons – the easiest way to think about it is to visualise it as a football.

In the lecture the girls were all given a C60 kit to build and keep and they spent 20 minutes engrossed in building their C60 models in the Weston Lecture Theatre.

The lecture introduced the girls to Euler's Theorem and left us with the tantalising but yet unproven benefits of C60 as a food supplement!



Girls made their own C60 models



The Materials Matter circus of experiments was popular



Learning about chromatic alginate - an amazing material made from sea weed alginates and cell wall constituents of algae



Girls try pyrography - the controlled charring of wood - to make their own designs on wood and leather

## i-STEM Activities and Materials Matter

We have been working on a plan to integrate aspects of the study of the sciences, technologies, engineering and mathematics beyond the normal curriculum provision in what we are calling *i*-STEM. Neville Crouch, Director of STEM, explains more.

With shared goals and understanding across these subject bases we can optimise the excellent teaching and learning opportunities between *i*-STEM subjects to enable students to transfer functional skills and academic expertise in a cross-curricular way.

This June we spent three days exploring a range of *i*-STEM material as part of our Materials Matter week. The aim was to extend the girls' curriculum experience and show how these subjects interlace and overlap as subjects, at university level and beyond, for fascinating and rewarding careers.

It provided an opportunity for students from the Fourth right up to Six One to experience a whole array of STEM lectures and workshops from leading universities. We were also able to share the opportunity with some of our partner schools, including The John Wallis Church of England Academy, Cranbrook School and Kent College Pembury.

A real breadth of topics were on offer and all were delivered by leading role models in their fields, as you can see from the overview of the programme below:

- Dr Vladimir Gubala, from University of Kent School of Pharmacy, spoke on the medical applications of nano liquids in pharmaceutical procedures.
- Dr Suze Kundu, a Teaching Fellow at Imperial College London and the University of Surrey, told the girls about nano chemicals and solar energy capture materials and how nature inspires nanotechnology.
- Dr Jonathon Hare, from the University of Sussex, delivered a session on geodesic domes and 3-D molecular and mathematical modelling.
- Dr Anna Ploszajski, from UCL Institute of Making and also Young Engineer of the Year 2017, talked about 4-D printing and making 3-D printed smart materials which move in response to various stimuli.



Hydrogel can absorb up to a thousand times its mass in water



Some of the opportunities on offer left the girls open mouthed!



Dr Suze Kundu



Dr Vladimir Gubala



Girls make mugs that change colour according to heat

- Incoming Benenden Head of Physics and Queen Mary University of London & IRIS President Professor Becky Parker was also heavily involved in the week.

Throughout the three days there was also a circus of experiments designed by the Science Technicians for the girls and visiting students to try out.

They got the chance to investigate the properties of natural materials, polymers, SMART materials, shape memory alloys, thermocolour films, thermochromic pigments, hydrogels, 'Smart' putty, chromatic alginate and pyrography of wood.

Across the three days the *i*-STEM activities were extremely well received and reviewed. We delivered sessions to more than 300 Benenden girls and more than 100 students from our partner schools – all keen to understand the importance and relevance of a STEM education in our rapidly changing technological world.

In fact it was so popular we have many requests to do more of these events next year and many universities are keen to sign up to our initiative.

# Benenden's Own Science Challenge



Prize winning Fourths and Upper Fourths

In March, to coincide with British Science Week, a national ten-day celebration of the STEM subjects, we ran our own Science-based challenge involving the Fourth and Upper Fourth.

Fourths were part of a Guinness World Record competition and were given the task of producing a poster which detailed a journey related to their learning in any of the STEM subjects (Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics) or their thoughts about developing new technologies, or their aspirations for a career in a STEM subject in the future.

Upper Fourths were part of the first annual STEMenden Challenge and were asked to design and produce a research-type document, video, A3 or A4 design sheet or PowerPoint file on a 're-imagined' product using the latest scientific discovery or thinking.

## Winners

**There were lots of brilliant entries in both years and it was really tough to judge, but the winners for each judgement category were as follows:**

### Fourth Posters

- **Best Individual Entry** - Space Rocket by Alex Roskelly
- **Best Concept of Journey** - Salmon by Paula Pallares and Alisha Hsu
- **Best Visual Design** - The Wilderbeast by Amelia Simpson
- **Most Informative** - Digestive System by Amelia Lyle and Philippa Kearsey

### Upper Fourth STEMenden Challenge

- **Best Overall Concept** - Hydra Bowl by Annabel Airey and Amelia Drayson
- **Best Individual Entry** - Lost & Found by Milly Smith
- **Most Potential as a Commercial Product** - Safety ID Watch by Eva Nagle De Las Cuevas and Effie Tomazos
- **Most Eco-Friendly/Mindful** - Edible Cups by Isabella Kirkwood and Caitlyn Brown
- **Best Prototype/Video/Presentation** - Bookworm by Jessica Penny and Yosola Femi-Osinubi

# Brains For Biologists

March featured what is becoming an annual event at Benenden as Dr Guy Sutton visited for the third year in a row to run a Brains For Biologists Day.

Dr Sutton, who is Director of Medical Biology Interactive and Honorary (Consultant) Assistant Professor at the Division of Psychiatry, University of Nottingham Medical School, led a series of sessions. These covered a wide range of neuroscience areas, including nerve cells and brain function, gene functions, psychiatric disorders and functional neuroanatomy.

Here two Six Two pupils tell us about a fascinating experience:



Brains for Biologists was a very hands on experience!

The Brains for Biologists Day was an extremely interesting insight into the anatomy of neuroscience, not only helping us to get a great taste of neurobiology and the application of it, but to also get a good idea of what university lectures will be like.

The speaker, Dr Guy Sutton, was an inspiration to us all, and listening to someone so enthusiastic and up-to-date in the recent breakthroughs of neuroscience really helped the ease of learning.

For example, the fact that only this year has artificial intelligence been able to turn brain activity into speech by neural decoding shows just how new and unknown this topic is. Those who are paralysed or unable to speak, are now beginning to be able to communicate via electrodes being placed onto the brain, turning data into computer-generated speech.

Not only did Dr Sutton discuss with us current research in neuroscience and the outstanding advancements, but he also performed a live brain dissection which, for me and I'm sure many others will agree, was extremely interesting and a new way of learning about the structure of the source of our intelligence.

**Heather Turner**

As neuroscience is such an extensive and rapidly developing field, our A Level Biology course can only briefly touch on the structure and function of the brain. Having a Brains For Biologists Day enabled us to further explore the biological mechanisms involved in thought-processing, memory and interpreting speech.

Dr Guy Sutton, who ran the seven sessions, also discussed current research and the implications it has for medicine, such as the possibility of communicating with comatose patients via thought-to-speech conversion.

It was particularly interesting to learn about neurological diseases and their origins, the majority being genetic but some, like meningitis, being viral or bacterial. Having learnt about the biology behind these diseases earlier in the day, the brain dissection helped us to identify the regions of the brain involved and also allowed us to fully appreciate their complexity.

Overall it was an exciting opportunity for us to go beyond our syllabus and all of us found it incredibly useful in preparation for our A Levels!

**Millie Sucharitkul**



Dr Guy Sutton visited for the third year in a row



The live brain dissection was one of the highlights of the day



The research gets underway on Follow That Product Day

# Fifths' Activities Week

In June the Fifths explored the theme **Beyond Benenden** as part of their **Activities Week**.

On the Monday they worked in teams to make Geodomes and the following day they headed to Hastings to carry out a beach clean and to hear from a marine biologist working for the Marine Conservation Society.

The girls managed to collect five big bin bags full of rubbish so it was a really worthwhile trip.

On Wednesday the Careers Department ran a Follow That Product Day to raise awareness and understanding of the multitude of jobs and careers involved in a product chain.

Drawing on the expertise of guest mentors, made up of some Benenden staff and parents, the year group was divided into six teams. Each was allocated a product – Superdry hoodie, Itsu sushi, iPhone, L'Oreal shampoo, M&S strawberries or the Mini Cooper – and had to investigate the various jobs involved in the sourcing, design, manufacture, procurement, logistics, distribution, marketing and sale of that product.

By the end of the day the girls had to produce a display detailing some of the key jobs responsible for the journey of the product from start to finish, make a short film describing a day in the life of one of these job roles, and deliver a ten-minute presentation on their findings.

The mentors were all very impressed with the girls' enthusiasm, engagement and curiosity about the world of work. All teams worked hard and performed extremely well, but the winning team selected by our mentors was the iPhone team.

On Thursday and Friday the girls headed to various volunteering placements, including Hospice in the Weald, Tenterden Hub and local primary schools.

There were some Forest School sessions here and our girls had a lot of fun working with pupils from The John Wallis Academy Primary School and Staplehurst Primary School, building dens and conducting bushcraft activities.

We also had a guest speaker from Amnesty International on Thursday afternoon and welcomed a Year 10 boy, who is an unaccompanied asylum seeker from Afghanistan, to speak to our girls about his experiences.

All in all the week offered the girls in the Fifth an eye-opening insight into the modern world and the careers and other opportunities available.



Cleaning Hastings beach



Filming the L'Oreal product video



The girls succeeded in working together to construct a geodome



Preparing their display on the Mini Cooper's product journey



The iPhone team display one of their props

## Winning in the Workplace

**As part of International Women's Day on 8 March Six Two pupils Ifeoluwa Adeogun, Ainslie Murdoch and Ella Woolhouse organised a Winning in the Workplace event for the Six Ones. Ella tells us about the event she helped put together.**

This was a follow-up event from the Dads4Daughters event held last year for the Six Ones. This time around, we held the event for the current Six Ones and we had two external speakers, Jo Thompson and Dr Anna Cantlay, joining us in a panel-based discussion talk.

Jo is a landscape and garden designer who has previously won a gold award at Chelsea Flower Show and Anna Cantlay is a Benenden Senior who is a doctor in the NHS and has recently set up her own private practice in London.

The three of us and the Six Ones asked our guest speakers questions on the topics of discrimination against women in the workplace and ways to stay confident if that were to be an issue.

Additionally, we gained advice on how to ask for a pay rise, what qualities would they suggest being the most favourable as an 18-year-old girl going into the work industry and what we should have within our 'game plan' for our career before becoming a working woman.

The evening was a great success, with high levels of discussion and debate over these issues and all the 110 girls and teachers who attended felt empowered and confident about going into the workplace whilst striving for success!

Our external speakers (l-r) Mark Jankovich-Besan, Simon Allfrey, Giovanna Latimer, Siafra James, Angus Buchanan and Kristin Lucas



# Graduating from the Benenden Diploma

**At the end of the Summer Term we were delighted to see the third batch of Upper Fourths graduate from the Benenden Diploma.**

After two years of hard work, the girls submitted their final projects and their portfolios and in a lovely ceremony during the Arts Festival, Mrs Price presented each of them with their Diploma certificate. The girls then delivered confident presentations to their peers and parents in which they summarised some of their findings from the Diploma.

Two days earlier, the girls had celebrated the completion of this two-year course with a special party on the Rear Terrace, complete with a photo booth, mocktails, a barbecue and dancing.

Here, two of our latest graduates summarise their experience of the Diploma.

## **'Enquiry Weeks are a great way to expand your knowledge on the subject'**

"Our Diploma has lasted for two years and we have just graduated. Our latest Diploma activity we had to do was create a presentation talking about the subjects we have done in our Diploma, having done a different one every term. Our layer had the Diploma topic of Change which was the theme during our third term in Fourths and also included the ACE heading of Life Skills. During the presentation, we talked about how we have changed in our lessons, our body and mind and finally sport. To incorporate life skills into the presentation, we talked about Period 6 which is when we do things that will benefit us in the future and give us life skills.

"I have really enjoyed our Diploma because we have had the opportunity to experience amazing Enquiry Weeks. In the Enquiry Weeks we learn about topics that can range from changing the world to learning about your own identity. These weeks happen once every term and we learn about a new topic each time. They are a great way to expand your knowledge on the subject and help your 5 Rs - resourcefulness, relationships, resilience, responsibility and reflectiveness - progress. I think overall the Diploma is a great way to give Benenden girls a chance to develop themselves and create great relationships, be more responsible, resourceful, resilient and reflective so they learn how to go through Benenden in the best way possible."

**Isabelle Cunliff**  
Upper Fourth



*"It helped us learn how to write longer essays, it will help in GCSEs and future life."*  
**Phoebe Jancic**

*"It's been quite fun because you get put into groups and you talk to people who aren't in your layer, you learn so much more than you would necessarily learn in a classroom."*  
**Yosola Femi-Osinubi**

*"The Diploma party was enjoyable because it brought our whole year group together in a different way to lessons."*  
**Sarah Witheridge**

*"It's been good because you start building up a portfolio and it's a nice thing to have to work towards in Fourth and Upper Fourth because you don't have Common Entrance to work towards. I really enjoyed doing it."*  
**Helena Rajaratnam**

*"I hadn't written a magazine before. It's a long process because you need to write it, design it and put it all together. I really enjoyed it, I put quite a lot of effort into it and I'm pleased with the outcome."*  
**Jinn Ong, who produced a practical final project: a travel magazine about Tokyo**

## **'I thought how far we had come and I was really proud of myself'**

"I was asked to write about our Diploma. At first all of my thoughts snowballed and I really could not think about what to say... Then I thought 'did you enjoy putting it all together and seeing all of the hard work you have done?' 'Did you enjoy going on the journey though Fourth to Upper Fourth?' Then I thought 'Yes. I really did.' I thought how far we had come and I was really proud of myself.

"I loved doing my EPQ (extended essay) which I loved creating as I got to learn about my subject. I had chosen a question I was really interested in, which was 'Depression and Creativity: Did JK Rowling's depression help her write the Harry Potter novels?'

"As part of the Diploma, as a year we had to put together a folder of our five best pieces of work. When I was getting my folder ready I was looking back at what I had done and what I had achieved with my academic side of school. The next step was our graduation party where we all celebrated completing our Diploma. Then it was the ceremony where we got our Diploma certificate.

"There were big steps for me to overcome to be able to show what I had done at the end of the Diploma but now I really feel ready to move on to Lower Fifth."

**Freya Hollaway**  
Upper Fourth





The girls eagerly await the start of their graduation ceremony



Molly Teacher, Rayaa Williams, Effie Tomazos and Helena Rajaratnam



The Upper Fourth presented very confidently at their Diploma ceremony



Nicola, left, and Victoria Tsang with their certificates

*"It has been like a big project over two years and we had to contribute work with special themes."*  
Thea Simpkin

*"It was interesting learning about other countries' education systems. I'd never written such a long essay but it was good experience for the next years."*

Subomi Ajibola, whose research project focused on whether education should be free and universally available

*"I found it very useful. It prepares you for how to write essays when you are older and you get good feedback on how to improve. I enjoyed it because you get to find out something that you wouldn't know about otherwise."*  
Riya Chandarana, whose research project focused on REM in sleep

*"It's been really exciting. You develop your skills over the Diploma, like independence and resilience."*  
Libby Royde

## What is the Diploma?

Unique to Benenden, the Benenden Diploma covers the first two years of the curriculum and explores six themes – one for each term – across all subjects.

It was developed because girls who start at Benenden at age 11 will not be sitting the Common Entrance exam and we wanted to ensure their first two years were working towards a clear educational goal.

In addition to focusing on each child mastering the subject-specific skills, the Diploma allows her to develop problem-solving skills and teaches her to apply knowledge across different subjects, before she works towards her final Diploma project: a practical project or a dissertation-style research project and essay.



Our Class of 2019 Benenden Diploma graduates!

# Fourth Enquiry Weeks

The Upper Fourth have embarked upon two Enquiry Weeks over the past few months.

## Journeys

The first, in the Spring Term, was on the theme of Journeys with the Enquiry Week looking specifically at Migration.

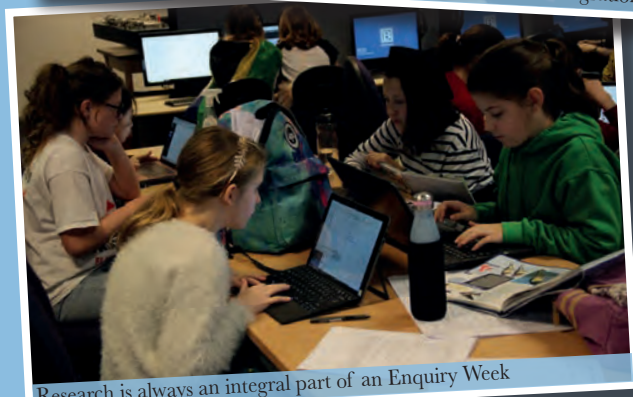
The girls worked in groups, and each team researched an animal which migrates and a group of humans which has migrated: examples of human migration include Syrian refugees, American settlers moving West in the mid and late 19th century and the Windrush migrants of the 1950s. For animals, the examples include humpback whale, reindeer and European eels.

The girls created wall displays and an assembly for Benenden Primary School pupils, with the girls filtering the information they research for their audience, considering the suitability of language, style and graphics.

They also learnt how to use advanced search engines, glossaries, contents pages and indexes, and how to meet deadlines.



For their Enquiry Week in the Spring Term girls learnt about migration



Research is always an integral part of an Enquiry Week

## How Do We Change the World?

In the Summer Term the theme was Change, with the year group focusing on how they can Change the World.

The girls learnt about the impacts of malnutrition and the work of food banks, the importance of clean water and sanitation, and life in the oceans and the effects our plastic usage is having on marine life. They took part in a water carrying exercise which gave them some idea of the lengths people, and often children, in certain parts of the world have to go to each day to ensure they have clean water. They also watched documentary A Plastic Ocean and debated the issue of sustainability, while they learned about food banks through a talk and collected items for a food bank.

The culmination of the week saw the girls preparing marketing and fundraising campaigns that they presented to parents.



As ever there were plenty of questions throughout the week

## Pupils' View

*"It was fun because we got to work with different people."*  
Alisha Hsu

*"I am surprised about how many people are drinking unclean water."*  
Gea Tassan Din

*"I have convinced my family to only eat fish once a week due to the plastic content in the fish caught in our oceans, also to use plastic if only absolutely necessary."*  
Amelia Simpson

*"I now realise how much plastic is in the Ocean, a BIG problem for ALL."*  
Beatrice Addyman

*"So sad to find out how young children are sold for marriage and slavery."*  
Alex Roskelly

*"It made me sad that water is carried for miles to be used but is not even drinkable."*  
Daisy Merton



Learning about gorilla conservation



The girls learnt about the lengths some people in developing countries have to go to for clean water



Starting the filtration process



Filtering water as part of the Change the World Enquiry Week

The Fourths donated items to Nourish Foodbank



*"I never realised how scarce good drinking water is, only 0.5 per cent of water on earth can be used to drink."*

Avril O'Leary

*"It was interesting learning about the Sustainable Development Goals because of the fun facts and random knowledge."*

Maddie Porter

*"I like creating things and coming up with crazy ideas with my group because it feels like we get closer as friends."*

Allegra Tucker

*"Having people from different organisations coming to speak to us was brilliant, as we learnt about different charities, what they do, and how to fundraise."*

Olivia Hall

*"Plastic is EVIL as it is not biodegradable. It was horrific to learn that only 10 per cent of sea birds have not eaten plastic."*

Maggie Cassidy

*"It is very interesting because we learnt about other topics, for example plastic."*

Sophia Kirkwood

# Lower Fifth Enquiry Week: Legacy and Remembrance

For their Enquiry Week in June the Lower Fifth focused on Legacy and Remembrance, concentrating on the events immediately after the end of the First World War and its impact.



Several girls were able to visit graves of their ancestors



The girls laid a poppy wreath at the Menin Gate ceremony



Creating wartime theatre



Creating war photography



Rescuing a casualty of war!



The girls composed music for a short film

The majority of the week was taken up with the girls visiting the French and Belgian Battlefields.

Either side of this trip, at the start and end of the week, the pupils took part in workshops. This saw the girls making remembrance poppies, learning triage skills and medical developments as a result of the war, creating war photography, learning about the contributions of animals and even attempting some code breaking, plus much more.

To illustrate what they had learnt the girls presented to their families during the Arts Festival about their understanding of the topic.

But it was the trip to the Battlefields that really helped the girls' understanding of the conflict, with several of them being able to visit the graves or memorials of their ancestors making the impact of the war more personal and relatable.

Here Scarlett Mansfield tells us more about this part of the Enquiry Week:

Throughout the trip we visited a range of cemeteries, both from the English and German sides as well as museums and bomb sites.

Being able to retrace the steps of the soldiers and officers going into battle, through the 'Sunken Lane', a colossal hole made by a shell, and actually being able to walk through the recreated trenches exactly how they were 100 years ago was really powerful.

It gave us the chance to understand what the people at that time would be going through – whether the soldiers about to go into battle or the people who were waiting for news back home, from whom we read many letters.

I think many of us can agree that one of the most enjoyable parts - apart from the Belgian chocolate shopping! - was being a part of the Menin Gate ceremony, which we learnt they perform every evening in Ypres, and being able to lay a poppy wreath down in the archway.

A massive thank you must be given to Mr Cullen, who organised the trip, all the staff who came with us and the tour guides who managed to answer all of our difficult questions and give us some shocking facts about each place we visited.

Overall, the trip was unforgettable, and I can't wait to visit the Battlefields again in the future.



The girls made remembrance poppies in DT

The group visited the French and Belgian Battlefields



# Upper Fourth Enquiry Week

For their Enquiry Days in January and March the Upper Fourth were working as anthropologists on a project called Hatch, Match and Dispatch, part of the term's Diploma theme of Rites and Celebrations.

The girls worked with Mike Hacker, a professional TV and documentary maker, to put together short documentaries looking at the birth, marriage and death rituals in six different cultures across the world.

Working in groups, they researched entertaining and informative facts before deciding how they could best be communicated in documentary form.

The girls wrote scripts, made films and edited them, learning some new technical media and computing skills as well as refining their skills of resourcefulness and collaboration.

The films were shown to parents at the end of the Summer Term.

Mr Hacker was glowing in his praise for the girls, saying some of the work they had produced was extremely impressive and superior to that of some professional documentary-makers!



Professional TV and documentary maker Mike Hacker lead the Upper Fourth enquiry activities



The girls edited the films themselves



The girls presented their videos to the class



We are unsure what this ritual was!

The girls made documentaries looking at birth, marriage and death rituals in different cultures



Scholars discuss scientific theories in May



Lower Fifth Academic Scholar Aliya Adebawale leads a discussion about sunrise



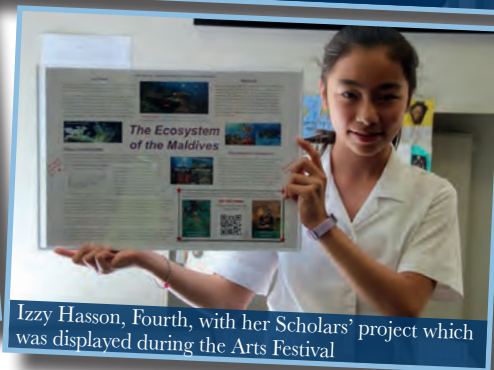
The annual Scholars' Dinner in April



A Scholars' lunch discussion was held in March



Izzy Hasson, Fourth, with her Scholars' project which was displayed during the Arts Festival



# Scholars' Programme

It has been a busy and productive year for the academic scholarship programme across the School. Scholarship Mentors Ellie Fryer and Alastair Couldrey summarise the activities.

The Lower School have had a fantastic year focusing on the theme of Exploration. In addition to essays, presentations, stop-motion videos and advertising campaigns, they have also produced projects on topics from the ancient civilisations of Easter Island to the weaponry used in the Second World War.

At Sixth Form, students have been meeting weekly and have focused on the skills of research, public speaking and debating – where lively discussions have encouraged real intellectual stretch across the disciplines.

In addition to this and the provision of

individual departments, all those in the programme have attended talks from members of staff as well as external speakers, encouraging the students to think about cross-curricular links between subjects. Scholarship lunches have also allowed for greater discussion of current affairs and sharing of ideas between year groups. This has encouraged students to consider how they can keep challenging themselves academically.

Finally, the year culminated with a formal dinner to celebrate the brilliant work the scholarship group has done

this year. We were joined by our incoming Head of Physics, Becky Parker MBE, as our guest speaker who gave a fascinating talk which prompted discussion about other life forms in the universe and inspired the students to consider what they could do to pursue further exploration.

*"I have found the Scholars' Programme very interesting and I have learnt things I would might not have learned, and fulfilled my maximum potential with my friends supporting me along the way."*  
Scarlett Hindmarch, Fourth

*"The scholarship activities have broadened my knowledge and I have discovered a topic that really interests me, which I wouldn't know about if it wasn't for this year's scholarship activities."*  
Mia MacLeay, Lower Fifth

Some of our Lower School Academic Scholars





Benenden girls with The John Wallis Academy Principal John McPartland

## Languages are Critical for Upper Fourths

**In February the Upper Fourth went to The John Wallis Church of England Academy to take part in a Languages Are Critical event.**

Pupils had the opportunity to take workshops in Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Creative Translation, which were led by Benenden Modern Languages teachers Yifu Zhao, Hiromi Stevens and Lanyu Chang.

We were also lucky to have two university professors, Dr Natasha Ryan from Oxford and Dr Sara-Louise Cooper from the University of Kent, to lead two of the sessions. Dr Ryan closed the event with a talk focusing on the transferable skills pupils can learn by studying languages: resilience, resourcefulness, courage and empathy.

The girls also enjoyed a delicious spread of international food and drink supplied at break time.



Sessions in Chinese, Japanese and Russian were all on offer

*"We had lots of talks and it was really interesting to learn about how important languages are in day-to-day life and in the work place. I would now like to do two languages instead of one for GCSE."*  
Molly Teacher, Upper Fourth



The barristers had to think on the spot!



Judge Philip St John-Stevens led the proceedings

## Mock Trial – Guilty or Not Guilty?

**In March the annual Benenden Law Society Mock Trial was held and, once again, the public gallery was entertained and educated in equal measure. Member of staff Samirah Roxburgh, who supports the Law Society, tells us more.**

The roles of barristers, witnesses and jurors were all played by Benenden girls, enabling 21 students to be actively involved. Hearing the case was Judge Philip St John-Stevens, who not only ran the proceedings as they would be run in the Crown Court, explaining where necessary, but answered questions from the public gallery at the end, enabling the evening to be both enormous fun and informative.

The case concerned a dispute between neighbours, which started as an objection to loud music being played but culminated in a punch. The jury had to decide if the defendant was guilty of assault, causing actual bodily harm, or if she had acted in self-defence.

The witnesses (Sophie Cook, Ireoluwa Morakinyo, Fikemi Olayinka, Farida Tinubu and Chloe Tung) demonstrated not only a grasp of the issues involved but also great acting ability, bringing much humour to the case.

The barristers (Teniola Adesanya, Michaela Balogun, Claudia Chan and Emma Gough-Cooper) had the difficult job of thinking on the spot and composing their questions and closing speeches to fit to the evidence given by the witnesses on the night. They asked insightful questions and got to the heart of the dispute.

After a short period of deliberation, and to the public gallery's approval, the jury passed a verdict of not guilty.

Many thanks to all the girls involved for such a fun evening. We are also extremely grateful to Judge Philip St John-Stevens for his continued support of the Benenden Law Society and look forward to Mock Trial 2020!



Benenden girls took on the roles of barristers, witnesses and jurors

## Angus Forbes

**In January we were visited by businessman, philanthropist and environmentalist Angus Forbes. Six Two Laura Smith tells us about a fascinating talk.**

Angus Forbes talked to us about his plan for the way forward in dealing with climate change.

He gave an informative talk about a proposed body called the Global Planet Authority (GPA). This would be a global body, given power by us, citizens of the world, which would coordinate the effort towards tackling this problem through the use of regulations and sanctions or rewards. This is of particular importance due to the growing intensity of climate change and the warnings from experts in the field.

Mr Forbes sees this as the way forward to make a significant impact, before it gets too late. Although it may be a tough sell for some people, he sees this as a vital step.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and was inspired by this idea. Through the use of powerful videos and clear explanations Angus Forbes made the talk engaging and it was a very memorable lecture.

We will all be looking out to hear more about GPA in the near future.



## Dr Helen Pankhurst

**In January we were visited by Dr Helen Pankhurst who gave a talk to our Sixth Form students. Here one of them, Hetty Lawrence, recounts a memorable lecture.**

If there was a ballot paper in front of you asking if you were a feminist, with a box for yes and a box for no, which box would you tick?

This was the leading question in the lecture given by Dr Helen Pankhurst, great-granddaughter of suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst and leading women's rights campaigner. The talk was based on the findings of Dr Pankhurst's book *Deeds Not Words*, and explored how women's lives have changed - or, in some cases, have experienced a lack of change - in a range of issues.

Dr Pankhurst shared a true story about a young woman who wasn't allowed to take Chemistry O Level and instead had to take needlework and was asked what she would pack for her husband if he were going on a business trip. This was in 1981, and she is still proud of her U grade today.

It really hit home for the Benenden audience how much we've progressed in many ways since then, and how lucky we are to be encouraged, as we should be, in all our subjects. Dr Pankhurst also spoke about how the suffragettes were often accused of being terrorists but reminded us that no-one died at the hands of the suffragettes, nor was it the suffragettes who were inflicting the force-feeding in prison.

The talk was a profound reminder that women should not be seen primarily as homemakers, wives or mothers, but also as people with their own agency and capabilities. Also discussed at the lecture was how much we as young people thought the world had progressed for women in terms of politics, money, identity, violence, culture and power.

It was one of the most enriching, thought-provoking lectures we've ever been fortunate enough to have here at Benenden and encouraged much discussion between girls and teachers alike.

We are very grateful to Dr Pankhurst for delivering such an engaging and interactive talk which had a big impact on everyone who attended.

Dr Pankhurst is the great-granddaughter of suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst





Meg Dyos was part of a team that rowed unsupported across the Pacific

## Meg Dyos

In February we were privileged to be visited by world record holder Meg Dyos, who was part of a team, called The Coxless Crew, which rowed across the Pacific Ocean unsupported. It was a journey that took 257 days and covered more than 9,200 miles.

Meg gave a detailed and inspiring talk on how the team was chosen, what it was like to work as a team, living conditions and routines on board the boat and the team's continued friendship.

Meg said that she had never rowed before she stepped onto Doris and that this was a journey of S.P.I.R.I.T. – strength, perseverance, integrity, resilience, inspiration and trust.

**Imogen Macdonald, Six Two**

*"Hearing Meg speak about their journey over the Pacific was incredible and I think everyone will agree it was hugely inspiring. The key point I will take away from it is to just say 'yes' to opportunities and see where they take you, and also the value of perseverance."*

**Imogen Macdonald, Six Two**

## Chessie King

In March social media influencer Chessie King came in to talk to the girls. Six One pupil Skye Turnbull tells us more about an evening that was enjoyed by all.

On 21 March the Body Positivity Society had a visiting speaker in to talk about body confidence.

Chessie King is the founder of #dearbodythankyou movement on Instagram. On her posts she talks about loving and caring for your body, whilst also making quick, funny videos to show that bodies are allowed to wobble, have cellulite and bloat!

She spoke about the impact of social media, both the positives and the negatives, how to grow in confidence a little every day and about learning not to compare yourself to other people.

The Q and A style of the evening allowed girls to openly talk about their own struggles surrounding body image and sparked a discussion surrounding the topic in the media.

It was an incredibly successful evening, with many girls saying Chessie was one of their favourite speakers to come in!



## Forthcoming Speakers

During the Autumn Term we are pleased to be welcoming the following speakers, among others, to Benenden:

- 13 September **Dr Sabrina Cohen-Hatton**, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, London Fire Brigade
- 17 September **Clare Balding**, Broadcaster, Journalist and Author, best known for her presenting roles on BBC Sport
- 27 September **TJ Andrews**, Author, best known for his Roman Arena series of novels with Simon Scarrow
- 19 November **Ben Fogle**, Broadcaster, Writer and Adventurer
- 6 December **Greg Clark MP**, Tunbridge Wells MP and Business Secretary in Theresa May's Cabinet

# Austria Trip

In June our Upper Fourths went on their traditional trip to Austria where they enjoyed glorious sunshine, some stunning views and much more. Annabel Sismey tells us about the week.

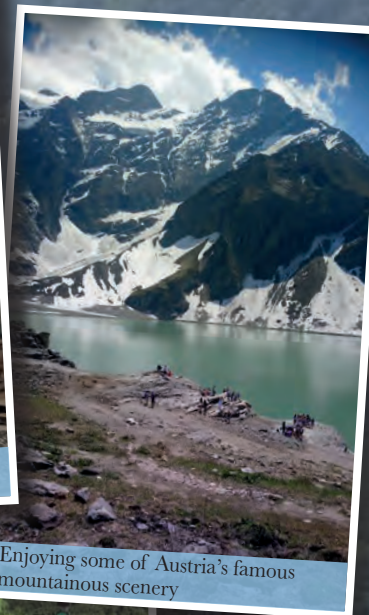
*"I was sad to leave Austria as I had had such a great time. I would really recommend this trip for future year groups."*  
Isabelle Cunliff



The girls had a wonderful experience in Austria



The trip capped a great two years at Benenden for the Upper Fourths



Enjoying some of Austria's famous mountainous scenery



Ready for the toboggan run



The group pose mid-hike for a scenic photo

After the rush of getting 42 girls through security and onto the plane we arrived in sunny Austria just after midday. We went for lunch which filled us up for an hour and a half of shopping and climbing up a lot of stairs to the amazing view at the top of the Bell Tower.

After a good night's sleep at our hotel, the Zistelberghof, we were refreshed for a long but very beautiful hike up to the ice caves. The freezing cold caves with the breathtaking ice mounds were spectacular and after walking back down the

mountain, we went to a castle where they were hosting a birds of prey show.

The next day we went to the famous salt mines where we walked across the border to Germany and slid down two very fun slides before learning about the history of the mines.

We then got taken to a very exciting toboggan run, which got our adrenalin running and then we went to Therme Amadé, a water park, where we had great fun rushing down the slides.

After a very exciting day we were ready for a relaxing next day. We were taken to a stunning green lake which was great for photographs, and then we went to the dam which ran under the lake. After even more photos we had reached the end of the trip.

It was a great trip to end the two years we have had as a year together.

## Greek Tragedy in London

Six Ones studying Philosophy and Religion, Drama or Classics went to see the ancient Greek tragedy *Antigone* by Sophocles. One of them, Eliza Antelme, explains.

Before the play started there was a fascinating talk about it by a woman who clearly had a very in-depth knowledge of the play. This was great to hear as it gave us a deeper understanding of the themes and topics.

The play itself was very interesting. It was performed entirely by King's College London students. Much to our surprise the whole play was in Greek; fortunately there were subtitles as despite the excellent teaching at Benenden we are not all fluent in ancient Greek yet!

It was very impressive how they could remember such extensive and complex Greek. They performed a modern adaptation of the over 2,000-year-old play which was very intriguing to see how different people interpreted it.

*Antigone* believes divine law should defy all other beliefs. This ties in nicely with our studies in Philosophy and Religion of Aquinas's Natural Law. There can be great discussion over what is morally right to do in this play. Also, as a Classics student it was very helpful to see a piece of literature different to our A Level texts.

## History of Art in Rome

At the start of the Easter Holidays History of Art students visited Rome. Six Ones Emily Bradley and Isabella Scott Wells tell The Term more.

When we arrived in Rome we went to watch a 5D reality of the history of the city, sitting in a cinema-type simulator, to make it seem like we really were time travelling. We then set out on foot to see the Pantheon, which is a 1,400-year-old church.

This was an incredible site, with amazing architectural features helping our visual analysis. We then looked at another church, analysing its breath-taking art and appreciating all that was new to us. We also stopped off at the amazing Trevi Fountain, where we all Facetimed our parents in excitement.

The next day we woke up bright and early, having had a long night's sleep, to go and look at the Villa Farnesina in Rome, which is a villa containing incredible art which everyone enjoyed and, in our opinion, was one of the favourite parts of the trip.

San Pietro in Montoro is a church in Rome which has its Tempietto in its courtyard. This was the next location we went to visit and learn about. It marks the site where St Peter's crucifixion happened in an evocative way. We then had some time to go and enjoy the Italian culture.

The next site we visited was the world-famous Colosseum, which was phenomenal. We learnt how it was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles, as well as being able to hold an audience of 65,000 people. This was a site which everyone found wonderful.

The girls enjoyed their informative stay in Rome



On the third day we started at 8.00am to avoid the queues at the Villa Borghese Gallery. This was filled with amazingly colored murals all over every ceiling, as well as extremely impressive pieces of art and sculptures in every room.

As we proceeded through each room, we were all very excited to find the famous Apollo and Daphne sculpture by Bernini, which we had previously annotated in our lessons. We were all amazed by the skill of the artists and sculptors in the gallery, from monumental portraits to tiny detailed depictions of the Colosseum.

Later, we visited the huge Capitoline Museum which had a wonderful array of items, from huge sculptures to intricately designed rings.

We had a great time exploring all the wonderful views, from the forum to very cute garden on top of the building with another amazing view. We then made another trip to the Trevi Fountain on our way to an interactive dinner with very funny opera singers who serenaded us after every course we were given!

On the last day, the final stop was the amazing Vatican City, where we finally got to see The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel. It is known to be an incredible sight and we highly recommend anyone to go and see it, interested in art or not.

## Madrid Trip

A group of 30 excited Fifth and Upper Fifth Hispanists travelled to Madrid during January.

They had eight hours of interactive lessons at Sampere Estudio, in which they practised mainly their speaking skills in readiness for their oral exams. We stayed by Gran Via and the girls enjoyed the chilled and hipster atmosphere of the hotel as well as the proximity to the shops! We had a lovely stroll and picnic by El Retiro Park, visited El Prado, and discovered La Puerta del Sol as we wandered around the city. We were blessed with sun and warm temperatures which was a real bonus!

One of the highlights was the Flamenco and Tapas night. The girls learned to clap and dance, conquering the stage at the end of the

show. On Saturday we visited Toledo for the day and we learnt about the past of this amazing city where Muslims, Jews and Christians cohabited happily for centuries. Here we also visited the cathedral and saw one of El Greco's masterpieces. Back in Madrid we had the chance to visit the Royal Palace before we headed back to the centre to see the astonishing Plaza Mayor and the Mercado de San Miguel for a bite to eat.

All in all it was a great trip and the girls tried very hard to use their Spanish and absorb the culture. They were very keen to try new things and churros were top of their list!

Performing in the magnificent Notre-Dame Cathedral, just two weeks before its devastating fire



The Choir perform in the Church of St Sulpice Paris

## Chapel Choir Tour

**The Chapel Choir enjoyed a busy and varied tour to Brussels and Paris at the start of the Easter holidays. Annabel Kearsey, in the Lower Fifth, summarises an unforgettable tour.**

On Thursday morning, full of excitement, we got up early to catch the Eurostar to Brussels. We visited the striking Atomium, a futuristic piece of architecture that lights up at night with 2,970 LED lights. It was quite funny as we also visited the European Parliament on the weekend that the UK was supposed to be leaving the EU. Our first concert was held at the Brussels Cathedral, a vast gothic building with a huge marble altar.

On Saturday we left Brussels and headed to Paris. When we arrived in Paris we had

our rehearsal in the beautiful Notre-Dame. Many of us had not visited this wonderful place before and were taken back by its beauty and sheer size. The acoustics were out of this world. In the evening we visited the Montparnasse Tower: we all had the most amazing views of Paris at night time, they were simply breath-taking.

On the Sunday morning, we all felt a bit nervous about singing morning mass at Notre-Dame. We could see our families in the front rows and the whole cathedral was

packed to the brim. There must have been over 1,000 people there! Singing there was such a privilege, it was truly memorable and particularly poignant given the fire was just two weeks later.

Later that day we performed a concert at the church of St Sulpice. In the evening we had great fun in a restaurant with family and staff singing and dancing till late. It was a great few days of singing as well as sightseeing and I cannot wait until the next tour.

*"Beyond the sightseeing and the venues we sang at (which were amazing!), the opportunity to embrace friendship was also a big part of the fun. I especially loved getting to know people across the years and it made me realise that with the lovely company of a group of Benenden girls, any trip is made fabulous!"*

Poppy Worlidge, Six One



The tour of Brussels and Paris was a memorable trip

## Poland

**During the Easter holidays a group of Six Two students visited Poland for an emotional and eye-opening trip. Head of History Simon Cullen tells us more.**

Studying the Holocaust is always incredibly difficult for students - even those in the Six Two.

Understanding how such a dreadful period of History could emerge, the impact this had and the legacy are questions which are very hard to approach in 2019. Visiting Krakow, Auschwitz and Birkenau is one way which really helps students develop their own answers.

At the start of the Easter holidays, 21 Six Two students spent one day in Krakow exploring Jewish culture before 1939 and the impact Nazi occupation had.

What became clear is that Jewish culture has been greatly reduced but still lives on – a testament to the determination and fortitude of humanity. The girls visited Schindler's factory to explore how he helped many Jews survive and they were able to listen to the testimony of a Holocaust survivor.

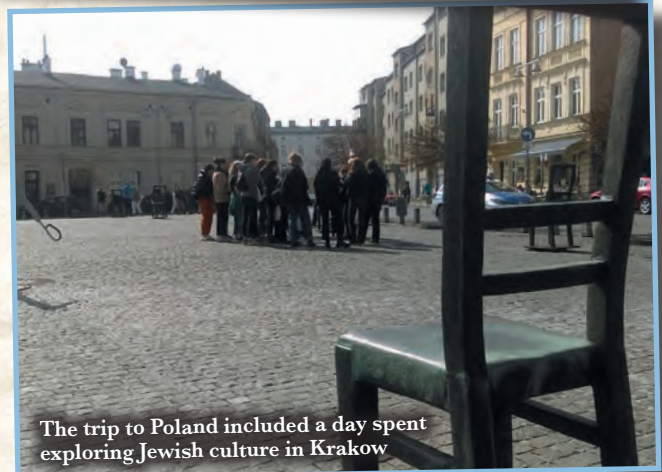
As a baby, her parents gave her to a non-Jewish family to keep her safe and hearing this, and how she grew up not knowing who her real parents were, was very powerful.

On Saturday, the entire day was spent in the Auschwitz Labour Camp and Birkenau Death Camp. Seeing where atrocities occurred really developed the girls' understanding of the mechanism of the Holocaust and as such the service of remembrance at the end of the day meant so much more than it would have done without the visit.

Finishing the visit in a Jewish restaurant listening to traditional music live was a perfect way to demonstrate that Jewish life continues despite the attempt to annihilate it.



The trip gave the girls first-hand understanding of the impact Nazi occupation had



The trip to Poland included a day spent exploring Jewish culture in Krakow

## The Changing East End

**In the Spring Term Six One Geographers from Benenden and students from The John Wallis Church of England Academy went on a joint fieldwork expedition to look at how the Brick Lane and Whitechapel area of London has changed through time. Head of Geography, Michael Dunton, summarises the day.**

Girls looked at archive film footage and historic photographs and married these up with the same exact locations today to identify changes. Girls used modern digital imaging techniques to record and unpick how this place has changed and continues to change.

The area has seen successions of ethnic/religious groups that have all left their mark. From Huguenots and later Jewish refugees, the area became a home for Bangladeshi migrants in the latter half of the 20th Century.

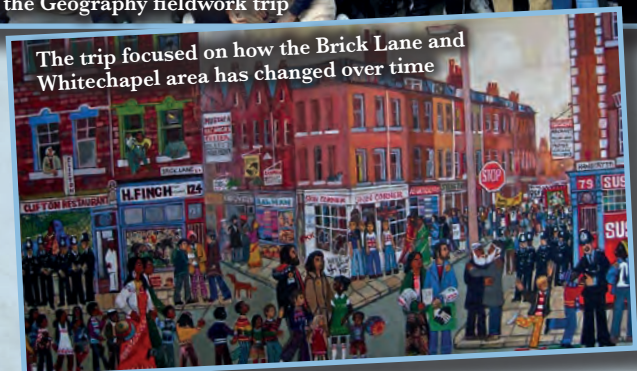
Now even this more recent cultural domination of the area is coming to an end, with signs that hipster culture and

the digital economy are bringing change into East London. Students learned about the impacts of gentrification on a place and more importantly, how to record data for their own coursework assessments coming up.

It was a pleasure to see how well the two school groups integrated during a joint data gathering session. I was very impressed by not only our own students, but the maturity and engagement of The John Wallis Academy A Level Geographers.



The girls teamed up with The John Wallis Academy on the Geography fieldwork trip



The trip focused on how the Brick Lane and Whitechapel area has changed over time

We worked with the Queen Mary University Geography department. All our students rose to the challenge of an undergraduate level lecture and all were able to use sophisticated data collection techniques.

# Spain

At the end of March a group of Spanish students were immersed in Spanish culture on a trip overseas. Six One Helena Emery tells us more.

The town of El Puerto de Santa Maria, where we were situated for the majority of our stay, was home to a number of beautiful buildings with architecture from different time periods.

We visited the local church where preparations were underway for the Spanish celebration of Semana Santa. Here we were able to receive an in-depth experience of the culture of the festival which goes hand-in-hand with our A Level course.

We visited the local castle which had been built on the site of a mosque of which the Qibla Wall still survives. We also had the opportunity to go sea kayaking on the Bay of Cadiz. The sun was shining and we all had a great time, either paddling in the kayaks or enjoying a relaxing trip out on the bigger boat – although there still may have been some splashing involved!

One of the highlights of the trip was our excursion to Cadiz and Seville. We took the ferry from the town to reach Cadiz where we did some exploring and had some time for shopping. Although it was our last day in Spain we all enjoyed the beauty of Seville including the Cathedral where the tomb of the famous explorer, Christopher Columbus, is found.

The Spanish foods and drinks we tried ranged from traditional tapas and paella to churros con chocolate as well as visiting the local bodega.

Finally, the staff at the language school we were staying at were incredibly friendly and the lessons we received were hugely beneficial. Our discussion groups in Spanish where English was not allowed really enabled us to put our language skills to the test.

The incentive of a prize for the person who spoke the most Spanish outside the classroom wasn't too bad either!



Time to prepare dinner!



The Bay of Cadiz remained calm



The girls turn their hand to flamenco dancing



The group were based in El Puerto de Santa Maria for most of the trip

## Language Day at Oxford



Four Benenden Six Ones enjoyed a Spanish language open day at The Queen's College, Oxford

**Towards the start of the year four Benenden Six Ones took a trip to Oxford where, among other things, they faced the challenges of translation and caught up with some Benenden Seniors. One of them, Teniola Adesanya, tells The Term about it.**

In February five of us, including our teacher Ms Navarro, went to The Queen's College in Oxford University to attend a Spanish language open day. We participated in several workshops

and then ended with a Q&A with preparation advice on how to apply for the university.

One of the workshops that we found especially enjoyable was about the difficulty of translating poetry. We were given a poem by Lorca, a famous Spanish poet, and were faced with the challenge of conveying his emotions and imagery into English without getting anything lost in translation.

The best part of our day was having lunch with some Benenden Seniors there; Ally Cho and Saskia Geddes, who gave us a student point of view on social and academic life at the university.

**In March the Fourth spent a week in either Carcassonne in France or Toledo in Spain as part of their Diploma Theme of Journeys. Here we look back at each trip.**

# Carcassonne

**Once more this year, half of the Fourth travelled to Carcassonne and enjoyed a fun-filled stay which was packed with visits, workshops, activities and shopping in the old medieval city. Head of French and trip leader Amalia Fuentes-Mansfield summarises the French adventure.**

During our first day we explored the ramparts of the city and were blessed with sunny blue skies. The view from the top of the Château Comtal was breathtaking as we could clearly see the snowy tops of the Pyrenees right in front of us! We talked to Jean-Francois, the eternal knight of the city of Carcassonne, and found out about life during the Middle Ages.

Our Fourth learnt that at age seven you were considered a responsible person and therefore had to look after your younger brothers, but most importantly, our Benenden girls were horrified to learn that at 14 you had to be married! To recover from such findings, students headed to the restaurant where they practised their speaking skills and enjoyed some tasty dishes such as cassoulet, crème brûlée or tarte aux pommes!

Our second day started with a large breakfast and a view of the Medieval city. We then headed towards Basilique Saint Nazaire and also visited the five-star hotel where The Queen and Winston Churchill stayed.

Later we went to the Old School Museum, where we learnt what it was like to go to school over 100 years ago. In the replica of an old French classroom the Benenden girls sat at the wooden desks and learnt how to form their letters using dip pens and permanent ink, copying each letter carefully. French children still learn to form their letters this way today. After lunch the Fourth conducted a treasure hunt and we finished the day with a dubbing ceremony in which we all swore our loyalty to France and protection to those who needed it!

On our last day, we walked across the old bridge that took us to the new town where we saw the weekly market. The girls wandered the streets in search of souvenirs to bring back home and bought their own lunch. Before we knew it, it was time to catch the bus that would take us back to Toulouse airport. We sadly waved au revoir to Carcassonne, our heads full of new thoughts, and our stomachs still satisfied with the taste of French cuisine.



The girls experienced what life was like in school over 100 years ago



Ready to enjoy some French cuisine



Meeting the eternal knight of Carcassonne

# Toledo

Twenty students in the Fourth, along with four staff, spent three days enjoying the sunshine in the beautiful city of Toledo, writes Joris Crouzet, a Modern Foreign Languages Teacher who led the trip.

Toledo is known as the 'city of three cultures' because Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities peacefully coexisted there for centuries.

We visited the cathedral, the Sephardi museum and synagogue and the El Greco museum. The girls also particularly enjoyed their visit to a marzipan factory, where they sampled the local specialities!

We enjoyed the delicious Spanish food in several restaurants and the girls tried out their Spanish skills while shopping and ordering food. The family-run hotel where we stayed was perfectly located a few minutes away from the cathedral square.

Many of the girls commented on how much they enjoyed the trip and how much they learnt about the three cultures that permeate Toledo.



Cooling off with ice cream



Exploring Toledo



A monument for Doménikos Theotokópoulos, a Greek painter who lived in Toledo



The girls were fortunate to be bathed in glorious sunshine for most of the trip

# History Students Gain Insight Into Churchill

At the start of the Spring Term Six One History students were treated to an illuminating talk on Winston Churchill. Here Amy Woodthorpe tells us about it.

We went to see Andrew Roberts in Hawkhurst to listen to a lecture on Winston Churchill. This was really interesting, as it focused more on Churchill's personal life rather than his politics, such as his family life and how many cigars he smoked (160,000 in his lifetime!).

It was fascinating to listen to this because you could question whether it tied into his decision-making; for example, he had no nurture from his father and saw his mother every six months, meaning this could have influenced how harsh he was regarding decisions. It was also really interesting to see how great leaders have troubles in their personal life which you wouldn't necessarily think about.

The speaker, Andrew Roberts, was very charismatic and inspiring in how he grasped the audience's attention through his wit and knowledge, and I would love to go see and one of his lectures again!



In Spanish girls looked at how to conserve the environment

## Themed Lessons

On a few occasions this year different subjects have focused on a shared theme.

To mark **Valentine's Day**, many lessons incorporated a theme of love and romance.

In Chinese, pupils learnt about the legend behind Chinese Valentine's Day and compared eastern traditions with those in the west.

In Classics girls explored love stories in Roman and Greek mythology, researched different classical couples and presented their findings. Historians assessed Elizabeth I's potential marriage.

English students looked at several classic texts with a theme of love, while in German they looked at a modern synopsis of Romeo and Juliet.

Even Economics and Business got in on the act, asking whether Spence's Signalling Theory can explain online dating profiles, while in Maths girls tackled Valentine's-themed puzzles and created the word 'love' using calculations.

During the **Crime and Punishment Week** in March activities included Latinists exploring the trial of Piso for the murder of Germanicus; English students discussed the fairness of Malvolio's imprisonment for madness in *Twelfth Night*; French students explored the treatment of conscientious objectors in the song *Monsieur Le President* and geographers looked at illegal logging

in the rainforests. Mathematicians explored how Maths helps solve murders, using blood spatter trajectories, for example, while historians examined types of torture and crime in Elizabethan England and Philosophy students debated the issue of legal and moral responsibility if a self-driving car killed a pedestrian.

The theme even extended into the Weekend Programme, with girls being tasked with solving a murder, followed by anti-drugs advice from FRANK.

Later in March lessons linked their content to topics of ecology and conservation for **Earth** themed lessons.



The story of Orpheus and Eurydice

## Southern Schools Book Awards

As ever Benenden took part in the Southern Schools Book Awards earlier this year. Six Lower Fifth girls represented the School at the Awards Ceremony where they heard the authors read from their books and the winner announced.

One of them, Katharine Miller, explains:

For the 2019 Southern Schools Book Awards we were given a set of five books – *After the Fire* by Will Hill, *Satellite* by Nick Lake, *Contagion* by Terri Terry, *The Extinction Trials* by S.M. Wilson, and *Farewell Tour of a Terminal Optimist* by John Young.

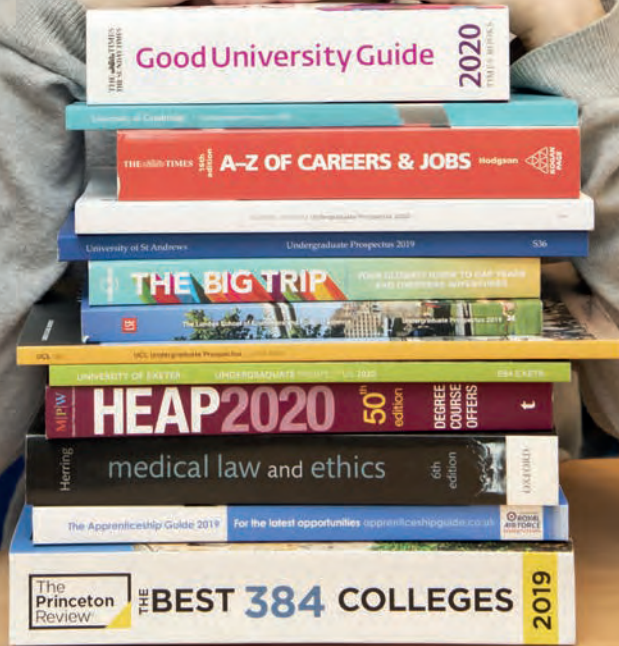
We started reading the books over the summer holidays, and during the Autumn Term, we met weekly to discuss each book. We each voted for our favourite in December and attended the awards ceremony at Roedean School in January to hear the authors and have books signed.

The winning book was *After the Fire*, and *The Extinction Trials* was highly commended. This year's host was Lisa Heathfield, who was last year's winner.



Benenden's Southern School Book Award judges!

This year's 94 Six Twos are holding 411 university offers between them



# Careers

As we eagerly anticipate this year's A Level results, we summarise the higher education destinations our Six Two have achieved, and look at the activity of the Careers and Higher Education Department in supporting the girls' career aspirations.

It has been a successful year for university applications, with the girls receiving 411 offers through UCAS and achieving offers from 80 per cent of the universities they applied to.

The most popular universities applied to are Durham, Edinburgh and Exeter and the most popular courses this year are English, Biology and History. We have had eight girls apply to US universities and have girls holding offers from Yale (a member of the Ivy League and one of the top institutions in the World), SMU, Colgate, Indiana, University of California Los Angeles and Wesleyan. One pupil has also been accepted to study at McGill University in Canada.

Four girls applied for Medicine this year and they all received at least one offer from Medical schools, a fantastic achievement in what is a very tough, competitive process.

We have launched the new cycle of UCAS and the Six One are underway with their applications for next year!

We have hosted visits by the following organisations and Seniors: University of Exeter, University of Durham, Medi-Redi, British Armed Forces, Burnett Global, Ano Okonjo (Duke University), Beth Coombe-Jones (Brighton and Sussex Medical School), The Foreign Office, Cambridge Occupational Analysts, Oxford Brookes University, J P Morgan, Ski le Gap, Culsans Travel and The Student World.

## Careers at a Glance

### Higher Education and UCAS Induction Day

In June the Six One pupils had a full-day induction to higher education and the UCAS process.

This included talks from the University of Durham, Oxford Brookes University, JP Morgan and two gap year companies as well as a Q&A session on life beyond Benenden with several Seniors from the class of 2016 who are at, or have just finished, university.

### Izzy Earns Yale Summer School Place

We are delighted that Izzy Salzedo, Six One, has earned a place on the prestigious academic summer school at Yale Global Scholars Summer School with the opportunity to complete a capstone project. Yale said they had more applications than ever before, with 1,000 applicants from 120 countries and all 50 US states, which makes her achievement all the more impressive.

### Apprenticeship Fair

In February the Careers Department accompanied a small group of students to an Apprenticeship Fair, hosted by Helen Grant MP in Maidstone.

There was an excellent range of exhibitors and students spoke to a number of current apprentices at companies such as Pfizer, Bank of England and BMW. Indeed, it seems many apprentices choose to turn down Russell Group university offers in favour of the opportunity to earn a competitive salary, make rapid progress in a blue-chip organisation and gain higher level qualifications.

### Senior Talks to Medics Club

In April Beth Coombe-Jones H/Elms 14 came back to talk to the School Medics Club about being a medical student and her journey so far.

Beth has just passed her Medicine finals at Brighton and Sussex Medical School and will be starting her Foundation Year 1 job this summer. She had some great advice for pupils and they really benefited from her visit, asking lots of questions.

### Senior's US University Talk

In March we welcomed back Benenden Senior Anwulika Okonjo E/Elms 17 who is currently in her second year of study at Duke University in the US.

Anwulika gave an informal talk about her experiences at Duke and there was a lively question and answer session throughout which Anwulika provided valuable advice to future US university applicants as well as highlighting some of the unexpected opportunities studying in the US has opened up for her.

### Using the Summer

In January girls were able to hear from a panel of speakers about using the summer productively.

The Careers Club event focused on booking valuable experiences in the workplace and featured a panel of five Benenden girls sharing details of their own experiences as well as advice from Sally Bennie, our Work Experience Coordinator.

# House Shout

Spring Term started with a bang, with the customary high energy and colourful House Shout!

Girls and staff were treated to a wide variety of approaches to the challenge of singing and performing a piece of music in parts with the girls in the lower four years tackling the task with huge enthusiasm.

Amid some stiff competition, Marshall won the prize for best production for Chained to the Rhythm and Medway took home the overall prize for the performance of We Are Young.

Well done to everyone involved.



Hemsted certainly had a lot of fun with House Shout



House Shout was a great chance for House bonding as Guldeford found



Lots of Norris enthusiasm for House Shout!



Echyngham put in an energetic performance



Medway's performance of We Are Young won the best performance prize



Marshall's performance of Chained to the Rhythm was warmly received



Marshall collect their prize for best production



Medway celebrate taking home the overall best performance prize

"House Shout was an amazing experience for me, whilst it was also my first ever one. It was really awesome and my favourite part of it was getting ready, putting on all the makeup and performing on stage. It is a really good idea because it gets all the new people joining in with the major House traditions and it made me feel like I was truly part of Hemsted."  
Alex Roskelly, Fourth

## Drama At-a-Glance

### Trinity and LAMDA Success

Congratulations to some of our students who have excelled in their LAMDA and Trinity exams in these past two terms.

Girls have achieved a total of 116 Distinctions and 22 Merits across a whole range of examinations.

This includes Zara Williams-Thomas who achieved a School record-breaking mark of 96 per cent for her Trinity Grade 7 Acting exam, one of the highest marks in the country.

Well done girls!

### Theatre Trips

In February 45 students travelled to London to see *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and the following month the GCSE and A Level Drama students attended a performance of *The 39 Steps* at The Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Well, with an ensemble cast playing over 30 roles.

### National Youth Theatre Audition Workshop

In March we held our first National Youth Theatre Audition Day when 20 candidates from Benenden were joined by students from Cranbrook School and The John Wallis Church of England Academy.

The day comprised a three-hour group workshop exploring the NYT ethos of risk-taking, focused engagement, sharing stories, working cohesively and the development of a positive group dynamic.

### A Level Drama Devised Piece

In March we enjoyed the Six One A Level piece, *The Cage Bird*, an inspiring and politically thought-provoking piece based on abortion rights and freedom of speech. Jacinta Smart and Teniola Adesanya gave a wonderful performance.

### GCSE Drama Performances

At the end of March the Upper Fifth GCSE Drama students gave outstanding performances from Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* and Olwen Wymark's *Find Me*. Using the styles of naturalism and physical theatre, their approach was highly professional and successfully tackled complex subject matter.

### Workshops

The Fourth enjoyed a Drama workshop on *The Tempest* in June, with Peter Basham from the Royal Shakespeare Company giving them many helpful and fun tips.

Meanwhile the Fifth GCSE Drama students took part in a theatre workshop in June, led by the professional theatre company, *The Paper Birds*.

# Drama

**In June the Drama Scholars put on two fantastic performances of Dennis Kelly's *DNA* – a dark and harrowing tale of a group of teenagers who try to cover up the consequences of a practical joke gone wrong.**

Parents and staff who packed the Theatre were left on the edge of their seats thanks to some scintillating performances from the Benenden girls.

In fact Elms Hm and former Drama teacher Katie Couldrey was so impressed she wrote a theatre-style review in which she said: "Benenden Drama Scholars' production of Dennis Kelly's dark adolescent drama *DNA*, directed by Head of Drama Fiona Lennon, is a show not to be missed.

"One could be forgiven for assuming that being an audience member at a theatre production in a school might mean uncomfortable seats, questionable cardboard

sets and even more questionable line learning, but if you haven't been to see youth theatre in a while you will be blown away by the standard that this talented group of teenagers have reached. Their ensemble work, using physical theatre and the well-crafted sound and lighting design, meant that this was a performance to be remembered."

Mrs Couldrey concluded: "Overall this was an incredibly mature and measured play by a talented bunch of Benenden pupils.

"If you missed out on the show this year you must keep an eye out for the Scholars' play next year; trust me you won't be disappointed that you did!"

Teniola Adesanya, as gang ringleader Phil, with Charlotte Goodall who played the talkative but insecure Leah



The cast put on a magnificent production

# Music

**Condensing what were perhaps our busiest ever musical terms into a short article is a challenge! There has been so much to enjoy and to admire, and our individual musicians have worked incredibly hard to prepare for concerts, exams, auditions and more. Director of Music, Edward Whiting, explains.**

We started the Spring Term in ebullient fashion with the House Shout, where the standard and the creativity with both vocals and overall production were simply stunning. The House Shout was one of the final events to take place in the old Hall before demolition began and, a few weeks later, the singing at the special Closing of the Doors service felt very poignant.

Beyond maintaining longstanding annual traditions, we are always keen to explore new things. Following on from October's Big Play involving all the orchestral instrumentalists, The Big Jam saw most of the School's guitarists gather in the Science Atrium to produce a fantastic ensemble version of Wonderwall.

The Symphony Orchestra were on superb form throughout the year. A cold, snowy Friday evening in early February was brought to life with Beethoven's famous 5th Symphony – a huge achievement for the girls and one they will hopefully always remember. Their attention then turned to film music, and their late April concert of Jaws, How to Train your Dragon and Harry Potter was enhanced still further by the contributions of all the other main ensembles and choirs.

The Jazz Band were kept busy through the year in preparing for The Heart of Benenden Ball in February where they delighted the guests, and in collaborating with the James Taylor Quartet.

Benenden's Chapel Choir gave two concerts in the local community, in Kilndown and Rolvenden churches, as well as embarking on an ambitious recording project in Tonbridge School Chapel. Their CD of contemporary Christmas music will be released on the Regent label in the Autumn. The Choir were also fortunate to sing in two iconic London buildings – Evensong in Westminster Abbey in April and a service in Lambeth Palace's historic Chapel in May.

The Summer Term schedule relented ever so slightly to accommodate the exam season but in June four girls travelled the short distance to take part in the Woodlands Festival just outside Hawkhurst. Imi Denby-Jones, Poppy Worlidge, Ella Cohen and Amelie Jat put on a superb 30-minute set of original songs and covers which delighted the crowd on the final afternoon of the three-day festival.

The Arts Festival and Speech Day were fitting conclusions to a memorable year. They also marked the end of Vivienne Lewis' incredible 32 years as the School Accompanist. Though we are delighted she will stay on for two days' teaching a week, current and former pupils and staff have been wholehearted in their acknowledgement of all Viv has done for Benenden's musicians. Her skill, wisdom and humour will be much missed in the department!

- A. Poppy Worlidge and Ella Cohen on stage at the Woodlands Festival
- B. Recording for our Christmas CD in March in Tonbridge Chapel
- C. The Big Jam united the School's guitarists in January
- D. The Chapel Choir in a publicity shoot for their Christmas CD, being released in the Autumn
- E. The concert of film music straddled two venues - the Theatre and the Science Atrium
- F. SOAS Silk and Bamboo Ensemble treated us to a lunchtime concert in February
- G. The Choir performed Evensong at Westminster Abbey in April
- H. Emily Dickens of Voces8 gives tips to the Lower School Chamber Choir in January





E



F



G



H



## National Children's Choir of Great Britain

During the Easter holidays Benenden sisters Annabel and Philippa Kearsy fine-tuned their singing and musicianship when they went to Shrewsbury for a National Children's Choir of Great Britain residential training course. Annabel, in the Lower Fifth, tells *The Term* about it.

The Choir's ages range from nine all the way to 19. We train in different choirs, depending on age and ability and sing for around five to six hours a day.

As well as singing, we have musicianship (composing, conducting etc), music theory and many fun activities, like swimming and sports that are not related to singing.

We receive two one-to-one singing lessons in the week. This is where we can learn about our singing techniques to help us improve on personal and general pieces.

Through our courses there, we have built great friendships with children all over Great Britain. We go on tour representing Great Britain in Poland next year and South Africa the year after.

Like here at Benenden, you stay on site and this means that you get to know your friends even more - not just in a choir environment.

We both really enjoy our time at National Children's Choir. Auditions are in London in November so if you love singing I would really recommend you give it a go.

# Ballet Show

In the Spring Term a bumper audience crammed into the Theatre to see a wonderful rendition of Cinderella for the Benenden Ballet Show. The girls danced beautifully and the costumes, staging and lighting were spectacular. Four of the participants pick out their highlights.



Pantita Kambhato was impressive in the lead role

The Ballet Show is an enchanting and provocative time of the year. It allows the rest of the School to see the effort and time that goes into the ballet here at Benenden.

The part of the Ballet Show that I loved the most was the performance - the feeling of all your hard work going into this one show, the adrenaline, and the excitement of dancing with your friends. It was also a great experience to get out of your comfort zone, especially if you're not used to performing on stage.

Although it is fun, it is also a challenging time of the year. It takes a lot of effort and time to put a show together for the School. However, it is always worthwhile when dancing with passion and performing on stage.

**Lara Forbes**  
Lower Fifth



The dancing was superb

We shed our blood, sweat and tears in rehearsals and after two months of preparation it was very rewarding to perform to students and parents what we had been working on.

The best part for me was dancing amongst friends and bonding with girls in other years which would otherwise not have been possible without the Ballet Show.

Although at times it was tough, learning all the steps and getting it all together, at the end it was a huge success and we are very grateful to our teacher Miss Wilson for putting together an incredible show.

We hope everyone who watched it thoroughly enjoyed it as much as we did.

**Pantita Kambhato**  
Six One



Cinderella was a riot of colour



The show featured dancers of all ages



The Ballet Show is always very popular

One of the most enjoyable parts of the Ballet Show is getting into character. Whether it was being a fiery Spanish dancer, a comical ugly stepsister or one of the adorable mice, I think it is safe to say everyone successfully took on their role in the show.

Additionally, some of us had a chance to involve our own choreography in the pieces. For example, in my class, we all had some time to choreograph small duets which were included in our main dance. We all had lots of fun doing this as it gave us a chance to put in some creative input.

We also had many dances that had more than one class in them, with everyone being in different years. These big group dances were also a great opportunity for us to get to know and work with younger/older years.

Both us as dancers and the audience enjoyed it and we can't wait to do it all over again next year.

**Niamh Hughes**  
Fifth

My class specifically enjoyed the opportunity we were given to choreograph our own duets within the Spanish and Chinese themed dances at the Ball.

I know that all of us really look forward to the time of year when the Ballet Show is launched and there is a great feeling when everyone comes together to put on a show that is enjoyable to perform and is of a high standard.

I am very excited to see what next year's show will bring!

**Lexi Dykes**  
Upper Fifth



## Modern Dance Show

In March a number of girls dazzled a packed Theatre with some fantastic self-devised dance routines as part of the Modern Dance Show. Fernanda Wood, Six Two, summarises the show.

The dance show this year was completely student-led and included a range of girls from Fourths to Six Twos.

Ifeoluwa Adeogun, Adesuwa Osifo, Cece Thompson, Harriet Molloy and I had so much fun choreographing the dances for Break Dance Club and we were very grateful we could perform them together with our group before our exams kicked in.

Other girls also decided to perform their pieces and there is without a doubt incredible talent within the School that we felt must be showcased!

We had a great time and hopefully it will run again next year.



The dramatic lighting enhanced the show



The Theatre was packed for the Show



Girls from all year groups were included



The dance show is one of the highlights of the year

# The Benenden Beast!

At the start of the Summer Term we had a number of very wet and muddy students and staff as some brave (or maybe foolhardy!) runners tackled the formidable Benenden Beast.

The Benenden Beast is a Tough Mudder-style event for the Fifth and above that sees participants flipping tyres, dragging logs, scrambling under camouflage netting, wading through waist-deep water in the lake and more over a 2.8km course.

At the same time, the younger years were invited to take part in a Race for Life event which had a different (and less muddy!) route.

These were both charity events, with all proceeds going to Cancer Research UK, and every runner ran the course in good humour, entering into the spirit of getting muddy, wet and tired for charity.



Crossing the finishing line together



Teamwork was vital in the swamp-like pond



Taking a breather



Clambering out of the lake wasn't as easy as it looked



Taking the easy way home after the Beast!



The point at which most participants abandoned any hope of staying clean!



Emerging from the camouflage net

# Weekend Programme

As ever, the Spring and Summer Term saw the weekends packed full of exciting activities for the girls to try out.

These have included mastering open canoeing at Bewl Water, an adrenalin-filled trip to Thorpe Park, watching the latest blockbusters at the cinema, taking part in an overnight riding camp, turning detectives for a crime-solving day, and enjoying cookery workshops, visits from a mobile zoo, go-karting and, as you can see from the photos over the next three pages, much more!

- A. The Lower Fifth at Laser Tag
- B. The Lower Fifth preparing for battle
- C. The Lower Fifts' limbo on roller skates
- D. Guinea Pigs Galore!
- E. Fourths with their finished sweet trees
- F. Petting time at the Benenden Zoo
- G. Cake Icing for the Upper Fourth
- H. Rocky's Animals entertained all year groups in May
- I. Making friends with the tortoise during Rocky's Animal visit



Upper Fifth enjoying their pizza night





Upper Fours tackle water sports at Bewl Water



The girls and horses learning new tricks at the Fifth riding camp



Getting to the finished look in a make-up workshop



The Fours at Camber Sands

The whole school Thorpe Park trip in June



Fours making the most of Camber Sands in June





Fourths scale the heights at Clip and Climb



Upper Fourths enjoying the inflatables



Fourths at the goat sanctuary



Selfie with a Goat!



Looking for clues in the Priceless Ring activity



Girls showing off their prizes after cracking the Priceless Ring challenge

# Girls' Racing Car Hits the Road

Following our previous engineering project in which girls constructed a microlight, at the beginning of September a group of Sixth Form girls, with the support of a handful of staff, began building a sports car.

This co-curricular project involved the girls building a Caterham Seven 270S, a classic lightweight sports car with an open roof and a royal blue body. Every Thursday evening, two groups split off to focus on their part in constructing the car and we are delighted to announce that the Caterham was completed during the Summer Term.

The girls kept a blog of their progress and we are pleased to publish this in celebration of the team's wonderful achievement.

**30 November 2018**

## Start of the New Project

We started off attaching the suspension, headlights and placing the engine into the hood of the car. However, this appeared to be a big challenge for us as it just did not want to fit, but with determination and help we managed (within three sessions), to successfully install it. As the engine is the heart of the car, all of us were relieved that it fitted 'perfectly'. We cannot wait until we complete the car and show it to all of you!

**10 January 2019**

**2019!**

Before Christmas some of the rear parts of the car were attached; the rear dampers (coilover shock absorber) and the radius arms. These connect the chassis to the De Dion tube, allowing circular travel. We also connected the A-Frame which connects the chassis to the centre of the De Dion tube. Some parts were more challenging to attach so we had to crawl under the car!

**17 January 2019**

## Fitting Wheels

We are continuing with the production after Christmas at full speed! We attached the wheels and assembled the expansion bottle and fitted the hood of the car. We had to drill a hole into the side of the engine very carefully to put a pop rivet for the expansion tube and cable tie to attach neatly. The expansion tube allows the engine to cool. The hoses that were fitted under the hood of the car required a lot of plumbing. We also fitted the driveshaft and a little bit of rear hub!

**24 January 2019**

## Handbrakes and Bolts

This was our last session in January. We managed to fit four wheels, alongside tightening bolts into the brake areas. We used a large spanner to tighten the bolts on the wheels and a torque wrench to ensure all wheels maintained 22Nm in each wheel nut, this attached it to the wheel hub of the car. We also fitted the handbrake.



The car is taking shape on 17 January

March 25 is a pivotal moment as the engine starts



### 7 February 2019 Car on the Ground

Despite having snow on the ground, we still managed to pursue! For some of us, it was the first time seeing the car on the ground without axle stands!

We began by attaching an exhaust to the catalytic converter, which is attached to the engine. Six people tried to do this and it was extremely tricky and complicated. Others of us attached the handbrake, side mirrors, steering wheel, headlight and the small windshield wipers. It was much smaller than most modern cars! We fitted the silencer and at the end sat in the car seat: we were surprised how comfortable they were!



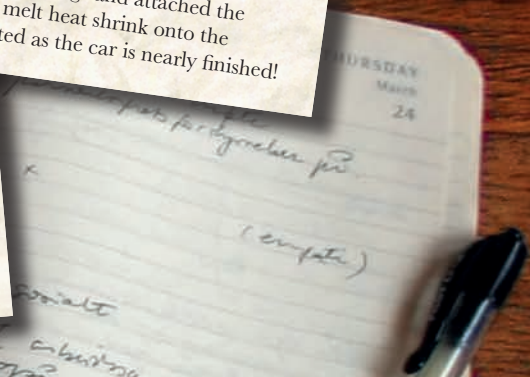
### 11 March 2019 Nearly Finished!

The week before Half Term we added the front wings and attached the battery wires. Some of us used a heat gun to melt heat shrink onto the battery wires to protect them. We are all excited as the car is nearly finished!

### April The last session

In the last session of the Caterham Car project every member of the team gathered together to celebrate the finishing of the car and listen to the engine noise for the first time. We loaded litres of petrol and waited for it to go around the engine.

After a long wait the engine made a impressive noise and we were very relieved and excited that the car was working after all the hard work!



## Since Completion

The Caterham made two public appearances – at a prospective parents' morning and at Seniors' Day – before it was unveiled to the entire Benenden community at the Arts Festival in late June, and then again on Speech Day.

In due course the car will be sold to fund the School's next project and the co-curricular team are planning what to undertake for the girls' next engineering challenge.



The girls' Caterham Seven takes centre stage at Seniors' Day in May

### Caterham Seven by numbers

- 24** girls worked on the project
- 40** estimated hours to complete
- 110 mph** top speed the car is capable of
- 500 kg** weight of the car (only slightly more than a grand piano. It would take more than 660 Caterhams to reach the weight of a Boeing 747)
- 1600 CC** Ford Sigma Engine (used in Formula Ford and Formula 1600 racing cars)

# Mountains, Abseiling, Bouldering and More!

**Over Easter the CCF ran an Adventure Training trip to Snowdonia. Fifth's Zoey Forbes and Lauren Baker tell The Term about a very active few days.**

The first day, after the six-hour car journey, we hiked up a mountain as a warm-up and to stretch our legs, then spent two hours trying to plan our route card, so we wouldn't get lost. Due to exhaustion we took much longer than we should have and ended up not even using it. However, we learned very important skills for map reading and how to create a thorough route card.

The next day we set out to Moel Hebog (783m high), the highest of three mountains. After a long day, we were treated to some ice cream in the village of Beddgelert.

The next day we went mountain biking in Ganolwyd, something that was new to us as most of us had never mountain biked before.

After a rocky, long and tiring first run of the blue track, we had lunch and Mr Imms summoned the strength within us to take a red track.

The second run was much more pleasant, despite being on a more difficult track at some points, and everyone agreed that it was more enjoyable, even with tired legs. In the evening we played rugby on the beach and had some fish and chips for dinner. We learnt to push ourselves that day and our abilities were not determined by our physical strength but our mindsets.

On the third day, we went to a Slate Museum. We learned how Welsh slate is the best slate in the world and that it has a guarantee of lasting 200 years. We were also given a slate splitting demonstration, where some of us got to split a slate ourselves.

That afternoon, we went bouldering. We learnt about different levels of rock climbing and were given the challenge to climb a 6A route. However, we decided on a 5C (ie slightly easier!) and an ice cream instead. We all found a love for bouldering.

The next day we went caving in a slate mine. Inside the mine we went on a boat across some water; we also went zip lining across another crevasse and abseiled down a cliff face within the mine. We overcame some of our fears, which reinforced mind over matter.

On our final full day in Wales, we chose to go bouldering again as we had enjoyed it so much.

Overall the most important thing we learnt was 'It's all in the mind' which became Miss Johns' favourite phrase.



Another mountain conquered



They prepare to face their first track of the day

Surveying the route ahead!

## Annual CCF Dinner

The CCF holds an annual Awards and Dinner night to present prizes and say goodbye to those who are moving on to pastures new. Fernanda Wood, who was awarded the Major Vanessa Lloyd-Davies Sword of Honour on the night, summarises the evening.

The annual CCF Mess Dinner celebrated yet another year of fantastic achievements. The John Wallis and Benenden CCF were joined by our amazing staff as well as Padre Price and the family of Vanessa Lloyd-Davies, a Benenden Senior who was a pioneering military doctor who unfortunately died in 2005.

We had a delicious three-course meal followed by the awards ceremony where we celebrated the success of our contingent. It's been a busy year but there is lots to look forward to next year and on behalf of the Leavers, good luck!



Fernanda Wood was awarded the Major Vanessa Lloyd-Davies Sword of Honour

# Girls' Leap of Faith

During May Half Term six intrepid girls, who are all part of the Benenden and John Wallis Academy Combined Cadet Force (CCF) jumped out of a plane solo from 4,000 feet to raise money for Walking With The Wounded.

Two of the girls explain in their own words a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Some happy faces tell you this was after their first jump!



Imogen Macdonald enjoys one of her jumps

The girls had clear blue skies for the weekend



Issy Wilson leaps from the plane!

None of us had ever done parachuting before and were all rather apprehensive as it was a solo jump rather than in tandem.

On the first day, there was a minimum of six hours of training where we were instructed how to control and land the parachute as well as what to do if something went wrong. The weather was very much in our favour and so over the course of the weekend we managed to do three jumps instead of just one.

We all had such a fantastic time and were very glad to be back on solid ground. We are hopefully going to do more jumps in the future, as even though our legs had turned to jelly, we all loved the experience!

**Issy Wilson**  
Six One



Before making the jump the girls had to learn to fall correctly

At the beginning of Half Term six other cadets and I went down to Netheravon Airfield in Wiltshire to complete a static line, solo parachute jump.

We spent the day learning how to use the parachute, how to land it and, most worryingly, what to do if it didn't open... So by the time we were walking on to the aeroplane for our first ever jump, I was expecting the worst and fully ready to open my reserve parachute, just assuming the first one was going to fail.

I think it's definitely safe to say I was rather scared. We all piled on to this old aeroplane and had to sit on the floor in each other's laps. We looked at our heart rates and mine had already reached 130bpm before we had even left the ground!

As we reached 4,000 feet, having seen the view, I could have easily decided that was enough and happily been returned to the safety of the ground by the aeroplane. Unfortunately as there were 12 professional skydivers in the back of the plane, waiting for their turn to jump, that would have been an embarrassing option!

So one by one we all began to jump out of the aircraft. The best part of the fall was feeling your parachute open, knowing that it was going to be okay, and then being able to enjoy the views, which were incredible and quite surreal.

Overall the whole trip was an amazing experience and I would definitely recommend it to anyone wanting to get out of their comfort zone.

**Alexandra Silk**  
Six One

Watch the video at  
[www.benenden.school/parachute](http://www.benenden.school/parachute)

# Benenden Girls Perform Strongly at MUN!

In the Spring Term Benenden girls represented the School - and different countries, of course! - at three MUN events. Head of MUN Martin Loy summarises them for The Term.

## Yale

16 January

The Yale MUN was a large US-style MUN conference, with more than 2,000 delegates, where procedure is very different to the majority of UK-based conferences we attend.

The girls represented a diverse group of countries including Ireland, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia and São Tomé and Príncipe. Girls were also scattered throughout various committees and regional bodies, including African Union (AU), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Each had two topics to debate and all worked tirelessly to ensure their country's position was adequately represented in the working papers and eventual resolutions which were formulated over the four days.

The conference was very enjoyable and extremely demanding for all involved (committees usually continued until after 11.00pm each day). Nevertheless our girls left the conference having gained huge amounts of experience and with many fabulous memories.

As well as attending the conference itself, Jade Lee was also able to participate in a special Global Leaders education programme on one of the days. On so-called 'Yale Day' we enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Yale campus and then the girls enjoyed a very long lunch in conversation with a Yale sociology professor who covered an eclectic mix of fascinating topics. We were all able to sample a wide range of New Haven cuisine, encounter most types of weather, and enjoy a huge amount of interesting experiences.

Overall, the girls did extremely well at YMUN and coped with the intense and ultra-competitive atmosphere in many of the committees. Well done to all: for speeches, caucusing and coming up with some excellent solutions and compromises. Plus, especially well done to Elizabeth Fairweather, Six One, who was named Outstanding Delegate in OPEC as the Saudi Arabia delegate.



Ayanda Hundah at Yale MUN



Girls enjoyed the surroundings of Yale



Benenden's HABS delegation

## HABSMUN

18 March

Ten Benenden MUNers travelled to Haberdasher's Askes' Boy's School for the annual HabsMUN conference. As always, some very high levels of debate permeated each committee and the girls rose to the challenge admirably.

We represented China and Bolivia across a range of committees, councils and commissions.

A number of particularly noteworthy delegates were those who had their resolutions debated in committee including Nicole Lee, Annabel Grut, Fara Bakare and Keara McKie. Many girls were also very active during General Assembly, giving several speeches and Points of Information.

Everyone who took part did very well but, in particular, congratulations to Sasha Ariff who was named as a highly commended delegate in SOCHUM 2 as China.

Plus extremely well done to Elizabeth Fairweather in the Emergency Committee on the Venezuela crisis as China who was awarded the prestigious title of Best Delegate.



Our Bolivia representatives



As ever a range of nations were represented at HABS MUN

## HABSMUN

25 March

Fourteen girls travelled to Haileybury College International Model UN conference representing Syria, Bangladesh and Peru.

Several girls had resolutions debated, including Jade Lee, as Bangladesh, in Human Rights 1. Some resolutions were 'passed' with the opportunity for them to be debated in plenary sessions, including Pantara Kambhato's resolution in Human Rights 2 and Bee McDougall's in Security Council. Other delegates were also involved in re-shaping committee resolutions through carefully worded amendments and excellent speeches.

At Closing Ceremony we were delighted to receive six awards in total. Sophie Moody-Stuart received a Highly Commended Delegate award in GA1, Disarmament and Security committee, as Syria. Highly Commended Delegate awards also went to Lily Phillips in Human Rights 1 and Bee McDougall in Security Council, both representing Peru. In addition, Outstanding Delegate awards went to two further members of the Peruvian delegation: Fara Bakare in Disarmament and Security and Oreoluwa Adeogun in Environment 1.

With so much individual success it was not surprising (though still very satisfying) that Peru received the honour of being named Highly Commended Delegation. In addition to Lily, Bee, Fara and Oreoluwa, the other two members of Peru were Pantara Kambhato and Antonia Webb.

Well done to all who attended, including those who performed extremely well in committee but just missed out at gaining award recognition.



Nicole Lee



The Benenden delegation at Haileybury

More Benenden commendations at Haileybury - Oreoluwa Adeogun, Sophie Moody-Stuart, Bee McDougall, Lily Phillips and Fara Bakare





## Arts Festival 2019

This year we moved the Festival to the penultimate weekend of the year and expanded it to incorporate an array of new events. Over the next few pages we summarise an extraordinary weekend.

# Friday

The Festival began in style on Friday with events including poetry from Theresa Lola, an art lecture, late-night comedy, the girls' songwriting competition, and workshops and a performance from a cappella group Sons of Pitches, which were incredibly well received by pupils.



B



A



C

**A.** Theresa Lola, the Young People's Laureate for London, read from her new collection of poetry **B.** Learning the fine art of a cappella music from Sons of Pitches made for an entertaining session **C.** The pupils' Arts Festival team manned the information tent for the entire weekend **D.** The Sons of Pitches' evening performance went down well with the Benenden audience! **E.** The drama *Richard Parker* told the story of two men with identical names who fell victims to cannibalism **F.** Late night comedy from Marcel Lucont in the Founders Bar **G.** The contractors building the new School Hall and Music School delivered a fascinating update on the project **H.** The first event of the Festival was an art workshop with artist Nicole Mollett **I.** Biographer Naoko Abe talked about her book on 'Cherry' Ingram, who lived in Benenden



D



E



F



G



H



I

# Saturday

The second day was a non-stop array of events. These included modern dance shows, floristry, a Music Scholars' concert, presentations by girls, art workshops and exhibitions, comedy, the Fourths' performance of *The Tempest* and an English discussion, among many others.

We were also treated to some wonderful performances from external guests, including the National Youth Ballet, Picasso's Women, night-time ghost stories and Saturday's headline act, a sublime concert from the James Taylor Quartet, brilliantly supported by the Choir and Lime Ave Jazz.



Benenden Senior Lucy Hunt starred in Picasso's Women



The ballerinas from NYB were awe-inspiring



The sketching workshop was enjoyed by artists of all ages



Head of Art Philippa Futrell was on hand to provide guests with expert insight into the girls' artwork



The Music Scholars' Concert featured the best of our musical talent from Fourth to Fifth



The monotype printing workshop taught some fascinating skills



The Upper Fourth Ballads involved the year group performing a range of well-known ballads



The Tempest always raises a laugh from the audience



Head of English Andrew Schagen and Sixth Formers share their views on literature in a panel discussion



Picasso's Women told the tale of three of the artist's lovers through monologues



The Fourths' performance of The Tempest was stunning



We held two floristry sessions in which parents and daughters created beautiful floral handbags



The LAMDA and Trinity Showcase featured an array of quality performances



The Modern Dance Show was a wonderful spectacle



Trevor Lock's Community Circle was a hilarious interactive session



The Live Lounge concert showcased the skills and songs of some of the School's talented singer-songwriters



James Taylor was very engaged with the audience in the marquee



A very appreciative audience at the James Taylor Quartet concert



The Choir enjoyed performing with the James Taylor Quartet



Michaela Balogun sang beautifully with Lime Ave Jazz



Lime Ave Jazz performed before and alongside the James Taylor Quartet



The ghost stories were so popular we had to add a second session



Celebrated chef Marcus Wareing judging the teams' creations in the Bake-Off



Ena Clarke and her dad Alastair donned fancy dress for the Bake-Off



It all starts to unravel in the Bake-Off!



The Bake-Off was a highly enjoyable family event



The Bake-Off champions 2019, Annalise Worraker with mother Stephanie

# Sunday

In the morning we held two entertaining sessions of the Great Benenden Bake-Off, kindly judged once again by renowned chef Marcus Wareing. Other events included a promenade performance of drama and music around the School site, a National Youth Theatre workshop, dog show and classic car show.

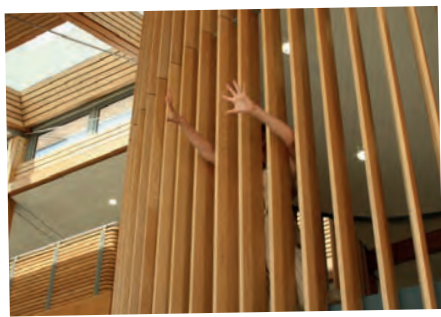
A traditional summer fete brought this memorable Festival to a fun-filled close.

There was a good crowd for the Dog Show



The National Youth Theatre Workshop offered girls hints and tips on the NYT audition process





An eye-catching stage of the Promenade Theatre in the Science Centre



Promenade Theatre in the Cloisters



The Promenade Theatre stopped at the AllWeather Pitch Pavilion



The Promenade Theatre took guests on a school tour, with girls performing in different locations



The fete rounded off the Festival



We were treated to 22 classic cars on Gulleford Green



Letting off some steam at the fete!



A family tussle on the giant inflatables

# Snow

In the final week of January girls awoke to a light covering of snow – followed two days later by a much heavier coating!

Needless to say, the girls made the most of the opportunity by sledging, building snowmen and enjoying snowball battles. It also inspired them to grab their phones and cameras and take some outstanding pictures, some of which we are pleased to share here.



**A.** Dina Power, Fourth **B.** Emilie Ellston, Sport Teacher **C.** Upper Fourths Caitlyn Brown, Phoebe Jancic, Darcey Stapleton, Jinn Ong, Yosola Femi-Osinubi and Beatrice Hickman **D.** Mia MacLeay, Lower Fifth **E.** Bea Lees, Fifth **F.** Ella Gouriet, Upper Fourth



# Benenden Celebrates Cultures Week

**Benenden's annual Cultures Week, held in February and organised entirely by girls, was another eclectic mix of dance, drama, music, food and much more. Here Zoe Barley in Six Two, who was one of the chief organisers, tells The Term all about it.**

This year's Cultures Week was filled with some of our usual events; however, we tried to brainstorm new and exciting activities that both the students and the staff would enjoy, but could also teach us something new about all the different cultures within the Benenden community.

The week kicked off with Nigerian dance classes which allowed most of the students to try something completely different from normal. This was particularly important because it was Blackout's (a Benenden dance group) final year running these workshops.

A new addition to the programme were cultural cooking classes run by Dara Shonubi which proved to be extremely popular. They made a variety of dishes from around the world including Vietnamese summer rolls, jollof rice, kale efo with prawns and rabanadas.

Every night during the week was

concluded with a film from a different country, allowing us to have a real insight into media from around the world.

On the Tuesday Benenden had its first ever Cultural Live Lounge where students were given an opportunity to play music and songs from their own cultures, allowing the rest of the student body and the staff to experience the diverse nature of music from around the world. Live Lounges are normally extremely popular anyway, but this was particularly special.

Intersoc organised a stunning food fair and cultural showcase on the Wednesday. The Café was filled with different types of food from around the world that students had brought into School themselves. There was a huge variety of food ranging from plantain and Thai prawn crackers to Chinese tea and daim. The Café was heaving with students who were eager to try the different foods and there were

many empty packets to prove it!

After the food fair came the Intersoc Showcase, organised by Ifeoluwa Adeogun and Fara Bakare, which was a collection of sketches, videos and dances from different countries. Students were introduced to what life was like in Kenya, Japan and Nigeria, treated to both Scottish and Irish dances and laughed to skits explaining aspects of Nigerian life and British culture.

To close the week we held our annual Cultural Dress Day where students and staff wore cultural dress from their country or a country they felt deeply connected to and this year there was such a wide variety of different national dress.

We would like to thank anyone who was involved in any way over the week as it definitely paid off!

**A.** A taste of Italy! **B.** Cultural Dress Day was colourful **C.** Nigerian dance classes kicked off the week **D.** As well as food there were cultural goods for sale **E.** There were a collection of national costumes on show as part of Cultures Week **F.** The Intersoc Showcase gave a taste of life in different countries across the world **G.** The Cultural Showcase included performances from different countries **H.** There was plenty of food and drink to taste in the Food Fair



# Benenden ACE Talks Inspire Students

At the end of February we held our first ever Benenden ACE Event – an evening comprising a series of talks from students and external speakers on the theme of ‘overcoming adversity’. It was organised completely by our Grey Jumpers. Here Millie Metherell, who helped organise the event, tells *The Term* about an inspiring, and moving, evening.

The evening contained a mixture of five external speakers and two student speakers. The external speakers were Victoria Milligan, Chip Somers, Joke Bakare, Theo Moss and Mimi Anderson. Skye Turnbull, Six One, and Imogen Macdonald, Six Two, were the student speakers.

Each speaker spoke on their personal experiences in overcoming challenges in their lives, covering topics such as grief, drug abuse, illness and mental health.

The event was incredibly moving whilst also being inspiring as the audience were taught messages of perseverance, determination and motivation.

**Victoria Milligan** spoke on her story of immense loss after the death of her husband and daughter in a speedboat accident in 2013. As well as dealing with her own grief, Victoria has since had to deal with becoming an amputee and supporting her three other children.

Victoria gave a message of extreme courage and determination as she pledged to continue to be the best possible parent to her three children despite her grief.

**Chip Somers** spoke on his experiences with drug and alcohol abuse. Chip shared his struggles of abuse and instability which led him to drugs soon after leaving school.

Chip was inspirational in showing how it is

possible to overcome an adversity which has been so deep-rooted for the majority of your life. What led him to change was the effect he saw it was having on his daughter and therefore we must be aware of our adversities affecting others.

Since coming clean, he has used his experience in an incredibly positive way, by helping others who are suffering from drug or alcohol addiction.

**Imogen Macdonald**, a Six Two student at Benenden, spoke on her academic, mental and sporting adversities. Having severe dyslexia, Imogen struggled with academics yet this has not prevented her from achieving anything, evidenced by the fact she now holds five university offers to top universities in the UK and scholarship places in the US.

Imogen also spoke about her extreme determination, moving from the U15D Lacrosse team to playing for Wales and her path on the GB Rowing Programme. Look out for her in the 2024 Olympics!

*“The whole evening was eye-opening - I learnt about new perspectives of life.”*

Patti Cui, Six Two



Six One Skye Turnbull spoke about body positivity



The Theatre was packed for the event

*“I really enjoyed the experience of speaking at ACE and sharing my ideas and experiences of overcoming adversities.”*

Imogen Macdonald, Six Two

# ACE



Six Two Imogen Macdonald spoke on overcoming adversity

*"A really uplifting event which inspired me to push myself in all I do."*

Florrie Barker, Six Two

*"An incredibly inspiring evening."*

Arabella Tagg, Six Two

Mimi Anderson spoke about her experiences as an ultra-runner



The girls loved the event

**Skye Turnbull**, a Six One, spoke on her struggle with body positivity, drawing on her own experiences with fluctuating weight patterns and feeling ashamed of her body.

Skye gave an incredibly important message to us all, emphasising the importance of not comparing yourself to others as we are all unique and have different weights and metabolisms; we should therefore love ourselves for who we are.

**Joke Bakare** spoke on her experiences as a businesswoman in Nigeria. Her adversities included the death of her father at a young age and the burning down of one of her biggest pharmacies.

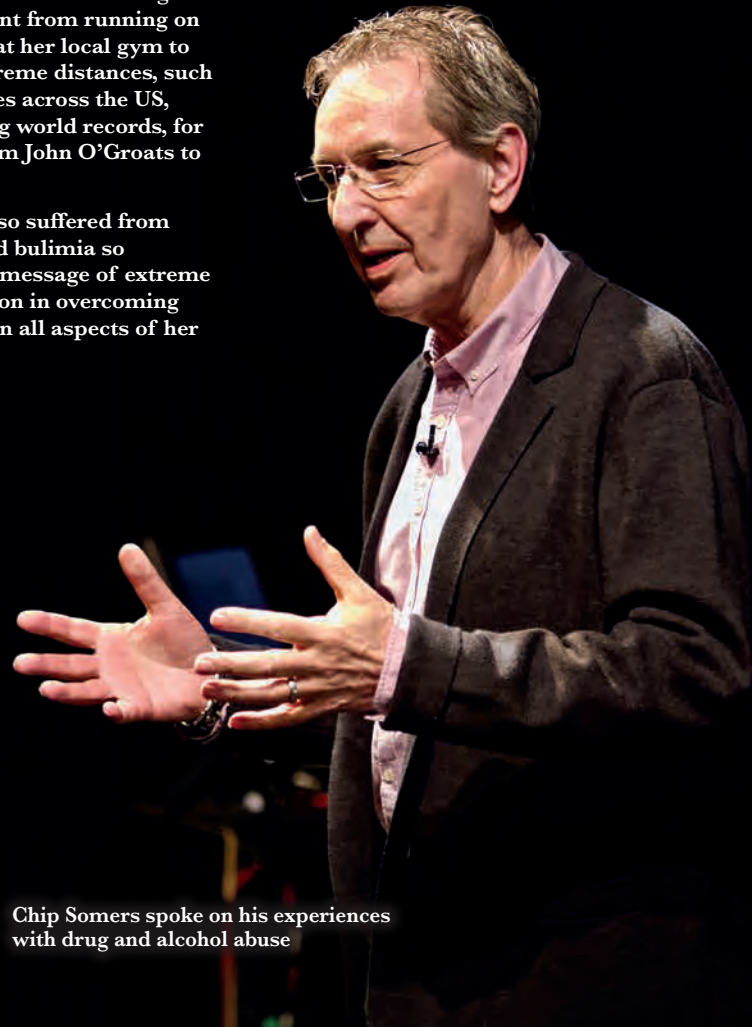
Mrs Bakare gave a powerful message of resilience – how we must persevere and strive to achieve whatever we are faced with.

**Mimi Anderson** talked about her experiences as an ultra runner. Having only started running at 36, Mimi went from running on a treadmill at her local gym to running extreme distances, such as 2,217 miles across the US, and breaking world records, for example from John O'Groats to Lands' End.

Mimi has also suffered from anorexia and bulimia so portrayed a message of extreme determination in overcoming adversities in all aspects of her life.

**Theo Moss Ma/Oaks 10**, a Benenden Senior, spoke on her experiences with lymphoma during medical school. Theo spoke about the frightening experience of diagnosis and relapsing.

Theo emphasised the importance of family and friends in supporting you throughout your hardest experiences, as well as finding new hobbies such as fresh water swimming.



Chip Somers spoke on his experiences with drug and alcohol abuse



The Benenden ACE Talks proved very popular

*"It showed me the power of self-motivation and how, whatever we face in life, we can get over it."*

Freddie Flintoff, Six Two



# Mental Health Awareness Week

Six Ones Eliza Antelme and Kitty Thomson outline the activities they coordinated at School for this year's Mental Health Awareness Week.

For this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, the official theme was body image. This is something very important as everyone can struggle with it regardless of age, gender, race, ability, religion or anything else. How you view your body directly links to your mental health so we wanted to use that week to encourage staff and students to improve the way they view their body. We wanted to spread awareness of struggles that others may have as well. We emphasised that everyone has mental health and we all need to look after ourselves. In order to try to achieve this we put up posters around School with encouraging messages and inspiring art. In addition, we sent out daily emails to both staff and students with tips, videos and information.

Many of the emails focused on body image. Our first video demonstrated how your appearance has nothing to do with your ability or your worth. Your appearance is not what defines you as a person and people will remember what you did, said and made them feel – not what you look like. Our second video emphasised the importance of being kind to yourself. We encouraged everyone to talk to your body as if you were talking to your best friend's body. Since you wouldn't say bad things to your best friend or anyone else why would you say it to yourself? This applies to everything we think about ourselves, not just our body image. So, we tried to encourage people to talk positively and focus on the things they do love about themselves and the amazing things your body does for you every single day.

Another of our emails focused on inclusivity and representation in the media. Viewing one's body positively is something particularly hard to do living in our present society due to the pressure to fit into narrow and deluded beauty stereotypes. For a long time, those who don't fit into this stereotype were not represented in the

media at all or were purely included for what makes them different rather than their beauty. For example, many people who are disabled are only shown in the media because of their disability rather than their beauty. This is very difficult as it leaves people finding it hard to feel accepted in society, proud of who they are and have role models to look up to. Since 70 per cent of women do not feel represented in the media this leaves a lot of people struggling. Therefore, we wanted to raise awareness of the issue and encourage everyone to promote inclusivity and admiration for all bodies.

One of our emails focused on men's struggles with body image and mental health as unfortunately most of the body positivity movement is focused around women, even though men also suffer from the societal pressure to look like the 'perfect man'. We wanted to encourage everyone to break the stereotype that men are weak if they speak about their emotions. This stereotype is untrue and hugely unhelpful. Everyone can help change this by encouraging men to open up and support them when they do. We wanted to encourage everyone to open up – not man up. We advertised a BBC film on men's mental health by Prince William which was being released on the Sunday of Mental Health Awareness Week. This was a great example of influential men opening up about their emotions on national television.

We also advertised another initiative set up by Prince William and other young Royals called Shout. We wanted to give everyone some advice on how to get help for themselves or get help for someone they are worried about. Shout is a great new text service for mental health – the first in the UK. It is open 24 hours a day. As texting is private and silent it opens up a whole new way to find help. It is free, instant and provides trustworthy advice. It enables people

to turn from crisis to calm and find longer term support too. We encouraged everyone to text anything, no matter how big or small a problem may seem as it is easier to deal with the issue earlier on. The number is 85258.

We wanted to emphasise that everyone has mental health just like physical health which we all need to look after and be kind to ourselves. We came up with 21 ideas of very simple small things people could do to boost their mood. It included things like: write a list of things which make you smile, have a bubble bath, go for a sunset walk, make a new playlist, doodle or message someone you haven't in months. Doing small challenges like this does have a positive effect on your mental health. We sent an email telling people about Chessie King, an inspiring person who focuses on mental health and body image. We were very lucky to have her come and speak at Benenden last term. Social media can make struggles with body image and mental health harder yet there is no way our society can completely banish it – that is simply not realistic. Therefore, Chessie decided to try to turn social media into a positive platform rather than a negative one by getting rid of the idea that everything you put on social media must be perfect. Instead she helps people feel empowered and positive regarding their body and their mind. She has also created amazing prints which have inspiring messages and reminders about mental health and body image. These would be great to put up around your house to give you daily positive boosts.

We hope that the Mental Health Awareness Week has given people some ideas of what we can do to help the way we view our bodies and help our general mental health, while also spreading awareness of good mental health and its importance.

# Muck-Up Day

One of the traditions during Summer Term is Muck-Up Day – when the Six Two students take control of the School for a day before they leave. Caitlin Gluckstein, one of our School Captains, summarises the day.

This year, the Six Two decided to transform Benenden into the wizarding world of Harry Potter, with its very own ministry of magic, (not so) Great Hall and Azkaban prison. Dementors and students alike flocked the halls but came together for the world record attempt at lunch that involved laying more than 3,300 cookies in one continuous line (see page 3).



The staff were good sports in the sponge throwing



Millie Metherell and Freddie Flintoff enjoy Muck-Up Day

After enjoying the Leavers' Video and a day of mischief, the students were treated to an afternoon fete with a bouncy castle, barbecue and charity sponge throw at (willing) teachers.

The Six Two then enjoyed their Leaving Dinner, which included a rather nostalgic photo display, and brought a close to a truly magical day.



The custard pie themed Twister was great fun!



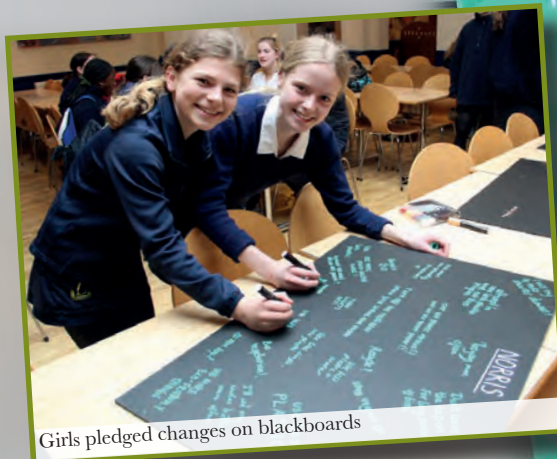
Sorry we have no idea who these girls are!



Benenden was awash with Harry Potter characters on Muck-Up Day  
L to R Alicia Markutza, Hannah Bluck, Gabrielle Lung, Rosa Morris and Annika Trobman

# Benenden Holds First Earth Day

Towards the end of the Spring Term Benenden held its inaugural Earth Day, an event arranged entirely by students. Here Six Two Isabel Radford, one of the main organisers, tells The Term about the day and what inspired it.



Girls pledged changes on blackboards

There has been a growing interest across the world as climate change and human impacts on the environment continue to increase.

It is evident from the recent climate marches, sparked by 13-year-old Greta Thunberg about whom Mrs Price spoke in Prayers, that young people are beginning to understand just how big the scale of climate change is.

I thought it was important to bring such a prominent issue to the Benenden bubble, not only to raise awareness but to also inform the girls about what the future holds for the younger generation. Therefore, Benenden Earth Day came into creation; a day to celebrate the natural world and consider how we as individuals as well as a school can change our everyday actions to help the planet.

We pledged these changes on blackboards which will be hung around School to remind ourselves of the promises we made to be more eco-friendly. These included taking shorter showers, reducing meat consumption and buying from second-hand clothes shops. We also enjoyed sustainable meals for lunch and dinner that had considerably lower carbon footprints.

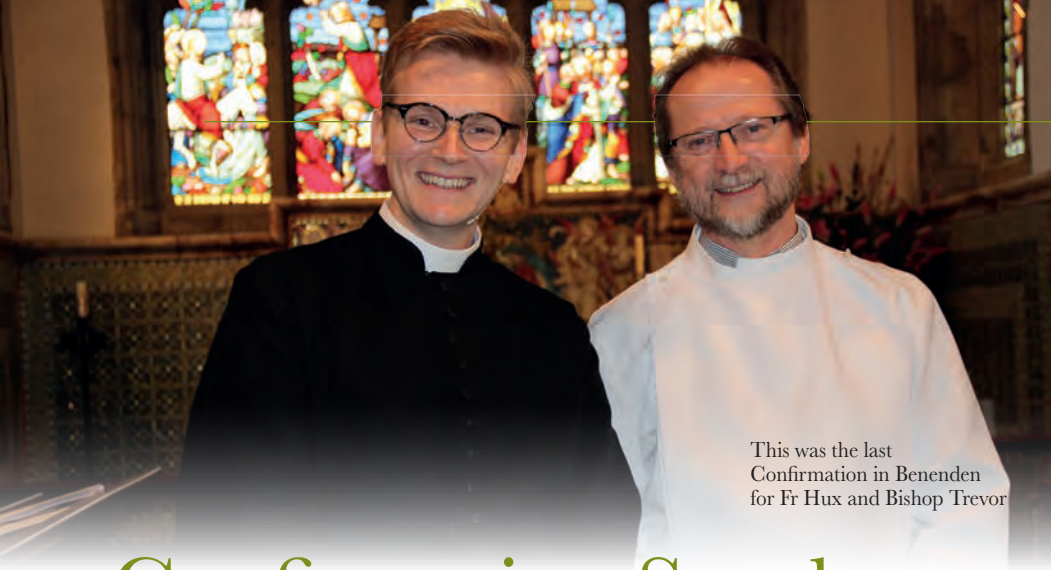
In the evening, the Eco-Committee were honoured to host four incredible guest speakers from conservation and environmental backgrounds for a panel discussion answering questions such as 'What would you say to a climate change denier?' and 'How are we going to deal with the escalating water crisis in the coming years?'. We were joined by Damian Fleming, the Director for Conservation Programmes at WWF-UK, Emily Broughton who founded online platform Saving the Grace, Campaign against Climate Change Chair Suzanne Jeffery and Benenden Senior Tasha Evans G/Elms 15 who is studying Zoology Honours within a Biological Sciences Degree.

Overall, the whole day was particularly successful and I'm happy to say Benenden has had its first ever Earth Day!



Organisers Isabel Radford (left) and Laura Smith (centre) with external speakers (from left) Damian Fleming, Tasha Evans, Emily Broughton and Suzanne Jeffery





This was the last Confirmation in Benenden for Fr Hux and Bishop Trevor

# Confirmation Sunday

**In March 34 girls gathered in St George's Church in Benenden with their families, Godparents and supporters for Confirmation Sunday.**

The day started with glorious sunshine, but even the heavens opening at the end couldn't put a dampener on a wonderful day!

It was an emotional service for many reasons – Bishop Trevor presided for the last time before his retirement and it was also Fr Hux's final Confirmation Service at Benenden. He said: "The girls never fail to move and inspire me with their depth of faith and insight into life's important questions and this year's candidates were no exception. The world will be a better place because of them."

Our warmest congratulations to this year's confirmands!

*"It was a really nice day, getting together with all of my family."*

**Phoebe Human, Fifth**

*"It was a beautiful and enjoyable experience and one that I will remember for the rest of my life."*

**Kitty Bedford, Fifth**

*"It was such a beautiful service and I am so happy that I did it, I enjoyed every minute of it."*

**Georgie Davies-Gilbert, Fifth**

*"It was a really great day, I had fun."*

**Maddie Spence, Fifth**



Confirmation Sunday brings together all generations



The rain held off long enough for group photos outside the church

## Welcome to... The Pupil Forum!

**Isabel Radford**



**The relaunched Pupil Forum has been met with a lot of enthusiasm from students. Here Isabel Radford, who helped set up the Forum with Caitlin Gluckstein, tells The Term how it works and the kind of issues it tackles.**

The Pupil Forum has become a large part of the student body and we believe it is important in helping to improve various parts of the school.

Caitlin Gluckstein and I gather information and ideas from each layer, from each House, before collating and discussing them with the Pupil Forum representatives. They have all volunteered to be a spokesperson for their year group.

We split the topics of discussion in two:

- Education and Community – this focuses on the academic side
- Boarding Life and Wellbeing – this focuses on the pastoral side

The Pupil Forum meetings are particularly helpful as Caitlin and I can hear first-hand where issues and concerns may be throughout the School.

Although these meetings currently occur once a term, we hope this will be upped to every half-term to better ensure we cover everything we can.

We also decided to have a main topic during the discussions. The most recent was maintaining the happiness and wellbeing of the students, keeping Pupil Forum more detailed and focussed on one area of the school.

Caitlin and I then relay the information back to SMT, with whom we discuss any ideas and a report is then made back to the whole school during Prayers explaining what will be done with regards to what they have raised.

So far the Pupil Forum has worked very well, and Caitlin and I are really glad to be able to give the student body a voice!



As ever there were plenty of smiles



# School Officials

Mrs Price with the 2018-2019 Grey Jumpers

Head Girl ..... Freddie Flintoff  
 Captains of School ..... Caitlin Gluckstein and Isabel Radford  
 Academic Mentors ..... Ifeoluwa Adeogun and Ella Cantlay  
 Arts ..... Arabella Tagg  
 Equality and Diversity... Zoe Barley and Anjolaoluwa Odunsi  
 E Safety & Communications ..... Adesuw Osifo  
 Guiding ..... Olivia Hart and Imogen Stainton  
 Outreach and Academy Liaison..... Ella Woolhouse  
 Pupil Support – Anti-bullying ..... Florrie Barker  
 Pupil Support – Lower School..... Millie Sucharitul  
 Pupil Support – Wellbeing..... Ella Thornton  
 Sports..... Olivia Bullman

## Heads of House

Echyngnam Head ..... Millie Metherell  
 Echyngnam Deputy ..... Imogen Macdonald  
 Guldeford Head ..... Rose Bennie  
 Guldeford Deputy ..... Mia Cassiède  
 Hemsted Head..... Fernanda Wood  
 Hemsted Deputy..... Alicia Markutza  
 Marshall Head..... Mimi Nation-Dixon  
 Marshall Deputy..... Lara Santis  
 Medway Head..... Ainslie Murdoch  
 Medway Deputy..... Abbi Willetts  
 Norris Head ..... Trinity Hooper  
 Norris Deputy ..... Laura Smith

## School Sacristans

Echyngnam ..... Marianne Balogun  
 Guldeford..... Tilly Robertson and Tati Martin  
 Hemsted ..... Poppy Goslett and Lily Locke  
 Marshall..... Christina Lahiri and Cheryl Kwan  
 Medway..... Ella Allfrey and Lucy Main  
 Norris..... Tiffany Ayankogbe and Clemmie Simpkin

School Librarians ..... Sasha Ariff and Lily Phillips

## Other leavers

Over the page we say goodbye to our Six Two students. Here, we say farewell to those Upper Fifts who are leaving us at the end of this year.

Tosia Tokarczyk  
 Lucy Nicholson  
 Scarlett Adey-Harding  
 Amber Herwegh Vonk  
 Imi Denby-Jones  
 Ellie Ogilvie  
 Cynthia Chen  
 Emma Horiguchi

# New Pupils

## The girls who joined us in 2018/19

### Fourth

Beatrice Addyman	Katie Bradley
Esme Balinska	Alexandra Broad
Sophie Blake	Alicia Cheng
Alice Campbell Lambert	Emily Clements
Maggie Cassidy	Lara Dawson
Ena Clarke	Rosie Dymock
Lara Croucher	Daisy Evenett
Lottie Cunliff	Josie Fernau
Hester Darwall	Claudia Ferrey
Martha Dutton	Alice Goodall
Lara Gibbs	Alice Halblander-Smyth
Serena Grant	Felicity Harrison
Olivia Hall	Lily Hill
Lillibet Harding	Tierney James
Izzy Hasson	Poppy Kelsey
Scarlett Hindmarch	Eloise King
Alisha Hsu	Anabelle Kirby
Ella Jankovich-Besan	Charlotte Lai
Philippa Kearsley	Joyce Lam
Scarlett Kilpatrick	Germaine Lau
Sophia Kirkwood	Amanda Lee
Hanna Kwok	Honor Longmore
Olivia Latimer	Amelia Lowis
Amelia Lyle	Ella Mackel
Daisy Merton	Mia MacLeay
Victoire Mons	Scarlett Mansfield
Ellie Montagu	Maja Marten
Avril O'Leary	Ruby McLellan
Paula Pallares	Katharine Miller
Atifah Pampam	Amelie Moffatt
Alice Pearce	Phoebe Moffatt
Maddie Porter	Gabriella Price
Dina Power	Tiffany Robson
Cosi Remers	Naomi Saran
Alex Roskelly	Daisy Smither
Ursula Rowe	Zene Sunthornsarathun
Audrey Shen	Lauren Tso
Amelia Simpson	Grace Wainford
Abbie Smith	Lucy Weir
Elizabeth Smith	Victoria Williams
Zaza Sunthornsarathun	Verity Woodward
Gea Tassan Din	Alice Wormington
Tilly Taylor	Ella Yam
Clemmie Thomas	Mary Zhang
Allegra Tucker	
Jessie Wareing	
Annalise Worraker	

### Upper Fourth

Nicola Tsang
Victoria Tsang
Sarah Witheridge

### Lower Fifth

Aliya Adebawale
Jessie Al Sabah
Andrea Arnesen
Jamie Barbour
Isabella Barclay
Molly Barry
Charlize Bates-Prew
Luisa Blat Serra

### Fifth

Bea Lees
Candy Zhang

### Six One

Kemi Bower
Yasmine Chiu
Sophie Cook
Yun Kim
Hetty Lawrence
Jade Lee
Anna Ni
Summy Tai
Beatrice Tam
Tami Tinubu
Emily Wong

### Scholarships Awarded in 2019

We are delighted to announce the award and acceptance of the following Scholarships.

### Academic

#### 11+

Audrey Bao  
(YKPAO School, China) The Gillian DuCharme Academic Scholarship

Annabel Behrens  
(Eaton House The Manor) The Harry Salmon Academic Scholarship

Eliza Denning  
(Falkner House) The David Harmsworth Academic Scholarship

#### 13+

Emma Chua  
(Diocesan Girls) The Ellen Winsor Academic Scholarship

Octavia Dawson  
(Salisbury Cathedral School) The Debra Price Academic Scholarship

Jeong Lee  
(Milbourne Lodge) The Lawrence Academic Scholarship

Nicole Vaktskjold-Palm  
(Harroddian) The Sir Hugh Collum Academic Scholarship

#### 14+

Kara Dimond  
(Sevenoaks) The Robin Dalton Holmes Academic Scholarship

### All-Round

Poppy Falcon  
(Wellesley House) A Complete Education All-Round Scholarship

Tilly Dymock  
(Heath Mount) A Complete Education All-Round Scholarship

### Drama

Artemis Grant  
(St Andrew's Prep) The Sheldon Drama Scholarship

Freya Hollaway  
(Benenden) The Sheldon Drama Scholarship

Amelia Roberts  
(Benenden) The Sheldon Drama Scholarship

### Music

Hettie Simpkin  
(Blackheath High) The Cynthia Gee Music Scholarship

### Art

Tilly Dymock  
(Heath Mount) The Rosemary Langton Art & Design Scholarship

Beatrice Hickman  
(Benenden) The Michael Coates Art & Design Scholarship

Imogen Kidd  
(Broomwood Hall) The Nash Art & Design Scholarship

Hailey McNally  
(More House School) The Bird Art & Design Scholarship

### Design and Technology

Louisa Lesslar  
(Marlborough Coll, Malaysia) The Candy Changyavongse Design & Technology Scholarship

### Sports

#### 11+

Maia Balogun  
(Amesbury School) Benenden Diploma Sports Scholarship

Georgina Millett  
(Hilden Grange Prep) Benenden Diploma Sports Scholarship

#### 13+

Isabella Blades  
(Brambletye) The Rachel Close-Smith Sports Scholarship

# Farewell!

The 94 Six Two students we said goodbye to on Speech Day. We wish them all well in their chosen careers and welcome them as our newest Benenden Seniors.



Zoe Barley



Ella Bedford



Rose Bennie



Esme Bertelsen



Hannah Bluck



Tilly Bott



India Boulton



Ruby Bowe



Lettie Boys-Stones



Rhea Buffini



Olivia Bullman



Sophie Butt



Ella Cantlay



Mia Cassiede



Sasha Chua



Jess Costain



Patti Cui



Emily Davis



Lara Davis



Mimi Elvin



Bea Fair



Freddie Flintoff



Natasha Fok



Madeleine Foster



Claudia Fricker



Adelaide Frieze



Issy Frost



Jack Gay



Caitlin Gluckstein



Heloise Gougeon



Lexi Hardee



Olivia Hart



Tilly Hastilow



Megan Hicks



Alexandra Higham



Martha Hoare



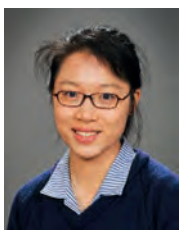
Trinity Hooper



Georgia Hope



Isabella Ingham



Moomin Jia



Issy Johnson



Matilda Johnston



Ifeoluwa Adeogun



Temilola Akinrele



Kitty Allinson



Florrie Barker



Pantita Kambhato



Eliza Kelsey



Sophie Kirkland



Araminta Knight



Sofia Laycock



Gabrielle Lung



Imogen Macdonald



Flora MacKinnon



Alicia Markutza



Jesse McNab



Millie Metherell



Harriet Molloy



Rosa Morris



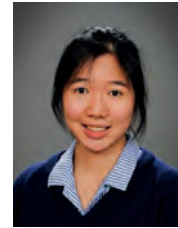
Ainslie Murdoch



Mimi Nation-Dixon



Amy Ng



Tiffany Ng



Molly Nunn



Georgina O'Brien



Anjolaoluwa Odunsi



Adesuwa Osifo



Iona O'Sullivan



Ese Otubu



Morwenna Pilkington



Flo Plant



Beatrice Powell



Isabel Radford



Lara Rawson



Claire Rhea



Mattie Rowlands



Lara Santis



Georgie Sells



Alexandra Silk



Laura Smith



Christabell Sodeinde



Imogen Stainton



Millie Sucharitkul



Arabella Tagg



Cecilia Thompson



Ella Thornton



Amira Tinubu



Annika Trobman



Blythe Tucker



Heather Turner



Jade White-Thomson



Abbi Willetts



Fernanda Wood



Ella Woolhouse

# Staff Farewells

## Paul Chapman (53 years)

### *Carpenter*

In April 1966 Paul started at Benenden as an apprentice carpenter; at that time his father also worked for the School. Paul moved on to the site in 1977 after his wedding to Sally who also works at Benenden. They then moved into 1 Lime Avenue in 1989, where they were the only occupants until 2019. Paul has enjoyed his time at the School and has some very fond memories.

In 53 years Paul has seen many changes at Benenden as well as the thousands of faces passing through. He will miss the buzz and atmosphere when the girls are in residence and the many varying jobs he has done over the years. One regular job he was glad to see end of was the constant stream of broken wooden chairs he used to have to repair!

Paul will be missed by many, as will his knowledge of the history of the site. He is looking forward to his joint retirement with his wife Sally and being able to rest and enjoy their retired life together.

**By Fred Davies**



## Viv Lewis (32 years)

### *Teacher of Piano*

It is hard to imagine a Benenden Music Department without the skill, imagination, professionalism and humour of Vivienne Lewis. For 32 years Viv has guided countless young musicians through concert performances and music exams with the perfect combination of challenge and reassurance. The quivering wreck can suddenly find her nerves have been calmed after a rehearsal, and the most capable music scholar who hasn't quite mastered a particular passage knows she will be found out!

Viv manages to tread that perfect, so often unattainable, path of putting pupils at ease whilst always encouraging them and enabling them to improve. The fact that this traverses every age, every kind of personality, every level of musician and every conceivable instrument makes her success at Benenden all the more remarkable. The Friday lunchtime audience will often marvel at the effortless way in which she moves from the virtuosity of the Brahms Violin Sonata to the swing of a Broadway musical, with much more in between. Her sight-reading and sensitivity in accompaniment are second to none and rather than panic at the sight of her schedule, she relishes the busiest of exam periods.

Viv is hugely respected as a piano and cello teacher, as a coach for the Symphony Orchestra, and as a wise and supportive colleague. We are delighted she will continue to do some individual teaching, but wish her every happiness as she retires from the full-time role she has held with such distinction.

**By Edward Whiting**



## Sally Chapman (30 years)

### *Catering Assistant*

Sally started at Benenden in September 1985, working two evenings a week in the Dining Room and being paid cash in hand! She even got a Christmas bonus that year.

She became a permanent member of staff in June 1989 and went to work as part of the Housekeeping team in Beeches – even running a creche in the common room during the summer breaks.

Sally and Paul used to live in Beech House which is opposite the back gate but in 1989 they moved to Number 1 Lime Avenue where they lived until earlier this year.

In 1999 she moved to work in the Catering department, first making salads housed in what is now the cleaning store, then to making sandwiches in the current rubbish store.

She then moved in to working in the Dining Room and that's where she stayed.

Highpoints for Sally have been the camaraderie and constant laughter that she has shared with her peer group and the students. She loved talking to the girls and seeing them develop from nervous young girls to confident young women and she told me she would really miss them.

We will miss Sally greatly but would like to say a big thanks for all her hard work and commitment to the School and wish her well in her retirement along with Paul.

**By Sue Franklin**



## Nigel Dowrick (25 years)

### *Head of Physics*

Nigel joined us in 1994 as a Teacher of Physics, becoming Head of Department in 1998. Nigel is renowned as a man of amazing intelligence, the epitome of polymathy: it is not just Physics where his knowledge is breathtaking, but a myriad of subjects. He has been a superb Sixth Form Tutor and mentor for older girls making a competitive university entry.

His asides in staff meetings are legendary, as are the assemblies he has given on topics as esoteric as the future, and his calculator collection, about which he talks with real passion. Who knew 550 teenage girls could be transfixed by a talk about the history of the calculator, and give the speaker a resounding round of applause!

Nigel is definitely someone you would want on your quiz team but he wears his intellect lightly and is humble and kind, never boastful. His absolute refusal to acknowledge that anyone might find Physics less than fascinating has seen many an under-confident girl through her GCSEs to achieve grades higher than she ever would have expected, and more importantly leaving her with an understanding of, and respect for, the universe around her.

Nigel will be missed for many things, among them his kindness, sense of fairness and ability to solve a crossword puzzle in the staffroom, and we wish him all the best as he leaves with his partner Wendy, the Physics Technician, to start a new life in the West Country.

**By Lesley Tyler**



## Wendy Grosvenor (25 years)

### *Physics Technician*

Wendy joined us in 1994 as our Physics Technician and has worked as part of a very talented four-strong technician team (which includes her own sister, Sue Harris!).

Wendy is hugely imaginative, having a strong instinct for how to make Science fun and engaging for teenage girls. She loves tinkering with things, seeing how they work, and her technical skills in her role have been exceptional; she is a great role model for young female scientists. She recently built a 3D printer straight out of the box, and has personally made some of the equipment we use in the Science department, such as lamp holders.

She is a kind, honest and resilient woman, whom you can trust with anything, and does not in any way fit a stereotype of a Science technician: with her DM boots and the colour of her spiky hair regularly changing, she cuts a stylish dash as she sets up experiments in the labs and workroom. Her expertise and advice were an important part of the development of the Science Centre, so she leaves a lasting legacy. She takes away from Benenden more than most as she leaves with her partner Dr Dowrick, our retiring Head of Physics, and faces the challenge of finding a house big enough to house his calculator collection!

By Lesley Tyler



## Ann Wickens (22 years)

### *Visiting Teacher of Drama*

The Drama building will certainly be a quieter place without Ann Wickens in it; no more shrieks of laughter, amid discussions of immense importance (mainly involving the rude plotlines of Versailles) and stories rattled off at 100 miles an hour! No more open-mouthed admiration at yet another astonishing outfit – there is currently a competition for ownership of her pink fluffy coat!

'Colourful' is the word that the department used most when asked to sum up Annie – with 'supportive' coming a very close second. Throughout her 22 years at Benenden, Ann has been an incredibly supportive colleague to all of us: whether holding us together in difficult times, helping with the LAMDA entries or bringing in chocolates and homemade cakes during exams, she always puts us first, along with her students, for whom she consistently goes the extra mile.

Unerringly cheerful, Ann is nothing short of a wonder of the world! She has such energy - running in the early hours and then coming into work – is always full of fun and a real pleasure to be around. She will be an enormous loss.

By Debbie Caron



## Gail Thomson (19 years)

### *Teacher of Mathematics*

Formerly an Art and Design Technology teacher, Gail subsequently read for a Science degree and taught Mathematics for several years before joining the staff at Benenden. She was made Coordinator of Lower School Mathematics (Fourth and Upper Fourth) and she has contributed greatly to raising the standard in these year groups. Her teaching has not been confined to the lower years, however; she has taught all ages up to and including Six One and many have benefitted from her experience and her kindness and interest in all her students.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Gail has produced many teaching resources, beautifully designed and colourful, and her artistic skills have also been greatly appreciated in the sphere of calligraphy; she has scripted all the UK Maths Challenge certificates over the years.

She will be greatly missed and our warmest wishes go with her as she retires after 19 years at Benenden.

By Susan Gough



## Amanda Pissarro (18 years)

### *PA to the Deputy Head – Boarding and Pastoral Care*

Amanda Pissarro has been at Benenden for 18 years. She began working in the School Office and quickly established herself as the skilled leader of that department. In her care, systems were finely honed, and Amanda always went the extra mile. Organising travel for many years, Amanda was well known as a saint, dealing with the many and frequently last-minute requests for travel changes. She checked travel changes in holidays, at weekends and in the evenings, to ensure that no one got missed and she offered a wonderfully caring approach to the girls.

More recently Amanda has been PA to two deputy heads. As PA to the Deputy Head Boarding and Pastoral for the last two years, she adapted to the change of brief encompassing the administration of safeguarding, boarding and pastoral systems and paperwork. Amanda is a true professional who has served the Benenden community with dedication. In particular, my heartfelt thanks go to her for helping me through the last two years.

By Alison Steven



## Susan Bosher (15 years)

### *Educational Visits Co-ordinator, Head of PSHE and Teacher of Geography*

Susan joined Benenden in September 2004 as the Housemistress of Norris, teacher of Geography and the Head of Department for PSHE. After stepping down as the Norris Hm in August 2006, Susan continued to support the pastoral development of the girls in Norris, becoming their DHm for another seven years. Susan's nine years of pastoral service to Norris undoubtedly had a positive effect on the girls over this period.

After finishing in House, Susan continued to teach and started to work on the School's Outdoor Activities programme, utilising her experience and passion for outdoor learning and development. In 2013 Susan took on the role as the School's Educational Visits Coordinator and over the six years Susan held this role, she trained, advised and supported the staff, ensuring that all educational visits were safe, effective and fun for all those attending.

We would like to thank Susan for her 15 years' dedicated service to Benenden and wish her good luck for the future.

By Neal George



## Graham Flisher (14 years)

### *Plumber/Heating Engineer*

Having worked in industry, Graham arrived at Benenden School 14 years ago as the Plumbing and Heating Engineer in the Estates Department. Has very good memories of the School and has really enjoyed working here for such a long time.

When he first arrived the School was in the process of building the Theatre, which was a major development at that time. He has seen the demise of the Jubilee building and the Stable Block, in preparation for the Science Centre.

Graham has enjoyed the challenges in certain areas of the site due to its age and diversity. He has still not been into every room on site even though he spends his day travelling around all the buildings. Graham will be missed by the Estates Department for his friendly banter and site knowledge along with his years of experience on the tools.

**By Fred Davies**



## The Rev Craig Huxley (12 years)

### *Chaplain and Teacher of Religious Studies*

It is hard to believe Craig joined Benenden, pre-ordination, as a Teacher of Religious Studies and he leaves us as an ordained Anglican minister, our much-loved School Chaplain and most recently as Father Huxley-Jones after his recent marriage to Sarah.

Dynamic, energetic, fun, caring and sincere, with a very deep faith, Craig, has through all that he represents, created a space where girls, staff and parents alike can explore what faith means to them at different levels. The girls have looked forward to his Prayers, embraced Sunday evening services, signed up for Confirmation and more broadly regarded 'Father Hux' as someone to whom they can turn for support or simply have a hot chocolate and a laugh with. It is rare that Craig will stand up and deliver a sermon without stirring the Congregation to much laughter before delivering a poignant, memorable message.

We can't of course let Craig leave without some reference to his love of 'dressing up' in beautifully embroidered clerical attire, pomp and ceremony, plenty of bowing, as well as smells and bells. He is indeed a Reverend of the High Church (with the personal touch)! On a serious note, Craig has indeed been a Chaplain at the very heart of our community. He will be enormously missed but we wish him all the very best with his new challenge supporting the pupils and staff at Christ's Hospital and who knows, we may well hear of Bishop Huxley-Jones in the future!

**By Samantha Price**



## Mick Mahon (11 years)

### *Teacher of Chemistry*

Mick has been at Benenden for 11 years although it seems like only yesterday that I was reading through his CV and noticed with great delight that amongst his PhD and many other academic and personal talents he excelled at Ceroc dancing. Which probably got him appointed.

Mick has been an integral part of the department during his time here. He is a fantastic teacher with an amazing depth of chemical knowledge, who plans his lessons with incredible precision and both Simon Heron and I have learnt so much from working with him.

My abiding memory of Mick will be the first lecture in the newly opened Weston Lecture Theatre. During this lecture, entitled Fire and Flames he was demonstrating the explosive nature of custard powder. The resultant reaction produced a mushroom cloud of flames that rolled across the ceiling of the lecture theatre!

We are really going to miss Mick. He is a wonderful raconteur and has kept us constantly entertained with many stories of his life as catalyst salesman, his all-weekend dancing parties or life and death mountaineering exploits, and more recently tales from the allotment or his latest adventures in his camper van.

I want to wish him every happiness for his retirement and hopefully he will return to visit us with more tales to tell.

**By Ollie Hunter**



## Janice Smith (11 years)

### *LASS Shop Manager*

Janice was the School's shop manager for ten-and-a-half years before retiring in January 2019. She was an absolute asset to the School, working tirelessly to ensure parents and pupils received the very best level of care and service when they entered LASS or had any communication with the team in the School shop.

During Janice's time at Benenden she oversaw the migration of a new stock control system and new till point system that was not without its challenges. However, she approached the changes with professionalism and dedication to ensure the systems operated as smoothly as possible.

Janice oversaw the uniform fittings for more than 1,000 Benenden pupils throughout her Benenden career, each one being delivered with the utmost care and attention to detail. Nothing was too much trouble for Janice when it came to ensuring the customer was always satisfied. She will be greatly missed.

**By Claire Anders**



## Margaret Barnett (9 years)

### *Day Matron*

Margaret joined Benenden in 2010, first working as a Relief Matron, then moving into Hemsted as the Evening Matron in 2013. Whilst in Hemsted she also joined the Weekend Programme where we were able to make use of her wonderful cookery skills. Two years later, Margaret joined Limes and Oaks as their Day Matron. Her positivity and proactive manner coupled with her determination and a sense of fun has resulted in Houses which are organised fun to be in. She helped formulate systems to make the running of the House more streamlined and she has created wellbeing and activity corners to help pupils' mental wellbeing.

Margaret also has an impact on the staff team with whom she worked. She drove her fellow matrons into baking for Macmillan and Alzheimer's charity mornings, her input into the Founders Kitchen was much appreciated and there are numerous other aspects of House life which have benefited from her light touch. In short, Margaret has made a significant difference to Limes and Oaks; the staff and pupils will miss her and wish her the very best in her new role as an Hm at St Leonard's Mayfield.

By Alison Steven



## Carly Farrant (8 years)

### *Assistant Receptionist*

Carly started at Benenden in 2011 as Assistant Receptionist, joining the School Office team of Jill Dowdell and Amanda Pissarro. She was able to offer much-needed help in the increasingly busy team and quickly became known to the students as the lady to speak to about a parcel delivery!

She has also worked as an Escort on the coach travelling to and from Wimbledon on many Fixed Exeats and Half Terms. During her time in School Office, Carly has also helped to organise many coaches for school trips as well as overseeing the booking of our minibuses every week. Carly is moving on to join the office team at Sutton Valence Prep School and we wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

By Fran Clent



## Alexandra Hillier (7 years)

### *Visiting Teacher of Italian*

Alex took over the Italian programme in 2012. She has proven herself to be a kind, caring and creative teacher. She has been well-known for her enthusiasm for the language, her infectious generosity and her dedication to her pupils. Whether it was bringing in miniature furniture to help pupils better understand prepositions and locations or staying late to ensure that a pupil managed to understand a tricky reading passage, Alex has dedicated so much time and care to her pupils. They often comment on her warmth and compassion, as well as on her effective teaching strategies and her overwhelming knowledge of her subject.

Yet, Alex has not limited her time and attention to her pupils. A cherished member of the Modern Languages Department, she has always given of her experience and her time to help others settle in, particularly our language assistants, who generally come from overseas and who find life in England a confoundingly foreign experience. These days, Alex dedicates a large portion of her time to caring for and teaching young refugees.

Alex does all of this as if it were the most natural set of activities in the world. We will miss her indeed.

By Ann Befroy



And thank you to our Weekend Programme organisers: l-r Katie Tyler, Alice Startup and Natalie Clarke

## Selected Other Leavers

Catriona Hughes (6 years)  
Head of Biology

Diane Miller (5 years)  
LASS Shop Assistant

Alexandra Roberts (5 years)  
Hm Hemsted and Teacher of English

Mario Baez-Torres (2 years)  
Spanish Assistant

Elizabeth Corry (2 years)  
Library Assistant, Visiting Teacher of French

Kate Birmingham (2 years)  
Purchase Accounts Administrator

Julie Christie (1 year)  
Assistant Exams Officer

Bethan Hopkins (1 year)  
Saturday House Assistant

Harriet Hopkins (1 year)  
Visiting Teacher of Double Bass

# “I will miss being part of something that is really, really good”

The end of term was tinged with much sadness as we bade farewell to Alison Steven, our Deputy Head – Boarding and Pastoral Care, after 25 years’ service to Benenden.

Millie and Lara interviewing Miss Steven

Miss Steven joined us in September 1994 as Housemistress in Medway and a teacher of English. She subsequently took on the roles of Senior Housemistress, Head of Boarding and Assistant Head before being appointed to her most recent position in 2017.

Six Two pupils Millie Metherell and Lara Rawson spoke to Miss Steven about her memories of the School, her love of the boarding environment and her plans for the future.

## Can you remember your first day here at Benenden?

I can remember my first day of term, I can remember moving in during the holidays before that, but when I moved in they were busy refurbishing Medway.

I was moving into a flat in Medway and they decided that summer to change all the doors in Medway, so I arrived and all the doors had gone. I had a deckchair in my sitting room as I didn’t have any furniture and no doors on the flat!

Then my first day: we used to have a tea party on the lawn between Medway and Marshall and the room you had to walk through was my sitting room. I went through and there were two French windows so I opened these doors and I dislocated my shoulder. I was lying on the floor thinking ‘Oh that really hurt’ and it just went ‘click’ back in and I thought ‘I can cope with this and I’ll stand up and just get on with it’: it was a bit of a mess really!

## What has been your favourite role?

I think Housemistress is the most satisfying role because you are living there and watching you (the pupils) grow up. So you see that transformation, that little 11-year-old and then you see that 18-year-old and you can see that sometimes you were a part of it, and you might have gone another way, or you might have gone that way or that way, and every now and then you think ‘I had some influence there and I am really pleased with where you are’.

## What do you like about the boarding environment at Benenden?

I like the fact that it belongs to you (pupils) and not to staff. I think most schools belong to staff and pupils come into school, but because it is boarding you live here and teachers are coming to you. So you have much more investment in it, much more say-so about it.

It means as staff we have to think more carefully because it is your second home and therefore it needs to work for you in a way a day school doesn’t need to work so much for its pupils. So that is what makes it fun actually, that we live with you during the day and weekends as well.

## What will you miss the most about Benenden?

I will miss the food obviously! Benenden’s an exciting organisation to work for: number one it is beautiful, number two in terms of schools you pupils are as good as it gets in the world of schools, you are fun to be with, you work hard, you want to do well, you get involved in all sorts of things.

I don’t think it is possible to have a better group of students, so I will miss being part of something that is really, really good and that everybody looks to and thinks ‘that is a good school, how can we be like that?’ So it is kind of an elite organisation in those terms.

## Reflecting on your time at Benenden, what changes have we been through?

Lots actually. Twenty-five years ago people were much less worried about their exam results. I think the change has come about because universities have put the grades up, because more people want to go, which has meant that you are under much more pressure.

There wasn’t so much on offer; we didn’t have a Weekend Programme at all, it was matches and then you had to look after yourself on Saturday nights and Sundays, and of course, when people look after themselves they are sometimes very inventive and they are sometimes a bit naughty.

You have got more on offer to you and more to do, and more pressure and more work. Your lives are really different now.

Also the School is a much tidier place with better facilities. When I came they had metal beds, like you see in army barracks. We had these wardrobes in Medway where you had three hooks, so you could have three coat hangers. Nobody had desks, people worked here and there – wherever they wanted! And we had this wonderful thing called Silent Hour which was Prep, except you didn’t have to be there so you could have this silent House with nobody in it.

One of the first things I tried to do was introduce compulsory Prep. That was my fault I am afraid!



**Do you think it is a good thing there is more pressure on us now to do well?**

I don't think pressure is good, but I think you excel more and you throw yourselves into more. So I think you get a much broader experience of school life. You have been able to develop, as people, in a way that they couldn't because they had a completely different experience.

**How did you get involved in the pastoral side of things?**

I worked in a summer school once abroad and it was a lot of fun, and when it came to bedtime everyone would say 'I am not putting them to bed' and I'd say 'I am!'. It was quite a lot of fun. I like that whole walking around the dormitories chatting to people finding out about their lives, seeing how they are, so that was the bit I liked and that is what kept me going with this.

**What do you have planned for your retirement?**

I want to do a little bit of travelling. I want to spend some more time abroad, but my parents are getting older and we need to do their holidays before we do mine, so that is number one! And beyond that I am not really sure, I think I need to get bored and then I will do something. I haven't been bored for years and years so I think it is time to just get bored for a little while and then decide what is next!

**What advice would you give your replacement?**

Well we have two coming in actually! I would say to them listen to you (the pupils) because sometimes you can come into a school and try and organise things and sort systems out, but in the end schools are about people rather than systems and the more pupils you know the easier it is to find out what they think about things and therefore what is best to do in the School.

You have to work out what are the issues, what works well, what doesn't work well. Make sure you (the pupils) have your voice, listen to you first, get to know you.

# New Staff

## Meet the new faces in the Common Room

**Anne Wakefield**  
**Deputy Head - Boarding and Pastoral Care**

I went to boarding school from the age of 11 and found that I absolutely loved the boarding way of life. After completing my degree, the opportunity arose to return to my secondary school, Queenswood School, to work in the Music Department.



Having not given a career in teaching a thought until this point, I decided to complete my teacher training whilst working at Queenswood and then following this, became a Housemistress and then Deputy Head Pastoral. I spent 14 years working at Queenswood before joining Benenden in April this year to shadow Miss Steven for a term before I take up the post of Deputy Head - Boarding and Pastoral Care in September. I am thrilled to have been given this opportunity and am already really enjoying life at Benenden.

**Fiona Lennon**  
**Director of Drama**

I trained at The Central School of Speech and Drama and went on to do my MA at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and Kings College London. I've been Head of Drama in both the state and independent sector including at The Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells. Alongside my teaching I am the lead mentor for Drama at Kent and Medway teacher training.



I have always been passionate about Theatre and the role of Drama in education. I arrived at Benenden in January this year and have had a fantastic few months with the girls, finding them to be innovative, dynamic and incredibly hard-working.

## Selected Other Starters

**Kay Barnes**  
**Counsellor**

**Christopher Brady-Foster**  
**Chef de Partie**

**Christy Briley**  
**School Shop Administrator/Sales Assistant**

**Alex Caldon**  
**Visiting Teacher of Trumpet**

**Angela Goodchild**  
**Learning Support Assistant**

**Craig Hayward**  
**Chef de Partie**

**Lara Lawman**  
**Drama Intern**

**Clinton Lawson**  
**Site Team Lead**

**Beverley Mortley**  
**Sunday Evening Founders Matron**

**Laura Mullan**  
**Visiting EAL Support Tutor**

**Caroline Raw**  
**Saturday House Assistant**

**Sarah Reader**  
**Purchase and Accounts Administrator**

**Tiffany Spurling-Harrold**  
**PA to Director of Finance and Operations**

**Abigail Woollett**  
**Saturday House Assistant**



# Leavers' Ball

The end of the Summer Term signalled the end of their time at Benenden for the Six Two. This involved an emotional farewell at the Leavers' Ball at the Hurlingham Club in Fulham.

Parents, guests and staff joined the girls for an evening of dancing, food, friendship and the occasional glass of wine!

Arriving at the Hurlingham in lovely sunshine, there was a drinks reception and a three-course meal before the DJ started the music and soon the dancefloor was full of parents, girls and their guests.

The event at the Hurlingham ended at midnight, but that didn't stop the girls grabbing their Leaver's gift bag then heading off to Central London to continue partying and celebrating their time together at Benenden.



It was an emotional evening for all



Lexi Hardee, Sasha Chua and Madeleine Foster



Millie Sucharitkul, Olivia Bullman and Cecilia Thompson



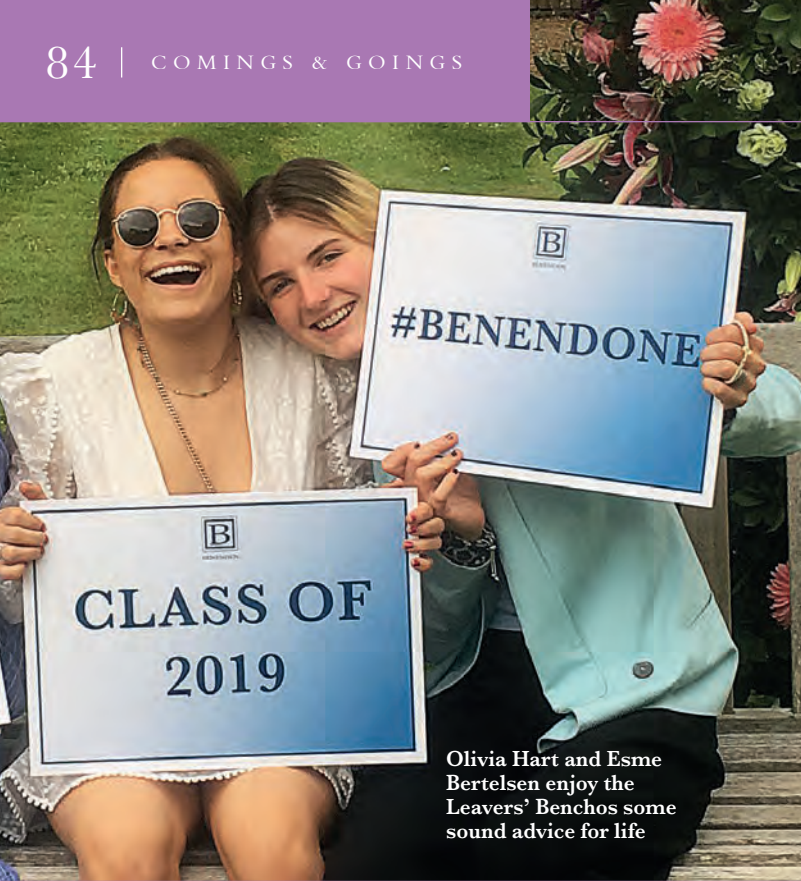
Smile for the camera



Zoe Barley, Tilly Hastilow, Molly Nunn, Issy Frost, Patti Cui and Moomin Jia

# Speech Day 2019





Olivia Hart and Esme Bertelsen enjoy the Leavers' Benchos some sound advice for life



Chairman of Governing Council Anna Birkett presented the prizes



The Benenden Bottoms team share details of their Enterprise Challenge



The Six Twos enjoying their final day at Benenden

# Speech Day 2019

Speech Day provided a wonderful celebration of the pupils' achievements across the year.

The Chairman of Governing Council, Anna Birkett, opened this year's occasion by discussing the full inspection of Benenden by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

She said: "Their conclusion – that Benenden is an 'excellent' school – was just what a Chairman hopes to hear but what struck me in particular was the extent to which the inspectors had been able to get under the skin of the School in the just two and a half days they were here.

"In their feedback they reflected back to us a great deal of the culture which make Benenden so distinctive – its cheerful sense of purpose.

"Initially I was surprised at how well they had grasped it but then I realised that I shouldn't be because we can all feel it and we live it while we're here, whatever our roles within the School. It is for many of us a key reason for being a part of the School."

Mrs Birkett referred to the economic and political challenges which all independent schools are facing, and against that backdrop said she was "delighted" that work was underway on the new School Hall and Music School.

She paid tribute to two Governors, Jonathan Strong and Simon Smart, who have stepped down after more than 30 years' collective service, and welcomed Margaret McDonald-Kelly to the Governing Council. She thanked Mrs Price and all the staff for their "unstinting commitment", before addressing her

concluding remarks to the Six Two pupils, saying: "It is the end of the beginning and I hope you each feel you take much with you from your time at Benenden."

Mrs Price then delivered her speech, in which she urged every girl to change the lives of ten people before referencing some of the life advice of Admiral William McRaven from his speech to the graduating class of 2014 at the University of Texas, based on his experience as a Navy SEAL when he was in his early twenties.

These include making your bed, because a sense of order helps you achieve your goals, and the importance of teamwork. She said: "We all know that as an individual, you simply can't be the best at everything. When working together as a team – another of Admiral McRaven's points – where you draw on the different strengths of each individual, it is simply amazing what can be achieved. Building a Caterham 7 racing car. Winning the Fifties' Product Day challenge. Reaching the U16 National Netball finals, singing in Notre-Dame or Lambeth Palace, performing in DNA, LAMDA duologues or the Arts Festival, and many, many other examples of exemplary teamwork displayed throughout the year here at Benenden."

To laughter from the audience, she offered another piece of McRaven's advice: "If you want to truly succeed you mustn't be frightened to fail. I do it all the time - though I'm careful who I tell..."

Six Two Leavers step through the Floral Arch, Amira Tinubu and Lara Rawson



Samantha Price offers the leaving Six Twos some sound advice for life



Some of the Choir were singing with Benenden for the final time on Speech Day

Admiral McRaven says that if you want to succeed and change the world sometimes you have to slide down the obstacle head-first, at which point Mrs Price paused to show a video of the six Sixth Formers who recently performed solo parachute jumps.

Urging the girls to be their very best in the darkest moment, Mrs Price said: "This year's ACE talks – and I was delighted that the girls chose to brand this event 'A Complete Education' – illustrated this in spades as both Benenden girls and three external speakers inspired a packed theatre with their stories of overcoming adversity.

"In a similar vein, the parent of a former Benenden girl contacted me recently to speak about a personal tragedy her daughter has very sadly experienced. What she really wanted me to know was that at the very moment that this girl's mother was speaking to me, she was so grateful that her daughter was upstairs in her bedroom...surrounded by her friends from Benenden who had convened from all parts of the country within 24 hours to be there to support her.

"This act of incredible kindness should not be underestimated and girls, the friends you have made here really will be with you and supporting you throughout your lives."

To illustrate McRaven's next point, to start singing when you're up to your neck in mud, Mrs Price showed some pictures of Benenden girls at the Lacrosse Nationals, where the weather was

atrocious but the girls kept their spirits up by singing and dancing.

She then invited the Benenden Bottoms team to the stage to talk about the importance of imagination and innovation, before delivering the final piece of McRaven's advice: don't ever give up.

Mrs Price said: "It doesn't have to be remarkable feats of endurance or overcoming significant academic struggles. It can also be the smaller things: the new girls who may have suffered with homesickness but now think of the School as a second home. The girl terrified of public speaking who delivers a wonderful Diploma presentation, and we can think of many more examples.

"However, being able to recognise when something isn't right for you also takes strength and courage but most importantly, if you do decide to take a different track, see this as a strength and never quit on yourself!"

Mrs Price concluded by formally announcing the completion of the £5million Heart of Benenden campaign, before playing the now-traditional montage of picture highlights from the year.

She then handed over to Alison Steven, Deputy Head - Boarding and Pastoral Care, who, on the occasion of her retirement, announced the prizewinners before the Head Girl's speech. After lunch guests enjoyed the Speech Day concert, held in the Science Quad, before afternoon tea, ice creams and, in a new addition, a Leavers' Bench where the departing Six Twos could mark their final day at Benenden.

# Head Girl's Speech

An edited version of the Speech by the Head Girl, Freddie Flintoff, on Speech Day.

2,496 days ago half of the class of 2019 rolled up the Benenden drive, 47 innocent 11-year olds dressed in their finest Holister and Jack Wills garms completely unaware of the lessons they were about to learn and the stories about to unfold.

Benenden prides itself on being an all-girls boarding school in the depths of rural Kent. Just think about that for a minute: no boys and no escape. But it does take more than that to hold a Benenden girl back.

By Lower Fifth, one girl made the brave decision to break out. Plotting for weeks with her layer, she finally came up with a masterplan. Codewords at the ready for the Hm's questioning, the runaway - dressed in all black, a hoodie and a backpack - snuck out through the woods to get her taxi to freedom. Well, to Surrey. Although it was short-lived, as a few hours later the code words had been rumbled and the story was unfolding to matrons.

You'd think we'd learn, but no. Alex, Macdo, GOB and Bea had to test again the Secure Procedure Benenden has in place for knowing where we all are. Signing out as 'going to Macdo's house', they caught the train to Barcombe to watch fireworks and stay in a tent - in October! We all know Macdo is hardcore but seriously, who camps in October? There must have been other incentives. Even a clash with the Feds couldn't stop our heroes, but a matron had overheard the masterplan and all it took was a phone call from Mrs Granatt and their desperate dash for freedom was doomed.

Sometimes, the stars align to create something quite spectacular. Take the class of 9Y 2014. This special bunch led to, in Mr Hop's own words, "my hair loss, weight gain and a general loss of good looks" and drove Mrs Smith into early retirement within a year and she still suffers from PTSD. But why was this class so unique? Firstly, Liv Hart, we love you, but an average of 37 questions a lesson about completely irrelevant topics causes severe irritation. By the end of the year, every single teacher was delighted to see the back of us.

So life at Benenden, just like life everywhere, is not always smooth sailing. We Six Twos have, like all of you will, experienced many tricky situations and failures, but my dear friends sitting in front of me today have risen above these and are shining examples of what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

For those of you who don't know her, Macdo is our nickname for Imogen Macdonald. She is a true inspiration to us all, with an outstanding list of achievements, preceded by many, many poor decisions. Every Saturday, Macdo would rock up to detention, facing a new essay each week. One of my favourites was titled 'What will the future hold and what will you do in it?' The anticipated answer was along the lines of climate change or technology taking over the world, but Macdo, ever honest, wrote, "I will still be writing this essay, then I will start a new paragraph, then I will stand up, hand it in, go back to House, then make my bed and go to lessons." Bingo! She'd earned her 33rd detention.

What Benenden teaches us is, despite foolish decisions, knock-backs and failures, we will still become fabulous, strong, independent women. In our time, we've built a plane and a car, put on student-led dance shows, set up Intersoc, a celebration of the diverse cultures here. We have sports, music and drama representatives at the highest national level and girls going to top



Head Girl Freddie Flintoff gave the closing speech

universities

around the world. We started the Benenden ACE programme, inspiring us all to overcome life's adversities. But above and beyond all these achievements, we are a group of truly close friends. Although in the future we may not see each other for months, or even years, we will always have a close bond. I can say from the bottom of my heart, you all have something incredibly special and wherever you go and whatever you do, I am incredibly proud to say this is our year, a group of down-to-earth, strong, individual and truly kind women who really will set the world on fire.

To those we leave behind, if I have any advice for you, it is firstly to live in the moment and seize the time you have before it's gone. Secondly, when things go wrong, and I promise you they will, hold your head up high. Because the highest-achieving girls are not those with the fewest failures, but those who accept their mistakes, deal with the consequences in true Benenden style and come out the other side stronger.

Cricket at Benenden came too late for me to live up to my name. Just as well, because I am hopeless at it. As I leave and pass the bat to Issy Wilson, I wish her the very best of luck. To Izzy and Caitlin, my two lovely captains, you have been incredible and I really couldn't have done it without you. To the wonderful class of 2019, it's the end of our innings - and those seriously bad twinnings. Beyond the boundary, a whole world of opportunity awaits. But, whatever happens out there, whether you're knocked for six, or caught out by life, just remember, each and every one of you is my Woman of the Match.



Head Girl Freddie Flintoff gave the closing speech

# Prizewinners, As Announced on Speech Day

## Fourth

Martha Dutton (Geography,  
Philosophy and Religion)  
Lara Gibbs (Music)  
Olivia Hall (English)  
Izzy Hasson (History)  
Alisha Hsu (French)  
Philippa Kearsy (Drama)  
Amelia Lyle (Computing)  
Paula Pallarés (Mandarin)  
Maddie Porter (DT)  
Dina Power (Art, Latin,  
Mathematics)  
Audrey Shen (Science)  
Annalise Worraker (Spanish)

## Upper Fourth

Annabel Airey (History)  
Caitlyn Brown (Drama)  
Yosola Femi-Osinubi (Latin)  
Beatrice Hickman (Geography)  
Jinn Ong (DT)  
Jessica Penny (Mandarin)  
Olivia Pughe (Philosophy and  
Religion)  
Thea Simpkin (Science)  
Milly Smith (English, Spanish)  
Effic Tomazos (French)  
Nicola Tsang (Music)  
Sarah Witheridge (Art, Computing,  
Mathematics)

## Lower Fifth

Aliya Adebowale (Latin)  
Jamie Barbour (Chemistry,  
Geography)  
Rosie Behrens (Greek)  
Sophia Cauter (Mandarin)

Caitlin Chiu (English, Mathematics)  
Rosie Dymock (Art, French)  
Tabitha Graham (Computing)  
Honor Longmore (Drama)  
Amelia Lowis (DT)  
Mia MacLeay (Music)  
Scarlett Mansfield (Biology, History,  
Physics, Spanish)  
Katharine Miller (Philosophy and  
Religion)  
Constance Strafford (Classics)

## Fifth

Marianne Balogun (French, Spanish)  
Kitty Bedford (Drama)  
Imogen Cleary (Music)  
Florence Gibbons (History)  
Honor Gibbs (Biology, Greek)  
Megan Harman (DT)  
Milly Hollaway (Art)  
Emily Kerr (Chemistry)  
Alex Mayall (Mandarin)  
Sophie Moody-Stuart (English)  
Clemmie Simpkin (Philosophy and  
Religion)  
Eliza Stevenson-Hamilton  
(Computing, Geography)  
Parc Ki Tse (Mathematics, Physics  
and the Vanessa Lloyd-Davies  
Science Award)  
Lavinia Webb (Latin)

## Upper Fifth

Sophia Chau (Biology)  
Lexie Dykes (German)  
Kate Gouriet (Chemistry)  
Mallory Greenberg (DT)  
Annabelle Grut (Latin)  
Saiesha Gupta (Physics)  
Amber Herwegh Vonk (English,  
Mathematics)  
Amelie Jat (Greek)  
Hazel Lockey (French)  
Lucy Main (PE)  
Rachael Mak (Music)  
Bee McDougall (Art)  
Jessica Platts (History, Spanish)  
Imogen Trill (Computing)  
Zara Webb (Geography, Philosophy  
and Religion)

## Six One

Teniola Adesanya (English Language/  
Literature)  
Anna Chan (Mandarin)  
Sophie Cook (Geography)  
Izzy Gibbs (Philosophy and Religion,  
Psychology)  
Manon Hughes (History of Art)  
Natalie Lam (English Literature)  
Jade Lee (Further Mathematics)  
Grace Mankelow (Art)  
Minna Moody-Stuart (Chemistry,  
Economics)  
Lily Phillips (Physics)  
Jacinta Smart (Theatre Studies)  
Clara Smith (Biology)  
Sophie Southall (Music)  
Beatrice Tam (Politics)

Farida Tinubu (Spanish)  
Kitty Thomson (French, Latin)  
Chloe Tung (German, History)  
Antonia Webb (Greek)  
Emily Wong (Mathematics)

## Six Two

Florrie Barker (Chemistry, Spanish)  
Hannah Bluck (DT)  
Tilly Bott (History of Art)  
Bea Fair (Further Mathematics)  
Caitlin Gluckstein (Latin)  
Lexi Hardee (English Literature)  
Olivia Hart (English Language/  
Literature)  
Trinity Hooper (Economics)  
Sophie Kirkland (Psychology)  
Araminta Knight (Theatre Studies)  
Millie Metherell (Politics)  
Rosa Morris (Business)  
Anjolaoluwa Odunsi (Physics)  
Adesuwa Osifo (Computing)  
Lara Rawson (Philosophy and  
Religion)  
Alexandra Silk (PE)  
Laura Smith (Mathematics)  
Ella Thornton (French)  
Heather Turner (Biology)  
Jade White-Thomson (Geography)

The Micklethwaite Art Prize  
The Arabella McDonald Figurine for  
Character Acting  
The Mavis Leapman Cup for Drama  
The Design and Technology Cup  
The Jessamy James Essay Prize  
The Elizabeth Hilliard Award  
The Cameron Prize for Mathematics  
The Jowitt Prize for Languages  
The Southern Shelley History Prize  
The Chandler Humanities Prize  
The Montgomery Award for Junior Music  
The Smith Cup for Senior Music  
The Baker Prize for Music  
The Dr Peter Lewis Science Prize  
The Grootenhuis Science Award  
The Lloyd-Davies Science Prize  
The Lower School Sport Cup  
The Middle School Sport Cup  
The Laura Maurice Victrix Ludorum Cup  
The Pearson Cup  
The Major Vanessa Lloyd-Davies Sword  
of Honour

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Sophie Butt  
Esme Forster

Leia Baig  
Charlotte Roberts  
Harriet Molloy  
Esme Bertelsen  
Bea Fair  
Arabella Tagg  
Lara Davis  
Flora MacKinnon  
Caitlin Chiu  
Arabella Tagg  
Freddie Flintoff  
Annalise Worraker  
Millie Sucharitkul  
Bea Fair  
Amelie Elliott  
Florrie Rodgers  
Olivia Bullman  
Sophie Butt  
Fernanda Wood

Heather Turner

The Driver Cup  
The Prakash Shield  
The Pippa Nevard Cup  
The Greenfield Community Cup

## The Devereux Prizes

The Lily Devereux Prize  
The Wong Wong Lo Fong Prize

The Kitching Babalakin Prize  
The Cherry Environmental Prize  
The Goolden Prize  
The Bateman Performance Arts Award  
The Harry Salmon Cup for Enterprise – Benenden Bottoms

Julia Nabavi  
Ailis Osobase  
Ophelia Sheppard  
Clara Smith  
Kitty Thomson  
Antonia Webb  
Issy Wilson  
Poppy Worlidge

Jamie Barbour  
Honor Gibbs  
Imogen Trill  
Millie Metherell

Molly Stapleton  
Mira Reichenbach

Ayanda Hundah  
Laura Smith  
Izzy Selby  
Lexie Dykes

## The Fuller Prize



Caitlin Gluckstein

## The Sacha and Susannah Stephen Award



Imogen Macdonald

# Mission Complete: The Heart of Benenden Campaign

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Benenden community, we are delighted to announce that we have reached our £5million fundraising target for the new School Hall and Music School.

The Heart of Benenden campaign – the flagship investment of the School’s Centenary Vision – was the most ambitious in Benenden’s history but this has not prevented our enormously supportive parents, Seniors and friends from helping us to reach our target.

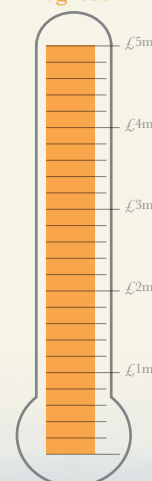
Headmistress Samantha Price said: “We are overjoyed to be in a position where we can close this campaign and we

simply cannot thank our supporters enough. The success of The Heart of Benenden campaign is down to the generosity of this wonderful Benenden community and every single donation has made a considerable difference.

“The new Hall and Music School will benefit the whole school community for generations to come. Now that the fundraising is complete we can focus on delivering what will be a phenomenal facility.”

On the opposite page we celebrate some of the recent events which helped us to reach this remarkable fundraising target.

Campaign Progress

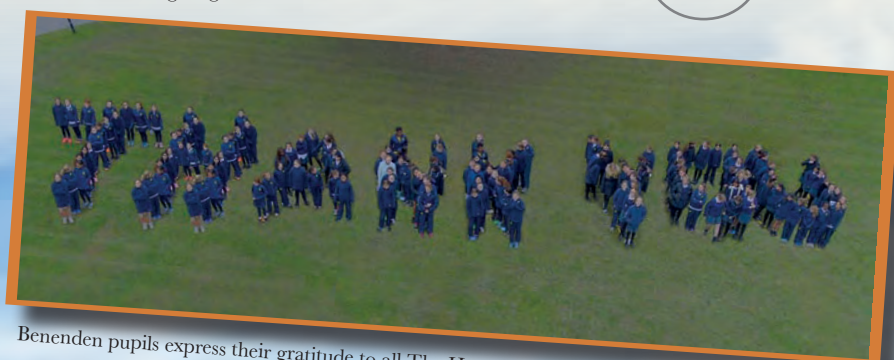


**Kyle Johnson,  
Director of  
Development,  
said:**



“I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everybody who has contributed to the success of The Heart of Benenden campaign. Since joining Benenden in the Summer of 2017 I have been humbled by the generosity of so many members of our community who have enthusiastically continued Benenden’s long tradition of philanthropy. The past two years have seen everybody – pupils, parents, staff, volunteers, Seniors and former parents – step up in support of the most transformative building project in Benenden’s history.

“It has certainly been a remarkable campaign, from the highs of our House of Lords and Lambeth Palace events, to the low of our unfortunate experience at The Savoy in February; however, Benenden’s irrepressible sense of community has been with us throughout, providing limitless enthusiasm, energy, belief, ideas and ultimately the valued funding needed to make The Heart of Benenden vision a reality. Thank you to everybody who has been involved. Your support has changed lives for the better.”



Benenden pupils express their gratitude to all The Heart of Benenden campaign donors



Artist's impression of the new development from the Rose Garden

## Recent Activity

In March we were delighted to welcome over 300 guests to The Savoy for The Heart of Benenden Ball. The evening was superbly organised by members of the Parents' Events Committee led by Co-Chairs Fiona Bruce-Smythe and Annalisa Webb. The event was supported by all areas of the Benenden community from auction lot donations to decoration and music sponsorship. String ensembles and the Lime Ave Jazz band thrilled guests with their performances, and bidding on the silent auction was competitive.

Unfortunately, just as the live auction was getting underway a section of the ceiling of the Ballroom collapsed. Thankfully, no one was injured but we were left with no option but to cut short the evening. We are tremendously grateful to everyone who supported the event and the reopening of the online auction which went some way to mitigating the loss of anticipated income.

We are extremely grateful to parents and members of our Development Board who have generously hosted intimate dinners for guests with a particular interest in supporting the campaign.

During May Half Term, senior Benenden staff visited Hong Kong and Thailand for a series of relationship-building events.

In the same month, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal, a special evening of celebration was held at Lambeth Palace, the official London residence and workplace of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was a stunning evening, with guests first enjoying choral evensong in Lambeth Palace Chapel, sung beautifully by Benenden pupils and Father Hux. HRH then met with a small number of parents and Seniors whose particularly generous Lead Donations to Benenden's Heart of Benenden campaign have been pivotal in enabling us to commence work on our spectacular new School Hall and Music School.

During dinner, guests heard from Development Board Chairman Julian Metherell and Mrs Price, who thanked guests for the extraordinary contributions they have made.

HRH then spoke about her memories of the School Hall and her hope that the new Hall will continue to capture the imagination of each and every pupil.

The School looks forward to inviting all Heart of Benenden campaign donors to future campaign celebrations and thereafter, of course, the incredibly exciting official opening celebration of the School Hall and Music School we expect to take place in the winter of 2020/21.



HRH The Princess Royal reminisces about her time at Benenden



The tables looked beautiful at the Ball in February



Headmistress Samantha Price speaking at The Heart of Benenden Ball



Lime Ave Jazz perform at the Ball



HRH The Princess Royal meets Anna Birkett, Chairman of Governing Council



HRH The Princess Royal chats with Benenden musicians at Lambeth Palace

# Bursaries

**Benenden is committed to providing academically gifted girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to benefit from a Benenden education.**

We are therefore proud to offer full or partial bursaries to talented girls whose parents would not otherwise be able to meet our School fees.

Our bursaries benefit not only the girls in question but every single Benenden pupil by ensuring diversity in the student population, reinforcing our sense of community and by promoting the School's core values.

The Governing Council approved significant changes in 2019 to the way our means-tested bursaries are

awarded. To help widen access to the School, candidates no longer require the award of a scholarship to access bursary support. We have been delighted to make further awards this year. Two full bursary awards have been made, as well as other significant part awards.

Through our Centenary Vision we intend to double the number of bursaries we offer girls so that, by 2024, a tenth of our pupils will receive bursarial support.



Nicky Wormald and her two-year-old Granddaughter Celeste

## 'It was everything I could have hoped for'

Nicola (Palmer) Wormald E64, who lives in Australia, wrote us a touching letter in which she summarised her years at Benenden and the ways in which receiving a bursary to attend the School changed her life.

Her letter was read out by Mrs Price in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal at the Lambeth Palace dinner and she has kindly given us permission to reprint it here.

**To support our bursaries campaign or to find out more please contact Kyle Johnson, Director of Development, on [kaj@benenden.school](mailto:kaj@benenden.school) or 01580 236742.**

Dear Benenden

I just wanted to add a note with my contribution to the Seniors' Courtyard Appeal.

Thanks to a small scholarship back in 1961, I was able to achieve my boarding school dream as a 14-year-old and come to Benenden from my home town in South Wales. It was everything I could have hoped for. I particularly loved the huge grounds and the lake, the much wider choice of subjects and activities, many of which I hurled myself into (not always covered in glory), the new friends, including some from other countries, which was very exciting, the beautiful main building with its timbered walls and staircase, the wonderful teachers. Basically, I loved it, and my parents couldn't have afforded my education at Benenden without the generous bursary help.

I will always be grateful to Benenden. It guided me to my happy years at Oxford and gave me one of my oldest friends (we are godmothers to each other's sons). I'm sure you have many similar stories from other Seniors. Mine is not unique.

I am now on the other side of the world, and perhaps won't get a chance to visit the School again. But it has a very special place in my heart, and I look forward to more news of the Seniors' Courtyard. It's a great project.

With warmest wishes

Nicola (Palmer) Wormald E64

## The Founders Scholarship

**As a result of Benenden's Bursary Awards we have many talented girls at School who are achieving academic success beyond their expectations and whose day-to-day involvement in all aspects of Benenden life has a lasting impact on their fellow students and the wider School community.**

At the instigation of the Six Two parent body in 2017, the School launched a new award called the Founders Scholarship, set up to fully fund at least one girl every year through the Sixth Form. The Class of 2017 parents raised £39,000, the Class of 2018 parents raised £80,000 and as a result of this extraordinary generosity we

were delighted to welcome Hetty Lawrence, our very first Founders Scholar, in September 2018.

Before Easter, Mrs Price invited Six Two leavers' parents – this time the Class of 2019 – to consider donating their deposits to support Benenden's next Founders Scholar. Once again our parents were

incredibly supportive of this initiative and we are delighted to announce that we have been able to fund our next Founders Scholar.

We are certain that this girl, who is starting with us in September, will thrive and benefit enormously from the life-changing impact of A Complete Education at Benenden.

# Farewell to the Development Board Chair

In June Julian Metherell stepped down as Chair of the Benenden School Development Board after three very successful years in the post and five in total as a member of the Board and its precursor The School Trust.

A parent of two Benenden girls – Poppy who left in the Summer of 2017 and Millie who recently completed her A Levels – Julian has been a passionate supporter of the School's Centenary Vision and in particular the extension of the School's growing Bursary Programme. He said: "Chairing the Board during the most ambitious phase of investment in Benenden's history has been a privilege and a rewarding experience. Under Samantha Price's exemplary leadership the School is destined for a very exciting future at the forefront of girls' education."

The Development Board exists to support major capital projects, provide educational resources and help with the funding of bursaries. During his time as Chairman, the School has succeeded in reaching its £5million Heart of Benenden campaign target, in addition to raising £1.4million to fund the All-Weather Pitch and Pavilion and a development of eight new Staff Houses.

Julian is quick to acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of members of our community. He said: "We are blessed to have incredibly strong support from members of the Benenden community not only in the UK, but internationally too. The Benenden School Hong Kong Trust, Chaired by Senior, Charlotte Wong, have played a pivotal role in The Heart of Benenden campaign. I would also like to thank my fellow Board Members and our Parents' and Seniors' Associations who have provided unstinting support."



Julian Metherell is stepping down as Chair of the Development Board



Julian Metherell meeting HRH The Princess Royal in May

# Welcome to our new Chair

**Margaret McDonald-Kelly is our new Chair of the Development Board. She brings years of business experience and her support and guidance will be invaluable to the School's future development plans.**

It is my pleasure to take on the role of Chairman of the Development Board, I would like to congratulate Julian Metherell on the incredible work he has done over the last three years and helping to support the fundraising of more than £5million. It will also be a pleasure to have Andrew Gibbs working alongside me as Vice-Chair of the Development Board.

I am coming into the role with experience of running global retail businesses; most recently I was the Global President of Victoria's Secret, a US headquartered lingerie business. I am currently serving on the board of Flying Tiger Copenhagen and Spiritual Gangster USA.

Mrs Price and her team work tirelessly to deliver the best education for our daughters and the additional funding support that has been provided by the school community for such projects as the new School Hall and Music School, Bursaries, Staff Housing and the All-Weather Pitch and Pavilion continues to make a difference to the future of our School.

I look forward to working with Kyle Johnson and his team in the Development Office to deliver the objectives of the Centenary Vision.

As we prepare to celebrate 100 years of Benenden in 2023, the core values of the School will not change; we will continue to build on the past and embrace innovation and new opportunities for the future.



Margaret McDonald-Kelly, pictured with husband Mark, is taking over as Chairman of the Development Board

The students enjoy one another's company



*"We visited the Academy back in November to help the Year 11s prepare for their upcoming GCSEs, so it was great to catch up with our mentees again. The relationship between Benenden and John Wallis is a mutually beneficial one, as it is a good opportunity to reflect on our own revision skills and how they could be improved, and to make new friends from a different school."*

**Hetty Lawrence, Six One**

## Partnership Working Goes from Strength to Strength

For over a decade now we have been working with The John Wallis Church of England Academy in Ashford in a variety of ways.

Some elements of our partnership are strategic – for instance the Heads of both schools sit on one another's governing bodies and there is joint working between Heads of Departments at both schools to share best practice.

But also it goes much deeper than that – for example, the Academy visit us to carry out practical science work and get regular invitations to our UCAS and Careers events and support for Oxbridge and personal statements, as well as much more.

One of the most important aspects of the partnership is the mentoring programme in which our Six One students meet with Year 11 students from the Academy for mentoring sessions, helping them with study skills, revision techniques and more.

In January the latest mentoring session took place, in which John Wallis pupils travelled to Benenden to catch up with their mentors and the students went through study skills, revision technique and then looked at some unseen poetry and mathematical problems. The camaraderie, academic merit and reciprocal benefit for all was plain to see.



In January the sessions covered revision, mathematical problems and unseen poetry



We have been working with The John Wallis Academy for a decade now



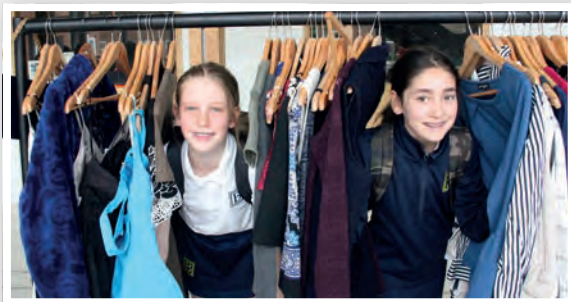
The mentoring programme is one of the most important elements of our partnership with The John Wallis Academy

# Charity

This year Benenden staff and pupils have raised more than £47,000 for charity. Here we celebrate some of the fundraising events of the past two terms.

## Second Hand Clothes Sale

A second hand clothes sale, organised by Six Ones Kitty Thomson and Alzbeta Scippel, was held in the Science Atrium in June to raise money for the Marine Conservation Society.



## London Winter Run

In February, 16 girls and two staff members took part in the London Winter 10k in aid of Cancer Research UK. Every Benenden girl managed to complete the race in under 1 hour 5 minutes - a phenomenal achievement for everyone.



## Girls' Charity Haircuts

Zoey Forbes, in the Fifth, cut 11.8 inches off her hair (almost 30cm) and sent it all to The Little Princess Trust, a charity that makes wigs for people undergoing chemotherapy.

## Tilly (pictured) Makes the Cut

Tilly Taylor, a Fourth in Echyngham, has spent the last year growing her hair so she could have it cut and made into a wig. The big moment came last week when she had 12 inches cut off to raise money for Breast Cancer Care.



## Dara's Charity Efforts for Orphanage

Dara Shonubi, in the Upper Fifth, sent large volumes of gifts to an orphanage in Nigeria after she ran an extremely successful appeal within school.

Clothes, toys, books, stationery and all sorts of other items were kindly donated by Benenden families and these will now go to help the children at Fortitude.



## Coffee Morning

A Coffee Morning was held in Founders in June to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.



## Girls Raise Money at Church Fete

In June two girls, who are part of the CCF, helped raised money for the local village at the Benenden Church Fete. Well done Cadet Lance Corporal Bee McDougall and Cadet Sapper Amelie Pollock!



## Saiesha's Photo Exhibition in Delhi

Many congratulations to Saiesha Gupta, in the Upper Fifth, for her successful photography exhibition held in Delhi during the Christmas holidays which raised a substantial amount for the Simple Education Foundation, a not for profit organisation based out of Delhi. With the belief that every child deserves an excellent education, they design and implement learning models that aim to transform and strengthen public schools in India.

## Spinning Marathon

In March, to support the two chosen CCF charities this year, Six Two Fernanda Wood organised a 12-hour Spinning Marathon, running from 6.00am to 6.00pm.

More than 80 girls participated from all year groups and endured between one and four gruelling hours of spinning. Thanks to everyone's efforts we raised just under £1,000.



# Volunteering

**More than 70 pupils are involved in volunteering at Benenden and each week the girls are helping at a variety of organisations, including local schools, charities and care homes. Here Ella Bachrach, in the Six One, shares her experience of volunteering.**

Over this term, Sophie Southall and I have had the opportunity to volunteer at The Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) group near School. It has been a life-changing experience for both of us.

The RDA aims to provide children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to ride and connect with the horses. Their research has shown that riding boosts confidence, improves communication skills, and helps build healthy relationships. More than 68 per cent of RDA participants showed improved communication skills that they would not have been able to develop outside of their riding.

Sophie and I have experienced this impact first-hand during our weekly volunteering sessions. We are fortunate to be able to support two three-year-old girls with Cerebral Palsy and one adult with Down Syndrome. Both girls have limited to no control through their core muscles, and a lack of verbal communication. However, through their riding, Sophie and I have seen them sit up by themselves and even hold their heads up on their own. It has quickly

become the highlight of our weeks to see the progress that they make with us, and the sheer joy they experience through their riding.

A defining moment came during our third session when one girl sat up and beamed at her mother. The joy riding brought her was so clearly expressed at that moment through her non-verbal communication, that it made the whole experience so rewarding knowing that we were able to contribute towards it.

The adult with Down Syndrome has shown us the effect of the riding on his life. He has been participating in the programme for five years, and it is clear that it has helped with his communication and coordination. He was able to hold a conversation with us about his love of riding, which one could see in the way he acted around the horses. He could also manoeuvre the horse on his own which we were told he was unable to do when he joined the programme. This contrast between helping an experienced participant and us two young girls just starting out has helped visualise the



Sophie, left, and Ella at the Duckhurst Farm Equestrian Centre

effect of riding on everyone who participates.

We have also seen the first steps of communication with the other girl whom, with the visual aid of a toy egg, managed to sound out the word 'egg'. These experiences have added to our Benenden education in a way that we never thought possible, and I am grateful to Mr Nicol who fully supported me in organising the programme, and all the people at our RDA group who welcomed us into their community and allowed us to contribute our time and experience with horses.

We urge anyone who has the ability to volunteer next year to do so because it puts one's life into perspective and helps us to appreciate how we need to give back to those less fortunate around us. We hope that we have established the beginning of a long-term association between Benenden and the RDA, and that this programme may continue and flourish long after we graduate.



Riding for the Disabled provides equestrian therapy

# Volunteering Logo Competition

In June we ran a competition with the Fifth challenging them to design a logo for the School's Volunteering service.

The initiative was aimed at improving the internal promotion of this service. We are pleased to publish some of the initial concepts that were entered, as well as the winning logo.



Winning designer  
Sophia Lowe

The winning logo was designed by Sophia Lowe, whose efforts earned her a book token – as well as the pride of having won the competition!



Some of the  
Entrants

A



B



C



- A. Sophie Moody-Stuart
- B. Milly Hollaway
- C. Lauren Baker and Imogen Cleary
- D. Kitty Bedford
- E. Nicole Lee
- F. Tallulah Haycock
- G. Leonie Edelman

D



E



F



G



Girls with Bowles Lodge residents

## Fifths Host Tea for Residents

In May some of the Fifths hosted a delicious afternoon tea, with some wonderful musical accompaniment, for residents of Bowles Lodge.

Bowles Lodge is a supported living centre for over 55s in Hawkhurst. The event was enjoyed by all.



Pupils enjoy tea and chat with our guests from Merry and Bright

## Merry and Bright

In June we were pleased to welcome the Benenden Village Merry and Bright Club.

Our guests were joined by some girls for a delicious afternoon tea in the Terrace Room and were entertained by some lovely musical recitals.

# Lacrosse

Benenden has enjoyed another successful year in Lacrosse, with accolades at county and national level.

## National Schools

The National Schools Lacrosse Championships always provide a real focus towards the end of the season. Although we had a new venue (The Military Base in Aldershot), we were still treated to the usual range of weather, although sadly waterproofs proved more useful than sunglasses this year! It was a real privilege to take nine teams to the event, and they all showed great determination and skill in tournament play.

The **1st team** dominated their section on day one of the tournament, moving the ball cleanly and with a number of different players on the scoresheet. They qualified for the top section on day two, featuring the top 16 schools in the country. Progressing through the day, they recorded particularly impressive wins against St Mary's Calne and Wycombe Abbey. In the quarter-finals we met eventual champions Berkhamsted, and despite a spirited performance the final score was 1-4. Another top eight finish was

a pleasing result for this talented squad; this final position means they qualify for the next season's Challenge Cup, featuring the top school teams in the UK.

**The 2nds** fared similarly well. Despite an injury-affected squad which required some last-minute call-ups, the team were undefeated on the first day of competition, notching up an impressive 42 goals. This placed them in the 'championship section' where yet again, they finished the group matches undefeated. They breezed through their first knock-out game against Putney High, as 7-0 victors, but unfortunately the run ended there. A narrow 4-5 defeat to St Swithun's prevented the team from progressing further than the quarter-finals.

**The U15 A and B** squads performed outstandingly well at National Schools. Both teams showed great athleticism, and this enabled both squads to progress to their respective Finals. The B team Final went to

an unprecedented five periods of overtime and we were unlucky to eventually lose to Guildford High. The U15A team also worked their way through the knock-out rounds and took St Catherine's to extra time in the Final, winning the silver medal after a 'golden goal' in extra time.

**The U14As** played extremely well in the early stages of the day, topping their group with ease and beating eventual winners Moreton Hall. Unfortunately a lapse in the quarter-finals meant they were knocked out of the competition earlier than we had hoped. However, the standard of their play underlined the great potential of this year group and we look forward to them making further progress as U15s.

**The 3rds, 4ths, U14 B and U13** squads all performed well, finishing high in their respective age groups and showing good promise ahead of next year.



Captain Olivia Bullman bears the signs of a hard-fought match



The U15A Team proudly collect their silver medals

## Other Lacrosse Highlights

As well as our usual programme of inter-house Lacrosse, there have been a number of other Lacrosse highlights. Congratulations must go to the U13 and U14 teams who became county champions, and huge thanks to Cambridge University who came to play a very high quality match on our All-Weather Pitch. It was highly competitive, with the opposition side, who boasted numerous England players, narrowly winning 7-6.



Isla Forbes and Katie MacLeod with the U14 Kent Championship Trophy



The Marshall Fourth and Upper Fourth at their Inter-House tournament in March

Jade White-Thomson in battle against St Mary's Calne



The girls enjoyed Nationals, despite the weather



Benenden PE teacher Lucy Lynch is set to be the first woman to win 100 caps for England Lacrosse

## Representative Lacrosse

**Benenden have been well-represented on the international scene again this season, with multiple countries represented by current pupils, Seniors and staff.**

Joining the regional England pathway this year were Amolikaa Shrivastava, Milly Bruce-Smythe and Katie Bradley. Stand-out first team player Minty Loxton-Barnard joined her team-mates Phoebe Bennie, Jessica Platts and Pandora Mann on the England U19 National Programme. Goalkeeper Nima Mouen-Makoua has a trial to move to this level later in the year.

Florrie Rodgers has been selected for the junior Wales programme and Caitlin Gluckstein has represented Wales U19B this year. Two Seniors have also been selected for the U19 World Cup, to be held in Canada in July: Flora Macpherson will Captain Scotland and Victoria Molloy will play for Hong Kong.

Catalina Burguera is a member of the senior Spanish squad, and will travel with the team, together with her sister and Benenden Senior Teresa, to the European Championships. At the tournament in Israel she will face fellow Seniors Sarah Sweets de Landas (Netherlands), Camilla Hayes (England) and Benenden Lacrosse teacher and Echyngham Hm Lucy Lynch, who is set to become the first ever England Lacrosse player to win 100 senior caps.

## Lacrosse Colours

**Senior 1st Team Full**  
Imogen Macdonald  
Jessica Platts  
Jade White-Thomson

**Senior 2nd Team Full**  
Florrie Barker  
Emily Davis  
Bea Fair  
Georgina O'Brien  
Fernanda Wood

**Senior 3rd Team Full**  
Esme Bertelsen  
Imogen Stainton

**Junior**  
Alexa Dick  
Libby Royde

**Intermediate**  
Katie Bradley  
Amolikaa Shrivastava  
Lauren Baker  
Marina Crawshay  
Charlotte Crump  
Poppy Gedney  
Sophie Moody-Stuart  
Florrie Rodgers  
Rebecca Smith  
Sasha Twyman  
Alicia Zamerriego Vere

**Sarah Bayne Cup  
for Lacrosse**  
Imogen Macdonald

**Lacrosse  
Improvement Cup**  
Alexandra Silk

**Lacrosse  
Stickwork Cup**  
Minty  
Loxton-Barnard



Minty Loxton-Barnard challenges former Benenden Head Girl Victoria Molloy, who now plays for Cambridge University

# Netball

We summarise an exciting two terms of Netball.

## National Finals

The highlight of the Netball season was undoubtedly seeing the U16 squad participating in the National Finals. Competing against the top 15 schools in the country was no mean feat; the girls produced some hard-fought Netball and were proud to finish 7th nationally, which is fantastic!

The journey to qualify to play at this level is a long one, requiring a season of strong performance; the team must first be successful at county level, only then moving on to compete at the London and South-East tournament, where a top two place must be secured. Congratulations to all the players for an outstanding season.



Flo Durand-Deslongrais at the National Finals

Benenden's Beany Fricker and Oreoluwa Adeogun battling at the National Finals



Lucy Main takes a shot



Jessica Platts in action

## Tracey Neville

Following on from the Autumn visit by Eboni Beckford-Chambers to coach our Netball squads, Benenden were pleased to host a training course for teachers run by Tracey Neville, the England Netball coach who successfully steered the England Roses to their historic gold medal at the Commonwealth Games last summer in Australia.

The training course was well attended and proved to be extremely productive (and fun) for our staff in preparation for next season. We would like to wish Tracey and her team every success in their quest to have similar success at this year's World Cup in July.

Tracey Neville, centre, gives a masterclass to our Sport teachers



## Tournaments

The Spring Term was the 'Term of the Tournament'. InterNet Festivals were run for Fourth to Lower Fifth age groups, involving the C to G teams, who competed against a variety of other schools. Congratulations to the 101 Benenden players who participated, particularly the U13 C team and the U14 C team who took the silver and bronze medals respectively.

The U15 A squad were pleased to finish their season with a

strong performance in the Benenden Invitational Tournament. Following several hard-fought matches and a draw against Eastbourne, the team found themselves in joint 1st place with Eastbourne. Disappointingly, we were pipped at the post on goal average.

The end of the season was



The InterNET U12 and U13 Festival in March

marked in the final week by Benenden hosting U16 and 1st team events, and the U12 and U13 teams attending the Kent county competition. Particular congratulations go to the U13 Squad who finished 4th from the 37 schools that entered!

**Sarah Ainslie Netball Improvement Cup**  
Niamh Hughes

## Inter-House

March was the month to see players from all age groups compete internally in the Inter-House Netball events. There was a fantastic atmosphere seeing so many of the girls take to the courts. Well done to all involved.

### Inter-House Netball

#### Lower School Middle School Upper School

- |             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Marshall | 1. Guldeford | 1. Guldeford |
| 2. Norris   | 2. Echyngham | 2. Echyngham |
| 3. Medway   | 3. Norris    | 3. Norris    |

## Netball Colours

#### Senior 1st Team Full

Ella Woolhouse  
Jade White Thomson  
Florrie Barker

#### Senior 2nd Team Full

Abbi Willetts  
Georgina O'Brien

#### U16 Full

Flo Durand Deslongrais  
Esme Forster  
Lucy Main  
Jessica Platts  
India Woolhouse  
Alicia Ouvaroff  
Saskia Willetts  
Lily Thornton

#### Junior

Clara Gough Cooper

#### Intermediate

Amolikaa Shrivastava  
Rebecca Smith  
Poppy Gedney  
Sophie Moody-Stuart  
Nina Mouen-Makoua  
Larissa Wallner  
Florrie Rodgers



The Lower Fifth Inter-House Netball in March

## Skiing

In February we took six girls to compete in the British Schoolgirls' Races in Flaine.

The standard of the competition was high but our girls skied well, with notable performances from Eloise King finishing 16th in the giant slalom and our youngest, Izzy McLean, finishing 15th in the slalom and 16th in the combined.



Anaïd de Unger in Flaine



Sofia Dovell puts her skills to the test

# Hockey

In June the Benenden girls were inspired ahead of next season by experiencing some high-class Hockey being played at the Olympic Park.

The girls enjoyed Great Britain's match against Germany at the Lee Valley Hockey centre based at the 2012 Olympic Park. Not only did they get to observe the fast-paced and action-packed game, they also had the opportunity to be mascots during the opening ceremony. The girls could not contain their excitement to be able to

walk onto the pitch with the world-class players, standing in front of their idols whilst they sang the national anthem.

Germany won the match 4-3 and even though it was not the score the Benenden girls wanted, they thrived on the intensity and have been encouraged to further their development in one of their favourite sports.

The girls had the privilege of singing the National Anthem at the Olympic Park



## Inter-House Hockey

- | Lower School | Middle School | Upper School |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Guldeford | 1. Echyngham  | 1. Guldeford |
| 2. Marshall  | 2. Guldeford  | 2. Marshall  |
| 3. Hemsted   | 3. Hemsted    | 3. Hemsted   |

**The Chris Smith Plate for Commitment to Hockey**  
Jessie Wareing



Running out as mascots with the Great Britain Women's team

## Squash

**We were delighted to qualify for the finals of the National Schools Squash Championships. Team captain Lara Rawson describes the final, held in Nottingham in the Spring Term.**

In March the Squash First Team, comprising Amy Ng, Millie Metherell, Minty Loxton-Barnard, Morwenna Pilkington and me, went to Nottingham to compete in the Key Stage Five Final of the National Schools Competition. We were expecting to face some very strong, more experienced sides but were prepared to play to the best of our abilities.

Our first match was against Wycliffe School which we unfortunately lost 4-1. I managed to win against my opponent and Morwenna secured one match against her player, just narrowly missing out on the other two matches.

Whilst practising before our next match, Minty suffered an ankle injury so we had to forfeit her match and play with the opposition having a one-point advantage over us. Against Aylesbury High, we had an extremely narrow loss of 3-2, with Millie and Morwenna winning their matches.

Overall, the first team finished 8th in the country, which was a good result especially as we did not qualify last year for the National Finals.

I would like to thank my team for having such a positive attitude and commitment to practice throughout the year. Qualifying and ranking for the National Finals was a great achievement with which to finish the year.

### U13 Squash Nationals

This is the first year that there has been an U13 National Squash competition and the girls played several matches before and after Christmas to reach the Finals. We were delighted to finish 3rd, which is fantastic considering that some of the girls had never played Squash before coming to Benenden.

This was a great experience for the girls and hopefully more success will follow in the years to come

## Squash Colours

<b>Full</b>	<b>Intermediate</b>
Lara Rawson	Katie MacLeod
Millie Metherell	Amolikaa Shrivastava
<b>Junior</b>	Katie Chapman
Amelia Drayson	Sunniva Kelly

**Julia Slade Cup for  
Squash Improvement  
Morwenna Pilkington**

Our team of Tallulah Haycock, Epernay Balcomb-Hellier and Charlotte Roberts were 2nd at Stonar in May



## Equestrian

**The Summer Term has been Eventing season and Benenden has qualified teams at both 90cm and 1m for the National Championships, to be held at Stonar School in September.**

Eventing requires competitors to complete a Dressage test, a Show Jumping round and a Cross Country jumping phase. These competitions test the versatility, agility, discipline and courage of horse and rider. The 90cm team competed at Tweseldown near Aldershot where Tilly Hastilow, Epernay Balcomb-Hellier and Belles Orgill all delivered clear rounds in both jumping phases to achieve 2nd place in the team competition. The 1m team of Charlotte Roberts, Epernay and Tallulah Haycock travelled to Stonar School in May where they also performed well to achieve 2nd place as a team. In addition, Charlotte won the competition, thus also qualifying as an individual for the National Championships.



Ella Bachrach was 2nd in the Elementary Test at an area dressage competition in June

Following on from the success of Lily Hill, Charlotte and Ella Bachrach who became National Team Dressage Champions in October, there has been increased interest in Dressage and our Show Jumpers have been inspired to give Dressage a go. In January Ella, Epernay, Jess Johnson, Tallulah, Belles and Sarah Witheridge represented the School in the Kent Dressage Championships with the teams achieving 3rd and 5th place. Congratulations to Ella who was Reserve Kent Champion in the Preliminary test and 4th in the Novice test. In addition, Tallulah also did well to achieve 6th in the warm-up test.

At the beginning of June Ella, Epernay, Tallulah and Lily competed in an area Dressage competition where they achieved 3rd place as a team and qualified for the National Plate Competition. Congratulations to Ella who was 2nd in the Elementary class and Lily who was 4th in the Preliminary class and 3rd in the Novice class.



## Equestrian Colours

<b>Full</b>
Immy Stainton
Ella Bachrach
Epernay Balcomb-Hellier

Tallulah Haycock at the One Day Event in May



# Tennis

Benenden has enjoyed a successful season on the Tennis courts.

In May we took six pairs to the annual Kent Doubles Championships held. In the U15s we had three out of four pairs make the knockout stage. Our A pair, Alicia Cheng and Amelia Drayson, reached the Final where they faced the number 1 seeds Bromley. Alicia and Amelia were superb, winning 3-0. So we are Kent Indoor Doubles Champions 2019! The U15s finished 1st, 4th and 8th which was a fantastic achievement.

In June Benenden was represented with two pairs in each age group - Under 19, Under 15, and Under 13 - in the Independent Schools Tennis Association (ISTA) Championships at Eton

It was a marvellous festival of Tennis with our girls gaining excellent experience and

witnessing the very best standard of school Tennis that Great Britain has to offer.

Highlights included both Under 15 pairs reaching the last 16 in the country and the Senior pair, of Millie Metherell and Abbi Willetts, reaching the Loveband Plate quarter-final. Clara Gough-Cooper and Libby Royde made the Ralph Cake Plate semi-final, losing to the eventual winners.

Earlier in the season Alicia Cheng and Amelia Drayson also won the Harpenden National Girls Doubles Tournament, beating Queenswood 6-2 6-4 in the final to take the impressive shield. We hope that all girls competing have enjoyed the season. The coaching programme also continues to thrive.

**Tennis**  
**Improvement Cup**  
**Annalise Worraker**  
**& Phoebe Jancic**

## Tennis Colours

### Junior

Clara Gough-Cooper  
Phoebe Jancic  
Beatrice Hickman  
Libby Royde

### Intermediate Colours

Alicia Cheng  
Katie MacLeod  
Sunniva Kelly  
Rebecca Smith  
Lavinia Webb

## Inter-House Tennis

### Lower School

1. Norris
2. Echyngam
3. Guldeford

### Middle School

1. Medway
2. Guldeford
3. Norris



Inter-House Tennis in June

The Inter-House Tennis was closely-fought



Fourteen girls have been working towards their PADI Open Water Qualification

## Scuba Diving

**Over the past two terms at Benenden 14 girls from the Fourth to the Upper Fifth have been working towards gaining their PADI Open Water Qualification.**

With many classroom and pool sessions to learn the theory and safety of Scuba Diving, the girls have learnt the techniques and skills of being able to dive safely whilst remaining in the confines of the School pool.

Many of the girls will be using their new PADI qualification on the upcoming trip in October to Grenada, where the girls will explore the oceans and discover new areas of research and studying. They will also be completing Dives Against Debris dives, collecting rubbish and plastic which has built up on reef, wrecks and other dive sites. This will all be logged on a database which PADI use to monitor waste in the oceans around the world.

The girls practise their Scuba Diving each week



# Athletics

It has been an exciting and successful season for the Benenden Athletics teams.

In May our Junior and Inter teams took part in the County round of the ESAA English Schools Track and Field Cup at The Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. Benenden organised the event this year and it was a huge success. Both teams came second in their respective age groups, with the Inters only four points behind the overall winners and qualifying for the Regional Finals. Every competitor had reason to be proud of her achievements, but a particular mention must go to Katie Bradley who broke the School Shot record by 28cms with a magnificent put of 10m 54cms. Rebecca Smith and Jessica Penny should also be congratulated for accruing an impressive 43 points each for their events. The South East round of the competition was held at the K2 stadium in Crawley in June. The conditions were favourable, and every competitor gave 100 per cent with a number of PBs being broken throughout the day. Katie Bradley scored an impressive 43 points in the Shot and 300m – a new event for Katie, while Amolikaa Shrivastava gained an additional nine points in her events compared to in the previous round.

Jessica must also be congratulated for qualifying for the Kent Schools Track and Field Championships in the Hurdles and Long Jump. Despite facing some unfavourable weather conditions and being one of the youngest athletes in her age group, Jessica performed well in both events and jumped an impressive PB of 4m 46cm.

Six girls were selected to represent the Tunbridge Wells district in the Kent Schools Cross Country Championships at the Duke of York's Royal Military School. Hundreds of athletes took part in the event and the atmosphere was amazing! The girls all performed well but a special mention must go to Ellie Montagu who came 19th out of 127 runners in her age group, completing the 2.5km course in a stupendous 10.23, and Libby Royde who came 27th out of 115 runners, completing the 3km course in an impressive 12.28. Both girls were selected to represent Kent in the South East Schools Inter-Counties Cross-Country.

The Fourths to Fifths have continued working towards the ESAA Secondary Award Scheme in their curriculum lessons with some superb distances and times being recorded. This hard work is reflected in the number of bronze, silver and gold levels being achieved on a weekly basis.



Our team at the ESAA English Schools Track and Field Cup in May



Some of our girls selected to represent the Tunbridge Wells district in the Kent Schools Cross Country Championships



Rosie Jankovich-Besan at the ESAA English School Regional Finals

# Sports Day

Sports Day in June showcased some excellent athleticism and a very positive collective attitude despite less than ideal weather conditions.

With nearly every girl in the Fourth to Fifth competing in at least one event, and a number of girls choosing to compete in numerous events, there were many impressive performances.

Deserving a special mention for their outstanding level of performance were Super 6 (the race for the fastest 100m runners) winner Silvia Courage, and multiple gold medal winners Katie Chapman, Honor Gibbs, Ella Jankovich-Besan and Rebecca Smith. Well done also to the staff relay team, led by Mrs Price and brought home by Fr Hux, for a great win in the Benenden Mile.

There were some impressive distances reached in the Long Jump



The Fourths' 100m was exciting



The relay was a close-run event



Drama in the High Jump



The Discus is always popular



The Super 6 battle it out to be the fastest girl in the School

Guldeford, who were the overall Junior winners



Fun in the Shot contest



The girls competing on the track and in the field benefited from great support



## Inter-House Athletics

Lower School	Middle School	Upper School
1. Guldeford	1. Medway	1. Medway
2. Norris	2. Norris	2. Guldeford
3. Hemsted	3. Echyngam	3. Echyngam

## Athletics Colours

Junior  
Ellie Montagu

Intermediate  
Katie Bradley  
Katie Chapman  
Isla Forbes  
Honor Gibbs  
Rebecca Smith

Melstrom  
Athletics Prize  
Jessica Penny

Super 6  
Athletics Award  
Silvia Courage  
& Ella Jankovich-Besan



Taking on the goalie



Marshall getting into the competitive spirit

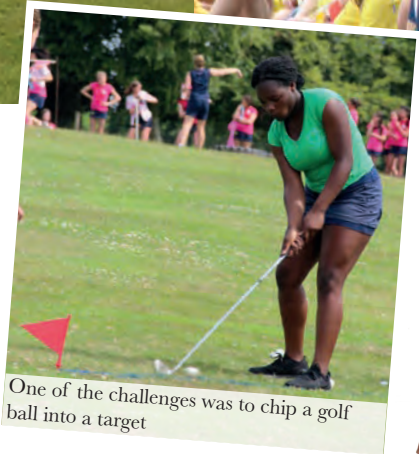
# It's A Knockout!

The last Friday of term meant it was time for our annual Inter-House It's a Knockout! event.

In some glorious weather, the girls had a great time competing for the final Inter-House trophy of the year and as ever there was a fantastic competitive edge along with some laughs and plenty of House pride.

The girls were highly entertained and challenged throughout with the afternoon consisting of a number of games involving sponges, bean bags, army style crawling, leap frog quizzes and much more.

Guldeford took the honours this year with Marshall coming second and Echyngham in third place.



One of the challenges was to chip a golf ball into a target



Catching a bean bag blindfolded was as difficult as it sounds



Leapfrog quiz was a new event!



Putting participants through their paces on the tyre run



Testing the girls' teamwork skills to the maximum!



Tug of War was very competitive as ever

## Inter-House Cricket

Lower School	Middle School
1. Norris	1. Medway
2. Guldeford	2. Echyngham
3. Echyngham	3. Norris

## Swimming Colours

Junior
Victoria Tsang
Nicola Tsang

**Karate**  
**Student of the Year**  
**Mariena Teo**



Our winning team in the Benenden Trampoline Cup 2019

# Trampoline

The Trampoline Club has continued to have a great atmosphere, with all the pupils working hard to achieve their own goals and Trampoline awards whilst encouraging and supporting their peers.

There are a number of very talented trampolinists within the club and the standard of the Trampolining within the School is continuing to develop. Our performances at the Kent Schools Trampoline Championships and the Benenden Trampoline Cup illustrated this and all the pupils involved should be very proud.

The highlights include Sara Wiberg, Lower Fifth, being crowned U15 intermediate Kent Champion, the team winning the Benenden Trampoline Cup and therefore taking the shield back into our possession, and some great individual results at the Benenden Trampoline Cup which saw the following girls finishing in the top three to receive a trophy:

Sara Wiberg (Lower Fifth) 1st U19 girls intermediate  
Clara Gough-Cooper (Upper Fourth) 3rd U13 girls intermediate  
Grace Wainford (Lower Fifth) 2nd U15 girls elementary  
Bea Lees (Fifth) 3rd U15 girls elementary

Well done to all the pupils involved in these events and also well done to everyone who has achieved British Gymnastics Trampoline awards. A huge number have been passed this year and this is a result of hard work and a commitment to Trampoline.



Sara Wiberg, Kent Champion 2019

**Heywood Cup  
for Trampoline  
Sara Wiberg**

## Trampoline Colours

Intermediate  
Andrea Arnesen  
Sara Wiberg

## Health, Fitness & Wellbeing



New fitness equipment

Thanks to the generosity of a kind donor, the girls have benefited from a selection of new gym equipment.

Two of the old treadmills have been replaced with the newer life fitness models much preferred by the pupils. The new plyometric box is great for developing power and will really benefit our sports teams in particular

We also have a new set of barbells which have enabled us to add to the variety of group fitness classes we can offer. These classes, along with the others on offer, have continued to be very popular with the pupils and the atmosphere in the classes is great.

## Fencing

**This year there have been a number of successes for the Benenden Fencing team. Amelie Woolf, in the Upper Fifth summarises the past two terms.**

We started off the year with a match against Tonbridge where we succeeded in winning the Sabre and narrowly lost in Epee and Foil. We then had British Youth Championships qualifiers where we had a number of achievements, with Josie Fernau winning the U16 Epee, Amelie Woolf winning the U18 Sabre and Charlotte Elliot coming 2nd in the U16 Sabre.

The next big competition we had was the Public Schools Fencing Championships. The competition was extremely tough here and there were a huge number of entries but we did incredibly well as

a team with Josie, Amelie and Eloise King coming in the top half for their age groups and Cordelia Cook and Ireoluwa Morakinyo coming 17th and 19th respectively.

Then came The British Youth Championships, which Eloise, Amelie, Charlotte and Josie all qualified for. Eloise and Josie in particular did incredibly well here as it was their first time at this event and it can be very overwhelming.

Most recently, Eloise took part in the European Youth Championships where she competed in Foil, doing amazingly



Eloise King at the European Youth Championships

despite the high levels of competition. We have all really enjoyed Fencing this year as a team and have improved hugely thanks to our coach Kate Neave who has been incredibly supportive of us and we are all looking forward to Fencing next year.

**Fencing Bowl  
Eloise King**

**Fencing Bowl  
Amelie Woolf**



New BSPA Chair Michelle Kearsey

## New BSPA Chair

Michelle Kearsey, who has daughters in the Fourth and Lower Fifth, will take over as the new Chair of the BSPA. Here she introduces herself.

Over the last three years, Rachel has been a fantastic Chair of the BSPA. She has tirelessly devoted her time to the role. Therefore, on behalf of all parents and members of the staff, I would like to say a big 'thank you.' She is going to be a hard act to follow!

As the incoming Chair, I am really looking forward to helping run the BSPA. It is particularly exciting to be part of the healthy dialogue between the School and parents. Indeed, there are few schools where the Headmistress and the Senior Management Team value and consider the views of parents. Do contact me ([michellekearsey@aol.com](mailto:michellekearsey@aol.com)) if you have any ideas you believe will benefit the School and its development. Have a fabulous summer break and I hope to meet you soon.



Rachel Antelme

It has been another busy year for the BSPA and we have made more progress than the Brexit negotiators! The committee of House reps met three times this year and discussed items suggested by parents and raised development suggestions with the Senior Management Team. Many of these have been implemented. If you have any comments which would help the School recognise what it does well or might 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 with the BSPA and School. We are unusual amongst schools to have this forum and open access to the SMT so it is really good to use it.

In January we had a BSPA Lecture with Dr Rosemary Taylor speaking on 21st Century Girls and the Teenage Brain. Dr Taylor is a leading authority on the teenage brain as well as being a UN advisor and Consultant to the Council of British International Schools. Dr Taylor spoke extremely well and we had comments from parents about how they could have listened to her for many more hours! It was really helpful and encouraging for parents to be reminded to 'be the adult' and also have an understanding of why teens can behave as they do. Dr Taylor also spoke to two year groups of girls so that we are all hearing the same message. Thanks so much to Dawn Bradford, Sue Franklin, Alice Williams-Thomas and Fi Platts for organising the event and providing such wonderful food.

If you would like to put forward possible topics or speakers for future talks please do let Michelle Kearsey know ([michellekearsey@aol.com](mailto:michellekearsey@aol.com)) or pass them on to your House rep.

Also in the Spring Term the BSPA hosted a drinks party in London for all of the Lower Fifth parents so that the whole year group

## Farewell and Thank You to our BSPA Chair

Rachel Antelme, who is stepping down as Chair of the Benenden School Parents' Association (BSPA), summarises the Spring and Summer activity and looks back on her three years as Chair.

had an opportunity to meet and mingle. Many Houses went out for supper afterwards and judging by the noise at the drinks, the evening seemed to go well.

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 chance to meet other parents in your House.

The BSPA uses any spare funds to purchase useful items for the School. This year these included:

- A branded pop-up tent which has already helped out at many events.
- A wooden bench to go outside the Hall.
- Some new Gym equipment.
- An outdoor pizza oven.
- Outdoor Table Tennis tables – there are now four and we hope to provide more in the future so that each House can have one.
- A donation towards the new CCF banners.

On behalf of the parents, I would like to thank all of the BSPA reps and PEC members, and especially those who are finishing their roles this term, for all their hard work and dedication. They have all helped to make Benenden that little bit better for the staff, girls and particularly the parents. In particular, I would like to thank Alice Williams-Thomas and Julie Nicholson. Alice has been the BSPA Deputy Chair for three years, a House rep and on the PEC (yes, she is as wonderful as she sounds!). Alice has been such a huge help to the School with her dedication, kindness and gentle balance and it has been such a joy to work with her and bounce ideas off her. Julie has been such an amazingly efficient number cruncher who never complained even when we increased her workload a lot - and we couldn't have done it without her. All of their work is voluntary and it is very much appreciated.

Three years helping out as the Chair of the BSPA has flown by for me and I am hugely grateful to the parents, staff and girls for their help and enthusiasm to try and make Benenden the best it can be. I have enjoyed working with you all. I would also like to thank Fi Bruce-Smythe and Camilla Thomas who head up the PEC brilliantly and managed to keep on smiling despite the sagas at the Ball. Also all the staff who help us – from the School Office who are always friendly and efficient, to Julia McColl who gets anything you need done in a flash and with a smile, the Catering Department and especially Sue Franklin for helping with so many events and so much delicious food. Thanks too to Ian Read for his constant enthusiasm and smile, Dawn Bradford for calmly and happily fixing most BSPA related events and problems and Kyle Johnson for his positive attitude. Huge thanks to the staff for looking after our girls so well, the girls for their ingenuity, drive and fun, the parents for a constant stream of ideas and support and finally to Sam Price, the SMT and Anna Birkett for their hard work, listening and desire continually to refine and improve the school.

Michelle Kearsey, Lou Cohen and Michael Cauter have kindly said they will take over next year as the Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer respectively. I am sure they will all do an excellent job and think of new and exciting things for the BSPA. I am already very grateful to them!

I hope you have a wonderful and relaxed summer with your girls and I am sure the BSPA will look forward to working with you in the coming academic year.

# Parents' Events

Fiona Bruce-Smythe, Chairman of the Parents' Events Committee (PEC), summarises the past two terms.

The PEC has had another busy year organising a variety of events for our wonderful Benenden community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those on my committee for their hard work and dedication this year.

The year of events got underway with the wonderful Burns Night Reeling. Guests were welcomed to the event with the playing of the bagpipes by Andrew Birl as they came through the Cloisters. All traditions were upheld and the piping-in and addressing of the haggis pre-empted the delicious traditional supper of haggis, venison pie, neeps and tatties and sticky toffee pudding with whisky sauce!

All 170 guests joined together at the end of the evening to sing quite an emotional but enthusiastic Auld Lang Syne; it was the last parent event to be held in the Hall and the singing almost raised the roof! Special thanks go to Tembe Gibbs, Jenny Knight and Hilary Denby-Jones for their superb organising and decorating of the event.

As I am sure you are all aware, The Heart of Benenden Ball ended somewhat abruptly on 2 March at The Savoy. An enormous amount of work went into organising this year's Ball as you can well imagine, but we have dusted ourselves off (quite literally) and are starting to make plans for the next Ball in 2021!

March also saw a merry band of us walking around Marylebone on a superb tour with the incredibly knowledgeable Lou Cohen. Highlights included Madame Tussauds, The Royal Academy of Music and learning about Octavia Hill, a pioneer of social housing and co-founder of the National Trust. We walked down Harley Street and discussed bacteria (!) and heard stories about the BBC, created to 'educate, inform and entertain' in this wonderful walk through Marvellous Marylebone.

A group of 20 parents enjoyed a Benenden parents' holiday in Sicily during May and it was a thoroughly enjoyable few days.

The Summer Term was the usual hub of activity with a lunch for Six One parents at the Opera Tavern. The Six Two parents' lunch at the Gallery Mess in the Saatchi gallery was fully booked and gave all those who attended a chance to de-brief about A Levels and the impending reality of having their progeny home for, as yet, an unquantifiable period of time!

May also saw the ever-popular Fourth and Upper Fourth Parents and Daughters Rounders. Although the weather didn't look too promising the sun did materialise and a good day was had by all.

Our Fifth Parents' Lunch at the Alfred Tennyson was also incredibly well attended; although the food was slow to arrive, luckily the wine was more forthcoming!

Our final event of the Summer Term was a group Lower Fifth, Fifth and Upper Fifth Parents' Lunch at The Salters Hall. Fifteen of us had the pleasure of a wonderful lunch and tour of this historic building. First licensed in 1394, The Salters' Company has its origins in the salt trade of medieval London and is one of the Great 12 Livery Companies. Today The Salters' Company is a diverse organisation responsible for several charitable foundations, important philanthropic work in science education and the fostering of fellowship among its members.

Forthcoming events for next term include The Highgrove Christmas Shop in November, wreath making, lunches for the Fourth, Upper Fourth and Lower Fifth, and another Walking Tour, this time from Little Venice to Camden.

Please do look out for updates of events in the Bulletin and sign up quickly to avoid disappointment!



Our piper Andrew Birl gets Burns Night off to a traditional start



Burns Night was another thoroughly enjoyable evening



Families braved the rain for the Parent and Daughter Rounders



The Rounders event was competitive as ever!



We said farewell to departing PEC members Tania McNab, Rachel Antelme and Jenny Knight

# Bringing Seniors Back Together

The Benenden School Seniors' Association (BSSA) welcomes every student as they leave School which today means we have had 6,532 members over the years.

Alongside the formal reunions organised by the BSSA and the School, Seniors themselves organise events and reunions throughout the world. Seniors have enjoyed hiking in Hong Kong, drinks with Deputy Head Alison Steven in Bangkok, gatherings in Suffolk and Australia and have organised tours of the British Museum and The Royal Hospital Chelsea. BSSA Chair, Sally Everist N85, was delighted to organise a group of Seniors to support Ellie Kendrick's debut play, *Hole*, at The Royal Court.

Ongoing plans include a tour of BBC Bristol in July, a visit to Lord Heseltine's garden, Thenford, and another day of national and international coffee mornings!

Seniors are active on LinkedIn and Facebook groups including those focused on Finance and the Arts, with new groups springing up following career networking events.

The main events of the past year have included:

## Generations' Lunch

In January more than 60 Seniors and current pupils gathered to celebrate their family connections to Benenden at a Generations' Lunch.

Seniors told stories from their years at Benenden and compared experiences with the students at the celebration.

*"It's amazing how having a little stroll around the School brought out a tsunami of memories and anecdotes from over 60 years ago."*

**Jan (Cousins) Chapman G80**



Charlotte (Birts) MA93 and Beatrice Hickman at the Generations' Lunch



The Turnbull family at the Generations' Lunch

## 25th Reunion

In March nearly 35 Seniors who left Benenden in 1994 joined Honorary Seniors and staff for a noisy and happy reunion lunch. The Seniors had an extended tour of the School after lunch and the general feeling was that so much about the School is the same and so much has changed!

The Class of 1994 reunite at Benenden



The 25th Reunion was a lovely event



## Seniors' Day 2019

Seniors' Day was a lovely occasion in May. Headmistress Samantha Price and BSSA Chair Sally Everist were delighted to welcome Seniors and their families to Benenden.

Our Speaker, Henrietta Courtauld H86, gave a wonderful speech about her work restoring a historic garden and growing cut flowers. She was most inspiring as she told us about her passion for soil, restoring its condition and in the process making a great contribution to reducing pollution. The figures she quoted were quite astounding and she showed us that we can all make a difference!

Henrietta and the Head Girl, Freddie Flintoff, planted their trees in the Orchard at the top of the Main Drive.



1979 Seniors enjoying their picnic at Seniors' Day



Fiona Breeze HS, Ron Babalain M/Beeches 09 and Pam Wileman HS on Seniors' Day



Henrietta (Horner) Courtauld H86, the Speaker of the Year at Seniors' Day, with BSSA Chair Sally (Allison) Everist N85



Seniors enjoy reuniting on Seniors' Day



Families meet the girls' Caterham 7 at Seniors' Day

## 50th Reunion

The Oriental Club was our lovely new venue for the 50th Reunion for 1969 Seniors in June. Guest Speaker was Fiona (Lloyd-Davies) Gray E82, a photojournalist and documentary maker whose work focuses on human rights abuses in conflict zones. Fiona also spoke about the film she made documenting her husband's recovery from a major brain haemorrhage in 2013 which was shown on BBC2 Horizon.

The Class of 1969 are reunited



Seniors enjoy their 50th Reunion





GARDENING IN JULY 1977



FEEDING THE GUINEA PIGS IN SUMMER 1978

## Hobbies

The word 'Hobbies' may seem terribly old-fashioned, conjuring images of dabbling in a variety of fields in a superficial manner, but Hobbies at Benenden was just as valued and important to the pupils' education as the co-curricular programme is today.

In fact, there are many parallels that can be drawn. Pupils were encouraged to explore a variety of subjects including draughtsmanship, music, fencing, riding, acting, gymnastics, dance, self-defence, canoeing, creative writing, jewellery making, bellringing, public speaking, winemaking, cookery, photography, dog training and gardening, (the latter being something the School hopes to re-establish). The list of activities was long and varied. One student in the early days of Hobbies hand-reared a brood of ducks.

Hobbies was something that set Benenden apart from other schools educating girls and could be seen as a practical version of the Benenden Diploma today. The Founders were passionate that each girl should not only fulfil her potential, but also enjoy a range of activities, and choose them according to her tastes. Hobbies was a serious business that culminated with the Hobbies Exhibition where work was displayed, plays and music performed, all of which were inspected (one year by Her Majesty The Queen), judged, and cups awarded. It was a huge artistic celebration rather like the Arts Festival and Mark Reading rolled into one.

In the July 1937 issue of the School Magazine it was announced that "There is to be a Staff section this year; pallid pieces of knitting and compromising portions of embroidery are to be



BELL RINGERS' TOWER FEAST, 1979

seen in hands still reeking with the red ink of examination papers".

About 40 years after the Founders introduced the programme, a Senior in the 1970s recalls that "Hobbies were taken seriously, but there was always a mad rush in the Summer Term to complete or perfect a project. One of the most outstanding that I can remember is an egg-frying machine constructed by Lucy Primrose and Amanda Leslie." According to Committee members it "really needs a larger kitchen than a physics lab".

Although Hobbies ended in the late 1980s it is heartening to know that what the Founders set up all those years ago continues today – it's just the name that's changed.

# BENENDEN SCHOOL



## From the Archives

Below are extracts from previous editions of the Benenden Magazine pertinent to the Spring and Summer Terms of those years.

### 5 Years Ago – 2014

After taking the Eurostar, for many for the first time, we finally arrived in Paris late on Friday night. Our adventure started almost immediately as we had to take more than one metro to the hotel. When we arrived we had a lovely spaghetti supper and then went to bed, all very excited about the next day. When we woke up the next morning we had a tasty croissant breakfast and then set off back on the metro. This was very exciting as we passed the Eiffel Tower. There were also lots of musical entertainers on the metro. We then explored a bit and went to the Sacre-Coeur Basilica at the top of a hill which overlooked Paris. It was a beautiful view. We then went to meet our pen pals at their school, St Jean De Passy, for lunch. After that we went shopping and then we went to see the Eiffel Tower, which caused much excitement and was extremely pretty. It was such a hot day and everybody was then very happy to have a nice sit down on our boat trip tour up the Seine. We saw everything from the Louvre to Notre Dame Cathedral.

### 25 years ago – 1994

#### Self Defence

With the ever-increasing crime rate, it is unfortunately the case that many females feel uncomfortable walking on their own or even in a public place; a situation they have never come across before. It is this fear which self defence tries to replace with confidence. Hundreds of possible situations are taught to the girls and then a choice of sensible solutions which are repeatedly practised until they have become almost natural. It is not a false sense of security that our instructor, Mr Euan Petty, wants for us, but an insight into how to avoid danger. However, if this is not possible, the girls are given other options that they may not have had before. Although self defence is a serious sport, it is great fun, giving participants goals in terms of belts moving through colours in line with the level of ability a girl has reached. Who can say that throwing a friend over your shoulder is not amusing?

Victoria Webb  
VI

### 50 years ago – 1969

The highlight of the year has been the opening of the West Wing by H.R.H The Princess Anne on 15th May, and owing to the skill and determination of the architect, Mr Dennis Brown, and the builders, William Ellis of Etchingham, the building was ready for use at the beginning of term as they had previously promised. We were most appreciative, especially those who were able, on that date, to describe its comforts and usefulness from personal experience. We were deeply grateful to our distinguished Senior for coming to perform the opening ceremony which she did with wit and originality, and for her good spirits and sense of fun, refusing to be damped by the wettest day of the term (as it turned out to be). It was a great pleasure to have her with us on such a great day and to see her personal Standard flying from the tower.

### 75 years ago – 1944

The end of the war in Europe brought to us, as it did to everyone, the sense of the lifting of a cloud. The clear and unusually still weather of V.E Day in itself made it a day apart, and while to the older members of the School the sense of relief was overwhelming, the feelings of the younger ones were reflected in an essay written about the day, "We were very excited. Some of us, like me, could not remember peace at all." The day, too, brought a consciousness that another milestone in the life of the School was in sight, the return to Benenden.

## MOST POPULAR: SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS 2019

Form which has borrowed the most books:  
Six Two

Lower School's most borrowed book:  
The Tattooist of Auschwitz  
by Heather Morris

Upper School's most borrowed book:  
1984  
by George Orwell

School's most borrowed DVD:  
Crazy Rich Asians (2018)



# Benenden Class of 2019



Benenden School, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4AA, UK

**T** 01580 240592 **E** [schooloffice@benenden.school](mailto:schooloffice@benenden.school) **W** [www.benenden.school](http://www.benenden.school)

Follow us on Twitter: [@benendenschool](https://twitter.com/benendenschool) Facebook: [/benendenschool](https://www.facebook.com/benendenschool)

**Editors:** Ian Read and Steve Mandaluff **Design:** Scott Thorneycroft **Front cover:** Steve Mandaluff

**This magazine would not have been possible without the efforts of the pupils in The Term Club:**  
Teniola Adesanya, Hermione Barnes, Sophia Beaugié, Cece Bertelsen, Hetty Lawrence, Millie Metherell,  
Tolu Owolabi, Lara Rawson, Mirela Smolenska, Flora Teacher and Emma Witty.