

2017
Michaelmas

High- lights



A portrait of Mrs Gardiner Legge, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a light blue blazer and a patterned scarf. She is smiling and has her arms crossed.

A message from Mrs Gardiner Legge

Eleanor Wyatt founded Heathfield using Ruskin's words that 'they shall know what it is to see the sky'. In this brochure detailing all the achievements of the Michaelmas term you can see that the same vision of ambition and the formation of a character education is alive and well nearly 120 years later as well as the stellar progress we continue to make as a school on that journey to excellence.

The term began with the best GCSE results ever for the School combined with a fantastic diversity of destinations for our leavers, including Russell Group universities, Central St Martins and RADA. The variety of courses chosen by our leavers was equally diverse, ranging from Classics to Engineering, Marketing to Architecture and International Business to Biomedical Science. This diversity echoes the individual focus that is so very important at Heathfield. As you read these pages you will see that there is something for everyone. Our speaker series continues and the girls have a wide range to choose from including a 'Technopreneur' from Google UK and a theatrical tailor who makes the costumes for The Royal Opera House.

Trips continue across the board whether to a concert in London directed by staff or across the hills of Cumbria on Duke of Edinburgh. It is out in the cold and wet that one really finds who you are and what you are made of, and the focus on resilience, grit and team spirit really helps to make Heathfield girls the 'movers and shakers' that they are.

Speaking of Heathfield 'movers and shakers', it was wonderful to formally welcome Wantage Old Girls to Heathfield for the first time. We hope that this is the beginning of many more similar events.

I hope you enjoy reading about the Michaelmas term and our extraordinary school.

All the best,
Mrs Gardiner Legge
Headmistress

A photograph of three young women in school uniforms (dark blue blazers, white shirts, and red ties) smiling. The girl in the center is the Head Girl.

A message from the Head Girl

The Michaelmas term has been a tremendous start to what has already been a hugely successful year. With our newly focused school aim: to discover and develop every girl's unique talents to enable her to excel, pupils developed a charter of aims that construct the values that we would like to fulfill. These are based around flourishing, finding resilience in the face of adversity and making the most of all opportunities.

Heathfield's talents were showcased through multiple events such as the Music and Lamda Concert and the rehearsals for Oliver! running throughout the term, with girls putting in huge amounts of effort towards creating a fantastic show. We also had Esme in LVI, making it through to the regional round of ARTiculation, which we are all very proud of!

The careers and outreach team have worked hard to make this term an interesting and enlightening one. We have thoroughly enjoyed hearing from multiple speakers including Dame Martina, who spoke about the amazing work her and the Prince's Trust do.

Not only has this term been an informative one, but it has also been jam packed with fun, starting off with students from Godstowe joining us in a hot air balloon adventure to a dressing-up Halloween celebration with a 'spooky-supper'. Heathfield's bonfire night was a huge success with over £200 raised for our school charity Child Bereavement UK.

We rounded off the term with our annual Christmas Lunch with the day culminating in our beautiful Carol Service, where parents and girls were blessed with moving performances by the choir, soloists and the orchestra.

I would like to say a huge thank you to my Deputies Ellie and Jasmine, for being an amazing support team while we settled into our new prefect positions, and making my Head Girl position one that I will never forget.

Best Wishes,
Daisy
Head Girl

Front cover image: Tribe
(First place, Photography at Windsor
Festival Schools' Programme 2017)

Artist: Lisa (UVI)

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Summer 2017 exam results

Celebrating our best ever GCSE results - 60% of students gained the top A*-A and new 7-9 grades. Students celebrated their amazing performance in their GCSE exams having achieved our best ever results with 60% achieving A*-A and grades 7,8,9 in the new and significantly more demanding English GCSEs – an 11 per cent improvement on last year's figures.

The percentage of top grades (9s and A*s) overall is up from 17% to an impressive 27% this year.

Following the introduction of new reformed GCSE English courses in September 2015, this year's candidates were the first to sit the more rigorous examinations in these subjects and receive the new numerical grades, 9-1 with the new grade 9 acting as an additional grade, to differentiate the most exceptional students. 24% of our English Language students and 41% of English Literature students gained the new top grades 7, 8 and 9.

In Maths iGCSE, 51% of students gained A*-A and 100% A*-C. As a further challenge, 4 students sat Additional Maths, all achieving A*-A grades.

Results in sciences were also exceptional with A*-A grades achieved at 93% in Biology and 86% in Chemistry and Physics.

100% of students gained A*-A in classical Greek, A*-B in Latin and A*-C in Classics. In modern languages, students achieved 100% A*-A in Spanish and 63% A*-A in French. 100% of Geography students were awarded grades A*-B and 100% of History students gained A*-B, with 92% awarded A*-A.

As well as its overall success, the school notched up a number of outstanding individual performances. The 37-strong cohort gained an impressive eight grade 9s – which is higher than the old A* grade - 14 grade 8s (A* equivalent) 11 grade 7s, 87 A*s and 81 A grades in total.

Deputy Head girl Jasmine performed particularly well gaining 11 A*s and an 8 and 9 in English Literature and English Language respectively and in Additional Maths she gained a grade above A* - A* with Distinction. Other stellar performances saw three students gain all A*/A and 9/8 grades, and a year 10 student, taking her GCSEs in French and Russian a year early gained A* in both.

A Level results

This year's cohort of sixth formers was the first to take the reformed, new format, linear A Levels introduced by the government in a bid to make A Levels tougher and a better preparation for university.

Eight in ten girls (87%) achieved all A*-C grades in their A Level exams this summer, with more than half gaining all A*-B grades. All subjects in the school have cause for celebration since students have achieved in both academic and vocational subjects, gaining places at a diverse range of prestigious destinations – from leading Russell Group universities such as Edinburgh, Exeter, Newcastle and Warwick to acclaimed arts and drama colleges RADA and Central St Martins.

Their chosen courses are equally diverse from Engineering, Architecture, Biomedical Sciences and Classics to Fine Art, Animal Management and Welfare and Film Studies.

Over half the students gained at least one A*-A grade in their exams (54%), and an outstanding 100% of candidates recorded all A*-B grades in German, Latin, Government & Politics, Business, Further Mathematics and Psychology with a further 100% gaining A*-A grades in Chinese and Russian.

There were solid academic performances in Science, with 100% of students gaining B grades in Biology and Chemistry, 50% in Physics and 37% of students gaining A grades in Maths and Further Maths.

Among some particularly impressive performances, two girls gained three A* grades and one A grade between them. Other highlights, students made a particularly strong showing in the Arts, with 100% gaining A-B in Music, A*-C in Drama and Photography, where nearly half of all students were graded A*-A, and A-C in Art Textiles.

Included in this year's results are those of a Year 12 pupil who particularly impressed with an A grade in her Music A Level which she completed in just one year, a year early.

Congratulations to all the girls and we look forward to hearing how they get on over the next few years.



End of Term Awards

The end of the 2017 Summer Term drew to a close with the announcement of numerous prizes, badges, bows and cups.

We started with the sports awards and colours and this was followed by the long awaited results of the Forms I – III Science projects.

ILP successes were celebrated, and Juana was named as the winner of the Geography Europe prize. Badges were handed out for Flute Ensemble (Lara, Form I) and Psychology (Angelina, LVI), and the Berkshire Masonic Charity's School Charity Award was awarded to Victoria for her entrepreneurial efforts to raise money for our school charity RobbiesRally.

Junior, Senior and Sixth Form Subject Prizes were announced across all faculties. Congratulations to all the winners who worked so hard across this academic year. Somerville won the House Maths competition, well done to all those involved.

Progress awards were announced to celebrate those girls who have achieved grade improvements in various subjects, and a special well done to Aisha, Emma, Eugenia, Georgina, Ines and Isabella who all achieved this grade improvement in two different subjects.

Red Ties were presented to Asuka, Clare, Eva and Isobel, and Bows and Bearing Badges were awarded. The Mary Grant Cup was also awarded. This prize is given to a student who makes the most of their talents, shows determination and resilience, as well as cheerfulness and compassion. Well done to Larissa (Form I) who has pushed through this year while battling illness.

Finally, the winners of the House Shield for the Summer Term 2017 were announced. Well done to Somerville!

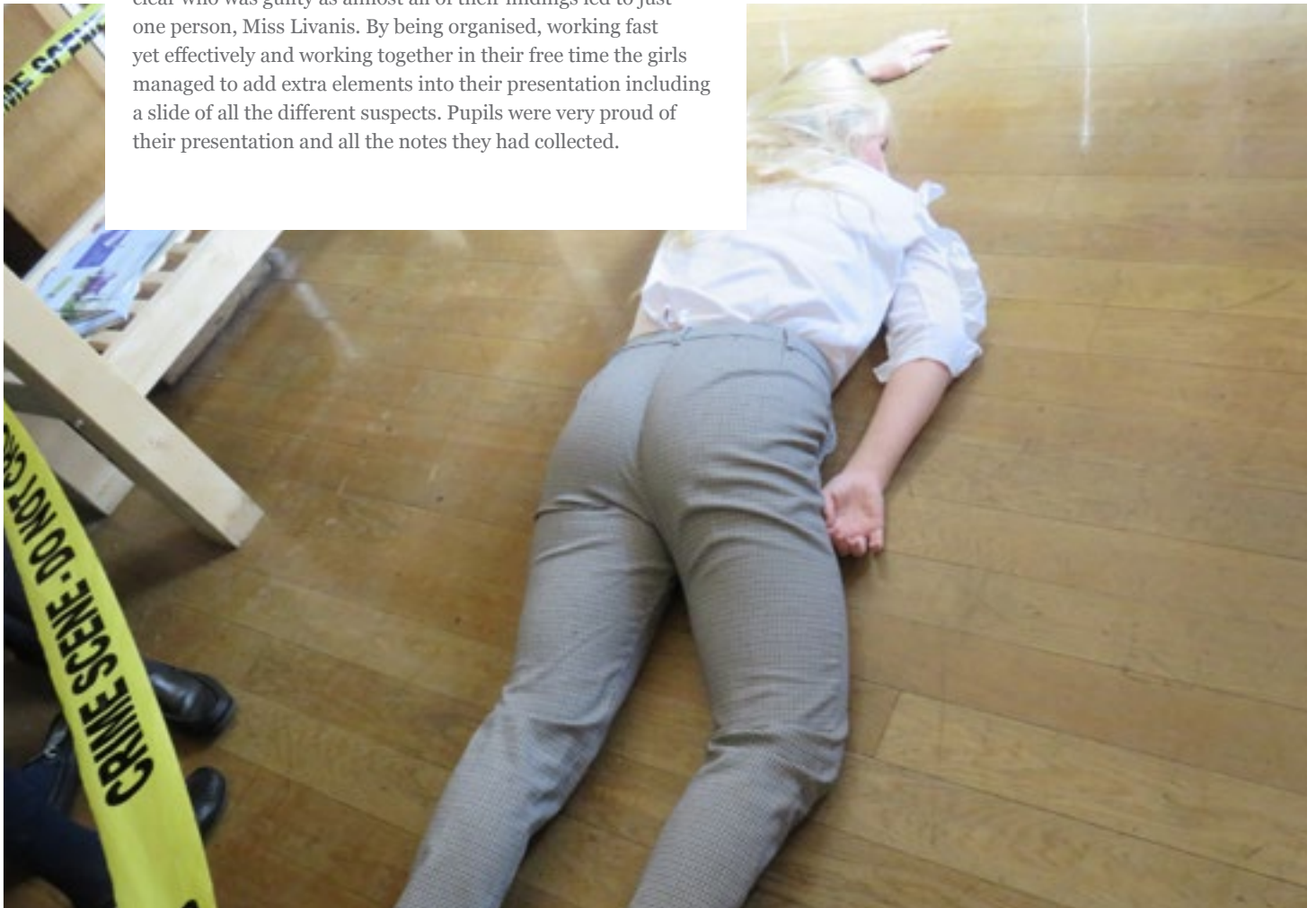
Science

Form III Forensic Investigation

At the beginning of term, Form III found that Miss Jackson had been poisoned in the dining room. It was quite dramatic as she appeared to have a disagreement with another member of staff beforehand.

Form III then had to investigate her murder, starting with preserving the crime scene and noting down any evidence. All the girls were involved in the various experiments and the teachers reassured pupils during the blood tests that they were not testing real blood!

When it came to finding the murderer, it soon became crystal clear who was guilty as almost all of their findings led to just one person, Miss Livanis. By being organised, working fast yet effectively and working together in their free time the girls managed to add extra elements into their presentation including a slide of all the different suspects. Pupils were very proud of their presentation and all the notes they had collected.



EPQ presentations

On 14 and 15 November, eleven UVI girls presented their research for their Extend Project Qualification.

Having started in September 2016, when they learnt about how to research, use sources, take notes, reference, evaluate and analyse as well as manage the whole process, they all presented outstanding projects. They spoke fluently and confidently and answered questions with ease.

Franny spoke about Jessica Jones as a role model, Olivia about banking as gambling, Charlotte on the safety of

vaccines, Kitty on the electric car, Millie on war veterans, Evie on learning languages, Clare on cooking as a therapy, Judy on Music therapy for teenagers, Sophie on sugar as a drug, Millie on Utopias and Chrissie on alcoholism and teenage drinking.

The presentations were all engaging, professional and well researched; supervisors, parents, staff and girls greatly enjoyed them.

After it was all over, the presenters had a well-deserved glass of wine and chatted about the research and process further. Well done girls!



ARTiculation Public Speaking Competition

The ARTiculation Prize is a nationally acclaimed annual event designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of art. The competition seeks to engage 16 - 19 year old students with art and to develop their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and conclusions. Each student is invited to deliver a ten minute presentation to an interested audience about a work of art, artefact or architecture of their choice. Adjudicators are asked to assess each presentation as a whole, looking at content, structure, delivery and the speaker's unique potential.

This year, three LVI girls, Esme, Tanya and Jasmine competed in this not only national, but now international competition. The ARTiculation Prize has been designed to give young people a forum in which they are able to express their ideas on art. Around 4,000 young people a year take part in 10 regions in England, four in Scotland and four in Ireland.

On 4 December we were treated to three fabulous talks. Esme spoke about *The Lady of Shalott 1888* by John William Waterhouse, giving a very personal account of the painting and looking at the rise of the red head as a supermodel. Tanya also gave a personal and poignant account of Sergey Alekseevich Luchishkin's *The Balloon Flew Away, 1926* contextualising the work within the economic climate of Russia in the 1920's. Lastly, Jasmine gave her presentation on Gericault's *Raft of the Medusa, 1818*. All the talks were excellent.

The adjudicators found judging incredibly difficult. On the basis of a well-researched yet very personal approach, unusual in its angle and very well presented, Esme was announced as the winner.

Esme secured her Speaker's Place for the Regional Heat at St Swithun's School, Winchester on 10 January where the adjudicator was Maggie Guillebaud, chaplain of Church House, Salisbury who commented that Esme was a very accomplished and confident speaker. She praised Esme's excellent research and very much liked Esme's approach to *The Lady of Shallot* and her description of her glorious hair. Esme also gave a lovely focus on, and description of, the details within the work pointing out and interpreting the symbolism very well. Huge congratulations to Esme!

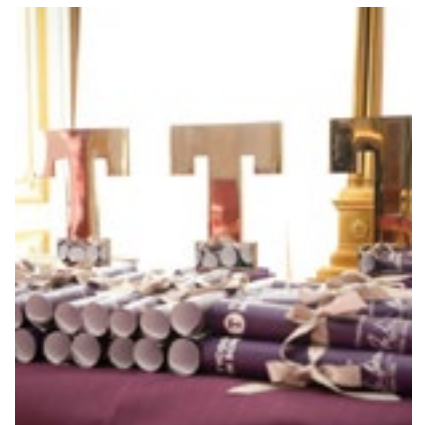
The Roche Court
Educational Trust
NewArtCentre.

ARTiculation Prize

Business Studies

Tycoon in Schools is a free national enterprise competition which aims to encourage the UK's budding entrepreneurs to get involved in business by giving them a start-up loan of between £50 and £1,000 to run a business whilst at school or college. Launched in 2012 by Peter Jones CBE the competition helps students to gain valuable hands-on experience of what is involved with running a business.

Many congratulations to Kitty and Gina who came up with a fantastic new business idea, submitted it to Tycoon in Schools and have subsequently received the necessary funding for them to launch it. The trading phase of the competition ended and the results were submitted mid-December with the final results being announced in early March. Good luck Kitty and Gina!



Lower School Trip to PGL

On 15 September, Forms I and II set off for a day of outdoor activities at the PGL Centre at Marchants Hill, Hindhead. The girls in the Lower School had spent only a week and half in each other's company and were already forging strong friendships and this was an opportunity to really show their teamwork and support in a very active way.

Starting on the low ropes, the girls were showed how to be 'ninja squirrels' to support and keep each other safe while trying the rope obstacles. Working in threes, they had to be on hand to offer support when needed and they had to be able to put their trust in each other.

The high ropes presented a real physical and mental challenge for all the girls and several girls were out of their comfort zone but not one of them failed to climb to the top and propel themselves off at the top.

After lunch were more high rope challenges with the zip wire and the giant swing. Girls had to exercise patience to wait their turns and it was lovely to see them work together as they encouraged, cheered and supported each other. Thankfully the rain held off until we were on our way home.



Form II Trip to The Living Rainforest



The Living Rainforest near Newbury is as near as we can get to a tropical rainforest on a cool October morning in Berkshire and Form II thoroughly enjoyed their day there. They arrived well equipped with background knowledge about the location, climate and layered structure of the vegetation of the forest which they had already studied at school.



We were given a tour of the greenhouses focusing on the amazing adaptations of the plants and animals to the hot and humid environment and nutrient-poor soils of the forest. We were shown the many ways that leaves shed the excessive water to prevent them being damaged or rotting in the forest and how plants can trap animals to add to their nutrient supply. Also how tree snakes have evolved in the same way in different continents in response to the conditions in which they live. Pupils enjoyed the Hissing

Cockroach, the Salmon pink Bird-eating Spider (which is not salmon pink nor does it eat birds!). The favourites were the Two Toed Sloth hiding in the branches and the Agouti with its iron enforced teeth making it the only animal that can penetrate the Brazil nut pod. The girls worked hard and completed their visit with their own drawings and notes of the plants and animals which they used for some colourful and informative posters that they displayed in the classroom.

Form III

History trip to Ypres

The Form III trip to Ypres and the Battlefields which took place on 29 and 30 September took our study of the First World War out of the classroom and into the landscape in which it was fought. It began with a 6am start, a packed lunch and a channel crossing not that dissimilar to those who travelled this route a century ago.

Once in Belgium we visited Tyne Cot Commonwealth and Langemarck German Cemeteries; the multitude of headstones and inscriptions spoke of the destructive power of the war but the purpose of these places was to rescue these men from the anonymity of modern industrialised warfare and in a book of remembrance students searched out relatives whom they knew resided in these places. At Langemarck while standing before

a concrete blockhouse our guide read the account of a British officer of an attack on the same blockhouse over a century before. As with so much here the location enabled the past and present to overlap.

We travelled to Ypres. Originally a mediaeval town, it had been largely obliterated by the First World War barrage but had been rebuilt a facsimile of the original. Yet the war was not totally erased; at the entrance to the town the monumental Menin Gate sat astride the road and carried the names of those lost in the battles of Ypres. Here every evening the poignant ceremony of the Last Post is performed and here Heathfield students laid a wreath along with others in memory of the fallen.



After a well-deserved night's rest we sallied forth the next day to the Essex Farm Dressing Station famously associated with the surgeon-poet John McCrae. Here students stood in the buildings where wounds had been staunched and where McCrae's friend had died inspiring his iconic poem of the war. Within the graveyard stood the headstones of a soldier of fifteen years and grouped stones commemorating those who had died together. We travelled on to where the first gas attack in History had taken place; again our guide provided a contemporary account of the battle seen through the letter of a widow of one of the casualties. The line of the battlefield was traced but the appearance of the landscape was now very different. Finally, we arrived at Poperinge and the Passchendaele Museum; as with so much here as if to rescue

the landscape from the destruction of war, areas in Poperinge had been rebuilt as they once were. Only within the museum was the machinery of war laid out: its weapons and broken casings faded insignias and printed material. In the gardens a reconstruction of a trench system and a chance to traverse what for so many had been the sort of place they lived in the days of the war.

As we travelled back to Heathfield late on Saturday the visit had lasted less than 48 hours but had covered a lot of ground. This part of the world evinced a curious tension between repairing the destruction of the War and remembering what it cost, an attempt by the present to come to terms with the effects of the past.



Form I Enjoying exploring the New Forest National Park

On 25 September, the first school day after their first Exeat, Form I departed from Heathfield for their first ever Geography curriculum trip.

The morning consisted of learning geographical fieldwork skills, such as drawing a field sketch and completing traffic and land use surveys, in Beaulieu. The girls were an obvious attraction to donkeys and ponies who came to help.

The day was made extra-special due to it being Bella's birthday. Blowing bubbles and eating chocolates added to the picnic fun in the forest.

The afternoon focused on Lyndhurst where a visit to the Verderer's Court was a highlight. Suzie, the Museum's educational Officer, presented an informative talk on Land Uses and Conflicts in the New Forest National Park.

A very interesting and fun day out followed by lots of hard work in the classroom!



A Geography lecture at the University of London



The Geography department at Royal Holloway invited our A Level students to attend a talk on The Social Science of Disasters in the Global South, by lecturer Dr Ayesha Siddiqi on 27 November. As Hazards is a major topic in the new examination, this provided a golden opportunity for our nine Sixth Formers in the 'Geog Squad' to not only attend a university lecture but also to gain knowledge and understanding from an expert.

Our students now fully appreciate that vulnerability is a product of social systems in places like the Philippines, who experienced devastation after Typhoon Pablo in 2012. This natural disaster wreaked havoc on the resilient banana plantations but how much devastation was due to nature and how much to human impact?

Sixth Form Theatre Trip

On 10 October Mrs Fowler-Whale and Miss Jackson took Lower and Upper Sixth English Literature students to see *Jane Eyre* at the National Theatre to support their exam texts. The play was superb and the girls loved the intensity of the acting and music coupled with the simple staging.

Although disappointed that some key plot points were missed, such as Jane becoming Rochester's financial equal, they all understood that for creative and practical reasons the novel had to be shortened, especially as the play already ran for over three hours. Overall, the girls were delighted with the skill and creativity of the performance which gave them plenty to discuss in their English lessons.





A Level Classics Trip to Oxford Playhouse

On the stormy night of 19 October Sixth Form Classics set out to the Oxford Playhouse Theatre to witness the demise of King Pentheus of Thebes at the hands of Dionysus, god of wine and ecstasy, but also, more sinisterly, of madness. The multi-faceted god appeared in the form of three actors dressed in appropriately gender-fluid sparkling tights, followed by a troop of Bacchantes, adding, despite of the 'just out of bed' look, a sense of mystery with song and violin.

As the Ancient Greek lines flowed more rapidly, the audience were swept towards the inevitable conclusion: by not recognising the power of Dionysus, Pentheus had committed a mortal offence and he and his family would suffer. No violence, according to Greek tradition, ever happened on stage, but it was evoked in the messenger's heartrending words and accompanying video. Pentheus was literally torn apart and Dionysus ruled supreme!

Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to experience Greek theatre in the original language and hopefully the performance will be an inspiration to the Lower Sixth in their compulsory study of the Bacchae by Euripides later this year.



Religious Studies GCSE Conference

On 3 November, 20 Form V girls together with Ms Oster and Miss Johnson, attended a conference in central London. The conference was led by Professor Peter Vardy and covered a range of GCSE topics such as war, peace and justice, and the nature of God with extremely helpful examination techniques. In addition to the interesting lectures which used art and film clips to illustrate the topics, there were time for questions and debate.

Heathfield girls were confident in answering questions and both Hum and Tansy argued effectively in a debate about Christianity and pacifism. This was impressive considering there were 300 GCSE students present and the debating was dominated by male students.

The girls came away with useful revision resources and ideas of how to achieve top grades in the GCSE examination this summer. They were a credit to Heathfield in both their engagement and behaviour.



Trip to Theatre Cervantes London

Girls studying Spanish GCSE and A Level travelled to London on 6 November to the newly opened Cervantes Theatre to watch the play *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* written by Federico García Lorca (1898-1936), poet and dramatist. He was one of the greatest Spanish writers of the 20th century. This was a great opportunity for A Level students in particular as it is the same literature book they are studying in preparation for their examination.

Mrs Pullen was really impressed with the perseverance, enthusiasm and behaviour of all the participants but above all with the very intelligent questions asked during the workshop and during the question and answer session. A very positive trip indeed.

Sixth Form Theatre Trip

The Lower and Upper Sixth Drama students attended an immersive production of 'The Great Gatsby' performed by Immersive Ensemble on 30 November. This was a very new experience for the girls, placing them at the heart of one of Gatsby's glamorous parties in full 1920s costume, whilst experiencing the story unfolding all around them. Chasing the various characters around the building, finding secret scenes, interacting with all the characters and even taking a Charleston dance lesson, they had a wonderful time unpicking the plot and themes of the piece.

Following the performance the girls were fortunate to have a question and answer session with the entire cast, giving them the opportunity to ask all kinds of interesting questions about how they would go about putting on their own immersive performance. A smashing time had by everyone!

Shakespeare Schools' Festival

As part of the annual Shakespeare Schools Festival, Forms II and III performed an abridged version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at South Hill Park Theatre, Bracknell on 19 October.

Pupils performed at the Shakespeare Schools' Festival with two other schools and they had an amazing time trying to squeeze all the magic and mischief of the original play into the allotted thirty minutes. The girls were very pleased with how it all went and were rightfully very proud of their performance.

"We all found the different types of characters intriguing and we loved how the play was so comedic. The costumes were weird but wonderful! We have had a wonderful journey performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and while we are disappointed it has come to an end we are already very excited for next year!" Form III pupil.



Heathfield's production of Oliver!

Mrs Halcrow and Mrs Dance held auditions in the Michaelmas term for the whole school production of Oliver! taking place mid-March. They are both very excited to have such a hugely talented cast of almost 40 girls and rehearsals started straight away



Windsor Festival Schools' Programme

Congratulations to all our pupils who entered in the 2017 Competition. There were over 350 entries from all the senior schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Heathfield's results are:

Art: Sculpture, Alex LVI, Cigarette Skull – Highly Commended

Art: Textiles, Ellie LVI, Flat Textiles Triptych - Commended

Art: Textile, Beatrice LVI, Flat Textiles Piece – Commended

Art: Textiles, Sophia Form V, Denim Outfit – 2nd Place

Photography: Lisa UVI, Tribe – 1st Place

Photography: Isobel UVI, Camouflage #1 – 3rd Place



Peris, Pupils and Parents' Evening

This was a new venture for the music department to showcase the outstanding talent of our peripatetic music staff. As one parent commented, not only was it good to hear the staff perform alongside the girls, but it was great to see how supportive and encouraging they all were to the girls.

Many of our pupils played duets and ensembles with their teachers which proved a delightful opportunity for all involved. Miss Woodruff played in a flute trio with Emma

and Franny while Miss Jubert played on the sax and then the drums with Harriet on the piano and then with Sophie. Father David gave a piano duet debut with Miss Kong, improvising variations in between the Orchestra's famous Paganini Theme.

It was a good opportunity for parents to talk to all our peripatetic music teachers. Girls were encouraged to sign up for trial lessons on new instruments and we are delighted that we had requests for drums, harp and guitar. A wonderful evening and an excellent result!





Friday Music Concert

With sixteen items to perform, the music department was very proud of the standard and diversity of all the performances. From the bright start of the orchestra playing the “Hallelujah Chorus” to the final “Good News Medley” led by Forms I and II with staff participation the whole evening was an amazing success.

Outstanding items were the Piano Trio No1, Opus 49 in D minor played by Asuka, Charlie and Miss Kong, the song sung and composed by Ines Rotaeché, I Chose You, and the Choir singing a very moving rendition of You Raise Me Up. The evening was also a composing debut for Lucy (Form II) and Lara (Form II) with their October Wind Chimes and a performing debut for Isabella (Form I). Other soloists included Tansy, Sonya, Hum and Amber, accompanied on drums by Jasmine, duettists, Tansy and Sophia, Daisy and Charlotte, the Form III Ukulele Band, the Flute and String Ensemble and the Heathfield Modern Band. A most diverse and well-received musical evening. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



School Carol Service

Term ended in the traditional way with a positive and moving celebration of the Christmas story.

Readings from representatives of every part of our school community punctuated a feast of singing - congregational, choral and individual. Outstanding solo and duet performances were greeted with spontaneous applause – unusual perhaps for an act of worship, but richly deserved all round. The Top 12, the Choir, the Junior Choir and the Staff Choir sat alongside the orchestra and the band, all under the watchful eye of the music department’s tireless and talented Mrs Dance and Miss Kong. With a message of peace and bridge-building, and the strains of O Come all ye Faithful fresh in their ears, the school community went their separate ways. Special thanks to our parents and friends for supporting the Carol Service, and to the unstinting work of staff and girls for making it such a fitting and uplifting end to the term.

Photography/ Geography Competition 2017

The theme for the 2017 Photography / Geography competition was Perspective and many congratulations to all the pupils and staff who submitted an entry. The competition was fierce but after much deliberation, the following pupils were announced as the winners:

Forms I – III

Form I – **Alisa**

Form II – **Sabie**

Form III – **Cesca**

Overall Winner **Shi Yu**

Forms IV – V

Form IV – **Olivia**

Form V – **Maddy**

Overall Winner **Harriet**

Sixth Form

Lower Sixth Winner – **Jasmine**

Upper Sixth Winner – **Agatha**

Overall Winner **Frida**

Closest to the theme

Maya (Form III)

Most geographically interesting

Boots (Form V)

The one that made us laugh!

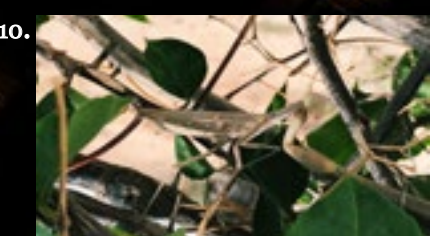
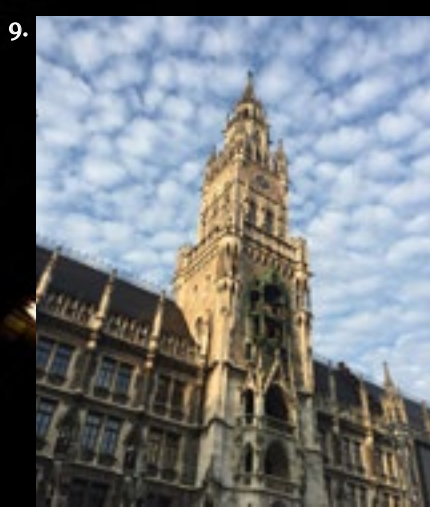
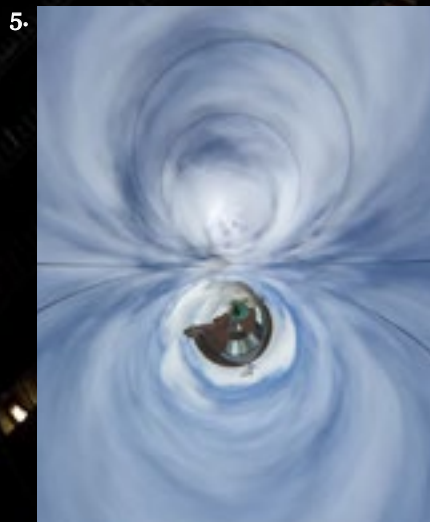
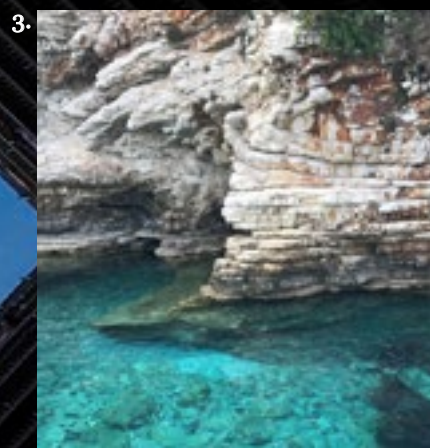
Romy (Form II)

Most photographically challenging

Phoebe (LVI)

One to have on the wall

Gabi (UVI)



- 1. Harriet
- 2. Frida
- 3. Sabie
- 4. Alisa
- 5. Phoebe
- 6. Cesca
- 7. Agatha
- 8. Shi Yu
- 9. Maddy
- 10. Olivia

11. Jasmine (background)

Lower Sixth Photography Trip

From the Namib Desert at sunset to ice caps in southern Iceland the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Natural History Museum had something for everyone to admire. This year's winning entry of a rhinoceros that had its horn sliced off by poachers was a particularly thought provoking and striking image.

The LVI Photography students were there to gather information and reinforce their knowledge of camera controls by visiting this wonderful display and collecting metadata that reflected their learning during this early stage of the course.

However, in complete contrast, the V&A next door was exhibiting a collection by fashion designer Cristobal Balenciaga. Whilst this exhibition was more about textiles than photography, it is important to find inspiration and influence within many different creative disciplines in order to develop independent projects. Here the girls marvelled at the shapes, tones and textures used in Balenciaga's creations, each finding specific detail that would help inspire an experiment or photoshoot within their own themes and to include as primary research.

To complete the afternoon, students enjoyed supper at Bella Italia and dessert at Oddono's. You might think that this was an extremely successful and exciting day. However, the reality was that I think all of the exhibited work paled in comparison to the sighting of American actor Dylan Prouse!



Leiths Christmas Cake Challenge



Another superb array of creatively challenging Christmas Cakes were produced by Leiths Students (UVI), showcasing a fantastic range of talent.

The winners were:

- Most Technically Ambitious Cake – Oliva
- Most Technically Proficient Cake – Sophie
- Most Creative Cake - Eva
- Best Original Cake - Franny
- Best Traditional Cake - Charlotte

Many congratulations to all the girls who took part.

Textiles Designer in Residence, Nicci James

Congratulations to Nicci who featured in the Et Tu, Art Brute? Exhibition at the Andrew Edlin Gallery in New York in January 2018.

Nicci is an artist who takes a playful approach to design through the skilful handling of materials and with an emphasis on texture and colour. Her illustrative style and love of experimentation translate primarily into visually rich garments featuring elements of knit, screen-print and embroidery which have won her international acclaim. Narrative and storytelling are an inherent part of her practise and she is consistently inspired by traditional fabric patterns and symbols.

Google Talk at Eton College



On 25 September, the iGCSE ICT girls attended a talk at Eton College with Susan Zhang from Google. Susan, a Creative Technologist at Google UK, uses machine learning and ‘programmatically advertising’. A Computer Scientist, she describes herself as a Technopreneur and has founded a number of business start-ups in Australia.

Susan spoke about some of the technology behind the services offered by Google as well as talking about the organisation

itself and the opportunities open to those that work at Google. The audience also had the opportunity to experience a live demo of the Virtual Reality goggles, Google Cardboard, which they were then allowed to take home.

The iGCSE ICT girls were joined by a number of Form V, LVI and UVI girls, all of whom found the talk enjoyable and the girls asked and answered plenty of questions. Susan’s energy and enthusiasm for Computing was infectious and she was very keen to encourage the subject, especially to the girls.



All of a Twitter

Not long after the talk from Google, the iGCSE ICT girls were back at Eton College but this time they were there to listen to Dara Nasr, the UK Managing Director of Twitter.

With a background that encompasses Eurosport and Google, Dara gave an open and candid insight into the social media industry. He spoke about how the industry, and Twitter specifically, has evolved over the last ten years. It was enlightening to hear his insights into how online celebrities achieved their incomes and how these revenue streams are changing with the growing use of ad blockers.

Mr Nasr was accompanied by Susan Zhang, a Creative Technologist at Google UK, who uses machine learning and 'programmatic advertising'. A Computer Scientist, she describes herself as a Technopreneur and has founded a number of business start-ups in Australia.

Susan spoke about some of the technology behind the services offered by Google as well as talking about the organisation itself and the opportunities open to those that work at Google. The audience also had the opportunity to experience a live demo of the Virtual Reality goggles, Google Cardboard, which they were then allowed to take home.

The iGCSE ICT girls made a point of going up to speak to Dara at the end of the talk, as well as asking plenty of questions. In fact, Dara complimented the girls on not shying away from asking challenging questions, including the reasoning behind the closing of Vine. We continue to enjoy working collaboratively with Eton College.

A Night with the Royal Opera House

On 2 September we were excited to welcome Jay Francois-Campbell to Heathfield along with a huge suitcase! Once opened, the suitcase revealed deep red satin, sequins, gold embroidery and layers of stiff tulle netting - ballet costumes!

Jay Francois-Campbell is a theatrical tailor, with over twenty years of experience, who makes the costumes for The Royal Opera House. Jay works with the celebrity opera and ballet performers and came along to talk to the girls about her work and how she became a Master Tailor. The message from Jay was very positive and she encouraged the girls to touch all the costumes and samples. The girls were impressed to hear the long list of famous names she has dressed, such as Pavarotti, and the prestigious shows she had worked on, from The Lion King and Les Misérables to the opera Artaxerxes and its magnificent coronation costume. Jay emphasised the importance of exercising resilience and a can-do attitude, especially useful when the opera prima donna declared that blue was not her colour and required a completely new costume two hours before the start of the show.

The girls found Jay Francois-Campbell's talk both inspiring and informative.



Athena Society

The Athena Society had a very successful Michaelmas term and welcomed new members Hum (Form V) and Alia (Form IV). On 11 October the Athena Society once again collaborated with Eton's Feminist Society, hosting an event at the Marten Library, Eton.

Alia gave a thought-provoking speech to the very large audience. She detailed her experiences with Islamophobia

and discussed the question of feminism's place within Islam as a religion. Kerry from Eton then gave the crowd an interesting insight on an Etonian's view on feminism and abortion.

It was an extremely successful event with over ninety-three boys signing up to attend. The Athena society hosted a follow-up event at Heathfield and discuss all the topics further.





Duke of Edinburgh

Form V Bronze Assessed Expedition

After a morning of playing Lacrosse Matches 13 Form V pupils set out for the Marlow countryside to finish their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh with an assessed expedition.

An afternoon of hiking along the river Thames was enjoyed by all even with the odd shower of rain, which did not dampen spirits. At camp, tents were quickly set up and food prepared around a warming camp fire. Eventually their tents and sleeping bags were calling and the girls retired to bed.

An early morning alarm call from the numerous pheasants descending from roosting in the trees was a sight to be seen – and heard! All the girls decamped quickly and were ready for their second day of activities and hiking. The cloud cover did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm and as the day progressed the sun came out and the girls finished their day in the beautiful village of Hambleden

Form IV and V Bronze Assessed Expedition

The following month, after a successful Open Morning, seven Form IV and three Form V girls embarked on their Final Assessed Expedition for Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. They had forgotten how cumbersome it was to walk with a rucksack, but an unseasonably warm afternoon made for an enjoyable trek along the river towards Marlow.

Arriving at the campsite just before the sun set, the girls worked quickly to get the tent set up and to start preparing and cooking supper. To finish the meal, marshmallows were melted on the open fire as the warmth of the day started to wane.

Dawn broke to a misty fog hanging over the campsite but the tents were packed away and the girls were keen to get going on their second day. The girls managed the day well, apart from the odd wrong turn, finishing with a gentle stroll up the valley to Skirmett, yet another beautiful village in the Chilterns.

The Assessor from Inspired Expeditions, Charlie Metcalfe, was pleased to congratulate both groups of girls on passing their assessed expeditions. Well done!

Special Mentions

Congratulations to Asuka (UVI) for her exceptional performance in the recent Gold assessment expedition in Dartmoor. Matthew Couling, Managing Director at Inspired Expeditions was so impressed, he was compelled to write:

“We have been working with Heathfield School to help facilitate your DofE expeditions for over 5 years and we are always encouraged by how enthusiastic the girls are by the new experiences we challenge them with. But this email is for a more specific reason. I would like to draw attention to Asuka, one of your students that attended our Gold assessment expedition in Dartmoor in October Half Term.

Asuka was absolutely fantastic throughout the whole expedition and she deserves a very special mention. She was nothing short of brilliant. As the only participant not from the same school, it was wonderful to see how seamlessly she again integrated into the team. She is very competent, caring and determined.

Asuka totally stepped up to the plate. Whenever necessary, she helped other members of her team in their time of need and was instrumental to the team’s success. We see thousands of participants through the DofE programme each year, but Asuka stands out as one of, if not the best, participant we have had through this year.”

An amazing accolade, well done Asuka!

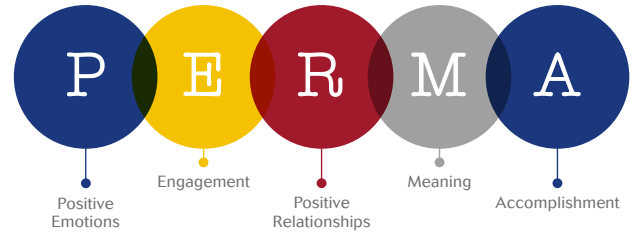


Figure 1.

Flourishing at School Programme

In order to offer maximum support to its pupils, Heathfield is very proud to be the first UK school to adopt the Flourishing at School programme.

Researchers have found that almost half of all people are likely to develop a mental illness in their lifetime. However 75% of these people will have their first experience with a mental health problem before the age of 25.

The consequences of mental illness in a school context include: lower attendance, reduced academic performance, impaired psychosocial development, reduced likelihood for tertiary study, and difficulty entering the workforce. Given the amount of time each day both pupils and staff spend at school, it is a logical place to assist individuals develop behaviors that will support good mental health at school, in the broader community, and beyond.

The Flourishing at School programme is a mental health and wellbeing programme designed to provide preventative mental health assistance to pupils and staff in school. The goal is to keep individuals well, assist to optimise wellbeing, and increase the likelihood that individuals will seek assistance if there is a need.

The programme is based on the work of Dr Martin Seligman, who is currently Director of the Penn Positive Psychology Center, Zellerbach Family Professor of Psychology in the Penn Department of Psychology, and Director of the Penn Master of Applied Positive Psychology program (MAPP) at the University of Pennsylvania. Commonly known as the founder of Positive Psychology, Martin Seligman is a leading authority in the fields of Positive Psychology, resilience, learned helplessness, depression, optimism and pessimism. He is also a recognized authority on interventions that prevent depression, and build strengths and well-being. He has written more than 250 scholarly publications and 20 books.

Central to Seligman's theory of positive psychology and well-being is the acronym PERMA. This stands for: See Figure 1.

These five 'pillars' of well-being are used within the Flourishing at School programme, which also recognises and adds the physical factors that influence well-being; Sleep, Nutrition and Exercise.

Introducing the Flourishing Profile

As well as PSHE, and Tutor Time, lessons and classroom activities on the aspects of positive mental health and well-being the Flourishing at School programme utilizes an electronic survey, known as the Flourishing Profile.

Rather than seeking to identify those who are distressed, or "at risk", the Flourishing Profile (FP) survey uses a positive psychology approach to assess the degree to which individuals have developed the "pillars" of good mental health to stay well and optimise quality of life. The FP survey is a leading indicator of mental health, useful for proactive wellbeing interventions at both an individual and collective level.

The online survey enables objective assessment of the success of wellbeing interventions and can also be used to benchmark wellbeing against normative samples. It is suitable for secondary pupils.

Using this profile pastoral staff at Heathfield will be able to work with each pupil, identifying strengths and areas for development. We will be able to track each pupils' FP throughout their time at Heathfield and initiate suitable interventions as and when appropriate. The software provided within the programme allows us to keep a record of interventions used for each pupil and the FP survey will demonstrate the effectiveness of these interventions. We will also be able to analyse data across year groups and apply group interventions if necessary.

Initially the results of the survey will only be known by senior pastoral staff, who will feedback individually to the pupils. Once the programme, and the culture of Positive Education, is embedded at Heathfield these feedback sessions can be done by tutors as well as the pastoral leads.

The psychologist responsible for designing the programme, Martin van Schie, came to Heathfield at the end of November to talk to parents and the pupils. His talks and follow up Q&A sessions were well received and he, along with Mr Gale, went on to the HMC Wellbeing working group to discuss the programme with them.

The survey complies to EU data protection laws and parents can opt their daughter out of the survey if they wish. If you would like to find out more about the Flourishing at School programme please visit their website: www.flourishingatschool.com or contact Mr Gale via email jgale@heathfieldschool.net

Harvest Challenge

This year's harvest challenge once again took the form of a dash to a local supermarket. Each participant was asked to consider a nutritional, balanced and inexpensive food parcel for a family of four.

The girls threw themselves into the challenge and returned, in the middle of a busy weekend, laden with some intriguing bags of shopping. The spending limit of £5 did not seem to prevent them using their admirable initiative and thoughtfulness to come up with a variety of staples and treats. The inclusion of baking kits amongst the groceries showed a real concern to provide something both edible and entertaining for families with young children. The goods were taken by a group of girls to the Woodley Food Bank where the volunteers were delighted with the school's efforts and talked to the girls about their work. A huge thank you to all who participated in the challenge and supported the girls in their shopping.



Bonfire Night

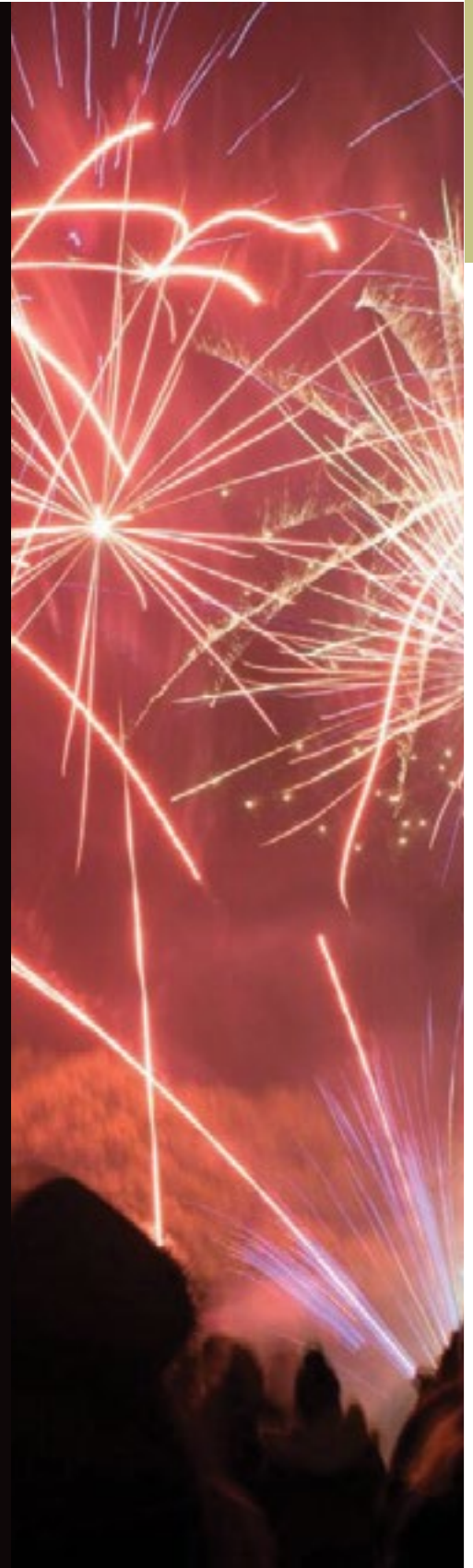
On Sunday 12 November, Heathfield held its first ever fundraising bonfire night. Our school charity, as voted for by the pupils, is Child Bereavement UK.

Members of the newly created Bonfire Committee arrived at school early to set up the stalls and prepare for the sales. The night began at 7pm with excited Heathfield girls arriving along with their families and friends. A hog roast and hot drinks had been prepared by the catering team, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Bonfire Committee stalls sold glow-sticks, sparklers, neon face-paint, handmade sweet bags and toffee apples, as well as popcorn.

Whilst anticipation for the firework display grew, the stalls became the social area of the night, with people enjoying their purchases and donating to the charity.

At 8 o'clock the firework display began and it was truly impressive.

It was a very successful evening and sales from the stalls raised over £250 for Child Bereavement UK, which was a huge achievement. The Bonfire Night captured the spirit and liveliness that is Heathfield and we hope the essence of the night is carried through to future generations.



St Nicholas' Stalls



The sun shone on this year's St Nicholas' Stalls, our annual Christmas fundraising event. It was officially opened by Mrs Gardiner Legge and our youngest girl in school, Venetia in Form I. The day was great fun and the girls raised a huge amount for their chosen House charities; Austen – Mind; DeValois – CAMFED; Seacole – Crohns and Somerville – MSA Trust.

Booking fees from the thirty independent stall holders and all the proceeds from the refreshment sales was donated to Heathfield's chosen charity, Child Bereavement UK.

Outside in the sunshine the girls enthusiastically drenched those staff who were brave enough to go into the stocks. Alongside a saturated Father David were Housemistresses, Janet Liepa and Nadia Khan; Director of Boarding, John Gale

and IT Technician, Dumitru Sarov. Our younger visitors enjoyed visiting Santa's Grotto and made beautiful ceramic snowflake decorations.

One of our aims continues to be to support local and fledging businesses and for some of our independent stall holders it was their first ever event. Kitty (UVI) was our home grown entrepreneur successfully promoting and selling her I.C.E. Packs - In Case Of Emergency Packs. The new mobile Test Kitchen from Windsor provided delicious hot food.

The final total amount raised was over £17,500 – a new record! This was boosted tremendously by the many fantastic items generously donated by our wonderful Heathfield parents and local businesses for the silent auction. Thank you to everyone for making it such a success.

Form I sing to Residents

The Priory Nursing Home

On 14 December, Form I went to The Priory Nursing Home where they were greeted with many smiling faces.

The girls performed an array of Christmas Carols such as Once in Royal David's City and Silent Night before they introduced themselves to the residents. It was an hour of joy and merriment with lots of chatter between the Priory Residents and Form I. We thank everyone at The Priory for allowing us to enjoy some Christmas Cheer.



Restart a Heart Day

Every year in the UK 30,000 people suffer a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting. Currently only 10% of these people survive. The British Heart Foundation (BHF) have launched an event 'Restart a Heart Day', where schools all across the UK train as many pupils as possible in how to perform CPR.

One October Sunday, Sister Emma set up 10 mannequins in the assembly hall to teach CPR to girls across all year groups. The event was very well attended and the girls approached it with their usual enthusiasm and gusto. We are pleased to report that we now have 73 girls in our schools who are trained in CPR. The girls received a certificate for their efforts.



Much has happened on the Sports front in Michaelmas Term. The U12 team drew their first Lacrosse match against St. Bart's, the 1st Netball team have beaten St. Mary's senior team and the swimmers have smashed long standing records in the pool!

Lacrosse

The 1st lacrosse team spent an exeat playing in the South West Schools' tournament at St. Swithun's. After a tough round of morning matches the team were placed in Division 1 for the afternoon games. After losing their first match to Westonbirt they went on to beat Malvern St. James 5 – 1 and Cheltenham Ladies' College 3 – 1, this meant they were in the semi-finals where they played Peter Symonds College.

An extremely closely fought, highly competitive and exciting match saw the teams tied at the end of full time 3 – 3. This meant the game went into extra 'golden goal' time whereby the teams keep playing until someone scores. Unfortunately, having had a couple of chances themselves, Peter Symonds College broke away after 8 minutes to score the winning goal. Despite losing, we are all extremely proud of the progress the girls have made over such a short period of time and would like to thank all the parents for their support – it really does make the world of difference and it is very much appreciated. The 2nd team are also to be congratulated on their 9 – 9 draw with Wellington's 1st team, especially after making a slow start going down 1 – 4 in the first 10 minutes!

Ella, Alex, Aisha, Clemmie, Floria, Hum and Immie all competed in the SW Super Counties tournament held at Downe House. All played extremely well and were fantastic ambassadors for the School.



Netball

The U15 netball team were in action at the South East Berkshire tournament where they beat Holyport College 5 – 2 and LVS 3 – 2. The U14 team beat Luckley House by 20 goals to 5 with some outstanding shooting from Lexi with Auriel keeping out the visitors at the defensive end with some excellent blocking and intercepting skills.

The U12 Netball team played in the SE Berks tournament where they won 4 out of their 6 matches to finish 7th out of the 16 teams competing in the Plate competition. Well done to Oriana and Doddie who were named as players of the tournament.

Racing to School

On 6 October, Heathfield pupils were invited to Ascot Racecourse by the charity 'Racing to School'.

Racing to School's Education Programme engages young people in racing-related numeracy, literacy and problem solving. Each girl was given a workbook and took part in interactive indoor and outdoor learning. During the day exercises involved all aspects of the racecourse from the weighing room, to the fences, parade ring and the finish line. The day was a huge success.



Equestrian

The polo players benefited from the mild September weather and enjoyed staying out on the grass pitches for the whole of September at the Royal Berkshire and Ranelagh polo clubs before moving to the arenas for our winter play.

With beginners in both Monday and Thursday groups our number of budding polo players remains constant. After half term the light restrictions enforced a move to Fifield floodlight polo arena, with our coach Hamid. Colder, but

still a great deal of fun, we looked forward to the arena season at which the Heathfield teams excel.

After school on Wednesdays, we now attend the Berkshire Riding Centre in Winkfield. This has proved very popular with 17 riders in 3 groups from total beginners to the advanced jumping group.

Sunday riding has been more intermittent, as the honourable light artillery horses we ride have been involved in their annual inspection and featuring as usual in the Lord Mayor's parade.



Swimming

In the pool, the swimmers competed against The Marist, Hawley Place and St George's. The U14 team narrowly missed achieving first place by one point but huge congratulations to Ksenia who broke the Individual Medley record that has stood since 2014! The highlight so far in the pool this term must be the performance of the senior team who finished in 1st place: Aisha, Amelia, Emma, Floria, Hum and Impi broke three School records which have stood since 2007! Well done to all our record breakers.

Later in the term the swimming teams had a 28 point win over Holyport College and St. George's, Ascot, with the following girls winning their races:

Individual Medley: **Ksenia and Impi**
 Backstroke winners: **Lily, Juana**
 Butterfly winner: **Ksenia**

The teams also had success in the Medley and Freestyle relays with Hanna, Tessa, Oriana and Alexia winning the U12 Freestyle whilst Lucy, Juana, Elicia and Georgie were victorious for the U13 Team. The U14 team won both the Freestyle and Medley relays, well done to Auriel, Calia, Caoimhe, Ksenia and Lexi.

Huge congratulations to Hum, who not only won the Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle events but set two new School records in Backstroke and Freestyle, the latter which has stood since 2010. An outstanding achievement. Well done to all those girls who have taken part and worked so hard.

Heathfield Summer School & Summer Camp

Friendship without Borders

Heathfield Summer School for international girls and its Summer Camp for British girls have played a huge part of the main school for over 40 years.

Every summer, among almost 400 girls that attend each year, you will find daughters and granddaughters of old girls, new girls joining Heathfield and main school staff, just as in the main school you will find former Summer School and Summer Camp students. This is what some of them say about life in the summer at Heathfield and what they enjoyed most.

“I had the best time ever – I always looked forward to it every summer. I made friends all over the world and tried new things that I never knew about before. It helped me joining main school in Form 1 because I knew my way around and met people who I knew from camp.”

Maddison, Form IV, 5 years at Summer Camp

“I was thrilled to have the chance to see my daughter enjoy her first boarding experience at my old school which I have such fond memories of myself. My best friends today are those that made at the age of 11 at Heathfield. It is a truly special place which has had a huge and positive impact on my life. Summer Camp at Heathfield is happy, welcoming, warm and friendly. A truly beautiful and completely safe environment for the girls to enjoy new experiences and to grow in confidence - there is an incredibly supportive staff team.”

Suzie Cullen, née Meighan - Heathfield Old Girl 1981-1988

“Being at Summer School helped me with joining the main school as I was used to the concept of being away from home and could quickly settle into the school; it made meeting new people much easier too. In the summer English course there is a rewarding and interactive learning space and trips to educational and historical places. New friendships are made and are long-lasting.”

Maia (LVI) 5 years at Summer School and Student Assistant 2017

“Someone’s always there to help you and you make so many friends from different countries around the world. You can try so many different new sports and games, like football, capture the flag and kayaking in the pool. The talent show was brilliant and there were some really fun acts. The trampoline

park was the best bit of the week but the riding trip was fun too! AND...the best breakfast ever (and a brilliant tuck shop!)”

Clemmie, aged 8, daughter of an old girl

“Heathfield has a different feel to it in the summer with a mixture of main school and summer staff, allowing for a blend of experience and new ideas. I like the rapport between staff and students. Pupils obviously bond with their language teachers and it was lovely to hear their positive experience of their lessons. I am impressed by the smooth operation of events where every child could safely experience and learn about British values and culture.

The level of choice is striking. Summer activities are fast and full of energy: theatre productions written and performed in one day make for a shattering but rewarding process. I like the courage shown by the students in challenging situations: even girls with a limited level of English delivered roles with passion and enthusiasm. Students grew in confidence during my time there.”

Mr Valner, Classics Subject Leader and Summer Activities staff

For a glimpse of summer at Heathfield watch the Friendship without Borders film in the Summer Fun section of our website www.heathfieldsummerschool.co.uk

Or for information about our 2018 courses please call 01344 885197 or email summerschool@heathfieldschool.net





The Fellowship St Mary's Wantage Reunion Lunch

On Saturday 4 November we had the pleasure of hosting the first St Mary's Wantage reunion lunch at Heathfield. We were joined by 22 old girls for reception drinks followed by a delicious and leisurely lunch.

This was followed by Alex, Paige, Gadelyn, Tori and Bea taking the ladies on a tour to the St Mary's Theatre where they could view lots of historic photos and St Mary's Wantage memorabilia.

Fr David held Evensong which included their two favourite school hymns and our Top 12 sang The Peace of God so beautifully that many were moved to tears. Tea and cakes accompanied a final opportunity to mingle before they departed homeward.

We have received numerous thank yous and requests for us to repeat the event again as they would like to bring along many more friends from their different year groups next time to see Heathfield and meet our lovely girls.

New School Gateway App

We are pleased to have successfully launched the new School Gateway app to parents in the Michaelmas term, providing details of your daughter's timetable, achievements, behaviour and attendance as well as recent school reports, calendar and term dates and school news. We are also able to send in-app announcements and invite parents to complete surveys. The app is available for both Android and iOS platforms. This is a key initiative in our continuous improvement of communications with parents.



The Independent Schools' Show

Over the weekend of 11 and 12 November, Heathfield School once again exhibited at the Independent Schools' Show in Battersea Park alongside 200 other schools.

Mrs Gardiner Legge took to the stage in the packed out Saturday Forum with Sian Griffiths, the Education Editor for The Sunday Times, to discuss the subject 'Is single-sex schooling still relevant?' Sian asked Mrs Gardiner Legge key questions surrounding the topic with a number of her answers resulting in spontaneous applause and 'hear hear'.

We welcomed over 100 visitors to our stand plus a number of visits by other Heads and key members of their staff. A successful weekend and we look forward to next year and being even busier!

11+ and 13+ Assessment Days

On 8 November 2017 a record number of applicants arrived at Heathfield to take the 11+ assessment.

The following week we hosted the 13+ applicants and were delighted to also include a second assessment day to accommodate further 11+ applicants. After completing the new online assessment which measures potential rather than knowledge, the applicants met with senior members of the teaching staff for their interview. Whilst the mornings were filled with tests and interviews, the afternoons were a time when they could relax and mingle with our current pupils over lunch, followed by fun group sessions in Drama, Science and Textiles.

Finishing with a tour of the school the girls met up with their parents and were thrilled to take away a Heathfield bag filled with goodies including the Heathfield jelly beans along with all our new marketing literature.

We are delighted that the girls did really well in their assessments and look forward to welcoming the successful applicants to Heathfield in September.



Christmas Drinks at The Chelsea Gardener

On 11 December Mrs Gardiner Legge invited all parents to join her for drinks and canapés at The Chelsea Gardener in SW London.

It proved a hugely popular and successful evening where we were joined not just by our current parents but by many prospective parents and Preparatory School Heads. The event was simply to say a big thank you to everyone for all their continued support.



Social Media



Facebook

We continue to create and boost every Open Morning event reaching on average over 5,000 targeted people. We continue to post key pictorial led events, courting Facebook, in order to reach more and more of our audience. Please do go online and like our page: @HeathfieldSchool, thank you.



Twitter

We continue to tweet and engage with all our stakeholders: we now have 3742 followers, an increase of 698 from March. Please do follow us @HeathfieldAscot



Instagram

While we are still in the early stages of creating a following on this platform, activity will continue to grow and we aim for this to be mainly student led. Please do take a look meanwhile: @HeathfieldAscot

As 2018 begins, everyone in the Admissions and Marketing department will continue to work hard to increase awareness of Heathfield and its excellent and unique offering. However, the best recommendation of all is of course personal recommendation and therefore we would urge you to fly the flag for Heathfield at every opportunity, to support our endeavours. Thank you.

Welcome New Director of Boarding

On 1 September we were delighted to welcome to Heathfield School our new Director of Boarding, John Gale MSc (Oxford), BSc (Plymouth), PGCE (Exeter). As Director of Boarding, John is working closely with the Headmistress and Mrs de Ferrer, Director of Pastoral to develop the boarding provision at the School. John is working with our boarders to create a warm and welcoming boarding environment where girls have the opportunity to thrive academically, socially and culturally.

John was at Holyport College for 2 years as House Principal and then became Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Mill Hill for 1 year before joining us. Prior to this, he was Housemaster of the senior boarding house at the Licensed Victuallers' School in Ascot. John has a wealth of boarding experience in independent schools. He worked at Shiplake College and Downe House before spending 9 years at Wellington College. He has a Master's Degree from Oxford University in Learning and Teaching, holds the Boarding Schools' Association Certificate of Professional Practice and is a very experienced teacher of Mathematics.

John is very active outside of the classroom having been Master in charge of Polo and Ski Racing and an officer in the Combined Cadet Force. He is a keen musician, playing the saxophone to grade 8 standard.

New Teaching Staff

Dr Christopher Bradshaw PhD (St Andrew's), MA (St Andrew's), BA Hons (Exeter), PGCE (Gloucester)

Subject Leader of History and Politics

Mrs Allison Ellis BEd (Bedford)

Deputy Head of Sixth Form & Teacher of Science

Mr John Lawson MSc (Leeds), MPhys Hons (USA), PGCE (Leeds)

Teacher in Charge of Physics

Mrs Charlotte Fowler-Whale BA Hons (Canterbury), MA (Kent), PGCE (Reading)

Teacher of English & Highly Able/Scholarship Coordinator

Mrs Lucy Halcrow BA Hons, PGCE (Central School of Speech & Drama)

Subject Leader of Drama and Theatre Studies

Mrs Briana Clench BSc (Penn State), Secondary Education Certification (State of PA)

Teacher in Charge of Chemistry

Mrs Elaine Wigley Cert.Ed (Bristol) B.Philosophy Education (Birmingham)

Interim Teacher of Art & Design

Ms Lucy Johnson PGCE (Greenwich) BSc (Hons) (Surrey)

Teacher in Charge of Biology



Heathfield School
Ascot

Heathfield School

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Incorporating St Mary's School Wantage

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