



Heathfield Highlights

A message from Mrs Heywood



We started the Michaelmas Term on a high as our outgoing UVI Form secured impressive university places which included Exeter, SOAS and City University, and our GCSE girls achieved an outstanding set of results with more than half of all exams taken awarded the highest A*-A grades (53%). One in five girls achieved at least 6 A* grades each in their GCSEs. A clean sweep of A*-A was achieved in seven subjects including Chemistry and Biology.

During the Summer work started on our brand new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) building which is due to be completed during Summer 2015. We experienced a day without power, although Heathfield carried on regardless with science lessons being taught by candle-light and a cross-curricular trip for Forms I – III to Kew Gardens. We are excited about the STEM building and look forward to being able to teach our girls in the facility. The girls have been busy inside and outside the classroom. They have prepared for and sat their academic assessments, attended study skills sessions and been recognised via our *Heathfield Highflyers* awards for their academic achievements. The Year of Reading is well underway with book clubs, reading records and the bookshop and the girls have taken part in House competitions.

The Honeypot Charity has been selected by the girls as our School Charity this year and we have given generously, gathering harvest goods and working hard in the preparation for our annual fundraiser St Nicholas's Stalls. We have been entertained at the Music Captains' Concert and Lunchtime Concert and been wowed by pianist Robert Cheung's piano recital for the girls. Towards the end of term there were outstanding performances by the girls in the school play *Electra* and it was fantastic to see so many Old Girls reunite at the Fellowship Carol Service on 4th December in London. Our term concluded in the traditional way with the school Christmas lunch and Carol Service.

I take this opportunity to wish you a wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mrs Jo Heywood Headmistress

Head Girl's Overview



Head Girl, Daisy

This Michaelmas term has been packed full of many events and activities throughout all the year groups. Unfortunately due to my foot injury I was not present much for the first half of term, but thankfully my deputies Matilda and Olamide (both Form LVI) were able to keep me up to date.

The House Captains have been very busy this term with House Singing where De Valois yet again triumphed with their rendition of *We Own the Night* by the Wanted. The House Captains have excelled with the organisation of St Nicholas's Stalls and now prepare for House Drama. With regards to academic news, Fifth Form girls have taken their bronze CREST awards, and Ali and Anna (both Form LVI) have taken part in their first competition with the Cambridge Debating Society. A group of Sixth Form girls volunteered to meet and greet guests at an international reception held at The Athenaeum for the *Women's Education Partnership*; this was a fantastic experience for the girls. History of Art students together with all of the LVI and UVI Form had the amazing opportunity to see the Ceramic Poppies at the Tower of London and thoroughly enjoyed the remembrance instillation. There have been many other events this term with a Careers Fair, GCSE presentation lunch and Bonfire Night with some amazing fireworks, which all show how very busy this term has been.

Have a very Merry Christmas

Daisy Head Girl

St Nicholas's Stalls

On Saturday 22 November Heathfield's annual St Nicholas's Stalls took place. Following Heathfield tradition, Mrs Heywood opened the doors together with the youngest girl in the school, Sophie (Form I), to the excitement of the Heathfield girls, their families, staff and Old Girls. Austen's choir welcomed everyone with festive cheer whilst De Valois welcomed visitors of all ages into their Santa's Grotto. 28 independent stall holders attracted buyers with their array of goods and the HPA offered a selection of sandwiches and soup with a glass of champagne. The Sports Hall was a hive of activity as the four Houses worked tremendously hard to raise money for their chosen charities. Austen was supporting the Dyspraxia Foundation and Aspire, De Valois was fundraising for Hadassah UK, Seacole had chosen Christina Nobel Children's Foundation and Somerville selected UK AIDS trust. Money raised on the day will also be donated to the school charity, The Honeypot Charity, along with Flip's Fund and St Saviour's Priory. In the Sports Hall there were stalls of donated goods, bottle and sweet tombolas, raffles, silent auctions, bauble bobbing, a lucky dip, face painting and much more. As always the event was a huge success, wonderfully supported by our ever-generous parents. We have raised the staggering total of £15,000 – a great testimony to the hard work of girls and staff.

Mrs S Frost Marketing Manager

The House Captains



Key Dates for Lent Term 2015*

- 6th January 2015 - Girls Return – 5.30pm – Forms I – III return
6.30pm – Forms IV – UVI return
- 10th – 11th January 2015 – Closed Weekend
- 23rd – 25th January 2015 – Exeat Weekend
- 13th – 22nd February 2015 – Half Term
- 6th – 8th March 2015 – Exeat Weekend
- 14th – 15th March 2015 – Closed Weekend
- 20th March 2015 – End of Term

*Please see school calendar for more details of other events

History Trip to Ypres



On Friday 31 October 2014 the Form III girls were woken early for a most memorable day trip to the First World War battlefields around Ypres.

After picking up our wonderful guide Mick at Maidstone Services and having a spot of breakfast we made our way across the Channel to Belgium.

Our first stop was Lijssenthoek, on the outskirts of Ypres, where the students were introduced to a huge British military cemetery. We learnt about the gravestones as well as some of the individuals who were laid to rest there. There were many different nationalities of soldiers buried there alongside the British including Australians, Americans, French, Canadians, Indians, Chinese and even Germans. There was also a female nurse called Nellie Spindler who, we learned, had been hit by a shell whilst trying to save wounded soldiers. It was alarming to see that the vast majority of those buried there were aged between 19 and 24 years of age.

Our next stop was another cemetery which was notable for two things. Firstly, it was where the doctor John Macrae is said to have written the poem *In Flanders Fields* and secondly, it has the grave of a 15 year old boy called Valentine Strudwick, one of the youngest to die on the Western Front in World War One. Here we stopped for a wonderful picnic lunch by the canal which we were able to enjoy because of the beautiful, unseasonal weather and the fruits of our excellent catering staff's labour.

Once we were fed we took our first trip into the town of Ypres, a beautiful town dominated by the medieval-looking Cloth Hall. We learnt that this had been completely rebuilt after the war because the whole town had been destroyed by fighting. This was the location of the In Flanders Fields Museum, a very modern, artistic and interactive museum that certainly does not hide away from the horrors of the war. Girls

were given 'poppy bracelets' which enabled them to learn about real case studies from the war.

Then it was off to the preserved German trenches at Bayernwald to experience a bit of trench life. Despite the lovely weather they were still muddy and most unpleasant. Here the girls learnt about the conditions soldiers lived in and the everyday health and hygiene problems they had to deal with, including rats as big as dogs! While the girls enjoyed running through the zig zagged patterns of trenches, they were glad to be able to leave them – something they appreciated was not possible for the soldiers in the First World War.

After a quick hot chocolate stop we were ready to embark on our last two stops of the day: a German cemetery at Langemarck and the largest British cemetery in the world at Tyne Cot. By visiting both belligerents' trenches the girls were able to draw sobering comparisons between the two; the German cemeteries were small, dark and full of mass graves which was a stark contrast to the huge, light, open rows of bright white stones marking the graves of individual Commonwealth soldiers.

The day ended with a meal and a chance for chocolate shopping in Ypres followed by the very moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Three girls (Chloe, Jenny and Nicole) were chosen to lay a wreath during the ceremony because of the interest they had shown during the day.

An inspirational day was had by all and this was reflected in the work books completed by all students, particularly Arielle, Ellie, Lydia, Grace, Harriet and Esme who won prizes for their efforts.

Thanks to Mr Pithers and Mr Hart who accompanied the trip.

Mrs N Holsgrove-Jones Subject Leader: History and Politics

Debating Society

On Thursday 9th October, the girls of Heathfield School Debating Society staged their inaugural debate in St Mary's Theatre in front of a strong turnout of Form IV, Form V and Lower VI girls along with interested staff. The motion put before the audience was *This House believes that the United Kingdom Government was right to legalise same-sex marriage*. The six girls on each team gave excellent performances on what was undoubtedly a nerve-wracking occasion for all involved and the debate progressed quickly and, in places, extremely passionately. Boosted by apt audience questions and well-researched points, both the Proposition and Opposition gained applause from the audience for their strong debating skills. In the end, the Proposition won the day by a very large margin of thirty-seven to two as the audience voted to support the motion. After the debate, Mr Hart presented an award to Holly (Form V) for the Best Audience Question and to Ali (LVI Form) for Best Debater. Both the audience and the teams were energised after the debate and it bodes well for what we hope will become a Heathfield staple as we go forward into national competitions.

Mr T Pithers Teacher of English and Deputy Head of House – Somerville

Geography Photography Competition

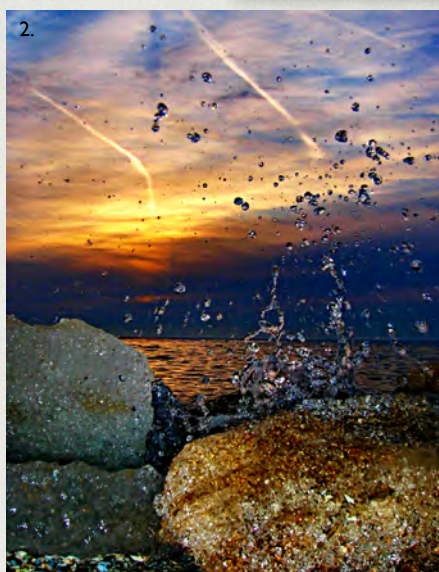
This year's Geography Photography Competition proved as popular as ever with the photographs entered wowing the judging panel made up of Mrs Heywood (Headmistress), Mrs Mason (Head of Humanities Faculty) and Miss White (Teacher in Charge – Photography). This year the theme was *Impact in Geography*. The competition was open to girls and staff with each entry being awarded a House point. Congratulations to all the year group winners and especially the overall winners which included Clemmie (Form II), Fernanda (Form V), Alice (UVI Form) and Mr Whitehurst (Staff). Each year there are four special theme prizes awarded and this year *Most close to the theme* was shared between Ella (Form IV) and Rain (Form III). Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who entered the competition.

Miss K White

Teacher in Charge of Photography and Deputy Head of House – Austen



The Winners



1. Most Unusual (one to have on the wall) by Lizzy (Form V)
2. Most photographically challenging by Olympia (Form V)
3. Most close to the theme (urban) by Ella (Form IV)
4. Most geographically interesting by India (LVI Form)
5. Most close to the theme (environmental) by Rain (Form III)

House Singing 2014

The principal activity which took place during the Somerville weekend was the annual House Singing competition. Historically the girls have rehearsed for House Singing during the weeks leading up to the final performances which took place during one evening after school. This year, however, the competition took on a different approach with the girls having only the weekend to learn and rehearse two songs. The students in each House were led by their House Captains, learning to perform the two songs from scratch, learning the words and the dance moves.

The first song, sung in Latin, was the same for all Houses: *Gloria tibi Domine*, composed by Jacques Berthier (Taize). The second song was written by the House Captains, set to a tune by a current female performer. The lyrics, written by the Captains, reflected the traditional rivalries between the Houses and the customs, traditions and characters of Heathfield.

All of the House Captains did a great job organising and enthusing their respective Houses. The final was held in front of the whole school, and many staff, at 5pm on the Sunday afternoon. The standard was extremely high and the overall winners were DeValois. All of the Houses can be proud of the leadership displayed by the House Captains, and the Lower Sixth Form more generally. Thanks to all staff who came in to see the final. Also special thanks to the Music department, Mrs Dance and Miss Kong and adjudicator Mr James Cassleton, Head of Music and Creative Arts at Tomlinscote School, Frimley.

Mr J Doyle

Head of House – Somerville and Teacher of Mathematics

Summer School and Summer Camp



Archery

Heathfield's Summer School and Summer Camp were yet again a huge success this year. Summer School has been in existence for almost 40 years teaching English to overseas girls, taking them on trips to places of interest and organising a cultural and sporting social programme. Heathfield also offers a Summer Camp for British girls which is in its 22nd year. The girls enjoy a huge range of art, crafts, cookery, dance, drama, floristry, music shows and sports. This year each of the four weeks culminated in a festival which included *Woodstock*, *Glastonbury*, *The Proms* and *The Notting Hill Carnival*. The festivals concluded the weeks perfectly and brought Summer School and Summer Camp together as one through music, sport, dance, art and photography.

Mrs H Madaras Director of Summer School



Show Finale



Notting Hill Carnival

Music Trip to Venice

Early in the morning on Friday 17 October, a sleepy but excited group of girls and staff left Heathfield in rather gloomy, autumnal weather for the warm sunshine of Venice. Arriving before lunch allowed us time to settle into our hotel, explore the vicinity, enjoy supper together and still get an early night and a good rest before our first full day in this spectacular and unique city. Bustling and vibrant, Venice nevertheless feels calmer than other conurbations, on account of the absence of road traffic; rush hour on the *vaporetto*, although somewhat uncomfortable, was still preferable to the London Underground!

On Saturday morning, a visit to the Museo della Musica gave us an opportunity to see a range of ancient and more modern musical instruments and to learn about the famous Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi, born in Venice in 1678. This was followed by a challenge to girls and staff: to make our way, in groups, through the picturesque streets to the church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli. Mrs Dance issued maps and reassured us all that street signs pointed the way to significant landmarks, adding that the tourist guides all agree that the best way to see Venice is to get lost there! In the event, everyone arrived in plenty of time for the scheduled rehearsal, perhaps a minor *miracolo*! The marble church was stunning and offered a wonderful acoustic to the choir. Unfortunately, the organ proved unusable, but the girls were undaunted by a last-minute change to some items in the planned programme and sang beautifully to the accompaniment of a violin. As always, it was encouraging to have the support of a number of loyal parents, as well as Ms Lavender, who by coincidence was in Venice for a short holiday.

I imagine that few tourists in Venice fail to visit St Mark's Basilica, but not many have enjoyed the privilege of singing at Sunday Mass there. Once again, the girls rose to the occasion, singing four unaccompanied items to a large congregation in this awe-inspiring edifice.

After the service, we visited the Doge's Palace and were able to soak up a little of the history of Venice: as well as being the ducal residence, the palace housed political institutions of the Republic of Venice until the Napoleonic occupation of the city in 1797 and had been linked to the prison since the 16th century by the notorious Bridge of Sighs.

The choir's final performance took place at the English International School in Padua. This was a programme of mostly secular music in the form of vocal and instrumental solos, an *a cappella* group number and full choir items, all of which proved popular with the school's staff and pupils, who clapped along enthusiastically to the upbeat numbers. After three days in Venice, it felt strange to be transported to and around Padua on trains and buses.

In addition to the music (including some spontaneous busking) we had plenty of time to explore Venice, enjoying the scenery, the architecture, the shops and markets and, of course, the *gelati*. However, the greatest treat has to have been the gondola rides which we all enjoyed on our last morning in the city of canals.

I am sure the girls will all agree that this was a wonderful trip and huge thanks are due to Mrs Dance, who worked tirelessly to ensure its success. Thanks go too to Alison and Miss Liokoura for their support, but most of all to the girls themselves, without whom the tour would not have been possible.

Mrs J Liepa Form V Housemistress



The choir rehearsing at the church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli

Relaxing outside St Mark's Basilica



Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival took place during the Austen Weekend. On Saturday 11 October the girls took part in a dash around the supermarket. Each girl spent £5 and was given the brief to purchase food that would feed a family of four. Members of staff also donated £5 and the girls enjoyed spending their money wisely. The food was then brought back to school and Darcy (Form III), Iona and Katie (both Form V) dedicated their time to sort the food into piles and placed it around the Chapel ready to be blessed during the Harvest Festival service which took place on Sunday 12 October. The Harvest collection smashed that of the previous years. The food gathered has been distributed to St Saviour's Priory, Haggerston and a food bank in Bracknell. Our founder Eleanor Beatrice Wyatt decided to support St Saviour's Priory when the school was founded and this is a tradition which continues each year.

Fr T Tregunno Chaplain



Harvest goods

Weekends at Heathfield

Weekends at Heathfield this term have been, as always, busy, busy. In addition to lacrosse matches, Prep and Chapel the girls have been on some fantastic trips which have included a visit to the newly renovated Imperial War Museum to see the Horrible Histories Spies exhibition as well as the World War One displays; they have also been for a walk around Virginia Water and have bounced around Gravity Force! In school there have been quizzes, the 'Great Heathfield Bake-off' plus visits from live band Rothwell, Total Wipeout and a Fist Full of Feathers who brought the most exquisite birds of prey for the girls to hold and ask questions about.

Mrs S Frost Marketing Manager



Total Wipeout



The girls learn about birds of prey

The High Sheriff of Berkshire's Cooking Competition for Secondary Schools

Clare and Eva in the professional kitchen



Congratulations to Clare, Eva and Sophie (all Form IV) who were successful in winning a place in the second round of the Cooking Competition and attended one of six live county heats at Reading College in October. This proved to be an amazing, but daunting, experience for the girls as they had to prepare and cook their chosen dessert in a large restaurant kitchen and in front of a judging panel. They performed incredibly well and despite some very stiff competition, both Clare and Sophie were selected to attend the Grand Final at Newbury College. We are extremely proud of all the girls especially Clare who went on to come second in the whole competition. This is a wonderful accomplishment and the school is hugely proud of the girls' achievements. Thanks must go to Mrs Blackburn and the parents of the girls for their support throughout the competition.

Mrs S Frost Marketing Manager

Heathfield's cooking competition entrants with The High Sheriff

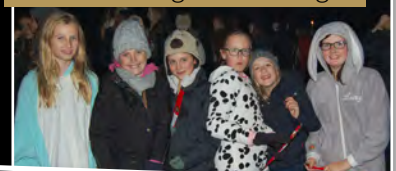


Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night is on 5th November. However, everyone knows that Heathfield has its own way of doing things, so we had our own two days early, on Monday 3rd, giving us a burst of energy for the rest of the week. After having supper, the whole school met in the Assembly Hall and then walked to the frost-covered field, where a mass of dancing light awaited. While enthusiastic girls lit their sparklers and Upper Sixth started to play music, the bonfire seemed to reach the sky, as if to welcome the moon with a warm embrace. The fireworks started, shooting up in swift spirals and climbing up to the stars to surprise the open-mouthed crowd. Cookies and hot chocolate followed. Eating, dancing, spending time with friends. Three things that make up a perfect night for a Heathfield girl!

Blanca UVI Form Student

Form I during Bonfire Night



Form III enjoying their sparklers





Sports Overview

The term started with Lacrosse Camp which allowed those new girls who had never played the game to get to grips with the basics, as well as helping to refresh everyone else's memory after not having played the game since the end of last season. As well as the amazing achievements of Daisy (LVI Form), Honor (Form V) and Amber (Form IV) being selected to represent Berkshire at Lacrosse and Heathfield's Isabella (Form V) winning the Prince Philip Cup at the Horse of the Year Show with her pony club plus Rose (Form V) winning the Tigré Marble Junior International Dressage Championship Challenge Trophy at Sheepgate, there have been a number of other sporting achievements throughout the term.

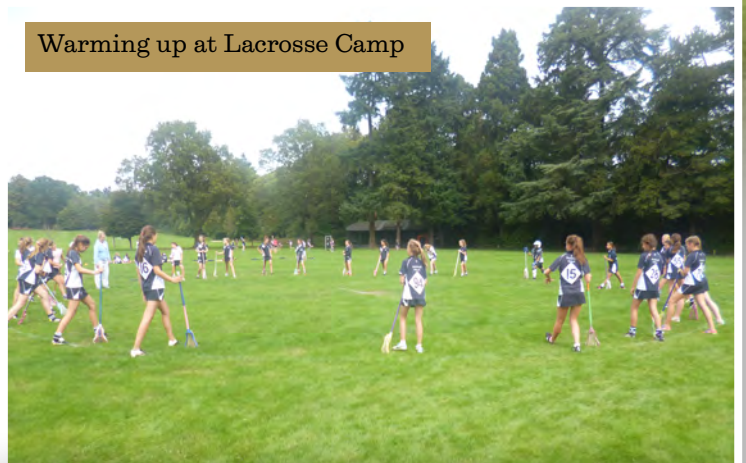
Judy (Form IV) was placed third in the Intermediate Fencing competition at the South East Foil on Sunday 16th November. In the pool Jemima (Form IV) is to be particularly congratulated on breaking the U15 Individual Medley, set way back in 2009 by Octavia Woolger who has recently been selected to represent GB canoeing.

We held a successful Prep Netball tournament and it was brilliant to welcome six Prep Schools to Heathfield. Heathfield introduced the St Leonard's Day Dash this term which saw the fastest two runners from each House, plus a handful of staff, running round a measured square in under 10 seconds. The square increases in size after each competitor has run and runners are eliminated if they do not complete the 'dash' in the 10 seconds allowed. The winner is the 'last man standing'. The final placing saw Amber (Form IV, De Valois) in third, Daisy (LVI Form, De Valois) in second and the winner by 100th of a second Anoushka (Form IV, Austen). Well done to Miss McSweeney, Miss Fagan, Miss Sass, Mr Valner and Fr Tim who all look part in the competition.

House Cross Country and House Netball both concluded the sporting calendar for the term.

Ms Reynolds Director of Sport

Warming up at Lacrosse Camp



Daisy and Honor represent Berkshire Lacrosse



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