



It's been such a busy few weeks and girls and staff have been working hard. Assessment Week for the Fifth Form went smoothly and the Lower Sixth have been settling into their new A Level studies with gusto. I'm delighted that Heathfield's First Lacrosse team has made the Championship League for the first time ever, and came sixth out of eighteen competitors last Saturday. All due credit to the hard work and dedication of the team and the PE department.



It's always hard to start a new school year but the Science department somehow make it harder for a new member of staff by staging a 'murder'. This term it was our new Chaplain and the Third Form are investigating the forensic evidence as part of their lessons. We wish them luck in finding the 'suspect' and look forward to bringing whoever it is to justice!

On Saturday 15 October we have our Michaelmas Open Morning where both girls and staff will be speaking about our school and will show prospective parents how much we have to offer. I do hope that I will see you over the weeks ahead or at the weekends, and I wish you a lovely Autumn.

Mrs Marina Gardiner Legge, Headmistress



Oxbridge Talk at The Marist

On Monday 19 September, Boots, Constance, Sophia and I (all from Form IV) attended a hugely informative and constructive talk about university and life after school, and in particular, about attending two of the most prestigious universities in England: Oxford and Cambridge. It was held at The Marist and the talk was given by Joe Organ, the Schools Liaison Officer at Brasenose College, Oxford.

All four of us found the talk extremely helpful and interactive allowing us all to ask questions about the two universities. We were especially grateful for the tips on what Oxford and Cambridge look for in their applicants, giving us an insight into how much hard work pays off. The biggest tip the lecturer gave us was that what you study should be your passion. This resonated throughout the whole of the talk and he encouraged us to read books and explore the subjects we love in order to gain an advantage when we choose to apply to university.

All four of us came out of the talk thinking that Oxbridge really is within reach. With the new GCSEs coming for us, he helped us realise that we all have a chance at getting into the best universities in the country. Universities especially Oxbridge study our GCSE results in depth and he told us that we really do need to work hard and not just think of them as a 'warm-up' for A Levels because although this is the first time we are doing the new GCSEs, they still really count.

All in all, it was an excellent experience to find out more about the best universities in the country from someone who has been able to work in them first-hand. The interesting tips he gave us have really given us some food for thought and have made us all even more excited by what he said should be 'the best time of your life'. Although there are 5 applicants for every place he made us realise that hard work and passion is really what Oxbridge is attracted to. We all came away excited about our prospects and ready for some hard work!

Hermione, Form IV Student



Outstanding Success at the Windsor Festival Schools' Programme

Earlier this academic year we were thrilled with a fantastic set of results for our girls at the Windsor Festival Schools' Programme.

The series of awards included two 1st places, two 2nd places, one 3rd place and a string of Highly Commended and Commended. A special mention goes to Eleanor who was placed 1st and 3rd in the Art: Textiles category with her pieces Past, Present and/or Future and Identity.

All the girls' work is currently being exhibited at The Gallery at Ice in Windsor, and the collection will remain there until 20 October.

Eve Feilen, Subject Leader - Art & Design

Changes in the Careers Department

With the retirement of our long standing Librarian and Head of Careers, it seemed a good time for Heathfield School to review our Careers provision, especially as the government has emphasised the importance of providing independent careers advice.

One aspect of this is to assist girls in making knowledgeable decisions about their subject choices and identifying potential careers. The girls will be presented with a varied selection of career paths by inviting speakers and experts from both industry and academia, encouraging them to look ahead and realise their potential – the world really is their oyster. Links with other schools will also be reinforced to encourage opportunities for our girls to meet, discuss and collaborate with other students, both girls and boys.

In the interest of developing the girls' academic choices and to encourage their aspirations, we decided to bring in external experts for Forms IV and V. Morrisby is a company offering impartial and objective careers advice in the form of an online psychometric assessment, which is followed by a one-to-one meeting with a Morrisby careers advisor to fine-tune the results. The result is a highly personalised profile that identifies the girls' core strengths and reflects their personality, interests and motivations. In addition to this, the final report also suggests A Level subjects and careers that present a strong match.

Alongside these initiatives, we encourage our older girls to consider undertaking work experience and mini internships – a great way to really find out more about the day-to-day realities of the role or industry in which they are interested. Many of our Old Girls enjoy supporting us by offering work experience and coming in to speak about their own expertise – a true inspiration for our current Heathfield girls.

The main emphasis for the girls in the lower school will be to develop a sense of self awareness, enabling them to understand their strengths and tastes. With the support of their family and Heathfield staff, the girls are able to make relevant and informed choices for their GCSE options.

It is an exciting time at Heathfield School as our girls strive to achieve their academic potential and develop the skills and confidence to take on the careers and life choices that will make them influential and positive leaders in the twenty-first century.

Rushi Millns, Head of ICT, Careers and Outreach

How to Handle Personal Statements

UCAS applications are now upon us and the words "How's your personal statement coming along?" are striking fear into the hearts of some Upper Sixth. So here are some tips for an effective statement.

- Clearly identify the course you want to study and why you want to study it.
- For Humanity based subjects, quotations are permissible, but put them in context and support your use of them – this can help to show that you can analyse and evaluate information.
- You can start the statement with a thought-provoking comment, useful for courses involving critical commentary, such as Philosophy or Sociology.
- Medicine or the sciences will need a mention of up-to-date research in an area you find interesting, and relevant work experience.

- Relate your other subjects and the skills you have gained to how they will enhance your chances of doing well on the course.
- If you have excellent module results, explain why you think you did so well.
- Relate your extra-curricular activities to your chosen course i.e. the skills you have developed and how they will help you on the course.
- Sell yourself – there are only so many places available and you want one of them, so show you are better than the others.
- Finally, if you haven't yet started, put pen to paper and have a go!

Jeremy Hart, Director of Sixth Form



Risks and Consequences by John Hoskison

On Thursday 6 October, pupils from Forms IV - UVI attended a talk entitled "Risks and Consequences" in St Mary's Theatre. The speaker, John Hoskison, started out as a very successful young professional golfer, for whom one wrong yes/no decision drastically changed his life forever.

In 1994 John broke a discipline he had stood by for twenty years, and drank a glass of wine with a colleague before driving home. On his journey home, John hit and killed a cyclist, and he was subsequently sentenced to 3 years in prison.

He spoke of his horror of life in prison, not at the hardships he endured, but how shocked he was to find it was "like a university for drugs and crime" and how rife and easily available drugs and alcohol were to the inmates.

The crux of John's talk revolved around sticking to your gut decision, the one you know is right, if you're not sure whether to say yes or no to something. For example, when you're driving, ignore that text when you hear your phone buzzing on the passenger seat because in

the blink of an eye everything can change. The talk was very thought-provoking, and the girls left with a lot to consider.

One pupil wrote to thank John Hoskison: *"Your story really strikes a chord with me. It is real. It's life. What I wanted to say to you is that your story really inspired me to stay safe and cautious in this world that we live in. As a teenager myself, that is extremely challenging. I am constantly feeling pressure to conform - to follow my peers in their behaviour. Thank you so much."*



Rifleman V. J. Strudwick – at 15 years of age, the youngest British soldier to die around the Ypres Salient.

Form III Ypres Battlefield Trip

At 6am on Friday 30 September, eighteen Form III students set off by coach and ferry to the First World War battlefields around Ypres, Belgium. The purpose of the trip was for Form III to familiarise themselves with the reality and cost of this war, where nearly one million British and Commonwealth soldiers were killed or were listed as missing in action.

On the Friday, Form III visited the cemetery at Tyne Cot, the largest British and Commonwealth cemetery for war dead in the world, and then the German cemetery of Langemark. After dinner in the town of Ypres, itself rebuilt from scratch having been destroyed by the fighting during the First World War, we travelled to the Menin Gate, where the names of over 50,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave are inscribed, to witness the playing of the Last Post before retiring to our accommodation in France for the night.

On Saturday 1 October, we returned to the outskirts of Ypres to visit Essex Farm Cemetery, where John McCrae wrote In Flanders Fields, then headed to the Passchendaele Museum at Zonnebeke before ending our trip with a stop at the execution cells at Poperinge. We returned to Heathfield at 8.15pm, tired and emotionally drained but having had an important and memorable experience.

Mr Mitchell, Ms Worrall and Ms Champion



70th Anniversary Gala Concert of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

On Monday 19 September girls interested in music from Forms III to LVI travelled to the Royal Albert Hall for the 70th Anniversary Gala Concert of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The exciting line-up included the Piano Concerto in A minor by Robert Schumann performed by Martha Argerich, the Violin Concerto No.1 by Max Bruch performed by Pinchas Zukerman, The William Tell Overture by Gioachino Rossini and The Firebird Suite (1919) by Igor Stravinsky conducted by Charles Dutoit.

It was an evening of great entertainment and music, and it was a unique experience to be able to see such talented musicians perform live. All the girls thoroughly enjoyed the concert – and the pre-concert trip to Pizza Express!

Olivia and Charlie, Music Prefects



One Day Film School, Wednesday 5 October

In our contemporary era, Film and Film Studies are an important aspect of any learning experience and can open up many opportunities for further study or a possible career path in the vast and diverse areas of this subject. We invited the Young Film Academy to come to Heathfield and teach their One Day Film School so that our girls can be offered the chance to experience a small part of Film Study.

All girls studying Drama, Art and Photography in Forms IV-U6 spent the day learning about the different aspects of film. They had a film history lesson, learnt how to 'fight' safely using the various camera angles for maximum effect, looked at composition in-camera, wrote scripts, filmed their own work, and had their own film award ceremony.

The girls were engaged and enthusiastic during the day and threw themselves into every task. Within each group girls looked at their personal strengths and divided themselves into directors, producers, script writers, camera women and actors. Every single girl was involved. Afterwards some of the girls commented "it was a great bonding experience", "a great introduction to film and the possibilities of a future career" and "the day gave me some ideas that I could use in my project". This truly was a most successful and enjoyable day.

Karen White, Teacher in Charge - Photography



Scholars Tea

On Thursday 6 October our Scholars gathered in the dining hall for a celebratory tea to welcome them to the new academic year.



PSHE Education: The Big Picture

On Friday 23 September Heathfield hosted a group of PSHE and pastoral leaders from a variety of local schools including St George's and St Mary's Ascot, Charters and LVS. We were delighted to have Mr Nick Boddington from the PSHE Association as our guest speaker.

Guests were served pre-lunch drinks and had an opportunity to meet and chat with Headmistress Mrs Gardiner Legge and Mrs Kathryn de Ferrer, Director of Pastoral and Co-Curricular Studies.

The event was hosted by Mrs Anita Diaz, PSHE Co-ordinator of Heathfield, and Brookwood Catering provided a delicious lunch for our guests, which was very much appreciated. Everything was delicious but the stylish and eye-catching way the chocolate tart pudding was served proved to be the star of the show! There was a constant buzz of conversation as people discussed some of the issues facing us all as PSHE practitioners and got to know each other.

In his fascinating talk “PSHE education: The Big Picture” Nick challenged us to imagine what an education might look like preparing young people, who are currently in Key Stage One, to enter the jobs market in 2030. Indeed many of these young people may well live into the 22nd century. What kind of skills and attributes will these young people need? How can PSHE help prepare young people for the challenges ahead?

So thought-provoking was Nick’s talk that many guests stayed until nearly 5pm to discuss how we might best respond to support our young people’s future expectations and aspirations. It was a pleasure to get to know so many local colleagues and we hope to build on this relationship to share resources and good practice for the benefit of all our students.

Anita Diaz, PSHE Coordinator



Lacrosse 1st team place 6th in SW Schools' LAX Tournament, after qualifying in the Championship Division for the first time ever

The most notable achievement across the past two weeks must definitely be from our Lacrosse 1st team, who qualified in the Championship Division of the South-West Schools' Lacrosse Tournament for the first time ever, and incredibly placed 6th out of 18 teams. A fantastic achievement of which everyone involved, players and coaches alike, should be very proud.

The 1st and U15 Lacrosse teams also played in the Berkshire Lacrosse Tournament. This successful day saw the U15 team beating Bradfield and St George's 2-1, and St Bart's 3-1. Both Georgie and Immie received Most Valuable Player awards for the tournament for their exceptional performances.

In the swimming pool, Hermione (Hum) set a new school record for the first time in 7 years in the U15 25m Front Crawl, beating the previous record set in 2009 by Octavia Woolger, who is currently on the Girls for Gold programme to Tokyo 2020. The fact that this previous record was so longstanding is a testament to how impressively Hum swam. We can't wait to see how long this record stands.

Both the U18 and U16 Netball teams competed in the South-East Berkshire Netball Tournament held at St George's, Ascot. The U16 team faced tough opposition but held their own to go on and beat St Mary's C team 3-1, with Flora and Ellie being awarded Players of the Tournament. Meanwhile the U18s drew with The Holt but had victories against St George's, Ascot, Ranelagh and Maiden Early. Players of the Tournament awards went to Grace and Rose.

In the Netball matches played against Luckley everyone in Form I represented Heathfield for their first ever time. Although the U12 girls lost, they played a good match and Ella was awarded Player of the Match. The U13 team brilliantly won 10-6 with Scarlett being selected as Player of the Match.

After a slightly disappointing loss for the U14 Netball team against LVS's U14 team, we then went on to beat their U15 team 13-2! Our U15 team won spectacularly 22-3; a great day for everyone involved.



Equestrian

Our girls involved in equestrian sports have begun the year with gusto, competing in many weekend activities already. There are some examples of exceptional riding to highlight from the term so far.

Grace competed in a Senior BE Novice event (with 1.15m jumps) at Aske Hall on 25 September on her horse Zorkin, who she has had for just over a year. Grace says Zorkin flew around the cross country, even though it was the hardest course she has ever done on him! In this tough group, Grace was even competing against an Olympic Bronze medallist from New Zealand, Caroline Powell, who finished in 1st, 2nd and 3rd on various horses, so for Grace to come in at 5th is an incredible feat!

Emma and Ellie also competed on 24 September for Heathfield in the NSEA Inter-Schools

One Day Event at Stonar School. This event involves show jumping, dressage and a cross country jumping course. Both girls finished with clear rounds which is a fantastic achievement at such a well-supported event. Emma was placed 6th out of the class of 30 competitors – well done!

Matilda also had a very successful summer with her local Pony Club, and was duly rewarded at their prize-giving this evening at Midhurst, which she dashed off to after first competing for Heathfield in the Eventers Challenge that afternoon. Matilda's awards were: Winning Area Intermediate Horse Trials trophy, Best Senior All-Rounder trophy, Eventing, Show Jumping and Dressage rosette and Most Courteous award for polo.



Synchronised Swimming

On Saturday 8 October Ksenia and the team of 11-12 year olds from Reading Royal Synchronised Swimming Club travelled to Gloucester to compete in the Multi Regional Age Group Competition in one of the biggest swimming pools in UK.

Many congratulations to Ksenia and her team who won the gold medal. The next competition will be the Nationals in the beginning of December and we wish them all the best of luck with that.

— | House
Weekends | —



Seacole Weekend 1 & 2 October

On Friday morning Form III set off for their trip to the Ypres battlefields and the following morning Form V prepared themselves and set off for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition, leaving behind quite a quiet school! However, for those left in school Saturday morning consisted of working hard on the Sports field while others busied themselves getting up to date with prep.

After lunch, Form I and II met at the pool for a fun session with inflatables before heading off to the Art room to decoupage their own bespoke pencil or jewellery box, while others spent time in the Cookery room to make a variety of flavoured fudges. It was difficult to move them on as they were so engrossed in these creative projects but eventually girls swapped and everybody managed to have a go at each activity, and at tea time everyone decorated their own cupcake.

Supper was an exciting event as it had a Japanese theme and we all had the opportunity to sample some sushi and other Japanese dishes before heading to the Assembly Hall for Seacole House Captains' disco. Grace and Georgie had announced a 'zoo' theme and they were not disappointed by the range of amazing outfits, including a jellyfish and a horse! Everybody had fun and we look forward to hearing the winners of the best costume being announced at the end of the week in Assembly. Well done to all years for their enthusiastic participation!

Sunday started with White Chapel at 10.00am followed by a bit of free time to relax and chat or catch up with work before lunch and the arrival of the coach to take girls to the cinema. This was a very popular outing and the coach was full of girls from every year group who were keen to get out and see Finding Dory or Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. It was the perfect opportunity to relax after a busy week and before heading back to school for supper and the charity concert arranged by Holly and Phoebe in the evening. Very well done to all of those that took part and a big thank you to the staff that helped arrange this and also took part themselves!

Jeanette Kemp, Head of House - Seacole

Dates
to Remember

15 October - **Open Day**

21 October-1 November - **Half Term**

11-13 November - **Exeat**

26 November - **St Nicholas' Stalls**

26-27 November - **Optional Exeat**

15 December - **End of Term**



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