



What a fabulous start to the term it's been with the celebrations on Friday of Beatrice Wyatt's founding of the school, inspirational speakers from the world of work to inspire our girls, as well as trips, visits and a full range of activities at the weekends ranging from circus skills to a pop concert which the girls loved. It's also been busy on the academic front with senior girls starting the term with mock examinations; results have now been given out and girls are working hard. Teachers are going through papers with them to highlight any areas where extra support might be needed and helping put revision plans in place ready for the summer. It's always an exciting time as well for the Fifth Form as they choose their options and apply for the scholarships for the Sixth Form. I really enjoy listening to the plans they want to put in place for the school.

Sports wise, we had an excellent Invitational Lacrosse Tournament at Heathfield at the end of January, with over 300 visitors to the school and some superb play from all teams. The news just in tells us that the Under 15 team have managed to challenge several much bigger schools to leap into the championship division which is thrilling and testament to their hard work and that of Ms Reynolds, their coach. Very exciting! Impressive too that Phoebe managed to get through to the next round of the Rotary Club competition and Franny through to the next round of ARTiculation. Well done girls and many thanks to the staff who supported the girls.

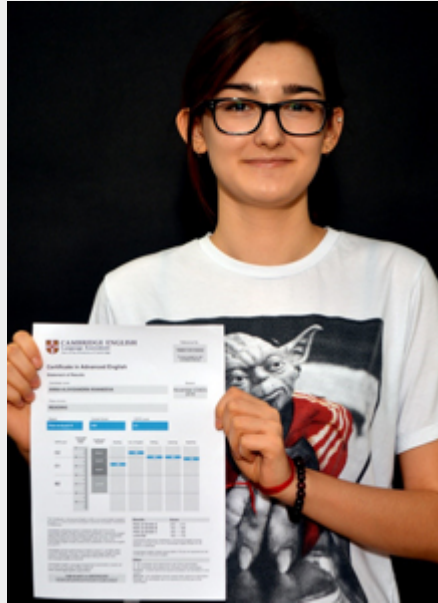
I have also received the heads of Maltman's Green, Cheam, Thomas's Clapham and Cottesmore prep schools here for lunch and tours of the school, and they have all been impressed by what we offer here. I Last month I visited Finton House and The Study Prep school in order to strengthen the links we already enjoy.

University offers for our Upper Sixth girls are already starting to come in, including one for Lily and Mei from Central Saint Martins and several unconditional offers for other girls which is a continued testament to the way the girls come across and the hard work they and the staff put into their university applications.

I hope you will enjoy reading these pages and finding out something of what has been happening at Heathfield over the last few weeks. As you will see, there is always something happening here and I am hugely grateful to all the staff, parents and the girls who fill our school with their exploits.

With best wishes

Mrs Gardiner Legge – Headmistress



Academic English Success

An extraordinary Heathfield achievement includes Sasha Khaneeva (pictured), who gained the prestigious Advanced Certificate qualification (CAE) also from Cambridge University. Besides scoring excellent grades in her writing, speaking and listening, Sasha scored outstanding marks in her grammar and vocabulary papers, demonstrating a proficient grasp of English (CPE). Through her two-year study programme, Sasha spent a total of over one thousand hours tirelessly researching language rules, extending vocabulary banks, analysing texts, refining written tasks, and composing speeches.

University applications always require good grades in English Language. International Upper Sixth Formers Lily Yang, Mei Shen, Anastasia Fedotova and Masha Kuteyko all secured academic accreditation under the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Nicole Makarova and Sasha Khaneeva passed their (four-hour long) examinations with distinction. Passing English at such a high level requires at least eight hundred hours of dedicated learning. Vasilisa Koroleva and Flavia Camerlingo, in Form Four, were awarded Upper-Intermediate Certificates (FCE) from Cambridge University.

Dr Marcus Snow, Teacher of EFL

Fifth into Sixth

On Friday 20 January Form V took part in the annual “Fifth into Sixth” event, which aims to help the girls with their transition into the Sixth Form, answering any questions they may have as they near this big step in their lives.

The students were spoken to with information on their subject options, opportunities and higher education requirements. Parents were also in attendance, and everyone left with all information required for joining Sixth Form at Heathfield School.



Outstanding LAMDA Results

Many congratulations to our LAMDA girls who all walked away with a Distinction after recent examinations.

Eight girls took their exams, from Grade 3 to Grade 6 (Bronze Medal). Well done Frankie, Thea, Alannah, Tansy, Flavia, Phoebe and Auriel, and a special mention must go to Liberty who was awarded an unbelievable 100% in her Grade 5 examination!

We are so proud of all of your hard work, and the hard work of your teachers – it has most certainly paid off.



Music To Our Ears!

Many congratulations to the seven talented musicians who took their ABRSM exams before Christmas. We are delighted to announce that there were a 100% pass rate. Well done to Ksenia (Harp), Jasmine (Violin), Harriet (Piano), Helena (Theory), Tansy (Singing), Asuka (Cello), and Charlie (Violin).



Write for Rights

Make a difference!

Write for Rights, Athena Society

On Friday 20 January, the Athena Society set up a stall throughout lunch to encourage girls

to take part in Write for Rights, writing letters for Amnesty International. Causes that are supported by Write for Rights include protecting people with albinism from murder in Malawi and urging the President of Indonesia to free a primary school teacher who is serving a 15-year jail sentence for waving a flag banned by the government.

The Athena girls showed great initiative in setting up this event and it was wonderful to see so many girls putting their pen to paper to fight for human rights.



White Supper and Confirmation

Eleven very happy Form IV girls were confirmed on Saturday 14 January. The girls looked wonderful in their white gowns, and it was a truly lovely day for all those involved.

The evening before, the girls were delighted to be served a very special White Supper. Everyone dressed beautifully and the evening was full of laughter, mocktails, and delicious food, as everyone prepared themselves for the service.

The following day the Chapel was buzzing with excitement as the girls participated in the Confirmation service. Congratulations to all of those who took part.



Tom Whittaker, The University of British Columbia

The Lent term has begun with a new burst of energy, and Form V and LVI were keen to attend a talk by Tom Whittaker, International Officer at the University of British Columbia.

Mr Whittaker explained his educational history and talked the girls through the entry process and requirements for studying in Canada. The girls listened intently and walked away with new information of a path in life they had perhaps not yet considered.



The Life of a BBC Journalist

On Wednesday 18 January Forms III-LVI filed into the SMAT to listen to Jonathan Wells talk about his life as a Broadcast Journalist. He may have been slightly recognisable to some students, as he is in fact the brother of Miss Wells, our Head of Science Faculty.

Mr Wells spoke of his route into the journalism industry, explaining that while he went through university this is not the only way in. Journalism is also not quite as glamorous as it may seem.

In order to try and connect with the girls on a more personal level, Mr Wells went to the trouble of contacting his female colleagues to ask them for video clips detailing things they wished they had known before they got into this industry, the best piece of advice they were

ever told, anecdotes of their experiences etc. It was such a lovely piece and we really appreciated the effort Mr Wells went to, to produce this especially for us.



RIBI Young Musician Competition at Heathfield School

On Tuesday 25 January Heathfield hosted the first round of the RIBI Young Musician Competition, in which 12 students battled it out on their chosen instrument or vocal performance to get through to the next round. Heathfield was represented by Asuka (LVI) on Cello, Charlotte (LVI) on Violin and Phoebe (UVI) who did a vocal performance.

Congratulations to Phoebe who won, and therefore carries on to the next round which is due to be held at St. Joseph's College on Saturday 11 March.



Poetry Declaration

On Thursday 26 January, students and staff gathered in the SMAT for the annual Poetry Declaration. Students across Forms I-V took part in the competition, and some LVI

students and staff performed their pieces as entertainment while the judges deliberated.

It was lovely to see all the girls reciting a piece and making it their own. Some girls even devised their own poems to perform on the day. Well done to Lucy (Form I) whose original poem *The Modern Journey of the Three Wise Men* saw her winning first place!



Equestrian Success

After signing a recent sponsorship deal with a major French equestrian clothing company called Horse Pilot, LVI student Rose has now become the most sponsored U25 dressage rider in the country. This amazing feat is of course due to her hard work in training and competing, which can be seen by her many other successes in this sport.

Rose and her horse DJ are on the GB Prime squad (the top squad), starting the season with a 10% win on DJ gaining a score of 75%, and she is an astounding 5th in the country for Juniors/Young Riders. She is also on the EXCEL Talent Pathway, which is a Government funded programme for potential Olympic combinations.

Rose has also now completed the AASE (Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence), gaining 100%, and recently got offered a job as a rider on a top German dressage yard over her gap year.

Well done Rose for all your achievements; your hard work is most certainly paying off!



Invitational LAX Event

On Saturday 28 January, Heathfield School hosted teams from Claremont School, Godstowe, Guildford High and The Royal for an afternoon of Lacrosse.

It was a lovely, sunny, but very chilly day which was well attended by lots of parents, staff and dogs! Heathfield was represented by our U12, U13, U14 and U15 teams, all of whom played excellently. A special mention must go to the U12s who fought hard despite being one player down the whole tournament.

After the games had finished everyone headed to the dining room for some wonderful hot food provided by Brookwood, while the results were read out by Miss Reynolds. Well done to everyone who took part; it was wonderful to see all the girls representing Heathfield so well.



Sport

While January has been dominated with revision, examinations and lots of hard work, we have managed to kick off the first few fixtures of this Lent term.

Our U14 netball squad played in the Ascot School's Tournament on Tuesday 17 January. Although it took the girls a little while to get going they pulled together as a team and finished with two wins, one draw and two losses, placing them a very creditable sixth overall out of twelve teams.

The U14 netball squad also took on Luckley House and after a fast-paced and intense match we walked away victorious with a 17-11 win, and the first team won 21-12. Well done to the U12B team who finished with a 4-4 draw.

Earlier in January, Heathfield hosted the Ascot School's Swimming Gala. The U12 and U13B teams finished in 4th place, while the U13A team finished in 3rd place and the U14 team finished 2nd. Many congratulations to the U15 team who finished 1st!



Record-Breaking Success in the Pool

We have some very exciting news from the swimming pool. Hum (Form IV) has broken her second school record of this academic year. On Monday 16 January, she broke the U15 Backstroke record of 18.47 which has stood for eight years – Hum swam it in 17.84.

Earlier this year Hum also set a new school record in the U15 25 Front crawl beating the previous record set in 2009 by Octavia Woolger (who is on the Girls for Gold programme to Tokyo 2020). Well done Hum, fantastic work!



Cross Country Success

A special mention must go to Scarlett from Form V who ran in the Berkshire Schools' Cross Country Championship on Saturday 21 January and finished in the top 45 runners out of 150, the vast majority of whom were older than her. Well done, Scarlett!



SPOTLIGHT ON: Ms Karin Oster

Karin Oster joined Heathfield in September 2016 as Teacher of Religious Studies. With Swedish and Danish parents, Ms Oster grew up as a “missionary kid”, moving around places like Sierra Leone and Liberia. She has now settled in England, and 13 years into her career as a qualified teacher she loves it more than ever.

Tell me about your teaching career so far?

I did a lot of work as an unqualified teacher across the world in Denmark, Egypt and Thailand before moving to England in 2003 to complete my PGCE at Cambridge. I went on to teach for three years at a London school, followed by nine years at a very high-achieving state school with around 2,000 students, before joining Heathfield at the start of this academic year.

What is your favourite thing about Heathfield?

My favourite thing must be the opportunity we have to be that adult who makes a difference in the lives of the girls. In my last school there were 2,000 students – I had a tutor group of 30 who I saw for 10 minutes a day – and I taught about 400 students. You just can’t make a difference in the lives of that many students, and you can’t have an individual relationship the way you can here and I love that about Heathfield.

Do you have a memory of an inspirational teacher from when you were at school?

When I came to university I had all of these amazing professors in theology and religious studies, but they were all older, middle aged men and I was 25 at the time, struggling to relate to them. And then this new professor joined who was this short, blonde woman, dressed in casual bohemian clothes and I looked at her and saw myself. That changed something in me, and I thought if she can do this job so can I and I think a female role model like that is so important for young girls.

What would you say has been your proudest moment at Heathfield so far?

I’ve had a few that stand out: when I got a chance to take some of my Sixth Formers to Eton to hear the Archbishop of Canterbury talk; that was a pretty cool moment. I try to challenge myself the way the Headmistress always says we should do, so Friday 27 February I got to lead the Holocaust Memorial Day assembly. I have never done a whole school assembly before; it was totally outside of my comfort zone.

But I think my best moment has to be the first time some girls from my tutor group came and talked to me about their problems and asked me for advice, trusting me to listen to

them, to take them seriously and to help them. For me that is probably my proudest moment; when I gained the trust of my tutor group.

Iona Cumming, Marketing Executive

House Weekends



Austen Weekend 14 & 15 January

Austen kicked off the Lent term with an animal-themed weekend. Forms I and II on the catwalk for an animal fashion show impressed everyone, armed with face paints and home-made fashion accessories. Congratulations to team Flamingo for bringing home first prize and thanks to Nicci James for co-ordinating the routines.

Form III were scared stiff at the Heathfield Cinema watching Jaws whilst Form IV went out to watch La La Land. In the evening the whole school came together for the safari supper and were treated to a range of African foods including bobotie.

On Sunday after Chapel, Forms I-III either played bench-ball or baked cookies in the shape of animals. There was also a senior trip to the V & A museum for girls studying Art and Photography. After lunch, it was time for the junior school to go to the zoo where the girls braved the wind and rain to witness some real animals including the rare and reclusive snow leopard.

Many thanks to the staff of Austen House and the Housemistresses for all their help over the weekend as well as Brookwood Catering for the fantastic food – it was an absolutely wonderful weekend!

Andrew Valner, Head of House – Austin



de Valois Weekend 28 & 29 January

On a slightly soggy January morning and with New Year's resolutions in full swing a group of senior girls and staff headed off to take part in their first 'ParkRun'. The Bracknell staff were extremely welcoming and the group set off on the 5km course. Elated to have finished and high on endorphins they celebrated at Fego's with a well-deserved brunch. Meanwhile back in school the U12 to U15 Lacrosse Teams battled closely-fought matches.

That afternoon the junior school created stunning fascinators all in preparation for the upcoming and highly anticipated circus-themed Fashion Show.

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Sandy and her catering team put on a wonderful Chinese Banquet which was followed by dodgeball with the House Captains Millie and Gabi in the Sports Hall.

Alongside this, the senior school had the opportunity to watch the Bracknell Bees versus The Manchester Phoenix Club ice hockey match. Millie Geddes (our local Ice Hockey guru) kept everyone informed on the tactics at play. Congratulations to the Bracknell Bees on their well-deserved win!

Following Chapel on Sunday the Fourth Form took part in a day's training learning survival and cooking skills all in preparation for their upcoming Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

Forms V and above headed off to the Guildford Spectrum to show off their pirouetting skills on the Ice Rink and the junior school refined their commando / stealth skills playing Lazerquest.

Janet Talbot, Head of House - de Valois

Dates to Remember

10 February – **Half term starts**

19 February – **Half term ends**

4 March - **Open Morning**

11 & 12 March – **Exeat**

17 March – **LAMDA, Music & Fashion Show**

24 March – **End of term**

18 April – **Start of Summer term**

29 & 30 April - **Exeat**



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