

“The boarders’ ball was superb fun

AND A LOVELY WAY TO START THE MOST SERIOUS OF TERMS”



HEAD OF SCHOOL AND HEAD OF HOUSE TREAD THE BOARDS



RUNNERS UP IN THE INTER HOUSE GOLF



MAX RELEASES ANOTHER NEW ALBUM

PENNELL NEWS



The house scrubs up well

Dear Pennell Parents and Guardians,

The photo above reminds me how long ago the start of term was. We’ll get onto it later but the boarders’ ball was superb fun and a lovely way to begin the most serious of terms. I think the boys have acquitted themselves very well in exam season. The GCSEs started even earlier than usual (please note: this seems to be the way of things from now on) which meant for a very drawn-out programme of exams. The upside of this is that only the unluckiest pupils got more than a maximum of two exams a day. I recall one year when a pupil was invited to stay in isolation overnight at the headmaster’s house because he had six in one day which could not physically be scheduled with even the minimum rest breaks. So one can see the logic although we teachers bemoaned the lack of last-minute polishing that we lost to the early start. Factoring in all the sport and co-curricular activities this term, however, and it is very evident how full a two-and-a-half months it has been.



Our debonair Y9s

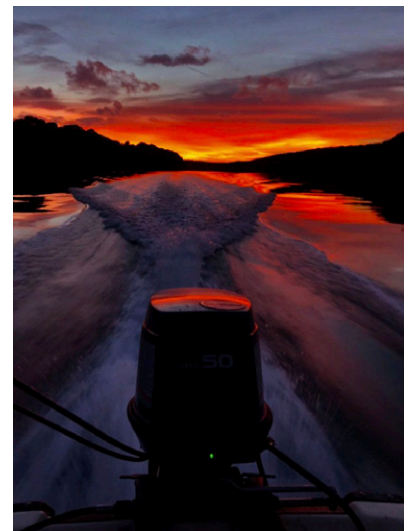
Academic

The exams, however, take front seat this term and, criminal acts from a certain exam centre aside, it seems to have been a reasonably straightforward "season". There certainly seems to be a tendency for the A-levels to be really very challenging in places. My Upper Sixth Latin set, for example, found the verse unseen eye-wateringly difficult from the off. We have written to the examiner to ask how he hopes to differentiate outcomes from a paper that would have sent 90% of the candidates off the rails from the first word. It is very difficult to come back from that position. Nonetheless, the boys in house have accepted the nastiness of the hardest exams with great fortitude and have used humour and football to good effect to mitigate the emotional distress of such situations.



Y13 leavers

Congratulations are due to Bill Cao for his Bronze in the Physics Olympiad and Merit in the A2 Olympiad. Cole Warren's sculpture prize and full colours in art are testament to his ever-flourishing talent. I tried to get him to sell me some of his work but he is not for turning so don't even ask him! Whilst on art, we must also congratulate Max Faulkner-Bryant on winning the senior category in the school photography competition with his highly evocative image of a sunset taken from the back of a motor boat, the glassy water momentarily disrupted by its wake. Other academic prizes include Freddie Ferro's Y9 PE prize and Gary Gao's Y10 chemistry prize.



Max's prize-winning shot

End-of-year class effort prizes were awarded to James Kan (geography), Guillaume Najbor (geography), Aidon Chan (geography), Matthew Tsang (design and technology), Henry Turnbull (chemistry and maths), Gabriel Barlow (classical civilisation and English) and, finally, Alex Tse with a very impressive haul of four (chemistry, physics, biology and art).



I have totalled the reward points earned this year for such things as *show hsms*, praise in lessons, department commendations etc. to reveal the following top 10:

Academic Year 2018-19 reward points

house position		house position	
1	Alex Tse	6	Guillaume Najbor
2	Chorus Yuen	7	Sung Tangwatanawongsa
3	Gabriel Barlow	8	Victor Lam
4	Bertie Brushfield	9	Louis Bullen
5	Isaac Chu	10=	Theo Marsh and James Kan

Congratulations are due, separately, to Isaac Chu for being accepted on both the highly selective pre-college Stanford *and* Harvard summer schools. We are certain that he will learn an enormous amount from those weeks spent in the US and look forward to hearing how he gets on.

best eRC effort scores at the end of term

position	score	position	score
1	Isaac Chu 6.00	6	Alex Fan 5.47
2	Henry Turnbull 5.79	7	Tamás Lovas 5.37
3	Chorus Yuen 5.63	8	George Pool 5.33
4	Gabriel Barlow 5.56	9	Freddie Ferro 5.31
5	Bede Rowlands 5.54	10	Gary Gao 5.28

Social and cultural

It was a bit of a risk, the inaugural “boarders’ ball”, and I know that some had immovable commitments that weekend so not all were able to attend, but it could have gone either way. I have terrible memories of being bussed from my all-boys boarding school to a local-ish all-girls boarding school. I recall being ushered into the headmistress’s study and being given a glass of sweet sherry which I thought (fittingly) was communion wine! Presumably this was to steady the rightly-assumed nerves. We were then shunted out into an antique wood lined hall and -



Y12s fully committed to the dancing

literally - lined up on one side to face the girls on the other side. My memory of what followed clouds, either because of the sherry or, far more likely, it was a total road crash of crushing embarrassment. The social experiment was not repeated. This term's ball, however, couldn't have gone better and at the critical moment when the big band belched their first fat chord the whole place erupted in dancing.

It was good to crank up "the beast" for a couple of house BBQs as the weather improved towards the end of term and a trip to the beach for fish and chips with School House and Nugent seemed to go down well. Our annual leavers' trip to the dog racing at Hove was similarly well-received if less lucrative than usual. As ever, I returned empty-pocketed but usually one of our party wins big. Not this year.

The term closed with its two usual highlights: the singer songwriter concert which was this year held at the very windy bandstand on the seafront. It was great to see it supported by so many of the boys this year. Max Walker, as ever, held the whole thing together accompanying and soloing and even brought to the whole proceedings to a rousing conclusion with an audience participation of Hey Jude. He has rightly been awarded a Headmaster's Award for all-round contribution to the College. This year's singer songwriter album is available on Apple Music and on Spotify at:

https://open.spotify.com/album/6FY3jsEWBBEiFw5Ne1fA1V?si=-5ihOSR_QhCeXf1ZHgCcrq.

Congratulations too go to James Kan for passing his grade 3 rock guitar and Isaac Chu for his grade 8 piano distinction.

This summer's Dell Play was an absolute model of its type. *Hotel Paradiso*, a bedroom farce so perfect for our outdoor theatre, exploited the talents of Henry Turnbull as Benedict Boniface and Theo Bevacqua as the structural architect Henri Cot. Henpecked Boniface - of course - falls for Cot's



Big Ball Band; Ys12 and 9 with fish and chips on the beach; Max's "Hey Jude"; The Cot and Boniface-off

neglected wife and having engineered a tryst at the eponymous hotel the lead players all somehow end up in the same place at the same time with the police in tow. Add ghosts and a friend's over-exuberant adolescent daughters and you have pretty much the quintessential ingredients for a balmy summer's evening of laugh-out-loud entertainment. It was all the more remarkable for having been put together in so little time. Huge congratulations to all involved.

We are delighted that Theo heads up a very strong prefect team next year. With Henry Head of School and Theo Head of House, Pennell is in good hands and their leadership qualities and their willingness to get involved in so many aspects of school life mark them out as robust role models for the younger years. Our Deputy Heads of House next year will be Lukas Battel and George Pool, while Bede Rowlands, Petr Volkonskiy and Max Faulkner-Bryant will be our Peer Mentors. They have already proved themselves approachable and fully in-tune with the welfare of others. Isaac Chu and Seb Marsh complete the prefect line-up.

Sporting success



The summer term is so filled with sporting possibilities that it can be hard to keep track of who is where. I remember last year ringing a parent in a panic because their son had not made it to roll call on Saturday afternoon and wasn't on my "at home" list nor the cricket or tennis fixture lists. Turned out he was competing in a sailing match! Senior cricket players this term have been Theo and Henry for the 2nds and 3rds. Adekola Aderogba has played some matches for the 15As as has Freddie Ferro, playing up a year, and who kept wicket for the County Cup-winning side as well as the 14As and for Sussex. Murray Smith and Gus Toomer have also played for the 14As. In golf, the

school has been represented by Sam Tsang and Victor Advincula who also formed part of the athletics squad. Gabriel Barlow joined them to bring the house to second in the inter house golf competition. Other athletes include James Kan, Tamás Lovas, Max Faulkner-Bryant and Sea Tangwatanawongsa. House tennis players representing the College include Theo Marsh and Chorus Yuen.

Finally, Theo Bevacqua is congratulated on being awarded the PG and DG Gilbert memorial prize for achievement in Boys' Sport.

Inter house sports day. (Left to right) house tug-of-war; Jake in the 400; Gus in the relay; Vikrant in the hurdles; Tamás in the 1500; Y9s helping Victor over the line in the paarlauf; Theo in the triple jump; Freddie in the 200



Top house performances in the inter house athletics

position	score	position	score
1	George Pool 1500m	3	Lukas Battel high jump
1	Vikrant Gurung long jump	3	Bede Rowlands triple jump
2	Vikrant Gurung hurdles	3	Ernest Ng shot
2	Freddie Ferro 200m	3	Tamás Lovas 1500m
2	Louis Bullen long jump	3	Murray Smith shot

Farewells and final thoughts for the term



Y13 leavers at the dogs

We will be very sorry to say farewell to Mr. Roberts as he defects moves to Wargrave to be Resident Tutor. We wish him the very best of luck in that new and demanding role. He has been a superb, committed duty tutor in Pennell which, ironically for us, has marked him out for advancement. The good news is that we shall continue to see lots of him through the pastoral provision at the College.

Dee's requested low-key exit in no way reflects the impact she has had on the boys, and reading the comments they have written in her goodbye card it is easy to see how much she means to them. Her years of hard work, good-humour, care and calm management of even the most recalcitrant boys is stitched into the fabric of the house - literally in the case of all those name tapes and repaired trousers! She was "overwhelmed" by her leaving gifts and the collection, and

she will put careful thought into how to spend it on something that will remind her of us all. She is staying in Eastbourne so we hope to see lots more of her still on a social level. I can already hear the "Hello, you!"

We are lucky to be re-joined next year by Mr Hart who was a Pennell tutor previously before he joined Gonville. We are also gaining the considerable expertise of Tim Clark, a new economics teacher and former Assistant Head and Head of Sixth Form, from a school in Poland.

Some requests and reminders:

Please can we be extra punctilious with our communication over weekend movements next year, especially with the new Friday night option. Please could I ask you to inform me by Thursday night at the very latest if you are intending to pick up on Friday evening and at the same time please let me know if you will be returning your son on the Monday morning (by 8.20 absolute latest, please). My working assumption is that boys will be staying in on Friday if they have a match the following day. Please note that detentions will need to be served regardless of whether they have booked a weekend out.

Hair: please may I remind you again that the minimum length of hair is a UK grade 3 (9mm). Hong Kong and Chinese barbers are particularly prone to dramatically short back and sides. Also, it seems slightly less common these days but please ensure that all dyed hair is returned to its natural state by the start of term.

Home clothes: please can we control the amount of home clothes sent in with the boys. Poor Jo gets flooded with home clothes on a Monday and struggles to get on top of it what with all the prioritised school clothing. May I please reiterate my request not to bring back expensive clothing or other high value items unless you are prepared to keep them locked in a drawer or tuck box.

Our thanks, as ever, for your supremely generous gifts at the end of term. It is humbling to come back to the office after a lovely afternoon on College Field and behold your kindness and we always raise a toast to you and the boys.

For some light summer reading may I commend to you the work of Brian Bilston. His *Diary of a Somebody* is proving exquisite, often snortingly funny, decompression material and his poems are the perfect tonic after a busy term. I refer you to one of my favourite examples:

Beer Mat's Last Theorem

On the back of a beer mat,
he finally proved the theorem
that $(\text{Mick}^{\text{Hucknell}} + \text{James}^{\text{Blunt}}) = \text{Ed}^{\text{Sheeran}}$
Taylor^{Swift}

Lydia and I wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer.

With very best wishes as ever,



Dates for the diary

Start of term - Wednesday 28th August:

12.00 - all new Y10, 11, L6th arrive in house. Heads of School and House to attend.

16.15 - new pupils' reception (in house). All House Prefects to attend

18.00 term begins for all

Exeats:

16.00 Friday 20th Sept; U6th parents' evening (from 15.15)

16.00 Friday 22nd Nov; Y9 drama and parents' evening (from 14.00)

Half term: Friday 18th October; L6th parents' evening (from 15.15)

Please note that terms start at 18.00; exeats/ half terms end at 21.00

Houses are open at ends of exeats from 18.00, end of half term from 16.00

