

“In spite of all the Govian exam upheaval

IN MANY WAYS IT HAS BEEN A COMFORTINGLY CLASSIC SUMMER TERM”



ALEX VICTOR LUDORUM AND WINNER OF THE SIMON GREEN CUP FOR SPORTING ENDEAVOUR



EASTBOURNE COLLEGE SONGWRITING WORKSHOP 2018  
MAX RELEASES A NEW ALBUM

# PENNELL NEWS



Pennell Upper Sixth Leavers at the Hove dog track

Dear Pennell Parents and Guardians,

It has been quieter than ever in house at the end of this summer term what with the Year 9s on trips, the entire Year 10 cohort this year at CCF camp for a week, and the exam groups off celebrating somewhere (I try not to ask...) but it has allowed some pause for thought as it all cranks up for the Sports Day, Speech Day and the Cornflower Ball. In spite of all the Govian exam upheaval, in many ways it has been a comfortingly classic summer term; the house racing off after prep to play bare-footed football on College Field, attempts to revise in the scorching summer sun before retreating to the “I-told-you-so” of the library, a feast of plays that keep the internally examined exceedingly entertained. The Jourdain’s are off to Rhodes this summer and I even hope to tag on a busman’s boat trip to Ephesus which, embarrassingly for a Classicist, I have never been to. Whatever your plans, we hope you have a super summer. Thank you so much as ever for your generous gifts at the end of term. I am trying to be good for another week up to the Hever Castle Half Marathon after which I shall very much enjoy indulging in your treats.

# Academic

Those of you who have been reading the press coverage of the exam season will have noticed that the papers have had a field day over the new GCSEs and A-levels. Stories of pupils fainting or bursting into tears have been common. In that context, the Pennell boys have coped superbly. Sure there have been horror stories and straight runs of eye-popping difficulty in some exams but after a few pep talks and a quick reminder that these exams are competitive and the prizes go to those who fall apart the least, they have rallied. It has been quite a drawn-out exam season for some of our Upper Sixth, several of whom only finished on 25th June (further mathematicians) but I have been very impressed by their fortitude and even though the final paper was a stinker, I think that the relief of finishing just about overcame their horror of the actual exam. Well done to all examinees for their good humour and tenacity.

Department Commendations this term have been awarded by the EAL department to Sam Tsang for his Daily China newspaper article and by the French department to Bill Cao for his warm welcome and support during the visit of a French school. Congratulations are also due to Adam St Paul and Raul Sanchez who finished second in the Cambridge Union Schools debating competition this year. Raul also came second in the Oxford School Debating competition.

## Summer term's Show Hsm league

Year	First	Second	Third
9	James Kan	Sam Tsang	Jake LJ and Jamie Pascall
10	Runo Okoloko	Guillaume Najbor	Zack Radwan
11	Bede Rowlands	Ernest Ng	
12	Bill Cao	Ian Chee	Harry Zhang
13	Barry Ye	David Wang	Silas Rowlands

## Most improved eRC effort score (across the two eRCs)

Place	Name	Improvement
1st	Raul Sanchez (Y12)	+ 0.52
2nd	James Kan (Y9)	+ 0.44
3rd	Max Walker (Y12)	+ 0.42
4th	Jacob Barlow (Y10)	+ 0.41
5th	Jack Thompson	+ 0.38
6th	Jake Lawson Johnston	+0.3

## Best final eRC effort score

Place	Name	Score /5
1st	Ian Chee	5
2nd	Bill Cao	4.89
3rd	Aidon Chan	4.6
4th	James Kan	4.53
5th	Sung Tangwatanawongsa	4.29

End of Year Class Effort awards were won by Isaac Chu (EAL), Alex Fan (DT), Sea Tangwatanawongsa (biology and art), Alex Tse (physics and chemistry), Rui Yang (RS), Maxim Barker (music and DT), Gary Gao (chemistry), Jamie Pascall (French), Aidon Chan (geography and history), Ian Chee (maths, physics and economics) and James Kan (geography). Ian Chee is also to be congratulated for his award of "best chair" in the Model United Nations this term. He will also be the Head of the Casson Society next year.

## School prizewinners

Name	Prize
Tony Zhou	Professor Soddy Science Prize HMS Marlborough Further Mathematics Prize
Hamish Green	Vernon Dobtcheff award
Bill Cao	Alex Coates Physics
Henry Turnbull	Junior drama prize
Isaac Chu	NJ Hill Junior project prize for Computing NJ Hill Junior project prize for DT
Alex Fan	Junior EAL prize
James Kan	Year 9 Geography prize

## Social

On the social side, my thanks are due to the tutors for taking their tutees out for various events this term. It is one of the many joys of boarding life that it is relatively easy to get a group together to walk into town to watch Jurassic World 2, to have a meal at Bill's or to crank up "the beast" for a year group or house BBQ at a moment's notice.



TJH, George, Gus, Zack, Jacob and Theo at a house BBQ



Aidon, Steven and Max tame the beast for a house BBQ; Guillaume and Jamie; Maxim and Adekola

Of course the opportunities to get the house together to watch the World Cup matches and even the Tyson Fury fight on the big screen in the games room have been really enjoyable. We have also thoroughly enjoyed the Upper Sixth trip to the dog track again this year (see above) although it doesn't seem to have been as lucrative as it has been in previous trips with little more than a "pony" being won in any one dog race. It seems an aeon ago but we also really enjoyed the C150 assault course at the start of term. The year 9 trips to Cévennes and Normandy seem to have gone really well, with those who signed up returning in that giddy state of exhaustion and exhilaration.

Finally, you may have heard the live performance of the College's new singer songwriter album on Speech Day but do have another listen. Max Walker's "Red Sky" is a brooding, current affairs informed highlight. Follow this Spotify link to hear more, or type Eastbourne College into the search box:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/6hX2v1PbLtlx68OXqr577I?si=a73TCGOjTDmiRkegN4IMLw>



C150 assault course with Runo, the L6th, Theo, Henry and Bede, and the Upper Sixth

# Sporting success

Alex Mannhardt is to be congratulated on a very impressive haul of cups at the end of term. Not only was he the *victor ludorum* of the College sports day but he was also awarded the Simon Green cup for endeavour in sport, an annual award that recognises the contribution of a single sportsman or sportswoman over their time at the College. In cricket, top-level players from Pennell included Omar Ramzan playing for the 1sts, 2nds Henry Turnbull, 15As George Kendon and 14As Adekola Aderogba. For tennis we had: 1sts Hugo Najbor, 16As Bede Rowlands, 15As Jacob Barlow, Guillaume Najbor and Zack Radwan, while the following competed for the school in athletics: Alex Mannhardt, Peter Dickinson, Vikrant Gurung, James Kan, Sea Tangwatanawongsa, Rui Yang, Jake Lawson Johnston. Hamish Green was Captain of Boats for the 1sts rowing squad and, in sailing, ones to watch from Y9 include Jamie Pascal and Jake Lawson Johnston. Full colours this term, unsurprisingly, were awarded in athletics to Alex Mannhardt and Peter Dickinson, while Peter was also awarded his half colours for golf.



Jake, James and Omar in action (note the latter's unusual but race-winning technique)



Peter, Vikrant and the junior tug-of-war team; below, the senior team



## Farewells and Welcomes

We will be very sorry to say farewell to Mr. Holgate as he moves 393.54 metres (I've just measured it on Google Maps) to Craig House to be Housemaster. Mr Holgate has been a tutor with us since September 2014 and in that time has also been a 1st XV and VII rugby coach, master in charge of athletics and most recently the Head of Business. We wish him, Kirsty, Ella and Jessie every success in his busy new role but thankfully will still see plenty of him around the College. Taking up his tutor mantle will be a new joiner Mr James Hooper who will be teaching mathematics. James joins us from Westminster School and has 20 years of pastoral and boarding experience including a stint as resident tutor. Rumour has it he enjoys spelunking (exploring caves) and has mapped many miles of the underworld in Wales. The experience could come in handy given the state of a few of our boys' rooms!

### Some requests and reminders:

*Flexi weekend returns: please could I ask you to inform me if you are intending to return your son on the Monday morning after a flexi weekend (by 8.20 absolute latest, please). This is best done when emailing in to request leave although I understand that plans can change, in which case please let me know as soon as you can. Please note that detention on Saturday night will need to be served regardless of whether you have booked a flexi weekend.*

*Haircuts: please may I remind you that the minimum length of hair is a UK grade 3 (9mm). This particularly needs taking into account, it seems, when patronising a Chinese barber. Please be aware that anything less than a grade 3, or requesting the latest fad of a "skin fade" is likely to result in a sending home which is tedious for everyone involved.*

*Expensive possessions: 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. These items fuel temptation and loss, damage or theft is always extremely distressing, not least to me. Please also note that it is against the College rules (para. 6) to buy and sell items without Hsm permission.*

## Final thoughts for the term

Two highlights for me at the end of term are the prefect interviews and the Introduction Day for next year's Y9s. I have written before about the prefect interviews which are an opportunity for me to feed back on the very personal and individual journeys of each of the applicants. It's also a time for straight talking, digging and poking, and I forewarn the boys that the intention is to give them some interview practice because it is hard to get real-life interview practice before it really matters and it is your first proper job interview. The feedback this year was that I was "nicer" than they expected from the rumours of previous years. This certainly wasn't my intention! In fact two years ago a certain Headmaster parent berated me for how harsh my interview of his son had been. Made him the man he is today though and it was great to see him back in Pennell the other day fresh from his gap year travels. I am always surprised by how the difficult the prefect decisions are. Pre-interview, one has a fairly clear idea of who will be what but shoe-ins can fold at interview and those on lengthened odds can respond robustly to some forthright questioning. We have some excellent prefects next year, headed up by Max Walker, and look forward enormously to working with them.



Artwork by Isaac Chu, Justin Chong and Sea Watanawongsa

The new pupil Introduction Day this year was its usual mix of expectation, trepidation and excitement. Some of the boys are "ready to start now" while one, literally, needed his hand holding at one point. It is always exciting anticipating how their journeys will unfold and as the year comes full circle the life of a housemaster crystallises into the dichotomy of journey's end for the Upper Sixth, who have been with me in many cases for five years, versus the hopes and dreams of the new Year 9s who need to wait a seemingly interminable summer holiday before they can get their feet under the table. I received the Bettany Hughes book on Istanbul as a gift at the end of term and reading the prologue and introduction in these first few days of freedom I am minded to draw the parallel between a boarding house and the city that has bridged the Eurasian continents for 8,000 years. Both have a somewhat transient population but a collective identity that endures; both have a caretaker executive (of many varied hues!) that strive to drive the place forward and present its interests to the outside world; both foster opportunity and security and strive for harmony, and though culture and language can at times divide its population, its emotional *lingua franca* must be tolerance, kindness and mutual respect for and enjoyment of difference. Both these places lie at the shoreline of opportunity, be it the commercially effervescent Sea of Marmara or the rather more opaque "future", and that always makes it an extremely dynamic, exciting place to be. Whichever you are, newcomer, old-timer or somewhere in between, you are always welcome in Pennell.

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 - Monday 3rd September:

12.00 - All new Y10, L6th

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

18.00 term begins for all

Exeats:

16.00 Friday 21st Sept; U6th parents' evening (17.20)

16.00 Friday 23rd Nov; Y9 drama and parents' evening (from 15.30)

Half term: 16.00 Friday 12th October; L6th parents' evening (17.20)

*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*