

# POWELL HOUSE

EASTER 2020

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE TIME

Please do take a moment to look through this term's newsletter. It feels good looking back on the last few months. The photos tell the usual story: energy, activity, friendships, collaboration, fun; a very sociable house dinner, a very successful senior house football campaign; plenty of creative achievement and academic effort; the overcoming of challenges. They speak of inclusivity, togetherness, and community; they speak of boys making the most of their time.

Of course, with the cloud of Covid-19, this normality feels very much under threat. Now is a time not of gathering but of social distancing, self-isolation and lock downs; an invisible enemy. Individual and family health, exam grades, holiday plans, basic everyday supplies, the wider economy: these are usual anxieties for teenage boys and adults, but ones now greatly magnified by the present crisis.

I am certain that we will get through these strange times. We just need to keep going: chin-up, step by step, together. In the wartime words of Dame Vera Lynn, *We'll Meet Again*. We don't yet know when, and there might well be stages in how, but I'm confident that normality will return.

In the meantime, although apart, we can still keep in touch. It is really important we keep doing so. Good use of modern tech can really help here. As a family, we have found it of immense value spending time face to face with friends and family via various video messaging apps. So too can the Powell family. Let's keep in touch.

Education is also something that we must keep doing together. I have no doubt that rugged individualism is important when it comes to learning. Each of us has to learn to sit down and work things out as best we can for ourselves. However, important too is collaboration. We learn together. We need each other to spur us on to greater endeavours. We all need the voice of experience and expertise to assist and speed our learning. Boys need to keep learning to work with others: analysing, planning, creating, delivering. Modern tech is not perfect (nor are its users) but it can help us here. Teaching and learning together will continue. It will be a little different—but also potentially very exciting.

*"I wish it need not have happened in my time,"* said Frodo.

*"So do I,"* said Gandalf, *"and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."*

There is real wisdom in Tolkien's words. His generation knew two world wars and Spanish Flu, days yet stranger than these. Life changed for them in ways quite undesirable and unimaginable, and yet they adapted and endured. So now is our time. All we have to decide is to how to keep making the very best use of the time that is given us.

Emily, Nessie, Peter and I wish you all a very Happy Easter.



**Football:** It was a tough season for the College footballers, with many fixtures cancelled due to seriously wet weather or concerns regarding coronavirus. Nevertheless, plenty of matches did take place. Regular 1st XI players were Jacob Doherty, Ali Al-Shamaa and Will Oates. Powell boys provided the core of a strong 2nd XI: James Holley, Jake Ludlam, Jack Stepney, Ed Hebron, Alex Richards and Callum Corney. With the thirds, fourths and fifths: Ollie Godfrey, Henry Duke, Arno Pellet, Alfredo Vazquez, Dylan Joyce, Kamran Rajwani, Ed Gent, Mikhail Konovalov and Tom Simpkin.

In the house football competitions, Powell teams represented themselves admirably. A very well supported senior team were House Champions, defeating Craig 4-2, Reeves 3-0 and Wargrave 3-0. Some great saves from Felix Harffey-Burkhill; goals from Spike Gleave (4), Captain Jacob Doherty (3), Callum Corney (2) and Louis Loubser. The Y9 team were unbeaten and won bronze. Particular mentions: goals from Frederik Jensen and Alan "Shearer" McMahon, the midfield control of Alex Davies and Thomas Johnston, and solid defending by Sam Hamilton. The Y10s defeated Pennell 2-1, both Oliver Farrant and George Lowery finding the bottom left of the net, and there were competitive draws against Craig and Gonville.





**Hockey:** In College teams, Louis Loubser was part of the successful 1st XI squad selected to travel to Birmingham for the ISHC finals. Ashraf Owasil, Felix Harffey-Burkhill and Tom Pedley all played for the 2nd XI; Giacomo Ghio, Loic Bass Gualbert and Chris O’Hanlon for the 3rds. Wilf Batham-Read finished the season in the U14As, and there were a host of Powell boys with the U15Bs: Max Giddins (top scorer with six goals), Noah James, Jules Bass Gualbert and Elliot Wilson. As for the U14As: Frederik Jensen (goalie), Sam Hamilton and Oliver May. Alex Edwards and Thomas Johnston were star players for the U14Bs.

In the house hockey competitions, the senior team fought hard against strong opposition. Highlights were goals from Ashraf Owasil and Louis Loubser in a sterling comeback against a strong Wargrave side, a game which included a cracking reflex save by goalie Ed Hebron. The joint Y9/Y10 junior team played well. Frederick Jensen provided real security in goal, with Max Giddins providing the firepower up front.

Congratulations to Tom Pedley on his selection to the Sussex U17 championship squad.







**Rugby:** Spike Gleave, Will Lowery, Callum O'Reilly, Billy Hipperson and George Callow trained hard for both the fifteen-a-side game as well as Sevens.

**Swimming:** Tom Pedley competed for the College in the Weald & Downland Trophy. In the house competition, Billy Hipperson, Loic Bass Gualbert, Tom Simpkin, Will Oates, Eugene Jackson and Ben Young all stepped up to the challenge. Particular highlights: Tom taking on the individual medley, Eugene powering to victory in the 25m butterfly, and Ben Young eagerly taking on everything he could in the junior events.

**Golf:** Will Oates was selected for the Sussex U17 squad. He was part of the College team that reached this year's final of the Independent Schools Golf Association competition.

**Squash:** Ali Al-Shamaa, Spike Gleave, Elliot Wilson and Charlie Carpenter played well for Powell in this year's house competition.

**Basketball:** Elijah Andal led the College team in a number of local league fixtures, with Charlie Reed in support.

**Cricket:** winter nets for Tom Pedley, Noah James, Thomas Johnston, Oliver May, Max Giddins, Oliver Farrant and Charlie Carpenter.

**Cross Country:** Sam Hamilton competed in the Sussex Championships.

**Boxing:** Congratulations to Billy Hipperson on his selection for the England Talent Pathway following his performance at the England Boxing National Youth Championships.

**Fives:** Charlie Carpenter won his singles matches for the College against both Tonbridge and Christ's Hospital. Alan McMahon was also successful in his U14 match.

**Equestrian:** Callum Hynes helped the College equestrian team to 3rd place at Petley Wood.

**Music:** It was good to see nine Powell boys enter the College's Young Musician of the Year competition. These included Ashraf Owasil (violin), Loic Bass Gualbert (trumpet), Jules Bass Gualbert (saxophone) and James Grout (drums). Finalists included Frederick Jensen (oboe), Luke Muschialli (piano), Spike Gleave (percussion), Ed Gent and Ben Young (both voice). Congratulations to Frederik, who won the junior instrumentalist competition. Congratulations to Ashraf on the award of a merit in his grade 8 violin exam.

One sad victim of the coronavirus was the House A Cappella competition. The *AcaPowella* group was Luke Muschialli, Ed Gent, Ben Young, James Grout, Joe Muschialli and Frederik Jensen. They worked with tremendous determination, skill and joy together on a version of Ed Sheeran's *Castle on the Hill*. It sounded very good indeed heading into the final week of term. We hope for a chance to hear it come the summer.



**Drama:** A term full of many fine performances as part of GCSE and A-level drama courses. Tom Simpkin and Ed Gent starred in the gritty L6 production of *Jerusalem*. Will Neal, Joe Muschialli, James Grout, Eugene Jackson, Tom Pedley, Chris O'Hanlon and Callum O'Reilly performed admirably in GCSE practicals; Thomas Watkins, Felix Harffey-Burkhill and Alfredo Vazquez took to the stage for their A-level pieces. Out of school, Sean Wilson performed publicly with YEODS in their Spring Showcase.

There were also a good number of theatre visits. Elliot Wilson, George Lowery, James Grout and Henry Duke enjoyed *Jane Eyre*. Ben Young, George Lowery and Noah James were not scared at all (honestly) by the *Woman in Black*. Tom Simpkin travelled to London to see *I Think We Are Alone*.

Felix Harffey-Burkhill, Thomas Watkins and Ben Young sat LAMDA exams.

## AND FINALLY

**The House Dinner:** The Powell boys enjoyed a very good evening with the ladies of Blackwater House. The Great Gatsby theme worked well. Ben Young crooned Fly Me to the Moon to great acclaim. Many thanks to Mr Dennis for his quiz questions. Well done to all the boys, especially the L6, for staying behind at the end to clean up and tidy away so very effectively.

**Networking and Work Experience:** Thank you to the many parents who supported the Future's Convention and offer pupils work experience. It is so valuable. We encourage boys to keep making the very most of any such opportunities. Best Networking Award of the Term has to go to Alex Richards, who managed to rub shoulders with a former PM at a London event.

**Engineering Opportunities:** Tom Arnold and Alex Edwards made the most of a Futureneers visit to Edwards' Vacuum. Oliver May joined the Eastbourne Schools' Partnership trip to the engineering department at Sussex University.

**The House Geography Quiz:** The Powell team map read their way to a commendable third place in this inaugural competition. Well done to Henry Walters (captain), Callum Corney, Alex Richards, Tom Arnold, Christopher Johnson-Bird and Sam Hamilton.

**Medical School offers:** Congratulations to Luke Muschialli and Jake Wheatley for receiving a range of offers to read medicine next year.

## PRIZE WINNERS

**College Half-Colours:** Ali Al-Shamaa (football), Thomas Watkins (art), Edward Gent (drama) and Loic Bass Gualbert (music)

**College Full Colours:** Luke Muschialli (music), Jacob Doherty (football), Elijah Andal (basketball)

**House eRC effort prizes:** (Y9) Tom Arnold, Sam Hamilton, Alex Davies, Frederik Jensen, Oliver Edmead; (Y10) Elliot Wilson, Francesco Bongiovanni, Charlie Carpenter; (Y11) James Grout, Alexander Augnet, Will Neal, Joe Muschialli, Dexter Richardson, Kane Benton; (L6) Billy Hipperson, Ed Gent, Giacomo Ghiro, Alex Photiou, Sean Wilson, Wali Sahebzadeh; (U6) Luke Muschialli, Jake Wheatley, Charlie Reed, Arno Pellet and Jacob Doherty.

**Powell House End of Term Prizes** were awarded to: (Y9) Alexander Davies; (Y10) Ben Young; (Y11) Alexander Augnet and James Grout; (L6) Giacomo Ghiro and Wali Sahebzadeh; (U6) Elijah Andal.

