

Wargrave House News

Michaelmas Term Review



What's inside?

- See the movers and shakers with the praise leaderboard in the Academic section, page 2.
- Interhouse Sporting Success
- Wargrave's photography prowess continues a-pace
- Wargrave & School House Socials

*Key dates for Lent Term 2023: Please note that the whole house is expected to stay in for those events marked with a **

Sunday 8 January

Term begins for all boarders. House open from 9am for all those returning from long haul flights. 6pm arrival for all else. Whole house to return by 9pm.

Monday 9 January

New Term begins for all
HM Assembly, All Saints Church

Wk1-2

Y11 mocks (off timetable 9-19 Jan) Current plan is return to lessons 19 Jan, S5

Thursday 26 January

Extended exeat (note dates – Thursday - Sunday) starts for all except Y10, 14:35
Y10 Parents meetings 15:15 -18.00

Wk 4

Second round of careers interviews Y11

Saturday 4 – Sunday 5 February *

Wargrave House Rowathon in aid of the Sam West Foundation (24hrs)

Friday 10 February

Half term begins 14.35

Y11 Parents evening 15.15 -18.00

Subject talks by heads of Department for VI form entry 18.15-19.30

Half term ends Sunday 19 Feb, all pupils back by 9pm, please

Monday February 20- Friday 24 Feb

A level mocks (Y13)

Friday 24 March

HM Assembly 08.35-09.30

Whole School Service 13.45-14.35

Lent Term ends 15.00

Academic

Always the marathon term, not only in length, but in the amount of course content covered, the boys have done well to grind through the past sixteen weeks with industry and purpose. Gearing up for assessment has been the theme for Y11 and 13 in particular. With both year groups having their sights set firmly on their mock exams which fall on 9th-19th January (Y11) and 20th to 24th February (Y13). I have spoken to both year groups and they should have revision plans drafted up for the Christmas holidays and beyond.

At the time of writing both James Zhou and Leander Walters have been called to interview at Oxford at Corpus Christi college and ChristChurch college respectively. We wish them the best of luck with the gruelling interview programme in the coming weeks and with the anticipation of results in early January. Whatever the outcome, to have got to this stage is very commendable.

Special mention for the term, must go to Maksym Matviievskiy who has competed in two international competitions this term, presenting work with his team from Ukraine to panels of experts in Croatia, where he won, allowing his team to progress to Taiwan. In Taipei he also earned a gold medal. His work investigates the nature of gravitational fields. I have tried to get him to explain it to me multiple times, but it simply goes over my head. What an intelligent chap, and a great addition to the house. See their success pictured above in Croatia. Ben Hutt was awarded a commendation in the sixth form French category of the Independent Schools Modern Languages Association's original writing competition. This was for an excellent piece of creative writing in French.



Praise marks League Table 2022/3 as it stands *			
Leading three pupils for the house yearly competition.			
Year	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
9	Harrison Nye (45)	Marcus Ho (36)	Charlie Hawkins (31)
10	Ian Tam (28)	Egor Pertsev (16)	Steven Zhang (14)
11	Ed Nolan (34)	Dan Sasao (27) & Daniel Hammond (27)	Paddy Cooper (26)
12	Hayes Ho (20)	Sean Foster (15)	Toby Wheatley & Ivan Wong (12)
13	Will Pollington (10)	Isaac Tam (8) & Will James (8)	Connor Gorman (7)

* 1 point for a piece of praise, two points for a show hsm

There were some excellent results in the recent Y10 exam period. Most notably, **Ian Tam** who scored an average grade of **8.60** – no mean feat across 10 subjects!

Sporting Success

Rugby term always puts a buzz into a boys' boarding house, and adds an extra layer of anticipation to a Saturday morning. Other than plenty of boys put out on cautionary concussion pathways, and a few sightings of some crutches kicking around house, we have been thankfully light on the injury front. The 1st XV have had a strong season and a solid run in the U18 National Vase, just recently being beaten by Sutton Valance in the quarter final. It is lovely to see three Wargravians starting consistently for the 1st XV, namely Jack Greig, Will Steed and Sean Foster, and it is worth noting that Will Steed remains the top try scorer for the team this season. It has been a pleasure to watch them in action on College Field on many Saturday mornings this term.

The U16s continue to gel and grow under Mr Kyle's watchful eye and have had a successful season, and it was great for this year group to have the opportunity to play on College Field the week before last against Hurstpierpoint. Although the result didn't go their way, it was good to see them playing in such a prominent spot in school.

Jack Greig continues to be put through his paces in the Harlequins squad and his commitment to his training has been admirable. He must also be congratulated for earning his **full colours** for rugby. This is an unusual occurrence for a Y12, and a testament to how hard he works and how integral he is to the 1st XV.

Ed Nolan has also been a pretty regular attendee on the Harlequins Development Player Programme (DPP), training hard and late into the night on Monday evenings:

Monday evening seems to be the night for sport, as both Paddy Cooper and Felix Mann (Y11) brave the elements to trundle off to Hove for Sussex Cricket training every fortnight. Great to see them engaged in this programme. Aman Shah (Y10) has also competed in multiple golfing fixtures throughout the term.



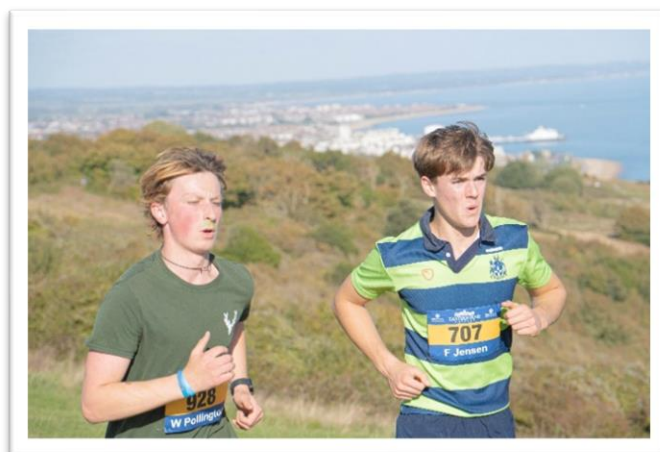


Interhouse sport

The highly competitive interhouse sports have punctuated the term nicely, and I am proud to say that the Wargrave boys have featured highly on the leaderboards. At the end of term count, we currently lead the pack of the boys houses.

Unfortunately, national mourning for the Queen's state funeral put paid to the Aquathlon which has been rescheduled for the summer term. However, we were treated to the annual Steeplechase, which as ever was supported by the incredibly professional set-up provided by Eastbourne Triathlon. It certainly does lift one's spirits to hear your ankle chip beep the finale as you stumble through a blow up finish line after a gruelling 7km+ of incline and ascent up on the beautiful South Downs. Notable successes were:

- In the Y9 category Harvey Nolan came third with a time of 15mins57secs. See him on the podium above.
- Jaime Ortez Cabrero came 9th with a time of 16mins27secs
- In the intermediates there was a very respectable 7th from Felix Mann with 23mins16secs and Charlie Goffin 9th with 24mins09secs.
- In the senior category, Will James came 21st with 32mins06secs, Will Pollington 25th overall with 34mins25secs. Luca Dumas and Jack Evans came neck and neck (see photo) with 36mins30secs.



Looks like it was a tussle between Luca Dumas and Jack Evans the entire race.....

Interhouse rugby

With our new format now firmly in place, house rugby was split into two sittings across each half term. Once again, there was a lovely a festival-esque atmosphere with Mr Torri pumping out some tunes from a central gazebo. With 6-minute halves, the occasion felt very fast paced. Playing touch rules was also a great leveler and meant that talent rather than brawn could really be put on display. To our delight, Wargrave came 1st place overall, knocking Craig House off the top spot from last year.



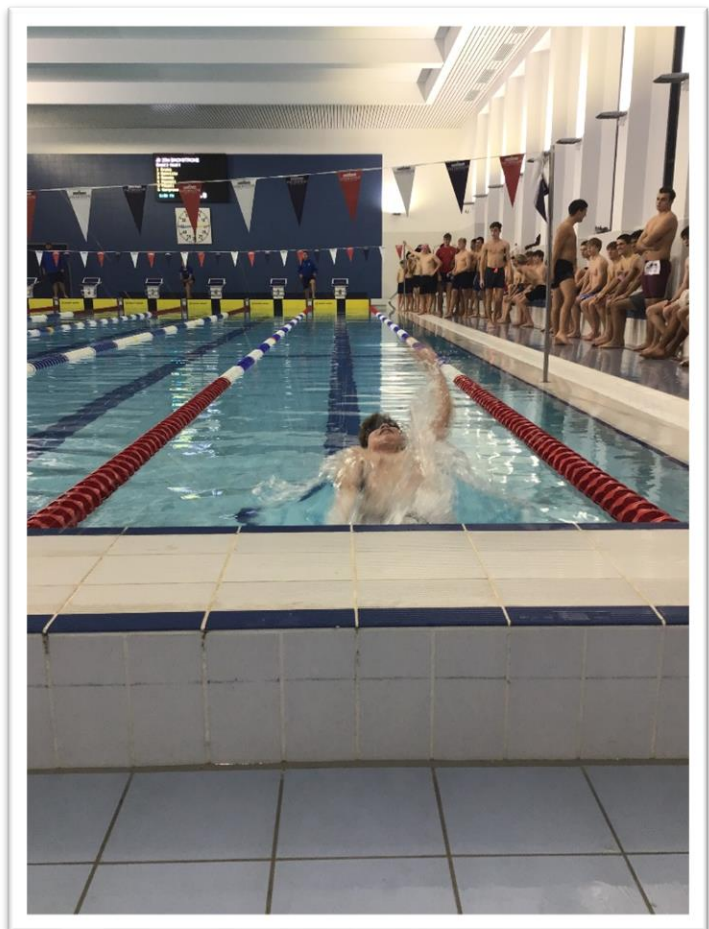
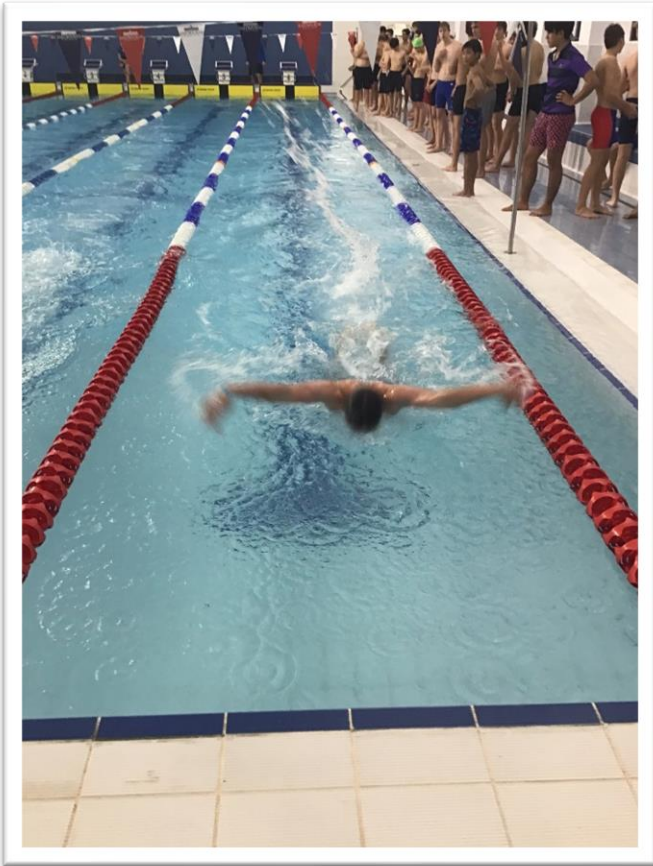


Overall winners!

Other interhouse events this term included interhouse swimming, where we came a very close second to Powell, with just three points in it. My thanks to Mrs Simmonds for organising a fun-filled event, complete with a Santa hat race twist race at the end. See Theo Cruttenden getting incredibly exasperated below as Freddie Jones barely comes up for air!

My thanks to the boys involved who were: Isaac Tam, Tobi Salami, Zach Howard, Will Pollington, Will James, Theo Cruttenden, Freddie Jones, Rory Staunton, Charlie Goffin, Elliot Freeborough, Will Plimsoll, Will Bligh, Steven Zhang, Jude Boateng and Harvey Nolan.

The penultimate week of term also saw Paddy Cooper and Harvey Nolan come second in the junior squash, and Will Pollington and Will James coming 5th in the senior squash. We placed at 2nd overall in this competition.





Service



William James (Y13) kindly volunteered to be the house charity representative this year and has been involved in various committee meetings to assist with school-wide charity initiatives. The house charity has got off to a healthy start, with a current total of £539 raised for the Sam West Foundation from the house concert donations (thank you) and the World Cup sweepstake. I expect to see this balloon next term as we undertake our annual Rowathon.

It has been a successful term for DofE and this term William James and William Pollington completed their Gold expedition. See them

skipping with joy above. In Year 11, William Coleman, Paddy Cooper, Theo Cruttenden, Felix Mann, Freddie Jones, Ed Nolan, Dan Hammond and Rory Staunton all passed their Silver practice expedition during half term. My lucky dog, Monty, is in high demand for a bit of 'service in the community' with Jack Greig and Luca Dumas walking him weekly, and Tom Burn and Will Steed walking Miss Gordon's dog, Pepper. An easy and enjoyable commitment trundling along to the beach – until those winter rains hit! At the ever-moving Remembrance Sunday

parade it was good to see James Zhou reading the lesson and Raphael Ayirebi bearing the standard for the RAF. See left and below.



Creatives and the arts

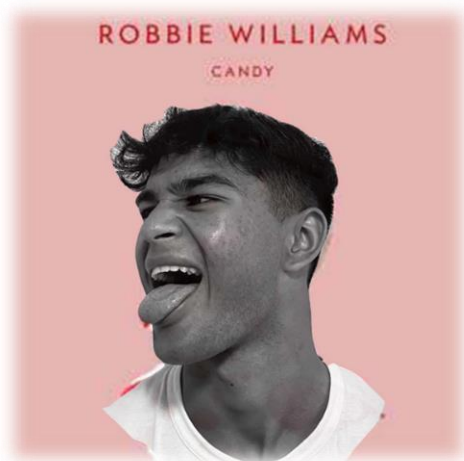
The creative element of the year kicked off with the always hotly anticipated interhouse singing competition. Happily, we were back as a whole school in All Saints Church. As reigning boys' champions and first out of the blocks in the running order we had a lot to live up to. The senior boys (mostly encouraged by Tobi Salami) chose Robbie Williams' *'Candy'* as our house song this year. The rationale being that 63 teenage boys can't sing all that well, but neither can Mr Williams. So, à la Robbie, we would dazzle them with our charisma instead. It paid off, and the external judge marked us third boys house overall, beaten narrowly by Craig and Gonville. Following in Mr Chan's footsteps as a seemingly unwritten tradition, Mr Breslin (Head of Maths) led the staff band with a very theatrical performance of 'Mustang Sally' to raucous applause and amazement – what a sound! Mr J Roberts also kindly compered the evening with Mr Kyle. The two are quite the duo act, it was hard to encourage them off the stage at points!



Elsewhere, there have been fantastic informal concerts and the term's Live Lounge was held in November in the Birley Centre. It was great to see Ian Tam really growing into himself on stage, and I was particularly impressed with the humour and ease with which he introduced his song *'Who am I to you?'*. Jack Evans also made his Live Lounge debut, on the keys with *'While I'm Away'*. Ben Hutt was also a crucial member of the Live Lounge band. See photos below.

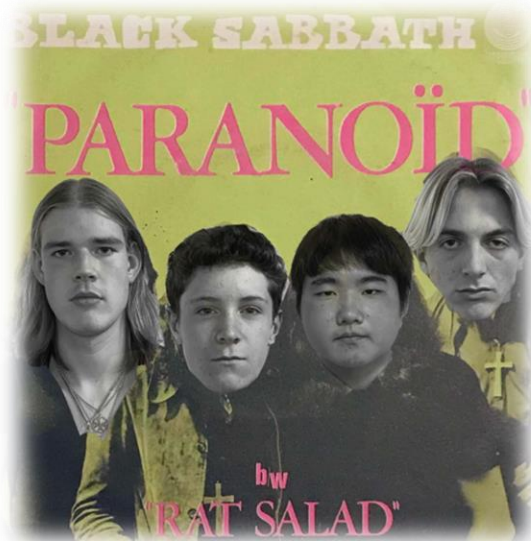


House Concert



One of the yearly focuses for any boarding house is the week of House Concert. We were, rather bravely (some said foolishly) the first house on the rotation this year. Now, this reviewer may be biased, but I think we set the tone for the term for the rest of the Eastbourne College houses and we have set the bar high. It was Miss Garrett and Mr Roberts' first one as resident house tutors, and I couldn't be more grateful to the energy and hard work that they brought to the weeks beforehand of ensuring that each act was rehearsed and well-drilled.

My thanks also go to Ben Hutt and Toby Bright for compèring the night's proceedings. As one parent rightly commented, it was a relief to have got through the evening with no unexpected fireworks! The unsung heroes of any house concert are always the video editors, who spend many hours filming, rendering and editing – often with multiple well-intended but supremely unhelpful critics in their ear giving their inexpert advice. This year Will Coleman (Y11) and Raphael Ayirebi & Adrian Wong (Y13) took on that thankless task.



My final thanks go to the live performers: to Ian Tam, Steven Zhang and the members of the House Band who rocked us all out to Ozzie Osbourne. I probably shouldn't single out a particular act, but for me, the most entertaining five minutes on the night must go to Year 10 for their 'Wargrave Prep' performance. Mr Roberts really outdid himself here with this act that could rival 'STOMP!' I promise you, the Wargrave prep sessions really are far more industrious than that in reality.







Michaelmas Term also means the whole school show, which this year was *Nell Gwynn*. As a history teacher, I was particularly excited to see the portrayal of Charles II on stage, and it did not disappoint. Although I can certainly declare that it is 'not my period', that didn't matter a jot as the acting was sensational and I was transported back to 17th Century England for a very enjoyable and humorous evening. I particularly enjoyed getting to see Jack Evans's performance as in the role of Ned Spiggett. Paula also very generously gave up her time, once again, to assist the drama department backstage with wardrobe. What a show! Hats off to everyone involved for such a stunning performance. Jack Evans also earned his creatives half colours this term. Well done him.

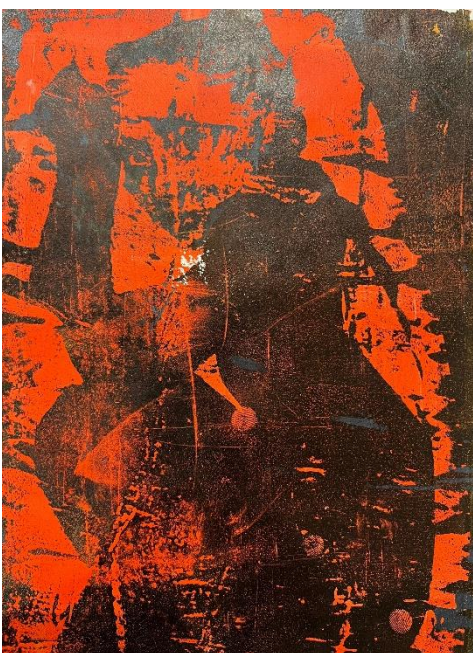




Year 9 also had the opportunity to tread the boards with Year 9 drama. Each house was given one section of JK Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Although not mentioned specifically by the judges, I thought Marcus Ho made a particularly excellent Harry Potter and Harvey Nolan was perhaps robbed for not being awarded best actor for his earnest and squeaky voiced Hermione Granger. My thanks go to Jack Evans and Zach Howard for the many stints they put in in the common room rehearsing and directing the boys as part of their service to the community option.

Elsewhere, Leander Walters (Y13) has been working hard on Saturday mornings filming for the forthcoming Eastbourne College TV with the drama scholars. I've not been told much about what to expect, but I think it is a bit of a Peep Show style 'mock-umentary' on school life.

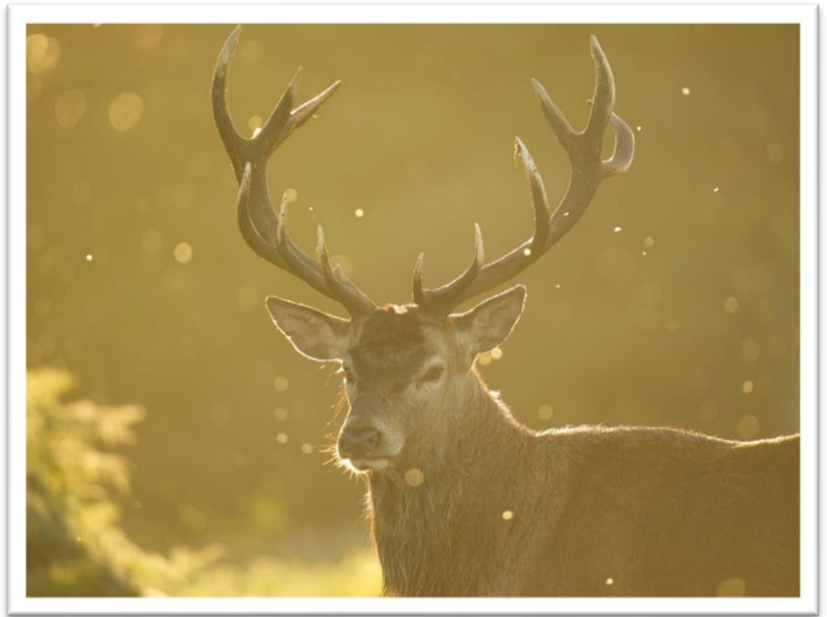
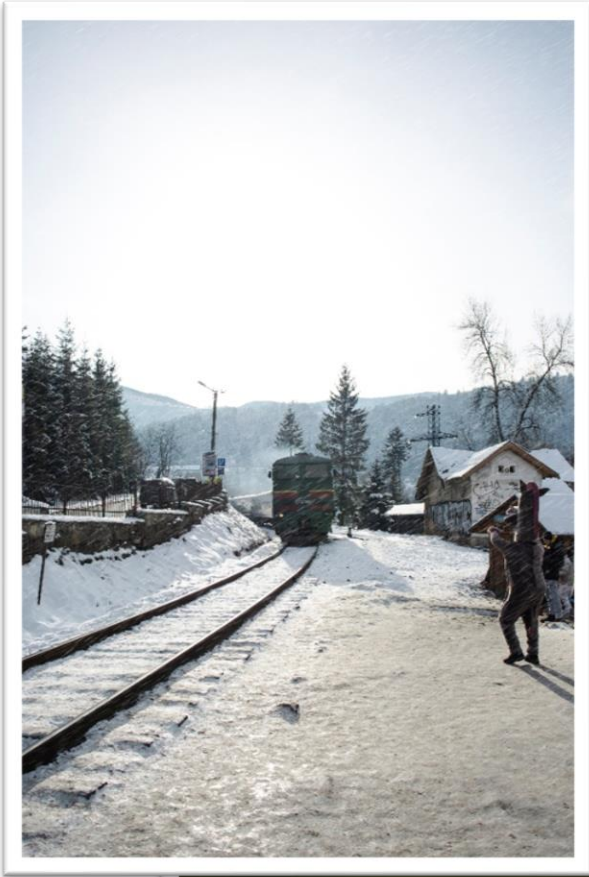
Toby Bright and Toby Wheatley have been beavering away in the art studio producing some fantastic pieces, which I sometimes also have the pleasure of seeing in their nascent stages on my duty rounds. See Toby Wheatley's below.



Wargrave Photography

Brooke Haycock (Y10) must be commended once again for reaching the final rounds of the British Wildlife Photographer award and the RSPCA Young Wildlife Photographer of the year. Results to be announced soon. Please see his two offerings below:

The Wargrave photography talent must be infectious, as Maksym Matviievskiyi (Y12) won the student body photography prize for his very snowy, eerie and intriguing photo captioned 'Six Glances of Life' (below left):



House Social Events

Once again, the Year 9 Wargravians seem to have struck up a good social bond with the ladies of School House. Mrs Whiddett-Adams very kindly had the boys over in the first fortnight of the term to make pizzas in duos and to have a 'dance-off' on their house Wii controller. Cue hilarity! Not to be outdone, we returned the favour in the second half of time by extending the invite for an ice-cream sundae making station and Mario kart (kindly loaned by Paula). It is great to have the opportunities in the week to wiggle prep around a little, and remind ourselves about the more

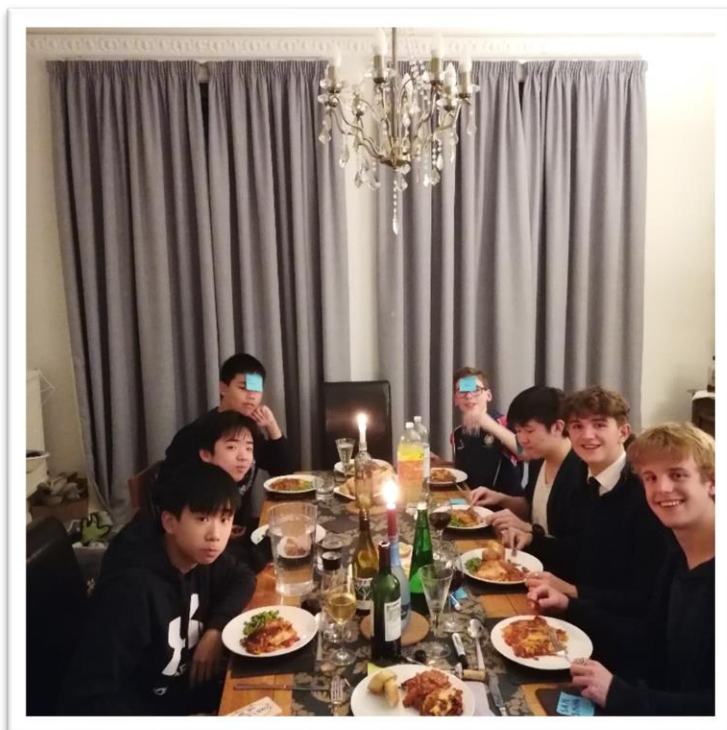


important things in life such as breaking bread with others and forming bonds between the houses. I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind you that your son is always welcome to visit other members of houses at certain points in the day, and all that is required is that they sign in, remain only in the common areas and abide by the rules of the house as set by each hsm. Year 12's social calendar got off to a formal start with the Year 12

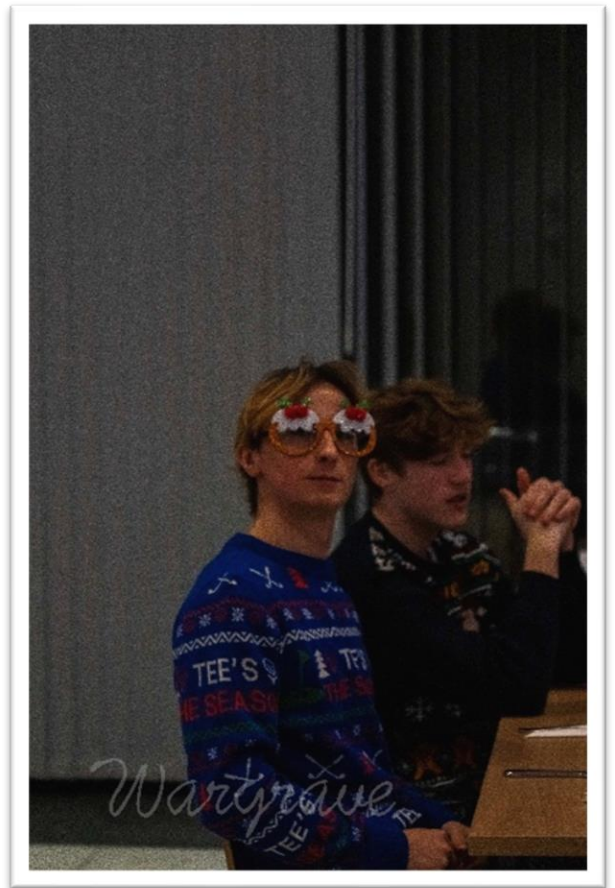
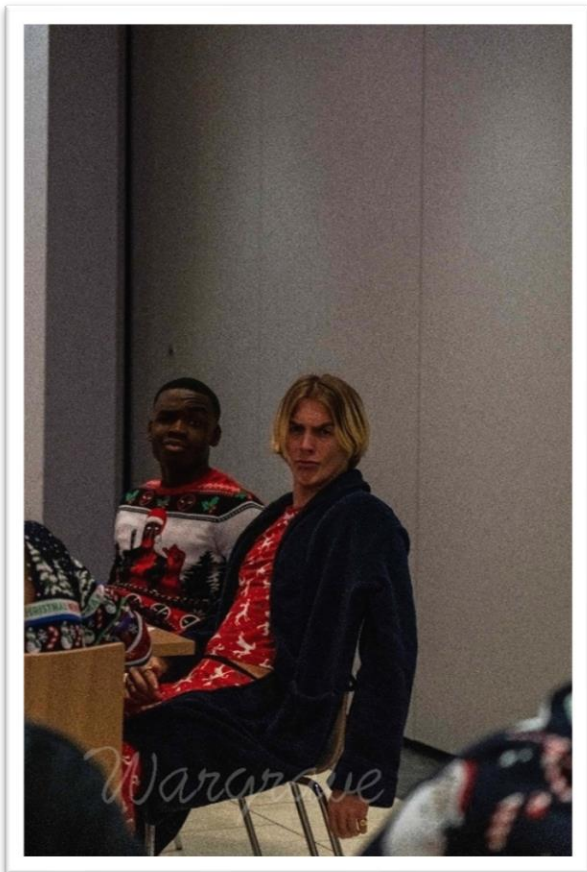
Welcome Dinner. This is an important occasion since over one third of this particular year group are new to the school. With much smaller class sizes in sixth form, there is the chance that, if they don't seek to look outwards that bit more, the boys may come into contact with only a relatively small pool of people. See photo below of the boys in all their finery. I wasn't entirely sure what the pink ties were about, when there could have been some snazzy emerald green, but it certainly provided that pop of colour.



Elsewhere, Miss Lusty and I have got ourselves much more organised this term and decided to launch Wargrave Supper Club that bit earlier in the calendar. This has the added benefit of meaning that we don't eat the same food eight weeks back-to-back, as our poor planning caused us to last year. There were grand plans to adjust the now infamous Spiers' lasagne and Lusty Oreo cheesecake menu, but it was met with uproar, so the only adjustment permitted was a swap of the Lusty cheesecake for a brownie and ice cream. Once again, certain crews have proved themselves far too entertaining company, and I have only managed to remember to take two photos of the four evenings we have hosted this term, so apologies if your son does not feature below. What is particularly nice to see is that the boys now recognise their 'crew' a bit more readily. We sat in the same groups for the House Dinner and each crew is participating in a world cup sweepstake, and next term we intend to do inter-crew sports evenings, and potentially a quiz night to keep this vertical friendship group blossoming throughout the year.



House Dinner:

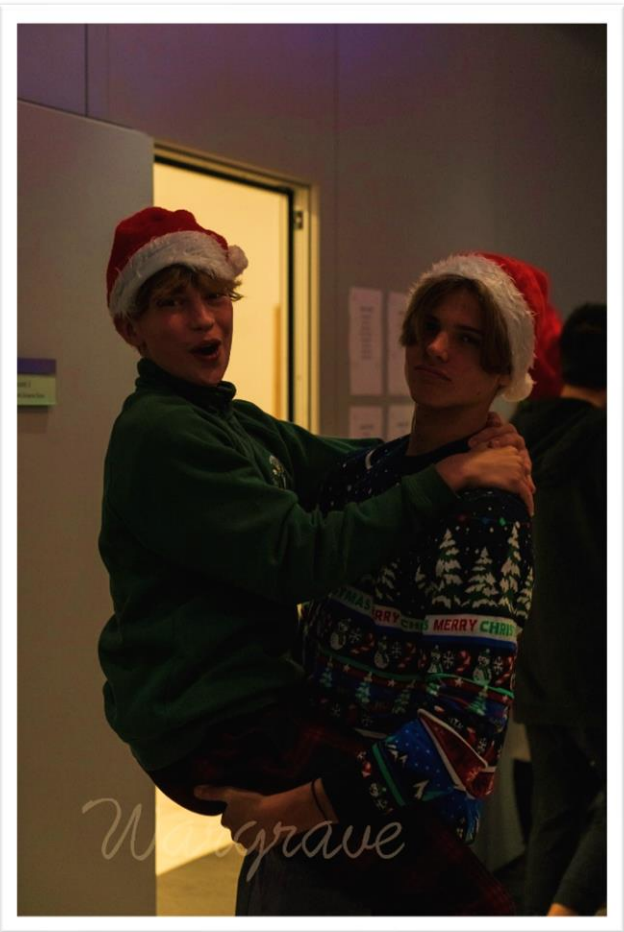
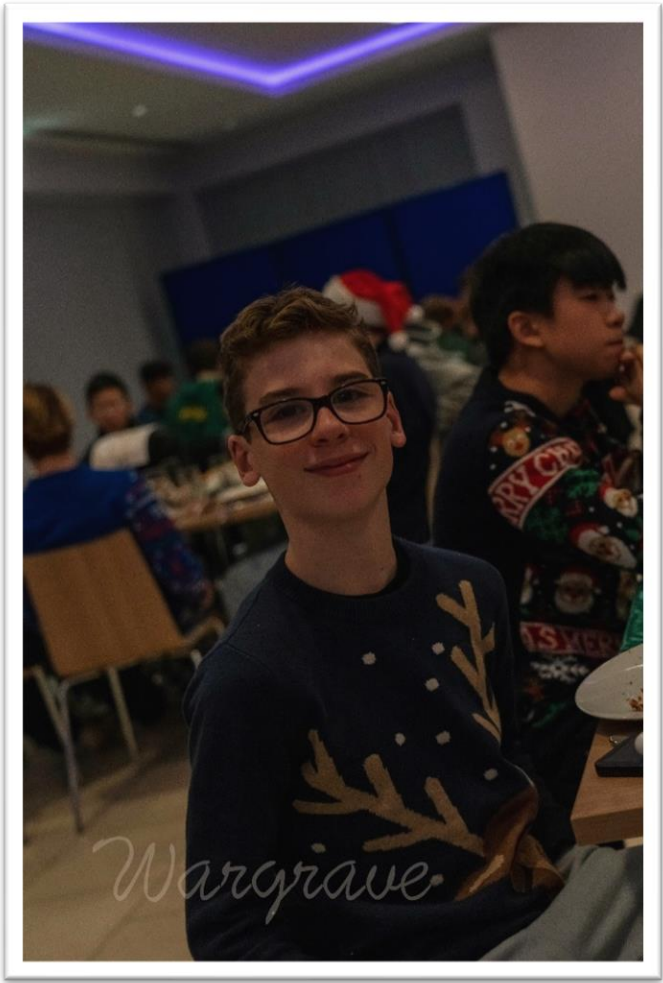
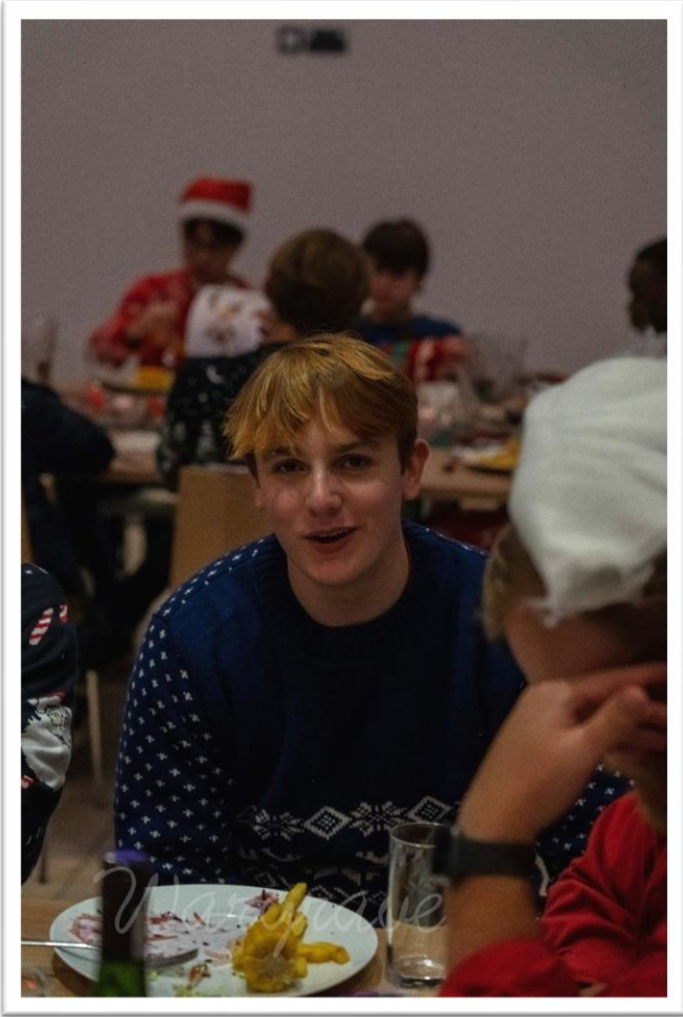






Not to be outdone by the boys, dare I say it the staff dressed even better:





The obvious choice for our House Dinner this year, being that it fell on 3rd December was CHRISTMAS. Although we weren't sharing with another house due to rotational logistics, it was really lovely to spend some time together as 63 boys and 10 pastoral staff. The food provided by the school catering company was met with very positive reviews, and each Crew engaged really well with the games and activities on their table ranging from dingbats to charades and bingo. My sincere thanks to Paula for organising a raft of other games such as pin the tail on the reindeer, a reindeer antler ring toss, guess the Christmas smell and a Christmas food blindfolded taste test. Toby Bright won best dressed pupil and Mr Breslin won 'heads of tails' – fitting as it was his birthday. Whilst it was great to see the boys in their festive jumpers, I think you will agree from the above photos that the staff really outdid themselves in creativity and enthusiasm! The following day saw Paula set up an arts and crafts table in the common room, so a few of you should be receiving some 'rustic', homemade decorations from your sons.



Michaelmas Term culminated with the house Christmas Party. A great occasion where we enjoy a delicious hog roast, exchange secret Santa gifts (some oddities out there this year!) and play the hotly anticipated house pool competition cup and plate final. Congratulations go to Mr A Roberts (again) and William Johnston (Y9) who were the winners in a tensely fought battle for the Cup and Plate titles respectively. Their names will be inscribed on the board. The night is rounded off with a few comedy prizes as well as the signing of the 'House Book' by those who have been highly commended for their achievements in the term. A thoroughly enjoyable evening all round.

Final thought for the term

As we creep our way to the end of another Michaelmas Term and we have been tackling sickness and colds aplenty in the school community, I have once again been astounded by the determination and resilience that the boys have shown these past three months. It always feels a term of contradiction. It is without a doubt a marathon chunk of the year in length and what it demands in mental and physical energy reserves. Yet, as I start to write this newsletter, and begin gathering all the photos and memories of the term gone past, I am also always amazed at just how much we manage to squeeze in. It makes those 16 weeks seem all the more impressive in how jam-packed they are rather than how lengthy and elastic they initially seem on first reflection.

Once again, the boys have had a successful few months and have outdone themselves with sporting success, academic grit and in their creative endeavours. 15 out of the 63 boys are new, and they have slotted in beautifully, making the house their home and this has been in no small part due to the welcoming attitude that the other 48 of the boys have consistently shown.

I am grateful as ever to the hard work of my tutor team. It is impressive how calm and steady and familiar their hand has felt on the tiller, especially considering there was groundswell change this year with Miss Garrett and Mr Roberts taking on the resident tutor role in joint fashion. They have risen to the challenge admirably, and I have been grateful too for the added talents of Mr Breslin, Miss Lusty and Mr Watt who have also joined to swell our ranks. The tutors always work with good humour and energy and never whinge when I ask them to fill that cinema trip or that pizza night at the last minute. I am grateful to have such a fantastic group of staff to draw upon. I know the boys appreciate their presence too.

To close, in what feels like a section that is becoming somewhat of a tradition – I end the newsletter with one of Brooke Haycock's seasonal (rein)deer photos. I particularly like the comic feel of this one.

Both Jenni and I were once again very humbled by your incredible generosity with Christmas gifts. I will write thank you letters once postal strikes are out of the way, but I wanted to place a very heartfelt note of gratitude here. We wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas with your sons and all those you hold dear. Here's to all that 2023 has to bring.

Tim



Brooke Haycock (Y10)
Stag in Richmond Park

