

# Wargrave House News

## Michaelmas Term Review



### What's inside?

- Academic leaderboard and 'half term hero';
- Continued Interhouse Sporting Success
- Creatives and the Arts
- Wargrave-Nugent House Dinner

*Key dates for Lent Term 2024: Please note that the whole house is expected to stay in for those events marked with a \**

#### Sunday 7 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 8 January

New Term begins for all  
HM Assembly, All Saints Church

#### Wk1-2

Y11 mocks (off timetable 8-18 Jan) Current plan is return to lessons 18 Jan, 55

#### Thursday 25 January

Extended exeat (note dates – Thursday - Sunday) starts for all except Y11, 14:15  
Y11 Parents meetings 14.45-18.00

#### Wk 4

Second round of careers interviews Y11

Saturday 3 – Sunday 4 February \* Wargrave House Rowathon in aid of the St Peter & St James Hospice (24hrs)

#### Friday 9 February

Half term begins 14.15  
Y11 Subject talks by heads of Department for VI form entry 14.45-16.30, Birley Centre

Half term ends Sunday 18Feb, all pupils back by 9pm, please

#### Monday February 19- Friday 23 Feb

A level mocks (Y13) off timetable

#### Friday 8 March

2<sup>nd</sup> U6th Parents Meeting 14.45-18.00

#### Friday 22 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 formal assessment has been the theme for Y11 and Y13 in particular. With both year groups having their sights set firmly on their mock exams which fall on 8<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> January (Y11) and 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February (Y13). I have spoken to both year groups and they should have revision plans drafted up for the Christmas holidays and beyond. U6th boys have focused unwaveringly on UCAS applications this term and thankfully, all have met the deadline, hence they are seeing some motivational offers start to wing their way to them, which is excellent to hear. A few key messages that Miss Gordon (Head of Futures) asked me to pass on below:

### Y13 Parents

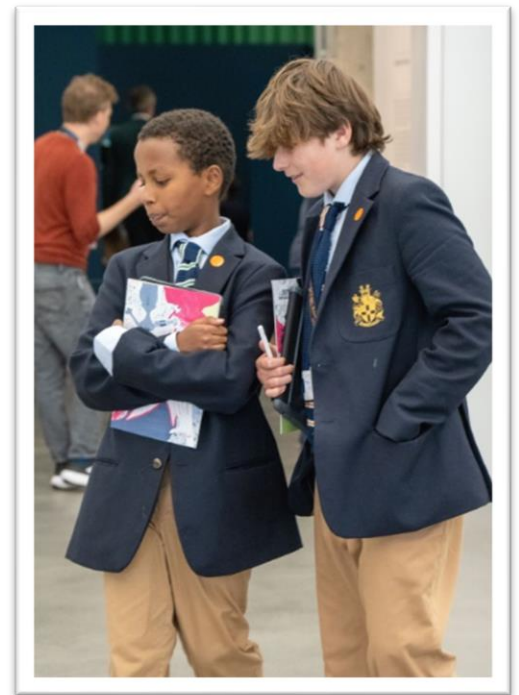
UCAS application forms have been of excellent quality. Once they have been sent, universities will reply via UCAS Track. Universities have until 16 May to respond. It's a long game. There is lots of revision support available in Unifrog to support mock revision plans over Christmas and into next term.

### Y12 Parents

Regular exploration is the best way for pupils to work out what the best next step for them is. Use Unifrog as a starting point. See Satchel One for more information or the Y12 Futures Team. Futures Convention on Friday 1 March 2024 from 7pm to 9pm. Please do support this if you can by offering to come and represent your career pathway. The more pathways children hear about, the better.

At the time of writing Bob Zhao and previous Head of House, Ben Hutt, have gone through the rigorous interview process and are waiting to hear back from St Catherine's Oxford, and Teddy Hall Oxford respectively. We wish them the best of luck with anticipation of results in early January. Whatever the outcome, to have got to the selection stage is very commendable.

The term has seen plenty of academic trips including a very successful VI form Politics trip to Westminster. One particular highlight for Year 9 pupils was a trip to the Towner Art Gallery to see the Turner Prize finalists. We are so lucky to have such a resource on our very doorstep, literally 50m from school. See Jama Ismail to the right, giving one of the pieces his critical consideration.



It has also been brilliant to see some of the Year 12s and 13s attending the networking events organised by Miss Gordon and the Old Eastbournian Society. See Theo and Will (left) on their insurance event earlier in the term.



Praise marks League Table 2023/4 as it stands \*  
 Leading three pupils for the house yearly competition.

Year	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
9	Wilbur Lewis (28)	Jama Ismail (24)	Ollie Davidson (22)
10	Jack Evans (30)	Marcus Ho (20)	Harvey Nolan (19)
11	Ian Tam (39)	Will Bligh (20)	Will Plimsoll (19)
12	Derren Lai (22)	Theo Cruttenden (17)	Dan Sasao (10)
13	Kachi Edet (16)	Luca Dumas (10)	Jack Evans (9)

\* 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, **Jack Evans** who scored an average grade of **8.37** – no mean feat across 10 subjects – coming second overall in the year group.





## Sporting Success

Rugby term always brings with it a great buzz, but also a bit of a heart in our mouth moment for Paula and I on the touch line each match. Thank you to those of you who have subscribed to the 'Return to Play' app. It really is the cutting-edge pathway when it comes to head injuries and concussion, so please do ensure that you have logged into your account if you haven't done so already. Please see communications from the medical centre. It has been wonderful to see so many Wargravians starting consistently for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, namely Jack Greig (captain), Will Steed, Sean Foster, Freddie Jones, Paddy Cooper, Will Coleman and both Zach Howard and Ed Nolan have also played on the odd occasion. It has been a pleasure to watch them in action on College Field on many Saturday mornings this term.

Elliot Freeborough, Max Doyle and Will Plimsoll continue to be central members of the U16A team, and Joseph Philpott and Egor Pertsev have had couple of football matches this term too.

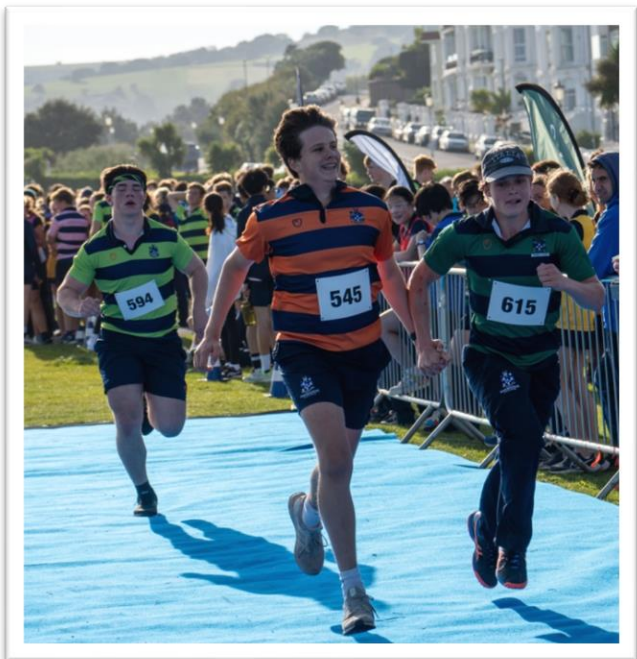
The U15s had a convincing win in the regional Vase tournament against Warden Park under the coaching of Wargrave tutor and Head of Maths – Mr Breslin.

Harvey 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:

Calvin Chen has also emerged as the school's best badminton player and he has won every match he has played against other schools this 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 are currently sitting at 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 6, with only 9 points separating us from Reeves House.

We started with a bang by winning the interhouse rugby in the second week of term, which as ever was a great event with a real festival style feel to it. It was a scorching day and the boys did well to cope with the heat. It was great to have this event relocated from Memorial to College Field and once again Mr Torri and the rugby staff put on a brilliant afternoon of sport.

We outdid ourselves, winning the year 9 and senior categories and coming first overall.

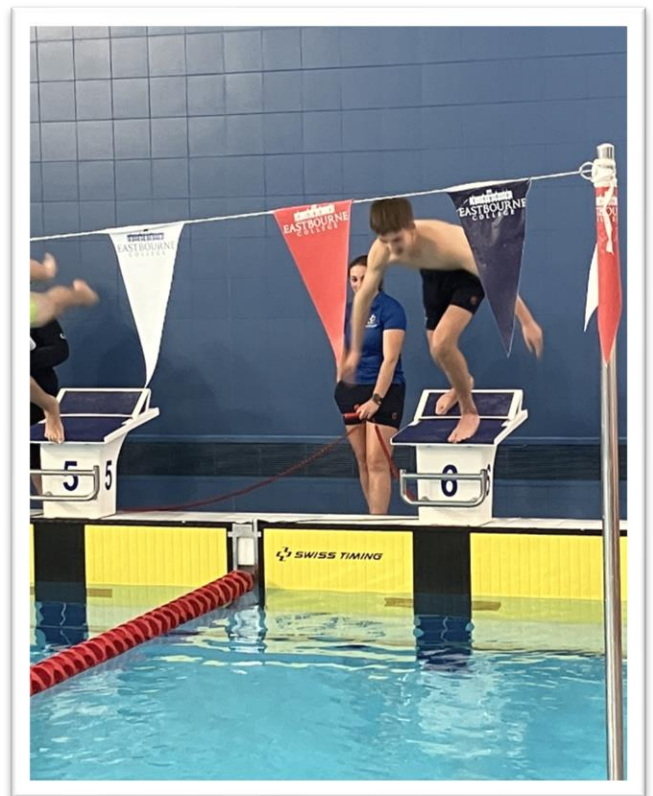
A myriad of other events have followed from the Aquathlon and steeplechase to interhouse rowing, swimming, squash, fives, pool and table tennis. See some photos of the boys below sporting their house colours and doing Wargrave very proud.



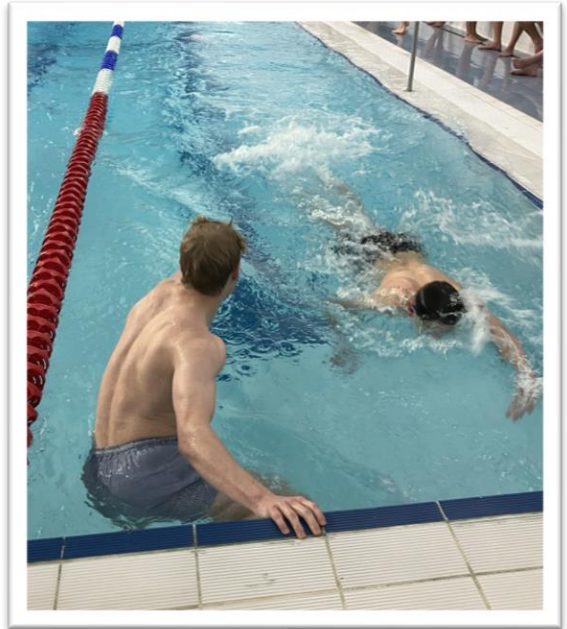




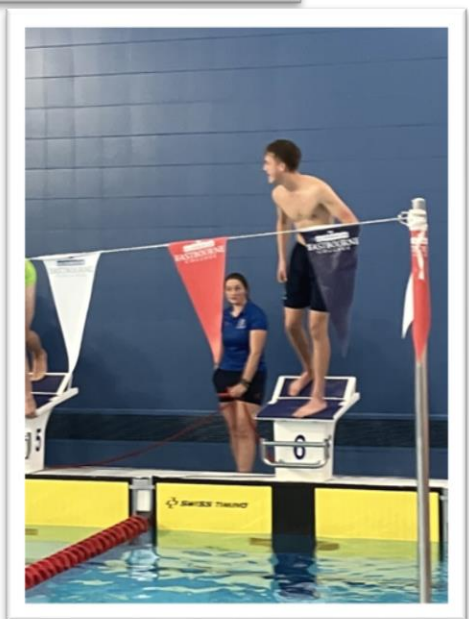
Overall winners!













## Service

Ed Nolan (Y12) has very 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 such as the Poppy Appeal, donations to the food bank and the Christmas hampers. The house charity has got off to a healthy start, with a whopping current total of £2261 raised for the St Peter and St James' Hospice. We are aiming to raise £7000+ so thank you for all you have done to get this off the ground. 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 Coleman, Paddy Cooper, Theo Cruttenden, Ed Nolan, Freddie Jones and Daniel Hammond all passed their Silver DofE Awards. My lucky dog, Monty, is in high demand for a bit of 'service in the community' with Theo, Dan, Ben, Max and Will Plimsoll all taking him for a jaunt along to the beach. At the ever-moving Remembrance Sunday parade it was good to see lots of Y10 and some Y11s on parade. See photo of Ian Tam below in the RAF cadets. Sadly, poor weather has prevented him flying this year.



Luca and Kachi have led on lots of school-wide initiatives for Wellbeing Wednesdays this term, and have both also been involved in prefect chapels and the hotly anticipated Prefect Christmas video which was aired at the HM assembly at the end of term to the delight of all. Although not technically 'service' it was a great honour to have seen George Coulter and Ethan Ezeogu be confirmed in the College Chapel by the Bishop of Lewes. A very proud moment for family.





## Creatives and the arts

The creative element of the year kicked off with the always hotly anticipated interhouse singing competition. We came a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place, beaten only by Gonville and Reeves Houses. My thanks as ever to Mr Laverack who came in to roll call many times to make us tuneful and this year we even added a bit of a medley of Jackson 5 by splicing a bit of 'ABC' into the chorus of '*I Want You Back*'. All the feedback for the boys was overwhelmingly positive, and once again Ian Tam was centre stage with a strong solo in the chorus. A very enjoyable event all round.



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 and Jack Evans performing songs that they have written themselves. Aman Shah also very bravely performed on the piano in an informal concert in October.



## House Concert



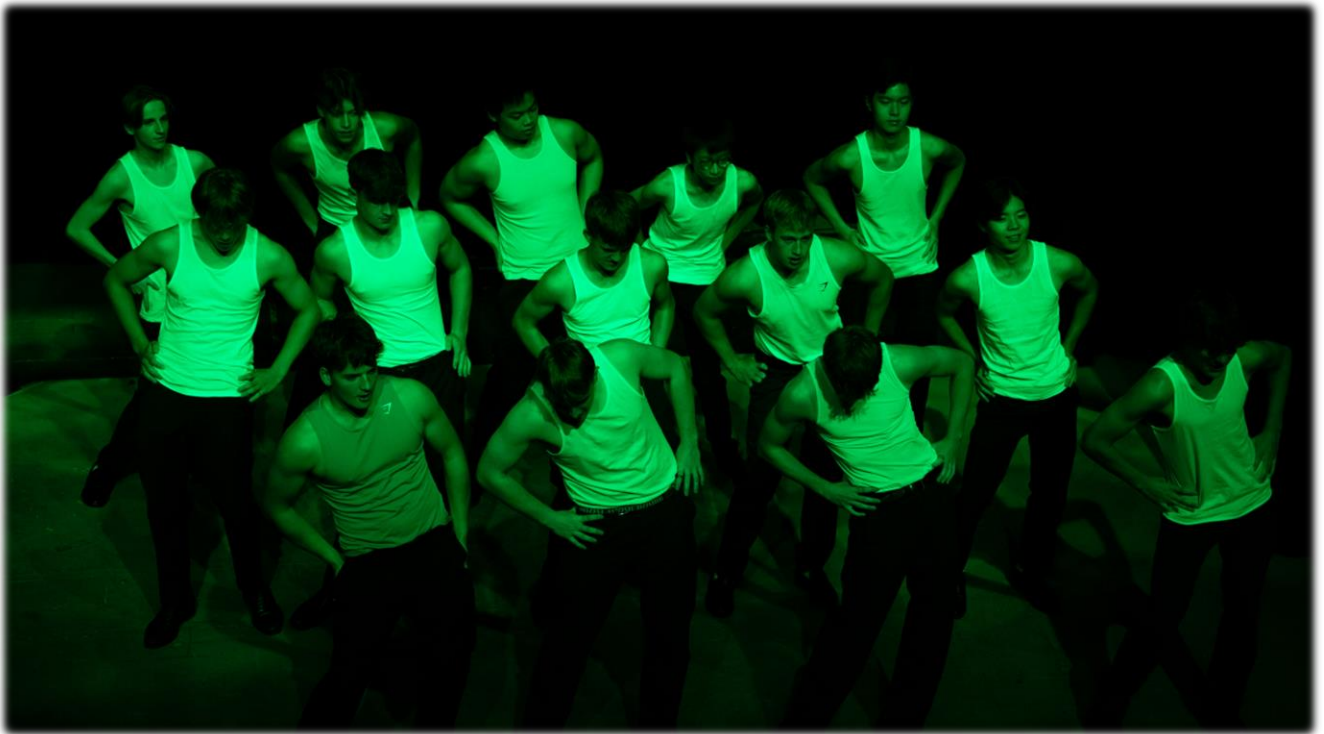
One of the yearly focuses for any boarding house is the week of House Concert. We were once again first out of the stops, and I think have set a record for being the first house ever to do a concert in September! My thanks as always to Miss Garrett and Mr Roberts for the many hours of filming, rehearsing, organising and cajoling that they put in in the busy first few weeks of term to ensure that the event was a great success.

Luca Dumas and Jack Evans should be congratulated for compèring the night's proceedings. It became a bit of a running joke that the evening became the 'Jack Evans Show', with him compèring, performing in the house band, a duet with Ian and being the director for the Year 9's 'Foot Theatre' sketch. He held the show together and therefore my particular thanks go to him. The unsung heroes of any house concert are always the video editors, who spend many hours filming, rendering and editing – this year that difficult task fell to Elliot Freeborough (Y11) and Jack Evans (Y13).

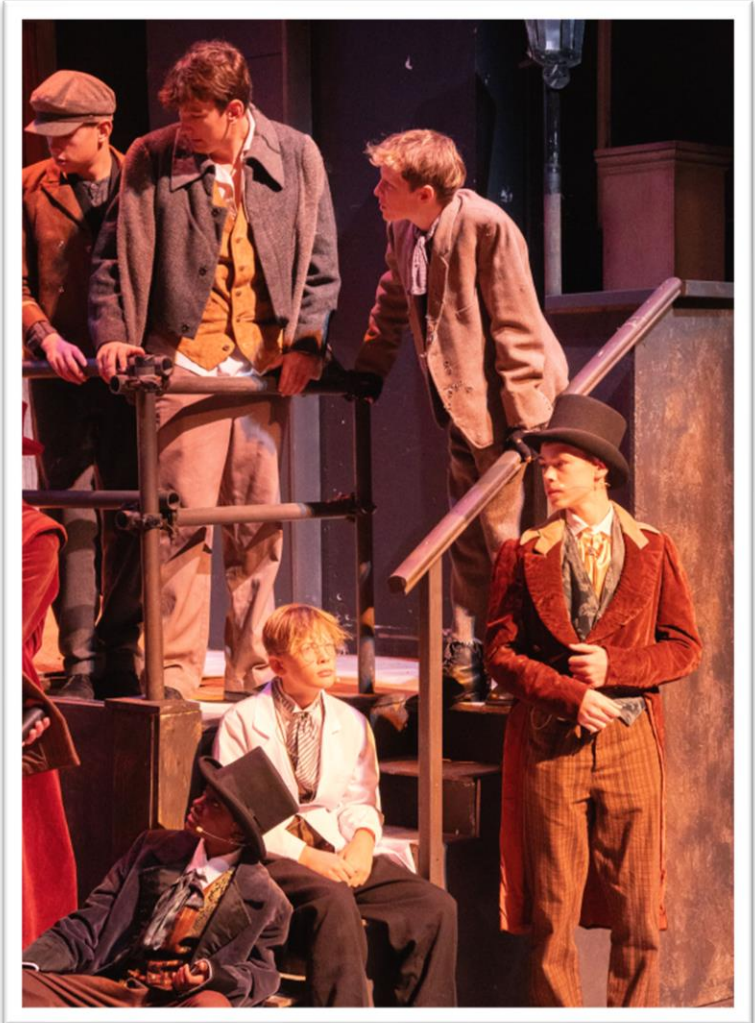
My final thanks go to the live performers and to the house band who did a great rendition of Passenger. I probably shouldn't single out any particular acts, but once again, I think that Mr Roberts' tutor group did some very impressive improv with Year 9's very inventive 'Foot Theatre' to tread the boards that bravely, that early on in their Eastbourne career is most commendable indeed. I am also indebted to Mrs Spiers for her hours of tireless rehearsals with the Y12s getting them grooving and shaking their hips with the 'Evolution of Dance' – always a crowd pleaser!







Michaelmas Term also means the whole school show, which this year was *Sweeney Todd*. Every other year the music and drama departments really pull the stops out with a college musical and this was phenomenally impressive. For those of you who know Steven Sondheim's music, it is incredibly hard to master and I thought the whole piece was slick, professional and highly enjoyable. I particularly enjoyed getting to see Jack Evans' (Y13) performance in the role of Anthony. Jack Evans (Y10) and Harvey Nolan (Y10) were also solid members of the ensemble. Paula also 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.





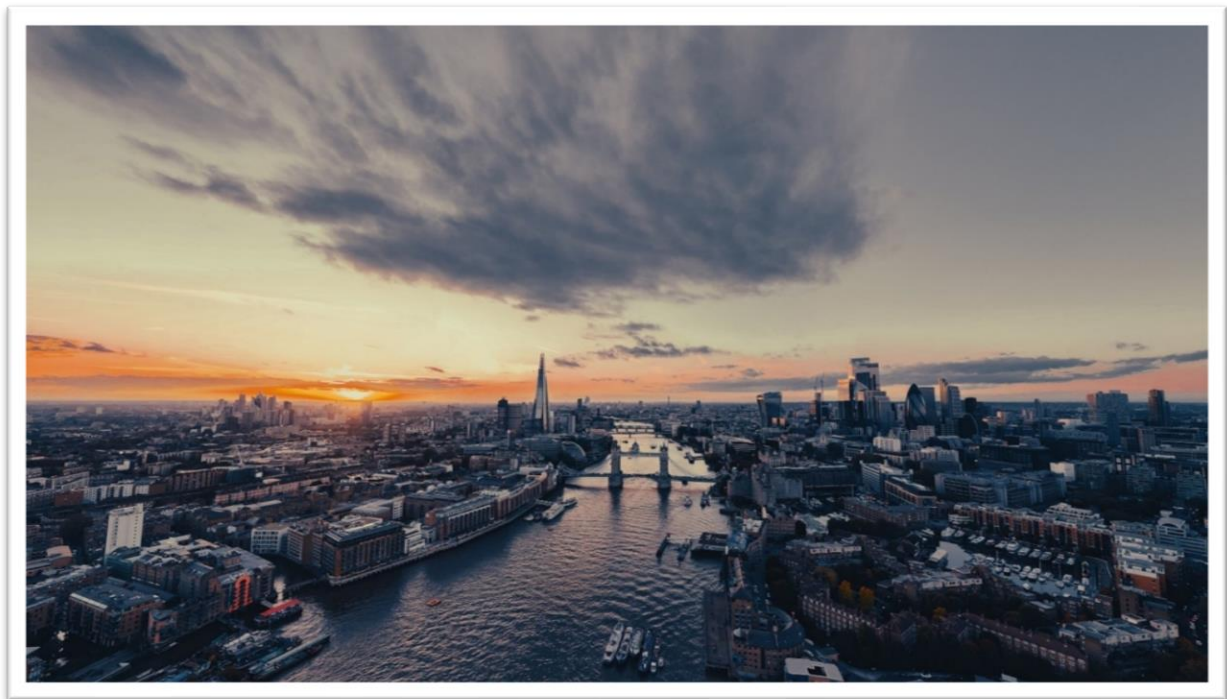
Following their success in the house concert, Year 9 also had the opportunity to tread the boards with Year 9 drama. Each house was given one section of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Although not mentioned specifically by the judges, I thought Barney Hayday made a particularly charismatic Willy Wonka and our Oompa Loompas had good comic timing. A hard piece to put together as Charlie and Willy really are centre stage with multiple smaller characters orbiting around them, but I thought the boys did themselves very proud. My thanks go to Theo Cruttenden, Sam Watson and Freddie Jones for the many stunts they put in in the common room rehearsing and directing the boys as part of their service to the community option this term.



Elsewhere, Umi Miyazawa and Brooke Haycock have been crafting some great pieces in GCSE art and Toby Wheatley's A-level art portfolio is looking really top notch.

## Wargrave Photography

The Wargrave photography bug seems to be taking off as we now have plenty of avid photographers in house. Brooke Haycock did a most welcome photo shoot of 'domestic animals' for his art project and I was more than willing to volunteer Monty to pose in the back garden. Kevin Zhang and Hadden Yu have also had their creative pieces printed and added to the Wargrave gallery wall on the first-floor corridor. Kevin's photos below are Beachey Head and the London landscape. I honestly feel these could feature in a magazine somewhere! See the end of the newsletter for Brooke's festive offering, which has now become a bit of a tradition!



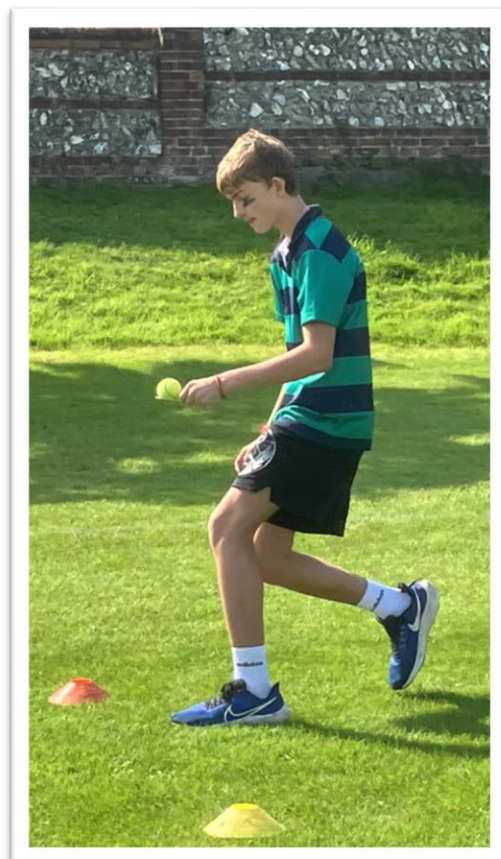


## House Social Events

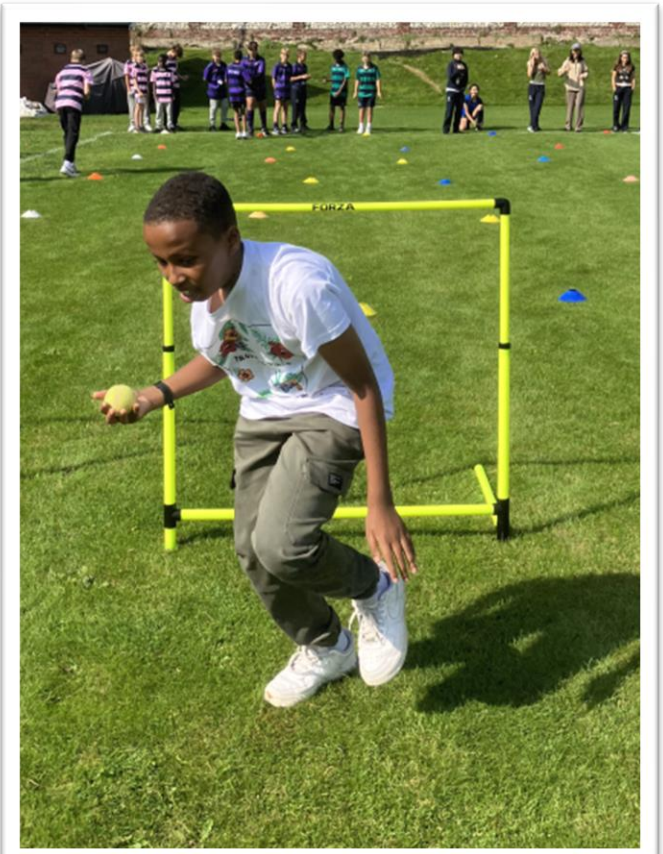
The first week of term saw a rotation of year group BBQs across the houses to get the pupils talking and connecting after the summer. It also provides an important welcome for those many members new to the community. We hosted Year 12 who were excellent company.



We also resurrected the Boarding Olympics event for the first weekend of the year, which now feels an absolute lifetime ago. We were treated to excellent weather, and my huge thanks go to Mr J Roberts for his overall organisation of the event and the huge energy that he brought to proceedings. It was really great fun and the pupils rotated around a variety of classics such as egg and spoon races and welly throwing, all with a bit of magic Mr Roberts adaptation. See pics below. It was outstanding and kicked off the weekend programme with a bang. We all can't wait until next year.













The Lower Sixth's social calendar got off to a formal start with the Year 12 Welcome Dinner in September. 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. It was a lovely Indian Summer's evening so I got the opportunity to get a few photos of them under the rugby posts on College Field.





Now in its third year, Wargrave Supper club has seen most 'crews' come round for dinner with myself and Mrs Spiers this term. The set menu of lasagne and oreo cheesecake seems set to stay as the boys were all adamant that this is now 'tradition'. We have become most adept and efficient at them, I feel we could start a small catering business. Once again, certain crews have proved themselves far too entertaining company. If your son does not feature below it is likely that conversation was so sparkling that I forgot to take a photo. What is particularly nice to see is that the boys now recognise their 'crew' a bit more readily, and it is good to see that as the boys progress to the top echelons of the group they really take charge of conversation and bring the younger members under their wing, which is just the intention.



















Michaelmas Term culminated with the annual house Christmas Party. A great occasion where we enjoy a delicious hog roast, exchange secret Santa gifts and play the hotly anticipated house pool competition cup and plate final. Congratulations go to Mr Breslin and Ed Nolan 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 I sit down with a seasonal mulled wine and mince pie to start collating all the photos and memories of the term gone past, I never cease to be amazed by how much we manage to squeeze in, and how many and varied the boys' successes are. In the 16 week term that I always refer to as 'the marathon', it is astounding how deep the boys have to dig and the reserves that they have to draw upon.

Once again, the boys have had a very successful few months and have outdone themselves with sporting success, academic grit and in their creative endeavours. 18 out of the 62 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 44 of the boys have consistently shown.

I am grateful as ever to the hard work of my tutor team, and in particular the four staff who are resident and see and share in all the ups and downs that a long term provides. Paula, Miss Garrett, Mr Roberts and Mrs Spiers really have propped us all up as the term has crept its way to its end.

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 photos with a festive feel. I wish we had as much of the white stuff down in Eastbourne this year as this little critter is enjoying.

Both Jenni and I were once again very humbled by your incredible generosity with Christmas gifts. I will write thank you letters once we've had a bit of time to rest and recharge but, as ever, 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 2024 and the busy Lent Term has to bring.

Tim



Brooke Haycock (Y11)  
A festive red squirrel