

Watt House Newsletter

In humanitate robur



DIPLOMA

SINGING

With Distinction

Sian Sulke

DIPLOMA

FLUTE

With Distinction

Leah Hallinon

6

PIANO

With Merit

Tianlu Wang

Blue Health - so good for us all

Do we get enough though? I am not convinced that many of us make the most of our beautiful surroundings, or indeed of living in the moment. Each week I am shocked that I have been on my mobile devices for at least an hour a day and I am not even a user of social media. I know how much better I feel after a walk on the Downs, or spending time chatting face to face with my friends, so perhaps that could be something that the girls also work towards doing more of. Fresh air, proper social interaction and less screen time is definitely a good recipe for health and happiness, so let's get cooking!

8

VIOLIN

With Distinction

Juliette Zeilmaker

8

FLUTE

Helen Grout

7

SINGING

With Distinction

Tianlu Wang

7

PIANO

Leah Hallinon

Year 9 Ceilidh

On the second Saturday of the term the Year 9s had an early Burns Night celebration.



The girls all looked lovely and most of them had even managed to find something tartan to wear, or clutch, with some of them really getting into the country and western theme, even though Robert Burns was definitely Scottish! After a photo shoot in the house, they all giggled their way over to eat their burger and chips before hitting the dance floor. Last year there had been a lot of shyness at the start of the evening, but this is a very different year group and as soon as

they arrived, all of the houses were mixing in and having fun, which was great to see. Lots of dancing and laughter ensued and if level of noise is an indicator of a good evening, then this must have been a fantastic one.



The boys and girls were all mixing, with everyone learning several new dances along the way. The staff also seemed to pick up a few moves too, which of course generated some amusement!

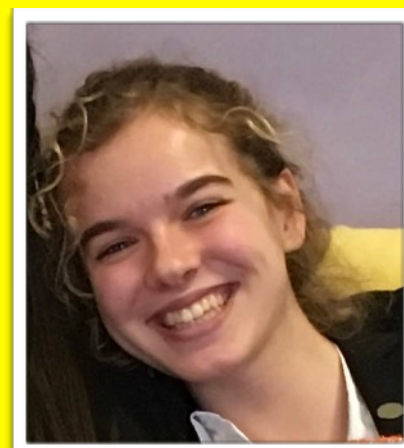


Normally an ice-breaker of an evening, it gave the Year 9s the chance to spend time socially as a group and perhaps make new friends along the way.

EASTBOURNE HALF MARATHON

Annabel Symes took on the challenge of running the Eastbourne half marathon this year. Although she has regularly run with the cross country group in sports sessions, this was a big step up, distance wise. Sensibly giving herself the challenge as a long term target, she was able to gradually build up her running fitness, with an increasingly long run taking place on the weekends. Really well done to her and also to her mother for joining her in the 'adventure'!

Well done also to Shaumya and Rae for helping with the marshalling on the day.



Year 11 Dinner



This year, the theme for the Year 11 post-mocks dinner was 'Black & White'. It was a lovely evening up in the new dining room, organised by Nugent and Gonville. Spirits were running high throughout with the stresses of exams over, but everyone behaved really well and entered into the whole spirit of celebration of the evening.

The entertainment was very good, with a running table-top 'chronological order of events' quiz for everyone to work on throughout the meal. Some of the knowledge on display was excellent and showed how the pupils keep abreast of current affairs. There was also a 'Which member of staff?' quiz, which kept everyone guessing. Who knew that Miss Ball had been held at gunpoint? Some wonderful singing from a few of the girls in the year also wowed us all. Delicious food and excellent company: the perfect combination for an enjoyable evening. Oh and the Watt girls looked drop dead gorgeous!

Bourne Beautiful



Last term Mrs Lawson sent out an invitation for anyone wishing to have a photographic sitting with Alistair Guy, a London photographer, to email her. The aim was to celebrate diversity within the community and promote feelings of self-empowerment

and self-worth and the models who were randomly selected from the pupil and staff body were encouraged not to wear make-up or any of the usual barriers that they might hide behind when they present themselves to the outside world. Two of the Watt girls were selected: Shaumya and Anastasija and their fabulous portraits are hanging in the Nugee building.



HELEN GROUT



OLIVIA WOOD



HELENA DREW



APURVA
PARUCHURI

Pizza Evening



The Year 12s finally had their pizza evening in January and they certainly seemed to enjoy it. They chose Powell as their guests, which meant that Domino's were providing for thirty-five hungry mouths! It was lovely to see so many male visitors and they all mixed in really well - and managed to eat everything!



Jess had been repeatedly mentioning pizzas since the first week of September and finally she got her way. Peace at last!

Duke of Edinburgh

Hot off the press in the last week of term was the news that Leah had obtained her Gold DofE award. This is fabulous news and shows just what commitment and perseverance she has in this busy last year of school. She will be going up to Buckingham Palace on 13 May to receive her award and I am sure it will be a really special day for her.

Department of Education visit



Helena Drew met Lord Agnew, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Education, on 23 January. They were also joined by Georgia, the Year 11 pupil from Willingdon Community School whom Helena mentors in the weekly Homework Club, offering her support in her studies towards her English GCSE exam. The Minister was interested to learn how much both Georgia and Helena gain from the mentoring programme, and felt this was an excellent example of how schools in a partnership can work together for their mutual benefit.



ANASTASIJA
TIMOFEJEVA



OTILIE GRANT



ERIN BANKS



LEAH HALLINON

Music News

When I came to look around the school two years ago, I was offered a tour of the Birley Centre. “No thank you,” I replied “I won’t be needing to go over there for anything.” Ha!

Most of the girls have been performing over in the JWA this term, whether in an informal concert, a recital, an iPad extravaganza, Young Musician, a dance showcase, the A cappella or of course, our house revue. As I regularly bump into many of you there, you will know that it has almost become my second home because I love to watch the girls showing off their talents! This term the standard of their performances has been absolutely fantastic and an utter joy to watch and listen to:

Diploma Recitals



Both Leah Hallinon and Sian Sulke wowed everyone with their diploma recitals this term. They both showed tremendous skill and also engagement with their audience. On both occasions a lot of people had come along to listen, knowing the quality of the

performances that would be on show. No-one came away disappointed. They really were both wonderful and it came as no surprise to anyone that when they actually took their diploma exams they both passed with high distinctions.

Young Musician Competition

This year the competition was split, in order to have a separate vocal competition. The Watt House girls pretty much cleaned up on the awards front and it was a real pleasure to hear them perform and see the joy on their faces when they were awarded a prize:



Helen Grout won the intermediate class (on saxophone) and Leah won the overall prize (playing the flute).

Leah and Shaumya won the duet class on flute. In the vocal competition, Tianlu Wang, Veronica Travers and Sophie Nicholles performed beautifully, with Sian winning the overall prize.



SOPHIE NICHOLLES
MADDIE LINDSAY



ANNABEL SYMES
ELLIE LONG
SIAN SULKE



VERONICA TRAVERS
TIANLU WANG



UMA CAREY-MORGAN
DARCEY WOOTTON
SHAUMYA KULARAJAN

Achievements

The girls are so talented in such a diverse range of areas and by recognising what has been achieved, there is the fear that someone may be overlooked. Fingers crossed that does not happen here:

Your Town, Your Ideas, Your Future



On 11 January the College hosted *Your Town Your Ideas Your Future*, an event where nine schools from the Eastbourne Schools Partnership each presented an idea to make Eastbourne a better and more suitable place for young people. An audience of eighty local leaders from business, the council and other sectors attended the event, and after the presentations they spoke with each group to help take the plans forward. The range of ideas included new cycle paths, a new ice rink and outdoor cinema, and new ways of supporting young people's mental health.

The College team put forward a scheme to build a new beach gym in the town. Stephen Lloyd MP singled out their presentation for its professionalism, and the leader of Eastbourne Borough Council, pledged his support to make

their beach gym a reality. Emily May was one of the group who presented their idea.

The Future

With most of the Year 13 girls having received offers from their first choice universities, they will no doubt be hard at work over the holiday to achieve their grades. Particular mention must go to:

Leah Hallinon who gained undergraduate offers from Trinity College of Music in London, The Royal Welsh College (with a scholarship) and the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Sian Sulke, who has gained an offer to study PPE at Oxford, with a choral scholarship.

Imogen Smith for gaining a place at drama school.

These three are especially noted because their choices are in such highly competitive areas.

The Present

Well done to Erin Banks for winning a commission to provide illustrations for a new book by a local writer.

Well done also to Juliette Zeilmaker, not only for passing her Grade 8 violin exam with a distinction in Year 9, but also, after a successful year in the National Children's Orchestra (U13 division), she has won a place in the main orchestra this year.

Also to Tianlu Wang for being the highest achiever in Year 11 with the equivalent of 12 A* grades in her GCSE mocks, closely followed by Natasha Symes, who came 2nd in the year.

Year 9 iPad Extravaganza

In the last week of term, every Year 9 was involved in a music evening over in the JWA. After a wonderful violin solo by Juliette and some beautiful singing from other Year 9s, a variety of different groups performed recognisable pieces on their iPads. From *Titanium* to *Eye of the Tiger*, they showed how technology can be used to create music. It was highly enjoyable.



Inter-House Competitions

This term we have competed in a variety of events, ranging from squash to A cappella to chess. The girls have really got stuck in and they have represented the house with pride and varying degrees of success. They may not always take home the prizes, but in terms of endeavour and good sportsmanship, they do the house proud every single time.

Three events returned to the fixture list this term: squash, swimming and chess



In **squash**, the senior team of Helen and Freya comfortably won their section, but Polly and Kiri found it tough going as they had never actually played before. They got stuck in though and seemed to enjoy it!

No pictures of the **swimmers** who competed for the house, but a massive thank you and well done to: Leah, Shaumya, Ellen, Orla, Juliette, Alex, Sienna, Evie, Millie C and Maddie who all took part and pushed the opposition hard. They all seemed to enjoy it and I was able to appreciate previously hidden talent from Leah, Sienna and Alex in particular, as they either won or came second in their races.

In **chess** the team consisted of Apurva, Helen, and Imogen, with Issy, Helena and Rae also



stepping in to help out. Well done indeed to them as they won through as the only girls house to reach the semi-finals. They lost to Reeves, but it has certainly started up a bit of a craze in the common room now and we have managed to acquire our own chessboard in the process.

A Capella

After winning the inaugural competition last year, most of the houses stepped up a gear or two and competition was incredibly fierce this time. Sian was in charge and with the mighty talents of: Ellie, Helen, Lauren, Shaumya, Tianlu, Otilie and Millie, every year was represented in their version of *Over a Rainbow*. They were absolutely fantastic and thoroughly deserved to win, looking as if they were happy to be up there, hitting the harmonies and really performing as a cohesive unit. Proud him moment! Unfortunately for them, Powell House also produced a wonderful performance and just pipped them to the prize. The audience was genuinely appreciative of the girls' singing



though and they should feel incredibly proud of themselves.

Netball

Kitted out in their unmissable yellow shirts, the girls all played their hearts out for the house this term. Despite having the captain of the 1st VII in the senior A team (plus another 1st team player in Holly) and some really talented Year 10s in the junior As, both teams struggled against incredibly strong Nugent and Blackwater teams. The B teams did better and both won through to the finals, eventually finishing second, so well done to them. Actually, well done to everyone for playing with smiling determination and to the many supporters who came out to cheer them on.



The Simon Green Cup for Endeavour



Lauren Bennett was awarded the Simon Green Cup this term, She has shown leadership, commitment, perseverance, professionalism and of course endeavour in her role as captain of the 1st team netball. She has committed to the extra training sessions and has managed her team to create a very positive training environment which has resulted in the one of the most successful 1st team seasons in the College's history of netball. Well done Lauren, a fantastic and thoroughly deserving winner.

The Charity Revue



This term, after an already packed schedule of musical commitments, our own house revue, Young Musician duets and her many A-levels, Shaumya took on the challenge of organising The Charity Revue. She persuaded people to perform, she organised the staff video and with a big smile on her face and a massively charitable heart, she put on an excellent evening of entertainment. Shaumya is a character who sees the positive in everything and really wants to make a difference. By organising the revue this year, she helped make some money for The Chaseley Trust at the same time as entertaining an appreciative audience. Shaumya deserves enormous praise for her desire to help the wider community with humility and sincerity.

A View from a Bridge - by Arthur Miller

An excellent adaptation of *A View from a Bridge* saw three of the Year 12 girls take on starring roles in the Le Brocq in the second last week of the term. The play was intense and poignant, and the lingering chords of *New York State of Mind* echoed down the cloisters as a telling reminder of hope and loss. Excellent acting from all five performers kept the audience engaged and talking about the play for some time afterwards. Well done to Uma, Darcey and Sophie on a great show.





The Revue

This year, with sixty-seven girls to organise, the revue was logistically more complicated. It is particularly difficult in the house because so many of the girls have a multitude of commitments which meant that it was virtually impossible to have everyone together to rehearse. Luckily, these girls are so busy because they are so talented and so the end result was excellent. From the *Pink Panther* introduction until the final house song, the girls did themselves and the house proud. Playing instruments, dancing, singing, joking, roller-blading and even throwing bread into a toaster they entertained everyone from start to finish.



Awards

CCF Promotions:

Corporal : Rae Greenhow

Warrant Officer : Isabelle Newton

Full Colours:

Squash : Freya Cournane

Half Colours:

Art : Daisy Mayhew
Liberty Carpenter
Eleanor Long

Textiles : Kennie Lumley

Music : Shaumya Kularajan

Squash : Helen Grout

Drama : Sophie Nicholles

Headmaster's Commendations : Kennie Lumley
Shaumya Kularajan x2
Natasha Symes
Leila Lopez-Moran
Sophie Nicholles
Tianlu Wang

Department Commendations : Millie Barker
Sian Sulke
Sophie Nicholles x2
Darcey Wootton
Uma Carey-Morgan
Natasha Symes
Tianlu Wang
Veronica Travers
Leila Lopez-Moran
Elsa Auer
Mifrah Faisal
Beth Hawkins
Leah Hallinon

Notable Show Hsms:

Tianlu Wang	:23	Jessie Tarrant (Year 10)	:11
Leila Lopez-Moran (Year 12)	:13	Kiri Marshall (Year 9)	:11
Alex Hawkins (Year 10)	:13	Emily May (Year 10)	:10
Helen Grout (Year 13)	:11	Jasmine Wright (Year 9)	:9
Kitty Walters (Year 10)	:11	Kizzy Rollings (Year 10)	:9

LAMDA

Alex Hawkins	:	Grade 5
Grace McGonigal	:	Grade 5
Natasha Symes	:	Grade 5 with Distinction
Orla Maclaurin	:	Grade 6 & Bronze medal
Imogen Smith	:	Grade 8 & Gold medal

County Hockey Success

Special mention must go to Juliette Zeilmaker, who has been selected to play for the Sussex U15 hockey team, despite being one of the youngest players in the training squad. Most of the team are the year above her, but Juliette can punch well above her age and deserves recognition for this excellent achievement, which does not surprise any of us who have watched her play.



AND FINALLY

Last week the first dance showcase was held in the JWA to celebrate the high level of performance of the School's dancers. There were many varieties of dance forms on show, from ballet to bollywood. There was an A-level piece and excellent GCSE performances from Daisy and Ellen, which they had choreographed themselves. As well as Daisy and Ellen, the house was also represented by Veronica, Millie, Alice, Verity, Juliette, Evie, Sienna, Imogen (singing *All that Jazz* again beautifully) and Alex Hawkins, who was hosting as well as dancing.

What an enormously talented group of individuals they are and what a pleasure it was to watch them.

You may have noticed that we have a new house motto: **in humanitate robur**. This translates as **strength in kindness**, which I feel sums up a Watt House girl.