

“This quiet stage of term in no way reflects the industry that has gone before it

OR THE SENSE OF JUBILANT CELEBRATION THAT SUCCEEDS IT.”



GOLFISTS ON TOP OF THE WORLD



LOUIS GOES FLYING

PENNELL NEWS



Boarders' Ball 2023

Dear Pennell Parents and Guardians,

I start to write in the calm before the chaos. The Y10s are on CCF camp, the 11s and 13s on study leave and the 12s are digging ever-deeper into their university aspirations. It's a funny time because the momentary peace of this stage of term in no way reflects the industry that has gone before it or the sense of jubilant celebration that succeeds it. In fact, it is almost possible to forget how many exams have been sat, how many times I have asked “how was that?” of an exam group excitedly post-morteming each question in the foyer of the house. It all seems like a distant cheese dream and so it should because there's a summer to enjoy before the results come out and nothing to be done now to affect the outcomes. The exam groups have been coached to earn their summer holidays though and my sense is that the study leave they spent here with us was very productive. I had none of the tedium of having to chase boys out of bed to come to roll call or lunch this year; they were impeccably behaved and seemingly totally focused on the prize with a healthy team spirit to carry them along.

Academic

Prizes this term include Gabriel Kwok with the EAL Y10 Prize; Zain Radwan the EC Arnold: Lower Sixth Biology Award; Sam Huang the Lower Sixth Chemistry Award and Crowden Lower Sixth Further Mathematics Prize; Tiger Ge the Alex Coates (former Pennellian) Lower Sixth Physics Prize and the Percy Appleby Lower Sixth Science Prize.

End of Year Class Effort prizes have been won by Will Allen (business), Harry Evans (Spanish), Manuel Felix (English and history), Tom Harper (Spanish), Harry Evans (Latin), Adrian Chu (English), Duke Wilkinson (politics), Will Elkington (business) and Ethan Harris (business). This term’s eRC league looks like this:

| Year | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|------|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9 | Tom Harper | Hector Chong | Luis Leung |
| Year | 1st= | 1st= | 3rd= |
| 10 | Gabriel Kwok | James Yee | Fleming/ Clive/ Chu/ Kirk |
| Year | 1st | 2nd= | 2nd= |
| 11 | Fergus Brown | Jamie Foks | Ross Seavill |
| Year | 1st | 2nd | 3rd= |
| 12 | Will Allen | Duke Wilkinson | TomMüller-Broich, Michele Zhang |
| Year | 1st | 2nd= | 2nd= |
| 13 | Rolland Lau | Matthew Phillips | Will Elkington |

The tops spots here go to Gabe Kwok, James Yee and Tiger Ge with an equal number of Show Hsms and Praise points.

Bertie Brushfield completed his Gold Arts award this year culminating in a superb performance of the musical numbers from Heathers. Darryl Fong earns his Creative Arts half colours for DT but also a commendation in the Royal Society of Arts Pupil Design Award. Elias Clive is part of a team to have designed a house in partnership with Boutique Modern using ultra-efficient green technology. This is a part of the Eco-Schools project and will be judged this week. Tom Müller-Broich also wins his Creative Arts Full colours for Photography. Meanwhile Sam Huang received a Merit in the British Mathematical Olympiad.

Social and Service



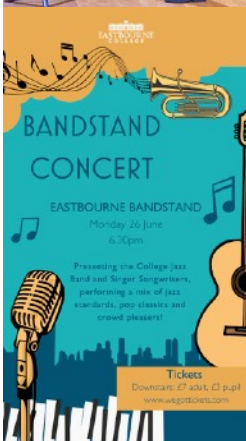
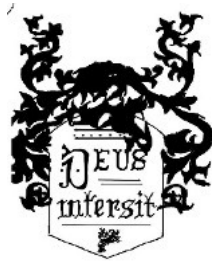
The boarders' ball was another great success and what was, again, particularly pleasing was to hear cynical adolescents conceding that what sounded like purgatory in prospect was actually enormous fun. The Big Kahoonas' infectious cover versions really resonated and the size of the band with their brass section made it feel really special. It was so great to see the dance floor full for the duration too. Hopefully, you have received a photo of your son looking incredibly smart with the rest of his year group but get in touch if you would like me to re-send it.



We enjoyed a house BBQ in the first half of term at Tom M-B's request so that we could also celebrate his birthday as a house plus invite a few guests from around the College.

Pennell and Watt house organised the Y11 dinner to celebrate the calm before the storm of GCSEs and *Tiger and the Gs* helped it all along with their smooth tunes (see right).

Tom Müller-Broich is to be congratulated on his Headmaster’s commendation which he earned for his sterling “can do” attitude working with the Bushbells Charity which produces clothing from Kenya to support two schools, a university and employment in Nairobi. He has been described fittingly as an “outstanding ambassador”.



Concerts and culture

Pennell was well represented in The Young Musician of the Year competition. Tiger competed in the duet prize with flautist Rachel from Nugent playing an excellent jazz standard to an ...erm... excellent standard. James Yee also competed in the final, placing him in the top 6 instrumentalists in the school. Tiger also performed with his band at the Eastbourne Bandstand at the end of term along with the College Jazz band including our very own Tom Harper.

The Dell play this term was *Macbeth* which is going on from here up to Edinburgh for the festival. Zain Radwan co-directed this year’s show superbly.

Congratulations to Hector Chong for passing his Grade 2 piano and James Yee grade 6 Piano. Harry Evans recorded an extraordinary Distinction of 94% in his Trinity Musical



Theatre exam in the final week of term. This is the highest mark EC has received this year. It is a challenging task and to have absolutely nailed it is a stunning achievement. Congratulations too to Duke Wilkinson on his Silver Duke of Edinburgh award.

Sport

We have had a number of sport-ists this term playing for the As. Manuel Felix, Harvey Patterson and James Yee made the As squad in tennis while Sam Kirk wicket-kept for the 15As. Arran Fleming and Adrian Chu were in the Athletics squad this year. Ross Seavill in Y11 has had a very strong first season representing the College at the highest level in cricket. After his debut we look forward with great anticipation to his follow-up next year. Will Allen played for the



Gosh hurdles is hard!

18As in tennis, earning his half colours, while Michele Zhang represented the school As in golf. 18As Bball-ists this term included Duke Wilkinson, Zain Radwan, Tiger Ge and Jiayi Yuan. It has also been great to see a good number of Pennellians exploiting our enviable location and sailing on the seafront including Tom M-B, Jayden Akinyemi, Max Ge, Tom Harper and Robin Philippon.



Sports Day was a typical blend of have-a-go-heroes and some superlative talent. Everyone participated with good humour and some even dug deep for some determined wins. I am always in awe of those that just participate without any realistic hope of coming first - it is very exposing bringing up the rear in a 100m dash but someone has to. The atmosphere was very supportive, however.

Final thought for the tenure

When I first arrived in Pennell as Resident tutor back in 2003, the Head of House, Owen, and I bonded over indie music, specifically Damien Rice's "Q" which had just come out. I was told that Owen was a risk for HoH because he had a bit of a chequered past but as I had no experience of that it never got in the way and we were soon swapping things called CDs. He had risen to the top Pennell job by dint of his development of a termly lunchtime pop concert for any aspiring musicians, held in the Pennell games room (see right) and he called it Pennell Forum.



Pennell Forum

It was very popular, well organised and the only outlet at the time for "that sort of music" as my grandparents would say. It continued after he left for many years until the music department, under Pennell Tutor Dan Jordan, finally accepted that there is more to music than Bach and Beethoven, and now they serve pop brilliantly (see this year's [Songwriter Workshop](#) album). Anyway, after university Owen did essentially the same thing working for Festival Republic which put on the big festivals (Leeds, Reading etc.) and he had to get used to bossing around his favourite artists so that they got to the stage on time. He's now even higher up in *the biz* and he got in touch a few weeks ago to meet up for a drink as he was down in Eastbourne for the Blur gig at the Winter Gardens. Yes, Blur played in Eastbourne a few weeks ago! We spent a very happy hour reminiscing and I began to realise how long I have spent in Pennell. I suppose that I have married and had children in that time while he has built himself an amazing career doing exactly what he wanted to. And then I realised so have I. Housemastering is the best job in teaching and, as I said in the school magazine interview (The Stag), the camaraderie is just not the same in the classroom. It's slowly dawning on me how much I will miss it. I have no experience of being at the College without being a Pennell tutor so it's a bit of an unknown. That said, it's also probably a healthy change - I have pounded the floors of Pennell for too many duty nights and I think I know every crack in every wall/ window. It has been the privilege of my teaching career and your faith and trust in me to shape and guide your sons through adolescence in not lost on me. You have been unbelievably kind and generous, as ever, with your presents and I shall be in touch to thank you directly once I have finished the newsletter but in the meantime I wish you all great continued prosperity and I very much look forward to bumping into you at parents evenings or fixtures at the College.

With very best wishes, as always,

Ben





As it says in the Pennell House handbook...“Leaders serve”.

I didn't realise it would come to this though!