

A message from the North Powell

Michaelmas Term Review

The Michaelmas Term is a long journey and I congratulate those 21 new Powellians who joined us in September and for adapting to life at the College so well. From the warmth of September, to severe storms over the last few months, we have certainly seen some weather. This has not dampened the spirits of the Powell community, with so many embracing the importance of being proactive in our community; volunteering for school councils, checking in on each other or being involved in inter-house competitions, all of this is a central pillar to supporting our wellbeing. The second half of term has seen large numbers of boys participating in school life, 7-days a week, with the house revue, remembrance and other co-curricular commitments. There has been a remarkable amount of productivity, endeavour and success to celebrate, which I hope to capture in this newsletter. SM

“In Eastbourne, out of Eastbourne a like, may you character be known for good, be brave, be generous, be pure, be true”.



Blue Stockings (p.7)



Steepo (p.8)



CCF success (p.9)

1

INTER-HOUSE

Swimming

Powell gained 1st place in the swimming competition

3

OVERALL STANDINGS

3rd place in the inter-house standards at the end of term

16

SPORTS TEAMS

A busy term of sport, 500 pupils, 40 teams, over 200 fixtures



Academic Review

The academic life of the school has been very busy, once again, this term. The winner of the Headmaster's Challenge was announced with a range of video and written essays submitted, and although no Powell boys were in the mix, well done to all those who submitted entries. Over the last few weeks, eight pupils, including Oliver Rivett have gained Oxbridge interviews and we look forward to hearing good news when they return in the New Year. In geography, sixth form pupils have attended lectures at Brighton University as well as conducting individual investigations into a wide variety of physical systems and landscapes across London and the South-East. The modern languages department welcomed 20 French pupils from south-west France as part of the new Year 10 French exchange. Pupils accompanied their partners in lessons and around the school to experience College life. In politics, 36 pupils made the annual trip to the site of the inaugural meeting of the UN in the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Here they joined hundreds of other pupils for Q&A series of lectures with political leaders from across the parties, including Diane Abbott, Jacob Rees-Mogg, Michael Gove and Nigel Farage discussing 'The Shape of things to Come' in the new political landscape following the general election. In economics, we congratulate those Year 13 pupils who have dedicated time to completing timed essays on Saturday mornings. In English, Year 12 pupils have enjoyed a varied Literature Society programme, including going to London to see Tom Stoppard's 'The Real Thing'. Furthermore, outside speakers have delivered engaging talks and workshops including Dr Lewis Todd and Holly Dawson. In mathematics, we congratulate the team of seven Year 10 pupils who, under their own initiative, entered the national M.E.I. RITANGLE competition in October. They successfully completed 18 out of 20 problems, even though the competition is usually aimed at A-level pupils. In the Mathematical Olympiads, well done to Oliver Rivett in the Senior Mathematical Challenge.

A huge thanks to Mr Hill and Mr Shakespeare for their on-going support of the boys in the U6th, with their personal statements and future applications. The majority of Year 13 have now submitted UCAS applications this term and we have our fingers crossed for gaining several offers so they may pursue to the university of their choice. The L6th boys have commenced their A-level courses with gusto, with a strong number starting their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs) in the New Year. In Year 11, non-examined assessment work has continued to be a focus for many this term, as well as crunching through the last few topics of their GCSE syllabuses. We wish them a productive Christmas break and all the best for the January mocks, which is an important next step, in the build up to the Summer exams. In Year 10, the boys have commenced their GCSE courses and the

PRAISE MARKS – MICHAELMAS TERM 2024

Top 3 pupils in each year group this academic year

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Patrick McKee (55)	Arthur Moore (49)	Ben Fellows (31)	Dmitry Bykov (35)	Michael Timmis (25)
Coeus Yuen (52)	Hugo Stevens (34)	Teddy Kuganesan (25)	Thomas Richards (19)	Charlie Evans-Shephard (24)
Jake Knowles (51)	Ethan Simmonds (32)	Henry Lawrence (24)	Max Hill (18)	Sergio Vieira (21)

Four reward points for class effort prize or department commendation. Two reward points awarded for a Show Hsm. One point awarded for praise comments.

Michaelmas term exams provided a first taste of formal exam protocols. There were a number of pleasing results, but I've no doubt all of them are hungry for obtaining higher grades. In Year 9, the boys completed end of term assessments over a 2-week period and with lots of encouraging effort. Most importantly I've been hugely impressed with the way they have adapted to the step-up to senior school.

Creative Arts

As always, our creative arena continues to be packed full of opportunities and achievements. Eighteen musical events have made the Michaelmas term a busy but exciting one for our musicians. The Jazz Band were up and running on the very first weekend of the year, entertaining those attending the Eastbournian Society dinner in the Grand Hotel. This was quickly followed by our annual prep school Sing Day and then, two days later by a trip for the Choir to sing evensong in the magnificent surroundings of St John's College, Cambridge. Three well-supported Informal concerts took place throughout the term. Professional opera singer and teacher, Louise Winter gave a vocal masterclass. The hotly contested annual House Singing competition held centre stage on the last night before the half term holiday, with Craig and Watt scooping up the trophies. After the quality on display, all are looking forward to next term's House A Capella competition. Returning after the break, the department's attention was focused on the Remembrance concert, featuring the Symphony Orchestra and String Orchestra. The Jazz Band were out gigging again, this time at the Children in Need event in the Town Hall, which was followed four days later by an excellent Live Lounge. Thanks as ever go to Tom Williams, Joe Walsh, the all-pupil backing band and members of the Singer Songwriter group for an entertaining evening of covers and original music. No rest for the hard-working Choir, who joined with the Choir of St Andrew's to sing a beautiful and busy Advent Carol service in



Chapel. Most recently, the biennial Christmas concert featured festive family favourites from the Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Band. On the last day of term the Jazz Band provided an excellent festive accompaniment to the Christmas Lunch and then the brass and College Choir were superb in helping lift our voices high, in the end of term carol service.

The drama department started Michaelmas off by being nominated for the National School Theatre Awards for the college production and ended with a triumphant performance of *Blue Stockings* by a 50-strong team of actors, designers and technicians. In between saw a trip to the Theatre Royal Brighton to see acclaimed musical *Dear Evan Hansen*; the highly successful Year 10 scholars' production of *Menace in the Silence* (a collection of scenes by Nobel prize-winner Harold Pinter); another EBCTV screening of *Surviving School in the JWA*, and a joyous Year 9 drama competition which saw School take a hat trick of three prizes and Reeves winning best day house. Finally, we are very proud to announce that two Old Eastbournians Ben Young and Jack Evans are now in their first year at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and that Harry Evans, Pennell yll, is now a member of the National Youth Music Theatre.

Year 10 dancers performed in a spectacular short production devised by Motionhouse Dance Company, after their 3-day Coastal Schools partnership residency here at Eastbourne. Year 11 to 13 have taken part in a

street and hop hop fusion dance workshop. Choreography has started for our annual Dance Showcase where we will be performing iconic numbers from *Cabaret* and *Sweet Charity*.

In November Year 12 Visual arts pupils visited the V&A and Natural History Museum as part of their coursework development. Drawing in the castle room and visiting the Wildlife Photographer of the year exhibition were a highlight of this trip. We have had a series of life drawing sessions for Art and textiles 6th form in the Casson art school, led by local artists.

A group of Year 9 pupils took part in a Future makers workshop, artist talk and creative futures event at the Towner Art Gallery. This is part of an ongoing Coastal Schools Partnership project with the Towner to support access to art in the curriculum. The end of term saw the second annual Open studio event in the Casson Art School with work in progress from across the school in art and photography on display. Year 10 Art pupils went to the Royal Academy at the start of the term to see the vivid colour work of Michael Craig Martin.



Blue Stockings and Year 9 drama



Sport

We have seen another brilliant term with 16 sports competing through the term. 500 pupils, with 40 teams, competing in over 200 plus fixtures. A huge thanks to the ground staff, house, medical, catering, bursarial, transport, foundation and marketing staff, for all their vital but unseen support.

The rugby teams have similarly shown the character that Eastbourne rugby is known for with a desire to be the hardest working rugby school. Over 200 boys have competed in the 70 fixtures played this term with half the games won. The development of players has been very impressive as has the attitude to improve whether in the contact form of the game or touch rugby. All players deserve credit for the way they have put their bodies on the line game after game during a season, unlike any other sport, and plaudits have to go to the 1st XV playing sometimes three times in a week and in all day tournaments. Not only have the 1st XV won 8 from 12 this term but they also finished second in the Churcher's tournament and went on to win a very competitive Eltham tournament by fine margins and without conceding a try. Despite the weather frustrating everyone last weekend, the 2nd XV have played some impressive rugby in many tight and competitive matches, similarly the U16 and U15 teams. The new U14 A,B&C teams have impressed with the A&B teams both winning four from seven played. Next term sees a journey to the National Rosslyn Park 7s.

The basketball team have reached the end of term with a 5 and 2 win/loss record. With wins in the league and national cup with a great game played at home on Wednesday. With plenty of matches to play next term we look forward to reporting more progress in the future. The golf team played have enjoyed experiences at regional tournaments and cup matches in the ISGA and HMC competitions. The boys squash team have made great improvement over the term in their seven fixtures with many close games and matches. The fencing team have competed in home and away fixtures; football have played in cup and friendly matches in readiness for the full season starting in January.

We should also recognise the commitment and impressive achievement of having so many pupils competing on the county, regional or national stage. There are as many as 30 pupils training and playing with professional sports clubs or involved national programmes from Harlequins. The inter house sports competitions have been incredibly competitive, and it has laid the platform for a competitive year ahead for the annual inter house sports cup. After the aquathlon and steeplechase, there have been competitions in hockey, rugby, and swimming.

The Swim teams' commitment to training never ceases to amaze with the squad training while most of us are still in bed in the morning or training late into the evening after school. Their dedication is as impressive as the standard they are competing at. The team have once again been achieving new personal bests throughout the term, College records, and College firsts in national competitions. After two rounds of the Schools Super League, the College team is in the top 7 of National schools. The squads pushed on and to such a high level the girls inters reached the national relay finals along with the senior boys, the third consecutive year we have reached this level. The senior boys impressively finished 7th and 20th nationally from 128 schools and made the main final with the biggest swim schools in the country. The inter girls finished 12th and 21st nationally. The squads have their eyes firmly set on the Weald and Downland Trophy and the national Bath Cup next term at the Olympic Park where the senior boys will be aiming to defend both their titles from 2023.

Congratulations to Matt Clark for his excellent performance in the Swim England National Winter Meet. Live coverage can be found here: <https://www.swimming.org/sport/swimming-live-stream/>

Powell boys in action



Steepo 2024



Service

The College's spirit of service has remained undaunted this term. In the CCF, the year has got off to positive start under the leadership of head of section Gaby Dixon and senior NCOs Thomas Richards, Alfie Lulham and Ian Tam. All year 11 cadets gained their blue leadership awards and are working on their MOI qualifications, a nationally recognised leadership course. Year 10 have had their first experience of shooting on the range and have begun their blue leadership awards as well as learning about the structure and history of the RAF. Eight cadets have taken their first air experience flights which included four Y10 cadets who have achieved the highest dress and baring scores so far this year. Congratulations to acting pilot officer Godley for completing the selection stages of her officer training. Year 10 cadets in the Army Section have progressed from the basics of Phase One training to begin the Phase Two training that will prepare them for their activity week at the end of the summer term. Year 11 cadets in A Company can be proud of their successful 24 hours in the field in challenging weather conditions in September, and of taking part in the civic parade in Eastbourne on Remembrance Sunday. Most will now train in leadership and instructional techniques, with a view to serving as NCOs in the sixth form. A very notable early promotion has gone to Henry Lawrence, whose accomplishments and commitment within the local detachment of the Army Cadet Force have seen him promoted to Sergeant in both the town's ACF and our school's CCF.



This Michaelmas term both Houses and Charity Society worked hard to ensure that we got off to a good start, following a stellar year in 2023-2024. The Chapel Charity this year is the Midlands Orphanage & Care Centre, Colenso, South Africa, and as well as collecting for this great charity, it was agreed that events would also contribute a small amount to the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal, which has the ambitious aim of funding up to 40 fully-funded, means-tested bursary places by 2028.



Once again, a substantial amount of produce was given to the Eastbourne Foodbank (as a result of our Harvest Appeal) for those who struggle to make ends meet. In addition, a successful Charity Lunch raised £730 and a magnificent Charity Concert by LAMDA/Trinity pupils brought in another £750! Finally, the superb Advent Readings and Carols Service in the school chapel raised almost £300 for the chapel charity.

Ongoing was the collection of good quality, used clothes and other items for the Turing School as well as the Christmas Community Chest, providing small hampers of treats to brighten up the season for those in the local area.



Caffe Sospeso Film

<https://blueskybursaries.eastbourniansociety.org/>

Eastbournian Society

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Giving Day 2025

- Eastbourne College
- Tuesday 11 Mar 2025 - Wednesday 12 Mar 2025
- 9:00 AM - 11:55 PM

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Powell boys in action



Inter-house Sport



Headmaster's Assembly

Creative achievement

Full colours for drama were awarded to **Esteban Boruel-Lopez** having consistently performed at an excellent level, showing first-class work ethic on stage,, combined with a positive mental attitude.

Half colours for music were awarded to **Reha Akinlosotu**.

Sporting achievement

Half colours for squash were awarded to **Alfie Lulham**.

Other notable achievements:

Congratulations to the following who mentioned in the assembly for completing their Duke of Edinburgh award:

- **Dmitry Bykov** - Silver DofE
- **Tobias Bristow** - Bronze DofE

Final thoughts of the term

During the second half of term we have centred our charter of expectations around the importance of resilience. The hurdles of a long Michaelmas Term always tests the bounce-back ability of all pupils and ultimately contributing to helping pupils develop coping mechanisms, to withstand whatever life throws at them. I look forward to the start of the Lent Term, leading the house towards the spring and supporting each and every boy on their personal school journey throughout 2025.

I thank Chris Gilham for his excellent pastoral support to a number of boys' in Powell L6th during the Michaelmas Term and we look forward to welcoming back Katherine Canning from maternity leave to tutor in Powell. We will certainly miss Owen Dennis' kindness and warmth, as we wish him well as he departs for a job closer to Brighton and Hove.

My thanks to the tutors for their relentless hard work this term, as well as all parents/guardians for their unwavering support of the house and the College. Lastly, the biggest cheer in the house assembly always goes to Julie (Powell cleaner) - her patience, care and work within the house, makes her the ultimate unsung hero. Thank you, Julie.

Emma, Max and I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year and all the best wishes for 2025,

SM

Dates for the diary:

Lent Term 2025

Monday 6 January - Lent Term begins

Thursday 23 January - Exeat (commences 14.15) and Y11 Parents meeting 14.45

Monday 27 January - Term resumes

Friday 14 February - Half term (commences at 14.15) and Y10 Parents meeting 14.45

Monday 24 February - Second half of term begins

Friday 14 March - Exeat (commences at 14.15)

Friday 28 March - Term ends (15.00)

<https://calendar.eastbourne-college.co.uk/>