

School House

Michaelmas 2024



Goodness me, what a term that was! The balmy summer days of BBQ's in the garden and getting to know each other, seem like a million miles away. The girls have certainly packed it in. From sunrise beach walks, and water sports, to cosy Christmas movie nights, gingerbread making, a house concert, sports events, Y9 drama, house song and a Halloween party, it has been so much fun. There have been obstacles along the way but the girls have shown resilience and patience. They have done a brilliant job! Read all about it inside this terms newsletter!

But first, a special congratulations to the wonderful girls pictured below who joined us in September. They have settled in and it feels like they have always been here. Starting a new school is a challenge but I have been so impressed by how they have adjusted to new teachers, routines and people. Well done on an impressive start to their time at the College!



Start of Term

Our newbies have been inducted into their families! Family groups are the best way to get to know girls across the house in other years. Start of term seems like a lifetime ago but the first few weeks of term were filled with parties, BBQs, the infamous Boarders Olympics and many more activities focussed on helping the girls settle in and make friends.



Family Groups

Iguanodons: Ida, Charlin, Jocelyn, Frankie, Val, Anne Sophie, Kitty. Led by Joelle

Spinosaurus: Poppy, Riley, Lily, Sasa, Hanhan, Jemima, Sunny. Led by Anna

Stegosaurus: Blaithin, Annabelle, Viola, Darcy, Ruby, Kiki, Noor, Flora. Led by Tiggy

T-Rex: Mimi, Grace, Mariia, Louise, Millie D, Xinyue, Varvara, Millie G. Led by Ariane

Diplodocus: Molly, Renee, Lily, Arya, Ella B, Alice. Led by Nao

Velociraptor: Liv, Iso, Sara, Lucy, Milly DH, Issy, Daisy, Mandy. Led by Tilly

Our families are very special and give the girls a chance to learn from each other and support each other through difficult situations. It's like having a load of big sisters all rooting for you which is very important.

House Senior Team

This year's Senior Team have been integral in ensuring School House got off to a great start. From ensuring participation in house sports events and organising our House Song entry, to making Christmas and the end of term really special. They have been my ears and eyes on the ground, as well as wise council and all round support. Led by Ella, our Head of House, and Millie and Alice our Deputy Heads of House, they have also run regular house council meetings



Feedback...

More house events including bingo and scavenger hunts, revision resources, quiet time in the week, more butter and jam in the galley,

which have helped me understand any pressure points in house from the girls perspectives.

Looking forward to...

Return of Wellbeing Wednesdays, Lent term fundraising event, House Supper with Wargrave, beach walks when the weather is better.

Rest of the gang...



Anna and Tiggy — Sports Captains

Ariane—Head of Events

Tilly— Head of Pupil Voice

Daisy—Peer Listener

Kitty—Head of Younger Years

Mandy—Head of International

We are currently in third place in the House Cup competition, so there is plenty to play for in Lent Term!

With their help we have :

Competed in aquathlon, steeplechase, house hockey, house swimming, boarders Olympics, and house song

Listened to each other and supported each other through tough times

Got to know each other and adjusted to new cultures, styles of learning and food!

Had some amazing events and parties in house



Achievements

End of Term Mentions

- Sara, Grace, Jocelyn in Year 10 for their performance in the MEI Ritangle Competition (usually aimed at Sixth Form pupils)
- Viola and Xinyue for their performance in the Maths Olympiad for Girls
- Viola for her performance in the Senior Maths Challenge
- Alice for gaining an interview at University of Cambridge
- Ella for gaining a number of university interviews to study midwifery
- Riley and Poppy for hosting their French Exchange pupils
- Grace, Jocelyn, Poppy, Mariia and Sara for gaining a 7.5 or higher grade average in Y10 exams
- Hanhan for her consistent commitment to music and numerous solo performances
- Tiggy Tutt for gaining her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

ShowHSM and Praise points are awarded to pupils for excellent academic work, upholding the terms charter theme and the school values, adhering to uniform standards, being up-standers, participating in activities and events amongst other things. The girls notched up 932 points between them this term, which is amazing! Here are the top three achieving girls for each year group.

Year	First	Second	Third
Year 9	Molly	Ida	Mimi
Year 10	Poppy	Annie	Riley
Year 11	Milly	Darcy	Renee
Year 12	Issy	Ann-Sophie	Jemima and Sunny
Year 13	Varvara	Alice and Noor	Tiggy

Huge congratulations to Noor, Ella, Renee, Poppy, Ariane, Issy, Milly, Frankie, Mimi, Viola, Ann Sophie, Grace, Alice, Molly, Tilly, Lily T, Sara, Xinyue, and Hanhan who have a clean sweep of positive feedback this term.



Achievements

Honorary Scholarship and Colours

Full Colours

Varvara—Dance, Mandy—Textiles, Tiggy—Hockey

Half Colours

Ella—Dance, Jemima—Drama, Millie DH - Hockey

Honorary Scholarship

From time to time, the school awards honorary scholarships to pupils who have shown scholarly application and attributes in our academic or co-curricular programmes since joining the College. In textiles, Mandy Luo has been on the further enrichment programme for a year now and not only is her work outstanding but she has been representing the school in a range of competitions, volunteering and participating in workshops over the holidays that have extended her textiles practice.

Huge congratulations to Mandy on all her hard work!



Big well done to Sasa and Jemima and Mimi, Liv, Ida, Molly and Blaitin who scooped up a trio of prizes in the Y9 Drama Competition! It was the best haul for School House in the history of the competition. Thanks too, to Lily and Issy for their support!

School House Star

Participation, kindness, integrity and pursuit of excellence are key school values and girls are encouraged to uphold these as much as possible. This term, Ariane Dodard, has been a complete star. Not only did she work hard to submit her UCAS application early, giving her more time to concentrate on her academic work, but she has consistently supported School House.

She organised an excellent Secret Santa, pulled the Christmas Nativity together and put loads of energy into decorating for Christmas. Mrs WA and I simply don't know how we would have got through the last week of term without her support and input!



Achievements



House Concert

We love having our house concert so early in the term as it is the ideal way to get everyone working towards a common goal. It is also so much fun! Abley compered this year by Anna, Alice, Ella and Millie the girls did a wonderful job of showcasing their talents. Year 9 performed a very funny Minions inspired dance, Year 10 were introduced to the delights of the Two Ronnies, Year 11 created a brilliant Pitch Perfect video, the Year 12 dance was the best yet and the Y13 served up two videos which made us smile and cry at the same time! How on earth those babies are almost ready to leave us is beyond me! Hanhan, Lily, Tiggy, Darcy, Mariia, Flora gave exceptional solo and group performances. Sara, Grace, Ariane and Viola kept everything backstage running smoothly and a special mention to Louise, Millie and Daisy for significant hard work video editing.



DoE and CCF Adventures



With the weather turning a special mention must be made to the awesome Y11 quintet of Lucy, Milly, Frankie, Darcy and Lily for braving an overnight CCF trip just before half term! It was cold wet and miserable but they came back in great spirits and can be very proud of their achievement.

Lucy, Frankie and Nao also threw themselves into the great outdoors once more this term on their DoE expeditions. Lucy and Milly completed their silver practice on the South Downs and Nao completed her final Gold assessment in Brecon Beacons. Absolutely brilliant girls!

Activities and Events



Sunrise Beach Walk

Who doesn't love a beach walk, even if it is at 6am! The girls loved coming down to the beach early with the dogs to see the sun rise and welcome in another day of fun in School House. Plenty more of these to come, and a sunset or two if we can manage it!

Sixth Form Mixer

Organised fun is sometimes awkward, but our lovely Y13 welcomed the new sixth formers over cheese and nibbles early in the term answering their questions, offering advice and making a lot of noise with some silly games! Having bigger girls, who have been there and done that, is always so helpful.



Year 9 Chaos



They are a small group, but a mighty one! Year 9 burnt off some energy with a handstand/gymnastics competition in the common room, whilst I watched in slight terror, hoping to avoid an A and E trip!



Halloween



Mrs WA set up an amazing Halloween party for the girls. House parents brought their family down to play pumpkin tic-tac-toe, witch hat hoopla and mummy dressing amongst other things. It was so much fun and a huge amount of sweet treats were consumed

Christmas

The best way to end term is always a big party and this years Christmas Party didn't disappoint with musical statues, limbo, a magnificent version of the Nativity story, Secret Santa, snacks and sweet treats a plenty and of course the anticipated Christmas Bingo. Jemima and Valerie won this years covered Jellycat prizes. A huge thank you again to Mrs WA for organising such an awesome evening for us!



Sport Success

With almost weekly fixtures this term, alongside Aquathlon, Steeplechase, House Hockey and House Swimming the girls have competed and cheered to a brilliant standard and have honoured all their fixture commitments. Of course we're always hoping for a win but for me, the sea of blue at each event is just as important and is testament to the girls' kind and supportive nature. They are a force to be reckoned with and did extremely well. Almost half the house were down on the side of the pool for house swim, even those who aren't natural water babies, and those who cheered from the balcony did an amazing job of encouraging their friends. Pickle was also out in force supporting the girls at House Hockey and stealing hockey balls when she could! We are currently in third place in the House Cup competition, so there is plenty to play for in Lent Term!



A special mention to Tiggly who was the only School House participant in the Aquathlon! A chilly sea swim followed by sea front run is not for the feint hearted!



We absolutely smashed the Steeplechase and almost all girls ran, including Mrs WA. The smiles as they crossed the finish line, even for those who aren't a fan of cross country running, were brilliant. And Sasa gained a podium place! Well done Sasa!



A little bit of change...



Our two newest members of School House are getting big. Tabitha and Mabel are now seven months old and have enjoyed a whole term of cuddles with the girls.

Both Mrs WA and Katie are back in post as Housemistress and Matron from the start of Lent Term and we cannot wait to have them back with us full-time.



Year 9 and Year 10 girls will settle back into new rooms and new roomies across Senior Dorm, Top Dorm and South Studies when they come back, giving them a chance to get to know each other better.

Miss G will return to her role of chief dog wrangler and Resident Tutor having looked after the house and girls for the last two terms.

Poppy, Pepper and Pickle will be back to create more chaos in house, stealing shoes and enthusiastically greeting all who come through the doors! Pickle has particularly enjoyed helping sniff out sweet treats, including 'taste testing' two whole gateaux's just before the Y12 murder mystery dinner, Elspeth's lunch and a couple of beautiful gingerbread houses. We appreciate her hearty appetite and enthusiasm for food!



A BIG THANK YOU to our wonderful tutor team!

- **Miss Belle** (Y9) and **Miss Rogerson** (Y10) have successfully completed their first term in House, providing wise counsel to their tutees and bringing lots of fun to duty nights
- **Mr Marlow** (Y10) braves being the only man in house but maintains his role as the biggest champion of School House and our girls
- **Miss Woodham** (Y11) has supported the girls to prepare for their GCSE mocks
- **Miss Curren** and **Mrs Taylor** (Y12) have helped our newest sixth formers settle in and achieve some excellent report cards
- **Dr Ball** and **Miss G** (Y13) supported the girls through a tough term of coursework deadlines, university applications, tests, tests and more tests



School House does
Christmas!

Dates for your diary...

A full calendar will be with you for the start of next term, however here a few key dates to keep in your diary.

- Sunday 5 January – House opens at 6pm for returning boarders
 - Monday 6 January—Start of Term and Headmasters Assembly. Y11 mocks begin
 - Thursday 23 January—Year 11 parents meeting at 14:45 in house. Exeat starts for all at 14:15
 - Sunday 26 January—House opens at 6pm for returning boarders
 - Saturday 1 February—School and Wargrave House Dinner for all pupils
 - Friday 14 February—Year 10 parents meetings at 14:45 in house. Half term starts for all at 14:15
 - Sunday 23 February —House opens at 6pm for returning boarders
 - Monday 24 February—Y13 mocks begin
 - Friday 14 March— Year 13 parents meetings at 14:45 in house. Exeat starts for all pupils at 14:15
 - Friday 28 March—End of term, Headmasters Assembly, end of term service. Term ends at 15:00
 - Tuesday 22 April—House opens at 6pm for returning boarders
 - Wednesday 23 April—Start of Term and Headmasters Assembly
- Term dates can be found on our website to enable you to make travel arrangements. Please note all pupils must be at school until the end of each half and full term. No early leave will be approved.

Important Notices

Check uniform ready for the start of term. Junior skirts should sit on the knee. A number of skirts are too short so new skirts will be needed. Senior pupils must have matching suits, which are lined. Skirts should sit on the knee when standing and trousers shouldn't be flared or wide legged.

As always—please ensure everything, including home clothes, is named!

Blue material! If you have any old blue fabric (plain or patterned is fine) eg pillowcases or duvet covers, do send them in. We're planning on making some eco friendly pompoms for sports day this year.



U6 performed a spectacular Nativity for us! Complete with a Virgin Mary who is really expecting a baby! Congratulations Miss Woodham.

