

Wargrave House News

Lent Term Review



What's inside?

- The incredible charitable efforts of the Rowathon
- Academic achievements
- Sporting highlights
- Eastbourne College's inaugural 'Giving Day'

Key dates for Summer Term 2025: Please note that the whole house is expected to stay in for those events marked with an asterix

Tuesday 22nd April - 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.

Saturday 26th April * Boarders' Ball *

Saturday 3rd May (usual Saturday with fixtures) exeat begins c.2pm – all boarders return by 9pm
Monday 5th May – no supper that evening

Monday 12th May Y11 study leave starts

Friday 16th May U6th last day of school celebration and U6th study leave starts

Friday 23rd May Y9 GCSE Options Meeting (14.45-16.15) Half term begins for all else 14.15

Friday 23rd May to Sunday 1st June Half Term. Arrival in house from 6pm, all return by 9pm.

18th June Y12 Team building and futures day

Friday 27th June Sports Day*

Saturday 28th June – Speech Day*

Thursday 14th August – A Level results available from 8am

Thursday 21st August – GCSE results available from 8am

Academic:

Assessment and mocks have been the main theme of the term for Y11s and 13s as they gear up for public exams, whilst the rest of the school have been grinding through various GCSE and A level units.

The Year 9s are starting to turn their attention to GCSE option choices – cue lots of considered conversations with Mr Roberts. Y9 parents, please be reminded of the GCSE options meeting on Friday 23rd May, which will give you an opportunity to talk to heads of department about what is on offer as well as to acquaint yourself with course specifications. It is not compulsory, but it is good if the boys are somewhat sitting on the fence.

Happily, the Upper Sixth have had plenty of university offers trickle in having all got their UCAS applications in on time. It is excellent for them to have a material goal to set their sights on in the coming months, which are going to be pretty grueling with revision taking its toll.

Praise marks League Table 2023/2024 as it stands * Leading three pupils for the house yearly competition.			
Year	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
9	Nic Maloney	Eason Wang	Archie Stack
10	Zac Bonehill	Will Mclean	Barney Hayday
11	Jack Evans	Marcus Ho	Tim Dodard
12	Ian Tam	Finn Bulkeley	Christoph Freytag
13	Derren Lai	Ed Nolan	Sam Watson

* 1 point for a piece of praise, two points for a show hsm (where tied, the fewer sanction points makes the difference in placing)

There were some excellent results in the recent Y11 and Y13 mock exams, which bode well for the impending public exam period.

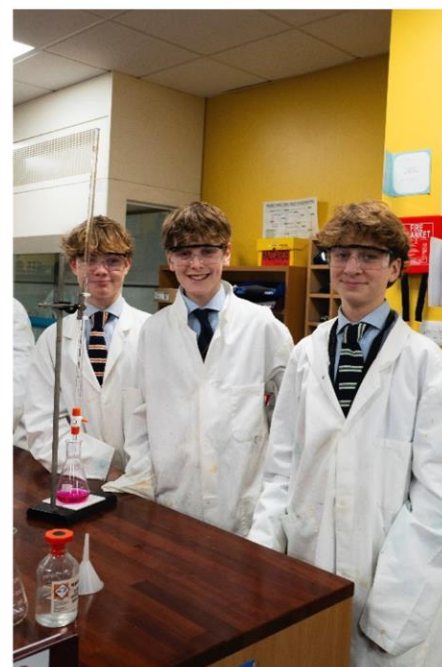
Most notably:

- Jack Evans – 8.18 average (3rd in the year group)
- Derren Lai – A*A*A*A
- Freddie Jones – A*AA
- Calvin Chen – AAAB
- Dan Sasao - AABB

See Archie Stack and Nic Maloney in action in a chemistry practical to the right.

Congratulations to Ian Tam who won a bronze award in the UK Linguistics Olympiad.

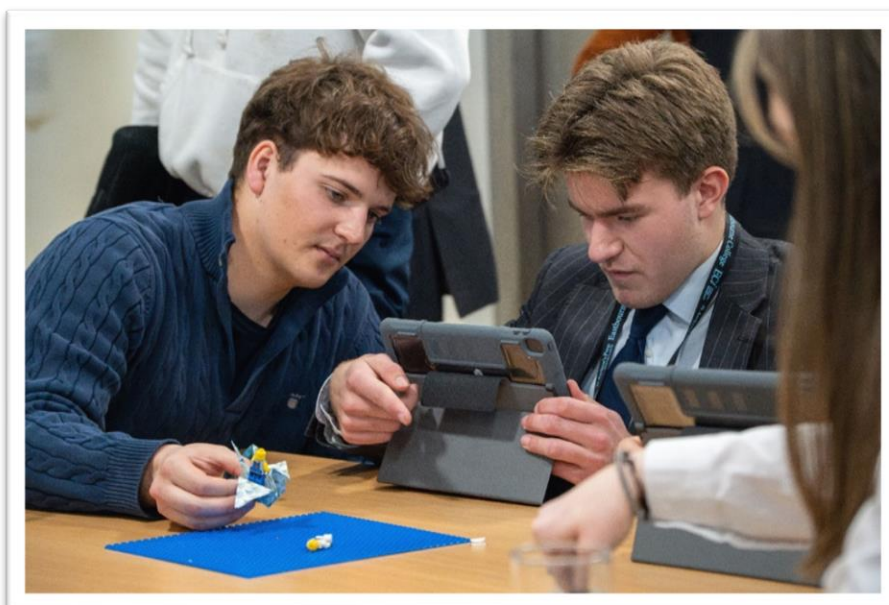
The careers pinnacle of the term was the excellently organised Futures Convention. Plenty of the boys came back from the evening buzzing about potential career pathways and lots of them have learned the tricks of the trade already by coming back laden with corporate merchandise ranging from tote bags to pens and water bottles.



For Year 12 next term, the real focus is on getting personal statements out of the blocks and to start considering university applications, once they have their firmed up predicted grades (or UCAS grades) following the important summer internal exam week which commences on Thursday 12th June. This will be followed by their Futures Day.



Special congratulations for the term must go to Charlie Goffin who completed and show-cased his Gold Arts Award project involving stop motion film. It was a fantastic evening and Charlie's 'stall' was by far the busiest and most attended of the evening. See him in action below happily showing Mr Lawson how it all works and Ben Perry having a peruse too.



It has also been most enjoyable to attend a raft of EPQ presentations this term as the boys put the finishing touches to their dissertations. Particular mention must go to Jason Mo, Derren Lai, Ed Nolan, Freddie Jones, Rory Staunton, Theo Cruttenden and Paddy Cooper. It is excellent preparation for university with the boys learning how to perform academic research, professional referencing, analysing their methodology and finally presenting their findings to their peers, mentor and staff members. Some photos below. I was very impressed with their expertise and hard work.



Sporting Success

Whilst lots of boys continue to churn through cricket 1:1s, Lent term is mostly about the hockey and football pitch. Happily, the Wargravians continue to enjoy many successes here.

Notable mentions must go to the following: Paddy Cooper (Y13) and Daniel Hammond (Y13) who are consistent players for the 1st XI hockey team. Both earned full colours for hockey.

Freddie Jones continued to captain the rugby Friday Night Lights XV squad as well as the 7s team who had a successful run at the Rosslyn Park competition, getting out of their pool for the first time in five years. It is always lovely to see the rugby on in the common room via the YouTube channel in Rosslyn Park week.

Jack Evans and Will Plimsoll have both had regular run outs for the 1st XI.

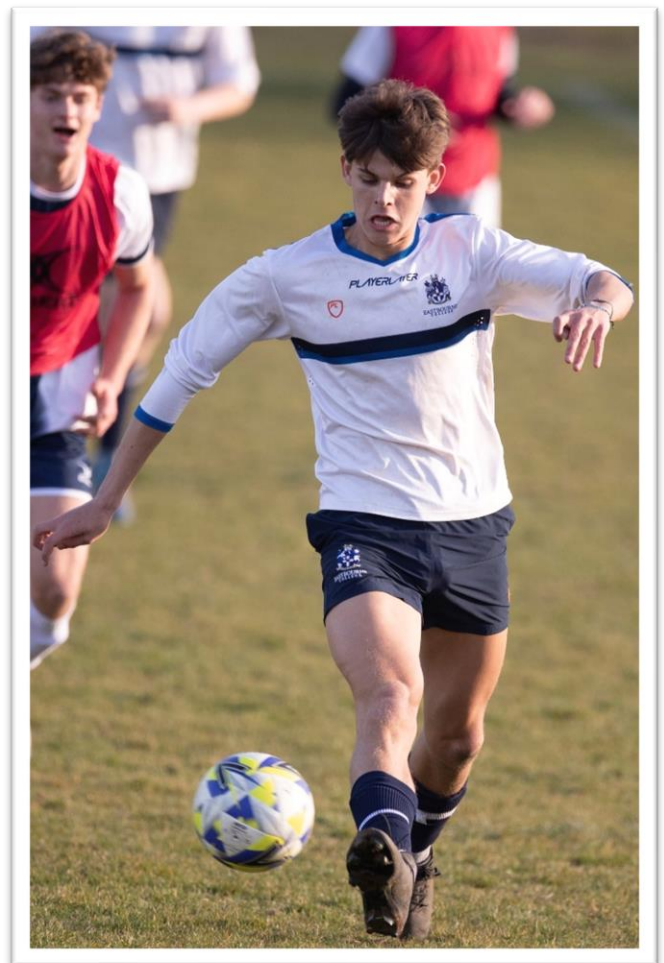
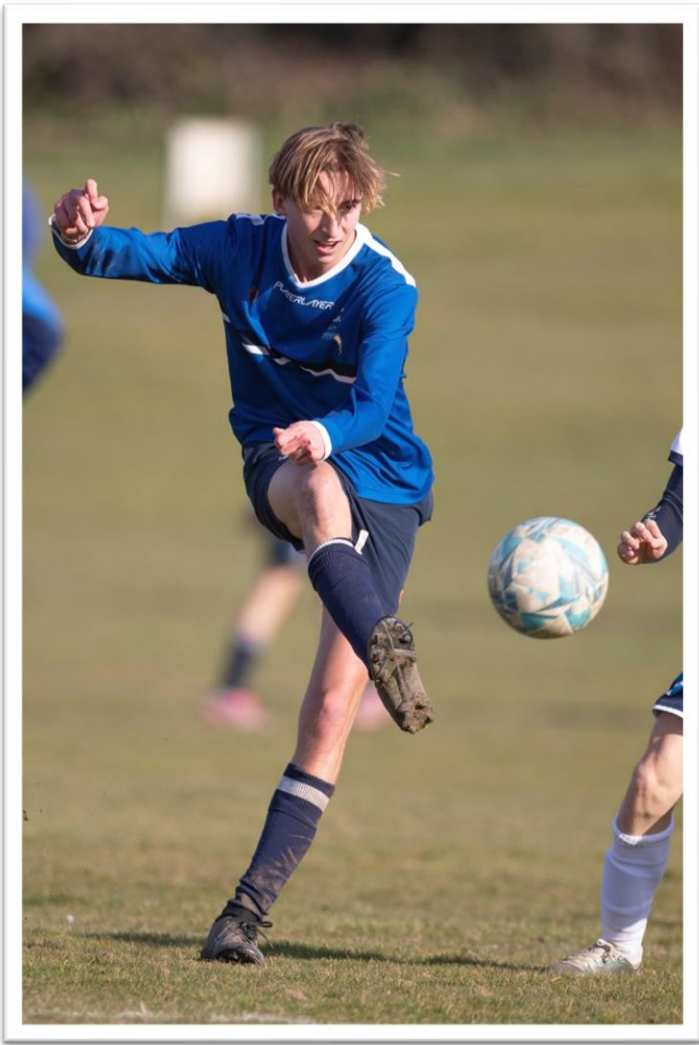
Harvey Nolan is an integral member of the 2nd XI hockey team, and Wilbur Lewis, Zac Bonehill and Will McLean are all regulars in the U15A hockey team. Dylan Gutman has also played consistently for the U14A team. Well done to them all.

Calvin Chen must also be congratulated for his captaincy of the badminton team and for earning his full colours this term.











There have also been some fantastic trips abroad this year with Martin Platovsky attending the surf trip to Fuerteventura and Paddy Cooper, Ed Nolan, Will Plimsoll, Will Mclean, Barney Hayday, George Coulter, Wilbur Lewis, Zac Bonehill and Ollie Davidson attending the cricket tour to South Africa. My thanks also go to Mr Roberts for supporting this trip – he is diversifying his rugby – and being one of the last staff members to chaperone the tail end of the group back after they got stranded for an extra 4 nights in Istanbul due to snow chaos!



Wargrave House Rowathon

Given the continued, enormous generosity of the Wargrave community, the house were chasing a particularly large total from last year but the boys did not let that deter them. This year's committee of Freddie Jones, Daniel Hammond, Ed Nolan and Will Coleman rallied incredibly well to the cause in trying to chase down last year's stupendous total. As you will know from previous communications the cause this year was decided as the local RNLI Eastbourne Station. Being a seaside town, this charity is particularly apt and a member of the Eastbourne College Staff – Alan Simister – who volunteers with the local lifeboats came to speak to the house about the incredible work that the local team do in saving lives at sea and responding to distress calls. £10,000 will pretty much kit out an entire lifeboat with waterproof gear, fuel, equipment etc and we are very proud to have raised **£7373** at the final count which will go a long way to supporting the local lifeboat station and the wider Eastbourne community. I know I say this every year, but I am always amazed at the generosity of the parents and friends of Wargrave House who just seem to find ways to astound and impress us. Given the financial pressures on the entire country at the moment, I would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to all those who donated. We remain by far and away the most charitable house at school, something I am very proud of.

My particular thanks go to the senior boys for running the event. Freddie Jones, Daniel Hammond, Ed Nolan and Will Coleman really drove the day and night forwards. They also did plenty in the week leading up to it by peppering the campus with posters and manning a stall at lunchtimes where the pupil body could place guesses on who they thought would row the furthest in each year group. It is great for the lower years to be able to see such leadership from above and to know what to emulate one day. All were pretty exhausted by the end, but it showed the house at its united best, once again. See a few snaps below:

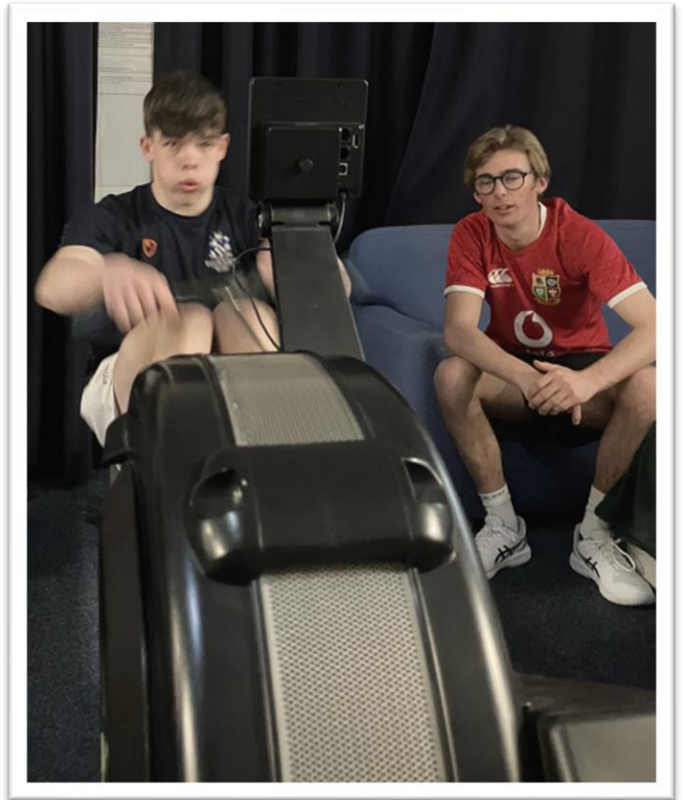


A reminder of some stats:

Year group winners:

- Year 9 – Archie Stack - 2177m
- Year 10 – Will Mclean – 2497m
- Year 11 - Timothee Dodard – 2534m
- Year 12 – Elliot Freeborough – 2690m
- Year 13 and Overall Winner – **Freddie Jones** – 2775m
- Staff - **Mr J Roberts** with a whopping 2804m
- Total raised for charity - **£7373**





Interhouse competitions

It is always great that the Lent Term brings with it plenty of interhouse competitions on top of the usual sporting ones. It seems to get busier and busier with the boys competing on the hockey astro, in the pool for water polo, on the football pitch, in the fives court and finally in the Birley Centre for a Capella. Currently we sit at third in the house rankings, with all to play for in the summer term ahead. It would be lovely to retain the interhouse cup that we won last summer.









The interhouse A Cappella competition rounded off the term. Singing with no music is always rather exposing and my thanks go to Mr Laverack for gathering a contingent of boys to prepare *Barbara Ann* by the Beach Boys. It is always a great event and I'm really proud of the 14 boys who pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and performing in front of c.200 spectators. Special mention must also go to Theo Cruttenden who co-compèred the event with the Head Girl. He was a very slick MC and ran a great evening.





Event	Placing
Squash	3 rd
Fives	6 th
Hockey	2 nd
Football	4 th
Basketball	6 th
Water Polo	5 th



Service

Plenty of Y10s have signed up for their Silver DofE and had their practice training in the last weekend of term learning how to put up tents, read maps and pack bags effectively. They now have their sights firmly set on the expedition season during Summer Term having spent a weekend planning their route and how best to prepare for the arduous ordeal.

We continue to have some excellent leaders in the CCF section with Ian Tam leading the Royal Air Force and passing his senior cadet exams. Harry Bishop and Finn Bulkeley have also begun to take on leadership roles in the army and navy sections respectively. As study leave beckons, Sam Waton steps down as Leading Hand for the Navy Section. The CCF department thank him for his service.

Whilst not 'service' per say, I would like to make a public thank you to Martin Platovsky for teaching himself some magic tricks so that we could field a participant at the charity society's 'Eastbourne's Got Talent' event back in February. Martin leaves us at the end of this term to return to his studies in Chile, but he has been an excellent addition to the house and has taken one of the college's course values – Participation – to the next level, getting fully stuck in to sport, trips, house events and cultural activities. We wish him all the very best for the future. See him in action trying to hoodwink Mr Lawson below.



Creatives and the arts

There have been some excellent informal concerts in the Birley Centre, with Ian Tam performing in almost every single one. Christoph Freytag also joined forces with him for the Composers' Concert in March. It was lovely to see a little string ensemble with 50% of it Wargrave.

Ian Tam also continues to be involved in Tuesday night's Singer Songwriter classes and they will be gearing up for their annual BandStand performance in June.

Whilst not necessarily 'the arts', Jenni and I had a very enjoyable evening inviting the boys from China and Hong Kong for supper to celebrate Chinese New Year. The Chinese restaurant in Meads was doing a roaring trade when I went to pick up takeaway for 12 and the empty plates at the end of the night was testament to how good the food must have been. It is always very kind of this restaurant (parent owned) to accommodate us on their busiest night of the year.



House Dinner

Usually in Michaelmas Term, but moved into this already jam-packed Lent Term, we had our annual house dinner which this year was shared with School House. Both the boys and the girls leant brilliantly into the theme of 'What I want to be when I grow up'. There were some 'interesting' and inventive costumes in the mix to say the least. It was lovely to break bread with the girls of School House and to let our hair down with a few in between course games such as heads or tails and a best-dressed competition too. Special mention goes to Jude Boateng, Will Coleman and Hugh Zhao, both of whom were in the finale of the cat-walk for best dressed. See some shots of the frivolities below.







Giving Day

Tuesday 11th March saw the inaugural college 'Giving Day' to raise money for the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal. Given all the financial pressures on the independent education sector this cause is particularly important as it allows the charity to offer scholarships to pupils from a range of diverse backgrounds who would not otherwise be able to attend a wonderful school such as ours. The afternoon was a fun-filled jamboree with a school fête-style feel. Each house had to make a mascot, parade it down Old Wish Road with a guard of honour, craft a house chant, and then conjure an idea for a house stall to be manned for pupils from other houses to spend a token in. There were hotly contested tug of war matches and a hefty contingent of Wargrave boys were involved in the 'All Stars' pupil team who managed to beat the male staff team in a nail biting final. All topped off with a handful of staff members from St Andrews and Eastbourne College abseiling down Memorial Tower.

Obviously, I am biased, but I thought our house chant – Wargrave Wonderland – was by far and away the best of all the houses, sung (shouted) with gusto and enthusiasm by all the boys. Ask them to give you a rendition, it really is quite a rousing and humorous take on Winter Wonderland. See some shots below of the boys enjoying themselves throughout the afternoon. Huge thanks from the Eastbournian Society team for all those of you who were able to donate and also a big round of applause to our very own Mr Roberts who MC'd the event running around cheering people on and keeping us up to date with his roving microphone. A big thank you also to Paula for doing the lion's share of the mascot creation. 'Sir Wargrave-a-Lot', as he was christened, will be making an appearance at sports day in June, without a doubt.











Final thought for the term

I am later than usual in writing this newsletter, with the Summer Term about to begin this time next week, Lent Term already feels an age ago. Of all the sections of the year it is always renowned as the intensive pressure cooker of a term and as the pages above attest, the boys have managed to squeeze an enormous amount into just eleven weeks ranging from charitable ventures to interhouse sport, Giving Day and so much more. They always amaze me with their resilience, energy and most importantly good cheer. Whilst we don't sit as high as we usually do in the interhouse cup rankings at this stage of the year, I am always so impressed with how graciously and humbly the boys conduct themselves at such proceedings. The sense of house pride and camaraderie is palpable and I always immensely enjoy putting the marking, report writing and lesson planning to one side to rope up Monty and head to Memorial or Beresford to catch the boys in emerald green competing to their heart's content.

As I write this, I am mindful that 2/5th of Wargrave house are going to have a very busy and rather stressful summer term ahead with public exams looming on the horizon. I have already been most heartened by the industry and hard work that I have seen on display around Wargrave House and I do hope that this has been replicated in bedrooms, studies and at kitchen tables across the globe in recent weeks whilst they have been at home. The next few weeks is just about plugging the gaps and adding that bit of extra finesse before study leave commences.



Whilst the holidays are coming to a close and thoughts turn to the term ahead, we still have the long Easter Weekend to enjoy. So both Jenni and I wish you all a very peaceful and restful Easter with your sons and we look forward to welcoming the boys back on April 22nd for all that the wonderful Summer Term has to throw at us. The beautiful cherry blossoms are out on the trees of College Field and soon we will hear the welcome sound of leather hitting willow and the ping of tennis racquets from Powell courts. Have a fantastic Easter!

All the very best,

Tim