As another academic year draws to a close there have been many successes and achievements to celebrate, all of which have been highlighted at both the Preparatory School and Senior School Prize Giving events, and also in the end of term newsletters. It has certainly been a busy year with much to reflect on.

Whilst this term has focused on external examinations, many other events and activities have also taken place. A few key highlights from this term include the enjoyable and well-contested Sports Days and a variety of sports fixtures that have taken place throughout all year groups, the House Music competition, the ‘Sleuth Slayer’ performances and the Scholars’ Concert at St Mary’s Church for the Senior School. Pupils in the Preparatory School performed their ‘Words and Music’, the Year 4 play ‘Hoodwinked’ about Robin Hood and the Year 6 play ‘Jungle Book’. The Chessington Lodge Choir and the Festival Choir have sung at the Ashley Centre in Epsom and the Early Years had a superb production of ‘The Gingerbread Man’.

We enjoyed Arts Week which included a variety of activities and trips and which culminated in the fantastic Art and Design Technology Exhibition in the Castle Hall and the Preparatory School Art Exhibition in Glyn Hall. The Music and Modern Foreign Languages Departments ran a very successful trip to Paris, there was also a Spanish Exchange to Barcelona and the Prep School trip to the Isle of Wight. Duke of Edinburgh continues to grow with both Bronze and Silver Awards on offer, and we have also had a large number of other local trips.

The Sixth Form is given the freedom to explore their interests and one of those has been the Sixth Form magazine, now known as ‘The Rook’. This is an excellent collaboration of articles written by many contributors within the Sixth Form and was nominated for two awards at the recent ‘Shine’ media awards at Stationers Hall in London.

Work is due to start in July on our exciting new Music Pavilion. This will provide a dedicated music space for teaching, performance, 1:1 peripatetic tuition, a recording studio and a suite of computers. This will ensure that we continue to raise standards still further. If you feel able to contribute to the cost of this exciting venture, please do visit the website for further details.

As we draw to the end of the academic year it is inevitable that we have some staff changes. A small number of staff will be leaving; Miss Holden is getting married in the late summer and will be enjoying an extended honeymoon next year, Miss Nesling will be pursuing some further study and Mrs Lombardelli will be retiring, having dedicated nearly 30 years to the School heading up the Catering Department. Mrs Boult will be leaving at the end of term and Mr Carragher at Christmas to pursue other interests. We congratulate Miss Jones who is expecting a baby and will be going on maternity leave from November 2016. We also say goodbye to Mr Thomas who has been a School Governor for over eight years. I would like to thank all these individuals for their support and commitment this year. They are
passionate about education and for inspiring, nurturing and ultimately working to achieve each pupil’s potential. We have superb facilities and a beautiful environment to work in but it is what goes on inside the buildings, and inside the classrooms, that really matters and that is delivered by our professional staff. I would like to thank this year’s Senior School Head Boy David Farrington, Deputy Head Boy Will Dennis and Deputy Head Girl Louisa Mills, and in the Preparatory School Head Boy Joe Blakeman and Head Girl Isha Sinharay at Glyn House, and Head Boy Kiran Gopikumar and Head Girl Neve Gardner for all their hard work and dedication to the task throughout the year. They have embraced their roles with purpose and enthusiasm. I trust that they will have learned a considerable amount from the experience. Well done and thank you.

I would also like to thank the PSFA for their continued support throughout the year including providing refreshments at the Preparatory School Sports Day and for all the time and effort that went into the very successful Summer Ball last weekend. I would particularly like to extend my thanks to Mrs Craig who is stepping down as Chair of the PSFA. She has been a tremendous support over several years and we wish her well.

The Old Ewellian Association continues to develop and recently enjoyed a reunion in which we saw over 60 alumni visit the School. I would like to thank all of the committee members for their contribution to grow this network and I hope our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers will register to benefit from the opportunities the Association can offer.

I would like to remind the Sixth Form that A Level results are available on Thursday 18th August and for Year 11 the GCSE results on Thursday 25th August. Also, if your son or daughter has yet to acquire the new school uniform, please can I remind you that all pupils from Reception to Year 11 should be dressed in it from September 2016.

Finally, like the Queen, Ewell Castle School celebrates its 90th birthday this year. There have been many great achievements over the years and we hope to build on these, and the outstanding pastoral care, to continue to raise expectations as we move into the new prospects of the next academic year.

I wish everyone in the Ewell Castle School community a very safe and restful summer break.

Mr P Harris, Principal

CHARITABLE WORKS

This term has definitely been one of the busiest for the Charitable Works Committee with many different events taking place. I have been very impressed to see lots of new members join us, all of whom have made a positive difference to the Charitable Works Committee and have come up with some amazing fundraising or charity inspired ideas. In June we were delighted to be invited to the School’s recognition day at The Children’s Trust Tadworth. Whilst we were there our students had the opportunity to meet some of the Children that attend the Trust and got involved with some wheelchair dancing which meant pushing the wheelchairs in time to many different classics such as Johnny Cash’s “Walk the Line” and “Dancing Queen” by ABBA. Our students found this visit very inspirational and they came away using words such as “eye opening” and realising how fortunate they really are. During the visit we were presented an award for all the hard work that we have done for The Children’s Trust over the last two years raising nearly £5,000. As well as this we have had cake sales from all of the Year 7 and 8 Forms with 7PB coming out on top raising £105.52. We were pleased this term to raise money for Street Life India where we have had additional cake sales by the Charitable Works Committee, as well as a mufti day.

Earlier this term we started food bank collections for the local food bank and we aim to continue next year. For an understanding of how much has been raised for each charity come and look at our Special Award Folder located in the main Senior School Reception. I look forward to next year where we can raise more money and awareness for lots of different charities!!

Joshua Miller - Joint Head of the Charitable Works Committee.

CAREERS

From September a whole School Life Skills Programme is being launched, pulling together everything we do into 6 areas, designed to support pupils develop their skills and knowledge ready for adulthood and the world of work – achieving our vision to have ‘well-rounded pupils set to achieve their potential’. Pupils will have opportunities to reflect and plan through form time, assemblies, PSHE etc. More information will follow in the autumn term.

Over the last few months many career related activities have taken place including Sixth Form Enrichment with workshops on interviewing, discipline in the workplace, team working as well as presentations about apprenticeships and life at university. Towards the end of this term, Year 11 undertook work experience placements and Year 10 started their career profiling.

Mrs K Quin
**ONATTI THEATRE VISIT**

On Monday 18th April, the Onatti Theatre Company visited Ewell Castle School and performed a Spanish Play. It was very entertaining and showed us (in a fictional sense) what it would be like to go on a date. At the start, it showed two different people, one male and one female, who were very different but were in love after they met in a Maths class. One (the male) was a disgusting person, using his dirty clothes as pieces of cloth to wipe things with, and swallowing shaving foam (URRGH!). The other (a woman) was very agitated about the date, rushing frantically and constantly looking at her watch. In the end, they managed to fall in love. Three volunteers from the audience helped and were given popcorn in return. It was a very entertaining afternoon and it improved the pupils’ understanding of the Spanish language.

*Mr J March*

**OLD EWELLIANS GOLF DAY**

The second Old Ewellians Association Golf Day at Kingswood was hit by bad weather as it absolutely fell down during the afternoon. However the 15 entrants fought the rain (although only 8 actually played all 18) and a golf course that was becoming waterlogged. Despite this, the day and evening was an undoubted success, looking forward to next year’s event already!

**TAEKWONDO GRADING**

On Thursday 23rd June, four Year 7 students took their first Taekwondo Grading. Students were required to show their knowledge of basic kicks, hand techniques and stances as well as learning a set series of moves known as a pattern. Each student then undertook four rounds of sparring against various opponents and sat a short written test on Taekwondo etiquette and Korean terminology. Our pupils performed very well and we are pleased to announce that Jack Dempsey and Oscar Luker have been promoted to 11th Kup, Yellow Tag. Whilst Gabriel Thomas has been promoted to 10th Kup, Double Yellow Tag, and Shéa Brophy has been promoted to 9th Kup, Yellow Belt. Well done to all involved. Taekwondo Club will continue next year with Miss Butterworth – English teacher and 4th Dan Black Belt. All new members welcome!

*Miss P Butterworth*
JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 27th April the top mathematicians in Year 7 and Year 8 took part in the Individual Junior Mathematics Challenge. The pupils did extremely well with five receiving bronze certificates; David Prowse, Mauricio Mendez-Hernandez, Samraj Mahal and Hyunho Kim. Alan Khaw, Noah Sanders and Jinu Chang all gained silver certificates as well as Roderic Thambithurai who also achieved Best in Year 7. Harry Park and Taewon Kang both received gold certificates. Taewon, who achieved Best in School, has also advanced to the second stage of the Junior Mathematics Challenge. Huge congratulations to all pupils who participated.

Ms E Walford

SENIOR TEAM MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 22nd June, four Year 10 mathematicians participated in the annual ‘Senior 10 Mathematics Competition’ held at Ibstock Place School. The pupils exceeded expectation coming 2nd overall. The Team Mathematics Challenge involved taking part in three types of rounds; a group round, pass the answer on and quick fire questions. The students were very apprehensive at the start as they were uncertain about their ability and the competition they were likely to face. The first two rounds were good and this boosted their confidence, but in the final round the answers had to be given very quickly and it challenged their accuracy. I would like to congratulate Weixiang Luo, Sang Jun Kang, Saravanan Vignarajah and Nathan Simmons on achieving second place, only missing out on first place by losing on the last question. They should be proud of their success.

Mr D Vijapura

SLEUTH SLAYER

On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st June a variety of pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 performed the Sleuth Slayer which was very well received by the audience! This comedic Murder Mystery had the audience in fits of laughter much to the performers’ delight. It must be acknowledged that some of these pupils have never performed at this level before and managed to entertain with both focus and professionalism.

School staff and I are very proud and impressed with all those involved in the production, including the technicians and backstage helpers.

The Drama Department will present The Miser in December which will no doubt be another enjoyable and entertaining production.

Ms L Jones
SHINE AWARDS

The Shine Awards is a national school media competition, where hundreds of schools entered their Newspapers, Magazines, Newsletters and Yearbooks in hope of getting awards. The Ewell Castle Sixth Form Magazine, The Rook, on our first time entering was nominated for Most Inspirational Teacher and Most Outstanding Pupil, which I placed highly commended in, essentially making the top 4 of the 10 or so nominees. The awards ceremony was after a morning of seminars and workshops, making the day as a whole enjoyable and informative about the field of journalism. We are looking forward to entering into the awards next year, as it gave us a goal and purpose this year, which furthered the magazine greatly.

Mr L Bader-Clynes

EQUUS

As part of Year 12’s Drama specification they are required to act in an abridged version of a play. We selected Equus, by the late Peter Shaffer, this year as the psychological theme of the work sat well with the interests and performance strengths of our pupils.

The play is a mixture of genres and required the actors to play many roles. On the day of the performance the pupils acted at a very high level and the examiner seemed very pleased by their overall interpretation and performance skills. They acted as a true ensemble with passion and gusto in performance.

The play was moody and paced at a good level to keep attention and build up suspense. Comments from both staff and Sixth Formers were of the highest praise. This was one of the best Sixth Form performances to date!

Mr J Bernardo

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

As many of you know, in the week beginning 16th May, all the students in Year 9 sat their ICT Functional Skills external examinations. This is a pass or fail course which offers an equivalent half GCSE for pupils. The exam took the form of a 2 hour computer assessment. It was a predominantly skills based exam where students were asked to complete 4 tasks using a variety of software applications which includes Spreadsheets, Powerpoint, Emails, Databases and Desktop Publishing.

Throughout the year we have been developing the student’s skills in all these applications to ensure they were prepared to do well in these examinations. Historically we have always achieved a good result with over 95% of our candidates passing. The assessment and topic exams we have been conducting in class in preparation strongly indicate that we will do the same in this year’s result.

Mr J Bernardo

GAMELAN TRIP 2016

Following the success of last year’s trip to the South Bank Centre, the new Year 7 cohort spent the day in central London performing on different instruments in a real Gamelan orchestra from Indonesia. Having worked with xylophones and glockenspiels at School (sadly the budget wouldn’t stretch to being able to buy our own one - a large set costs roughly the same amount as a Mayfair penthouse), this was an exciting opportunity for the students to experience the authentic sounds of these rare and beautiful instruments. Led by a specialist in her field, the pupils learnt two different pieces from memory (as would be normal practice in Indonesia); a real challenge given that some pieces of Gamelan can last for hours at a time and involve complex rhythmic and melodic patterns. It was fantastic to see everyone working so well together and realising the sense of satisfaction when all of the parts fitted together in time. Perhaps the highlight for the boys came at the end of the day when we visited an ice cream van and managed to catch a performance of some street dancers before heading to the train. Thank you, Year 7, for a wonderful day out.

Miss V Holden
STREET ART

On Thursday 23rd June twenty four Year 9 Art students ventured up to London on a tour of Street Art around the Shoreditch area. We were met by our wonderfully enthusiastic guide Esther, who explained about the history, techniques, rivalries and ethos behind Street Art. We saw a wonderful array of artworks involving various techniques and media including spraying paint from a fire extinguisher and creating paintings on chewing gum.

Included in the tour were works by Shepard Fairey, Swoon, Space Invader, Gregos, Pure Evil and of course Banksy.

Many thanks to the students for their interest and enthusiasm and to Miss Carrick and Mr Bernardo for attending the trip.

Mrs E Shepherd

BARCELONA EXCHANGE

From the 11th to 17th of June six students and two members of staff went on the thrilling exchange trip to Barcelona. It was an action packed week of hot sun and fun, as none of us had a chance to rest quietly by ourselves, this made the trip auxillerating and exhausting (but in a good way). While we were there we visited many of Barcelona’s top sophisticated attractions including; Park Güell, Palau Güell, Sagrada Familia and many more, however my two favourite attractions were Port Aventura and the Camp Nou (FC Barcelona). As well as sightseeing we also got to do other activities with our extremely kind families. Every day we would meet up with the other exchanges after our daily activities. Now I think all of us have made new friends as we are contacting them daily and I can’t wait to go again. ¡Lo pasé bomba!

Mr J March
On Thursday 28th April we enjoyed another ‘first’ for Ewell Castle: Edward Smith (Yr 11) performed the Haydn Trumpet Concert in Eb, in full, accompanied by a visiting professional orchestra at St. Mary’s Church. The evening provided a showcase for the ‘classical’ instrumentalists to perform and they took their opportunity with aplomb, presenting an enormously varied programme which took the audience on a journey through sacred Anglican Choral Music, German Lied, Musical Theatre and brand new vocal works composed by our own students. The new composition was written by Naym Ali (Yr 11); Jay Segel (Yr 13) performed the Ballad of the Grenadiers in German; and Jack Stace performed Stars from Les Miserables, along with numerous other solo performances. The Chapel Choir also performed some new repertoire as they built towards their Parisien tour of Notre Dame and La Madeleine, in June.

Mr B Essenhigh

Year 7 headed to London immediately after the half-term break for a trip aimed to consolidate their knowledge on castles and the Battle of Hastings. Monday afternoon gave the pupils the chance to look around HMS Belfast and learn about how the war ship was used in major wars such as the Second World War and the Falklands. The pupils were able to walk around all eight decks on the ship and see how the sailors lived during their time at sea. The evening saw the pupils have the ultimate experience; they got to spend the night sleeping on board the ship. Day two involved a short walk over Tower Bridge to the Tower of London. Here the pupils were able to reinforce their knowledge on the Battle of Hastings and castles by exploring the Tower. The pupils were given a guided tour by a ‘solider from 1066’ and then saw the Crown Jewels in their full glory.

A fantastic trip.

Ms L Wilkinson
GEOGRAPHY

It has been a busy time for Geography fieldwork this term. Year 12 have had successive visits to numerous places to develop their geographical technique and skills and Year 10 have been collecting data for their Geography controlled assessment.

Year 12’s visits have been very varied; on Thursday 9th June we went up to London to conduct some fieldwork on the regeneration of South and East London. Starting on the South Bank we looked at a community run development scheme in Coin Street and Gabriel’s Wharf. Then, after a quick bite to eat, we hopped onto the Jubilee Line to Canary Wharf where we investigated a top down commercial and financial development. Students undertook a number of different fieldwork techniques to compare the two sites and decide which was the most successful. On Monday 13th June they conducted fieldwork investigating the change in species within the deciduous forest of Box Hill to test various hypotheses about the succession of dominant species found there. Finally on Thursday 23rd June, we went back up to London but to visit the Natural History Museum and research the causes, impacts and management of tectonic hazards.

Year 10 also went to Box Hill on Monday 13th June however they were collecting data on the impacts of tourism on Box Hill. After a rather damp start we all visited three different sites around the top of Box Hill to look at various possible impacts. Despite the weather, students managed to collect a lot of questionnaires on the tourists brave enough to be visiting the site at the time. We also had a talk from a ranger who gave us vast amounts of information as to why Box Hill was so special, I think we all learnt quite a few new facts – even the teachers!

Ms R Owen

ROUNDERS

We started the season on 27th April with a 17-9 victory over KCS Wimbledon where the girls demonstrated exceptional team work and sportsmanship, getting much of the opposition out on their first bowl, in both innings.

This season has seen an exceptional uptake for rounders in Games lessons and in training. Through a range of exciting fitness, bowling, catching and batting drills as well as a thorough exploration of the rules of the game, the students have developed a really good understanding of the game and have been honing their tactical skills.

An exceptional back stop to first base combination of Lily Webb and Iman Drogba has seen many players walk solemnly back to the ‘out’ area of the pitch before even reaching first base. Some great batting performances from Claudia Legg, Georgia Heggs (Captain), Rheanna Cottam Jamie Vogel, Faaris Sheikh and Jay and Nathan Segel to name a few. Despite the rain and lightning, it has been a fun season, well done everyone.

Mrs J Jones
Despite the weather the U12 Cricket team have enjoyed much success this season. Regular Winter nets and training throughout the Summer Term have enabled the squad to build on previous experience and develop their cricket skills across batting, bowling and fielding.

The season began with a tough test away to Ibstock Place. Our batting stuttered through the allotted 20 overs and we scored a credible 72-6. Despite some tight bowling from Joshill Patel and Samraj Mahal the opposition scored the runs with 3 overs to spare. Determined to improve the next match at the Castle pitted us against Glyn B. They batted first and with one of their openers scoring 50 posted a total of 112-6. The team set about the run-chase with real tenacity. Brindhan Ratnasabapathy and Shea Brophy each scored 20s before some terrible running and calling cost us 3 quick wickets. Oscar Luker (26 not out) and Gabriel Thomas steadied the innings and we won our first game of the season by 5 wickets. In our next match the bowlers were definitely in charge. Wilson’s B were bowled out for 47 with a superb hat-trick from Roderic Thambithurai. The batsmen easily to victory with the loss of only 1 wicket. In the 4th match of the season we played King Edward’s away. On a very wet wicket Brindhan Ratnasabapathy (50) and Shea Brophy (69) ran superbly and stroked the ball to all parts of the ground, putting on 169 without loss in our 20 overs. Excellent bowling and catching from all meant a crushing 124 run victory. Rain has affected a few games, but the team can look forward to their last game of the season versus Wallington Grammar school.

U13

It has been a tough season for the U13 cricket team, with only one win coming from four matches. However it has been pleasing to see that many players and the team as a whole have shown improvement over the course of the Summer Term. The bowlers proved to be the strength of the team with consistent performances from Lewis McLellan (8 wickets at 3.8 runs per over), David Prowse (3 wickets at 4.6 runs per over) and Freddie Child (3 wickets at 4.3 runs per over). But although the team did struggle with the bat, due to some hard work put in during training sessions and Games lessons, improvements were made, most notably by Vithushaan Sivanesakumar, Alex Caby and David Prowse (the season’s top run scorer) and hopefully with some hard work next year the team will be able to put some more runs on the board and pick up a few more victories.

Mr S Brooks

U14

The U14 cricket team performed well in their matches this season with three wins out of the four matches played to date.

The team played with great enthusiasm and spirit, and were worthy winners over Wilson’s with a resounding ten wicket win. A nail-biting victory by 13 runs was played out away at King Edward’s, Witley, and there have been some notable individual performances.

In the batting, Daniel Sultan recorded 50 not out away at Ibstock Place School, and Shiv Patel, an unbeaten 54 against Wilson’s.

Umair Anis had a good all-round season, topping aggregate runs and wickets at the time of writing, and he often bamboozled batsmen with his wily spin, and played some excellent innings as opener.

Shiv Patel and Daniel Sultan bowled with some accuracy and good pace, and the fielding and catching was of a good standard this season.

Mr S Brooks

U15

After a change of home ground to the upgraded facility of Cheam Cricket Club the U15 Cricket team started off their season with a victory to Ibstock place, winning by 7 wickets. Oliver Carter set Ibstock into bat first and the ECS boys bowled really well; restricting the opposition to 87 runs Taylor McLellan took 4 wickets! Ewell went into bat and set about the total, getting themselves over the line for the loss of only 4 wickets, with Tom Smith managing 41 runs.

Following their victory at Ibstock the team gained significant momentum during both training and matches. As confidence grew so the results kept improving with a 9 wicket win over City of London Freemans and a 50 run win over Wilson’s, Oliver Carter and Taylor McLellan both taking 3 wickets each. After a win at King Edwards the Year 10 side won all but one of their games.

Pleasingly some fresh faces joined the squad this year and Mr Coogan was especially impressed with the development of George McMullan, Michael Da Gama and Steven Jones.

A great season for the U15s backed up with solid commitment and team camaraderie. Well done.

Mr G Coogan
ARTISTS OF THE TERM

Do Young Kim - Year 11
Alex Caby - Year 8
Luke Rae - Year 10

Josh Conyers - Year 12
Lottie Payne - Year 13

Max Everest - Year 9
Jack Dempsey - Year 7

Giorgio Benvenuti - Year 13
SPORTS DAY 2016

On a sunny day, for the morning at least, the whole of Ewell Castle Senior School headed to the Harrier Centre for the annual School Sports day. The event, for the first time, saw competitors from Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 and also the Year 12 pupils back from their AS exams.

The day began with Year 7, Year 8 and the Senior Girls on the track and the Year 9, Year 10 and the Senior Boys in the field. Mr Manley and Mr Nugteren (Castlemaine), Miss Butterworth, Mrs Sarmiento and Mrs Andrews (Essex) and Mrs Harrison and Mrs Owen (Raleigh) organised their teams.

There was some fierce competition with some really fast times and excellent jumping and throwing. Notable highlights were in the Year 7 100m where Gerard Akioyame raced to a victory for Castlemaine and in the 800m where Shea Brophy timed his run to win also for Castlemaine. In the Year 8 800m and 1500m Lewis McLellan held off the competition to finish first and Tommy Dodson won both the 100m and 200m. In the field some school records were broken. In Year 9 Andrew Thomas threw the Javelin 33m and Tom Hall jumped 1.60m in the High Jump.

After the break the year groups swapped over. The quality of the field competitions really reflected the learning that had taken place in Year 7 and Year 8 PE lessons. Notable performances occurred in the Triple Jump where Gabriel Thomas jumped 7.95m and David Prowse threw 23.95m in the Javelin. On the track Head Boy (elect) Michael Slavin won the 100m sprint in the Senior Boys and Harry Aboud broke both the 800m and the 1500m records with times of 2.26.33 and 5.00.25 respectively.

In a new race all competitors were invited onto the track to take part the ‘All-in’ race. The aim of the race was to complete 3 laps of the track within the permitted 15 minutes. In total 190 competitors completed the race in the allotted time gaining valuable points for their House.

As lunch finished the rain began to lightly fall. This did not, however, dampen the spirits or the quality of the performances. Mr Turk, ably assisted by Miss Holden, got the relays underway and Castlemaine in their bright orange took command. They won the Year 7 race and came a close second to Raleigh who won the Year 8 4x100m races. The Senior Mixed relay was won by Essex and the Year 9 race followed and was won by Raleigh. There was a brief interlude as the staff took to the track. In a keenly, if not altogether fast race, Mr Manley, supported by Mr Nugteren, Miss Reid and Miss Holden brought the baton home for Castlemaine. The Year 10 4x100m relay race was won by Essex and then the Senior Boys finished the event with a sprint finish won by Raleigh.

The event was finished off with the announcement of the results:
1st – Castlemaine, 922 points
2nd – Raleigh, 883 points
3rd – Essex, 823 points

Mr P Bilsby
ARTS WEEK

The Art Department saw lots of activities for Arts Week firstly with Year 10 getting fully immersed in action painting; water pistols and water bombs were used to launch paint at huge sheets of paper to demonstrate that mark making can be used in a variety of ways and that it can be lots of fun!

Visiting sculptor Janine Creaye joined us too – all of Year 7 took part in creating wire sculptures with themes that were associated with our School such as the Tudor Rose and oak leaves; we also made sculptures of woodland creatures that could be found in Nonsuch Park. Our wire drawings let us explore alternative methods of creating and showcasing our history. Everybody’s work is now beautifully displayed on a tree sculpture in the Tudor Lounge.

A class of Year 9 pupils took to the croquet lawn armed with wicker branches to create the face of Donald Trump, upon their democratic request! In the style of Art Attack, the work was designed to be viewed from above which was very effective! Year 9 also enjoyed a trip around East London with Shoreditch Arts Tour. The group was led by an enthusiastic lady whose PhD is in street art, so our walk around Old Street and Hoxton was very informative. We found that there were many, highly skilled displays of street art and graffiti in the form of spray paint, printing, mosaics and miniature sculptures on walls, sometimes hidden in the least expecting places! The students have been studying street art so recognised some of the famous work such as Banksy and Space Invader.

Ms D Carrick
PARIS CHAPEL CHOIR TOUR AND MFL TRIP

Ewell Castle’s Music Department has not been on an international tour since 2004 and, having looked through the archives, I’m not sure if there has ever been a choral tour. This ended with the Chapel Choir’s Tour of Paris, performing at La Madeleine and Notre Dame, two of the most prestigious performance platforms for sacred music, in Europe. The choir performed superbly, under the excellent direction of Miss Holden, even in the very challenging acoustic of Notre Dame. The touring party was accompanied by MFL pupils, who both enjoyed watching the performances and immersing themselves in the French language and culture. Pupils enjoyed a sight-seeing boat trip along the Seine; walking through the Jardins de Tuileries; visiting the Cite de la Musique with over 1000 instruments exhibited, spanning 2000 years of history; and, of course, Disneyland Paris. A personal highlight was the evening following our day at Disneyland; as pupils from Year 6 to Year 13, with every year group in between represented, played a game of football on the Astroturf at our accommodation, having a great deal of fun – it is moments like this that remind me of why we tour.

Mr B Essenhigh
TENNIS

This year marks the first actual year of our partnership with Tennis Avenue Tennis Academy. The school now has five scholars on the programme – two in the Sixth Form, one in Year 10, Year 8 and Year 7. There are also occasions that with some of the competitions, we were able to put out a combined ECS/TA team to add strength and depth.

We began with the Nationals and a combined Sixth Form team consisting of two players from the TA, Ben McManus and Sam Wilton. We have never been past the first round, being in the same area as Cheam High/Sutton Academy and Reeds. On this occasion we smashed our way through Trinity with a 10-2 win and then came up against Cheam High. Every match except one, went to a tie-break and unfortunately we were the wrong side meaning we were narrowly defeated.

Next up was the Aegon Years 9 & 10 competition. Unfortunately, we only have one player in this age group and had to bring up the Year 7 players to compete against Year 10 students. This was extremely challenging for them and they rose to the challenge and won two out of their three matches. Charlie Day and Ben McManus finished undefeated as a doubles pair.

The Surrey League played by the Sixth Form, Year 10 and Year 11 proved difficult as the team were often interrupted by exams and controlled assessments. This meant that the team were sometimes without their strongest players. One notable victory was against Reeds where Sam Wilton and Ben McManus managed to beat the Reeds 2nd pair.

The Independent Schools competition for the 19U at Eton this weekend proved our greatest triumph as a combined team of three Ewell Castle boys; Milan Andesilic, Josh Conyers, Ben McManus, along with Academy player, Srdan Pelic took on the best teams in the country. 64 schools entered and Ewell Castle School reached the last sixteen, beating St Edwards, Oxford and then St Peter’s, York. They lost to Repton on the tie-break. The standard was unbelievably high and at a breakneck speed. At the time of writing this, the 13U team will be competing Monday and Tuesday – good luck to those boys.

Mrs E McManus