



### INTRODUCTION

As our longest school term draws to a close it seems a while since we had the long, warm, sunny summer days as we are now certainly in the grip of winter. As I am sure you are aware, a vast amount has taken place this term, I would however like to highlight a few areas.

A huge amount of sport has been played with many victories, most notably the Year 10 Rugby team who have made excellent progress in the NatWest Bowl and at the time of writing, they have progressed to the regional semi-finals. We are delighted to announce that from January we will be launching our new School sport website [www.ewellcastlesport.co.uk](http://www.ewellcastlesport.co.uk). This website will keep both you as parents and the pupils better informed as to the fixtures, team sheets and results. Once you have visited the website you can add the Ewell Castle Sport app/icon to the home screen of your mobile phone to allow fingertip access to all sports information. The site will even alert you, via twitter, when a team sheet or match report is available to view. We are confident that this app will have a positive impact on your ability to organise your time and ensure the smooth running of sport at the school. Please note that we will no longer be emailing team sheets as this information can be found using the new app and website.

We have had a variety of trips including several Team Building trips, a residential to the Battlefields of Northern France and Belgium, a Geography and Art trip to Amsterdam and a Geography trip to France. We also had some very successful events such as the Sixth Form Charity Dinner which raised over £600 and the first Duke

of Edinburgh Award presentation evening with the Lord Lieutenant for Surrey making the presentations.

The Performing Arts programme has provided us with some outstanding shows that would certainly challenge West End performances. These included 'The Miser' and the 'Christmas Cabaret', as well as the various Carol concerts/services. We now look forward to Buggy Malone at the Epsom Playhouse during the week before half term in February 2017.

Inevitably there will be some staff changes. We have recently welcomed Mrs Collett as our new Prep Admin Assistant and Mrs Cope back from maternity leave. We thank Mrs Cunnington for providing maternity cover. You will be pleased to know that Mrs Jones has had a baby girl.

We say goodbye to Mr Bilsby and Mr Carragher at the end of this term and thank them both for their contribution to the School. We wish them every success in their futures. We welcome some new staff to the team in January; Mrs McGrath as our new School Administrator, Mrs Graves who will provide administrative support for Marketing and Admissions, Mrs Lawrence as our new Careers Advisor and Mr Houlahan as the new Head of Economics and Business Studies.

After a lengthy interview process, I am very pleased to announce that Mr Hepworth will be joining us as our new Senior School Deputy Head from September 2017. He is currently Head of Year 9, Head of ICT and Head of Adventure at Priors Field School in Godalming.

The Music Pavilion is really taking shape and should be finished by February half term 2017. We still have a few tickets remaining for the Music Pavilion Winter Fundraising Ball on Saturday 14th January 2017 at Glenmore House, Surbiton. Please do book your tickets via ParentPay.

I would like to thank the PSFA for their continued support for the School and in particular the Christmas Fair and the spectacular Firework Night which had a Halloween twist this year. We look forward to the annual Quiz Night on Saturday 4th March 2017. Please do come as individuals, or arrange a table, and book early to be assured of a ticket. Please do also come along to the next Principal's Breakfast, which is on Friday 20th January at the Castle and on Tuesday 7th February at Chessington Lodge, to speak to myself or to meet up with other parents.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and enjoyable Christmas break.

**Mr P Harris, Principal**



## YEAR 7 TEAM BUILDING DAY



Today was the day we were all looking forward to in our first week at Ewell Castle School team building day at Guildford Wildwood Adventure!



We arrived at approximately 9.45am all eager to go! We started by being prepped and put in our harnesses for the high ropes. Some students were scared and some excited! Very mixed feelings! We had two levels; level one was the beginner stage, level two was the more advanced. We had to do the zip wires on every level. At first they were frightening, but the more we did it, the more we got used to it and worked as a team to encourage each other. The teachers even joined in with these activities (Mr Oscoz was very nervous!!). We all laughed and enjoyed this as we all got to know each other.



After lunch (was very delicious!) we went to a laser quest venue in Woking. This was our favourite part of the day as we got to run around and act silly whilst competing against each other. The competition got serious!! Year 7 were divided into two groups and each group was split into two (the red team and the blue team). It got very, very competitive. It was a close call between the two teams, but blue triumphed and won the battle! After the laser quest we had drinks and went over to the arcade machines.



It was a brilliant day, one that we will never forget. A fantastic start at our first year at Ewell Castle Senior School. We all learnt to develop our team work skills greatly as well as getting to bond and build friendships.

This I hope will continue through all our school years at Ewell Castle School!

**Yr7 Pupil**



## YEAR 9 TEAM BUILDING TRIP

An influx of new students to a year, especially one as small as last year's Year 8, is always going to have a big impact on the social dynamics of the group, and what better way to meet each other, get to know each other and bond than on a Bush Craft trip?

We began the adventure with a game of predator in the woods. The pupils covered themselves in face paint or mud and spent a happy hour hiding and running. Over the two days they built a shelter, that many chose to sleep in, learnt knife skills and how to make a fire. At all times amazing food was on offer; fruit, water, and an exceptional menu of fajitas, pizza and pancakes.

**Ms C Hoddell**



## SIXTH FORM TEAM BUILDING TRIP

The Sixth Form Team Building trip has become a fixture at the start of each academic year. Its purpose is to give the year group a chance to meet each other, and welcome new members to the School. We also use this time away to start creating shared memories between the group – and there were some stand out moments.

A range of activities were laid on – with varying degrees of challenge. The zip-line was memorable with one insightful pupil proclaiming “I love forced fun!” as he went at speed through the trees. The climbing race was competitive between pupils – but also teachers, and crate-stacking tested each group’s ability to communicate, create ideas and then take action. One highlight was crawling through tunnels. There were several levels of difficulty – each set of tubes getting smaller. The smallest having just enough room to wriggle one’s shoulders through. Scary stuff (for teachers too).

Another highlight was the evening activity. Starting with a quiz, it never fails to surprise teachers how competitive students can be with each other. This was followed by an ‘alternative fashion show’. It was ‘alternative’ because each group chose a young man to be dressed up by the rest of the team: all sorts of creativity was on display – from use of balloons to plastic bags; garish lipstick to glitter. A parade took place, with a series of questions from one of the Heads of Sixth, with ‘Clarice’ being crowned winner. All under the watchful eye of our Principal – as one of the ‘judges’.

**Mr D’Souza**



## YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO FRANCE



After a very early (and wet) start to the day we made good time to get to Folkestone to catch the train to Calais. Thankfully the weather held out long enough for us to stop at our first site of Cap Blanc Nez: an area which, like it’s counterpart in the UK, is being eroded by the sea creating some amazing landforms. Students were able to look at many different erosional features to get a good first hand understanding of the sheer force of the sea on the coast. With the sun attempting to make an effort to shine on Saturday we enjoyed a tour

around the Beussent Lachelle factory to see the many different stages in making chocolate, as well as how the company is trying to manage its coco production using ethical and sustainable sources. And of course, no visit to a chocolate factory would be complete without a taste of some of the wonderful chocolate made there! In the afternoon we went to Le Touquet to see the development of sand dunes and the different coastal

management strategies used there to protect the coast from erosion which we could then compare to the UK once we were home. We also looked at how longshore drift transported material along the beach by using our bodies to show this process. Sunday morning came around too quick and it was time to pack up in order to meet our ferry home.

**Mrs R Owen**



## YEAR 9 HISTORY TRIP TO THE SOMME

On the 10th and 11th November Year 9 visited Northern France. This year our trip coincided with Armistice Day. Along with Vimy Ridge, Beaumont Hamel and Ovilliers; the highlight of the trip were the memorial services at Thiepval and the Lochnager Crater. It was really inspirational.

*Mr J C Blencowe*



## PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS TRIP

As part of their GCSE Religious Studies course, pupils investigate beliefs and practices in different faith traditions. We have had many years of association with the Epsom and Ewell Islamic Association in Hook Road, Epsom, and this term we were able to visit the building again with pupils from Years 10 and 11. Mrs Faiza Rahman and a team of volunteers showed us around the mosque and gave a series of talks on Muslim beliefs, including

the role and place of women in Islam.

All pupils in Year 11 follow a course in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics - and these pupils have had the chance to investigate St Mary's Church in Ewell Village as part of their studies of places of worship in Christianity. We are hoping to take all these pupils on a similar visit to the mosque in Epsom next Spring.

*Mrs D Hillman and Mrs V Ikwemesi*

## VISIT TO AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

In early November, myself and another Year 13 student were taken by an educational trust to the death camp Auschwitz in Oswiecim, Poland. The trip, in which we were flown out to Poland and back in a single day saw us take a tour of a local cemetery before the camp itself. We were taken to both Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau. In both camps we saw the infamous gas chambers, as well as the blocks in which people were imprisoned and a cattle wagon

in which people were transported. The trip, as well as the seminars we attended before and after, were intended to teach us about the unpleasant realities of humans and the capability of humans to do great evil. In the aftermath of the trip we are expected to discuss and present what we saw on the site to our Sixth Form, as well as the wide community and world.

*Joseph Koppenhout and Chris Mann, Year 13*

## ART AND GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO AMSTERDAM

A very successful Sixth Form trip that included visits to the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam as well as learning about polders and dikes.



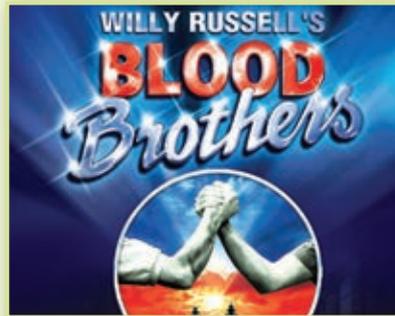
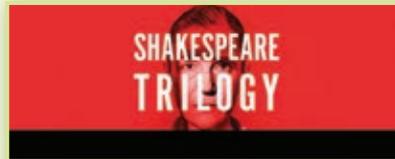
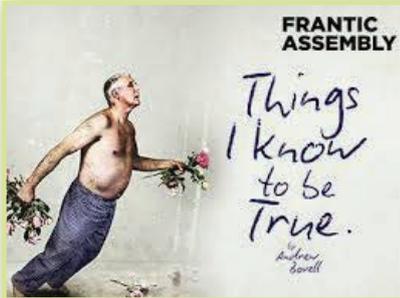
## SPANISH EXCHANGE – RETURN VISIT

Last year a few of us jetted over to Spain for a week as part of the exchange programme with La Salut School near Barcelona. This September we returned the favour and while we may have got the better deal in terms of the weather, we did many things to compensate. Whether the "returnees" were doing typical touristy things in London; visiting Harry Potter Studios; looking slightly distastefully at certain items of local cuisine or even just chilling in a slightly damp Nonsuch Park with pizza, there was never a dull moment.

*Joe Carter 11DS*

## DRAMA TRIPS

Drama trips this term have included; Julius Caesar at the Donmar Theatre Kings Cross, Amadeus at the National Theatre and Blood Brothers.



## CHARITABLE WORKS

This term has already been really busy raising money for the chosen charity Nepal 2017. Nepal 2017's main aim is to send students and staff to Nepal to help those affected by the earthquake which happened just over two years ago. Help will be coming in the form of teaching English in a school as well as taking over vital supplies which will be handed out to those that need it the most. Fundraising events this term have included cake sales from the Year 11 forms and 10JR as well as a special cake sale from Year 9 raising £112.22 for The Royal British Legion after being inspired from their visit to the Battle of the Somme. We also raised money for The Royal British Legion by selling poppies to the school community. One of the major events that has taken place this term was the Charity Sixth Form Dinner which was held at Everest Spice, a Nepalese restaurant in Epsom. A great night was had by all students, staff and parents that attended this event. The event included a fun game, raffle as well as an amazing Nepalese meal, we raised an incredible amount of £678.50 at this event.

As well as raising money for Nepal 2017 we must also mention a special charity that has been started by Year 7. The charity 'Leo the Lion' started after one of the Year 7 pupils who is currently off school due to ill health was asked what he wanted upon his return to school? His reply was he wanted the school community to raise as much money for WaterAid. The Year 7 students went away and started Leo the Lion, a charity devoted to raising as much money as possible for WaterAid. They have already raised money through the previous mufti day and Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale. As well as this the whole Senior School were given a speech from Mr Renton from WaterAid who advised us where the money raised would be going. We would like to thank you for all of your generous support so far and we would like to encourage you to keep supporting Nepal 2017 through the upcoming fundraising events.

**Joshua Miller, Joint Head of the Charitable Works Committee**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

On Monday 10th October, the Student Council met to discuss the first half term of this new academic year. Points raised from the 21 strong student body included requests for more PE related extra-curricular sessions, and for more fiction books in the library. Issues around the cleanliness of the Sixth Form Common Room reared its head also. Given the relative short time at School since our return in September, there were no pastoral or academic issues, aside from a query of whether Year 7 unfairly get more merits than the rest of the year groups. Patrick Alford volunteered to take, and discuss, the points raised in this meeting with Mr. Harris & Mr. Bromley.

**Mr S Getty**

### THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

**7AO:** J Blakeman  
C Gunson

**7JB:** A Alyacoby  
J Ralph

**7MW:** H Bukhari  
J Lim

**8PM:** F Edwards  
O Stiens

**8JM:** O Luker  
J Dempsey

**9RD:** H Raguraj  
C Poulson

**9TW:** P Alford

**9SB:** T Kang

**10KH:** M Park  
J Ellis

**10JR:** J Banham

**11EW:** L Coker

**11DS:** G Trant

**6SG:** J Miller

**6LBC:** M Jenkins

## WHOLE SCHOOL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 11TH NOVEMBER

As the croquet lawn was not available for us to use this year due to the Music Pavilion build, St Mary's Church, Ewell, kindly hosted our annual Remembrance Service. It was a very poignant and solemn occasion and included readings and musical performances from the choir and a solo of the last post, played by Edward Smith.



## SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

On Friday 18th November, students from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the international Shakespeare Schools Festival, presenting the complex 17th century comedy 'As You Like It' at the Leatherhead Theatre. The cast had been busy rehearsing for only 7 weeks, with some cast members joining the team only a few weeks before the performance! Their passion and drama was self-evident, and the cheers as the curtain fell were

well deserved. Our young cast shared their night with much older casts from neighbouring schools, but held their own and were complimented by the stage director for their clear projection and wonderful re-telling of the story. In the words of Shakespeare himself: "though they be but little, they are fierce!".

*Miss P Butterworth*



## CHESS

After 37 games of Chess, the House Chess Competition has ended. Castlemaine proved too strong in Year 7 with four convincing wins from Max Smethurst. Raleigh's Ollie Drye and Adheesha Heiyantuduwa secured two wins each and no defeats leading to victory in Year 8. Year 9 had the closest competition with all three Houses splitting the points with two wins each. In Year 10, Essex needed a win to improve their position, which they managed with three wins from three games thanks to Kieran Baynes and Sam Elson.

After Years 7-10 had completed all their matches, the Houses were tied. It all came down to the Senior House event. Timers allowing a maximum of five minutes for all turns were introduced to put pressure on the competitors. While this proved to be challenging to some, Castlemaine's Sang Jun Kang ended with three wins from three and Raleigh's Saravanan Vignarajah won two and lost one due to time. Essex's Jackie Luo won one and drew one. Overall, congratulations to Castlemaine who finished first with four wins and three losses. Raleigh followed closely with three wins, a draw and three losses, and finally, Essex finished third with two wins, a draw and three losses.

*Mr D Vijapura*



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

### SILVER EXPEDITION

On the 24 – 26 September Ewell Castle School launched its first Silver expedition in the New Forest. Four teams took part. This is a step up from Bronze. It involves wild camping, longer distances and difficult map reading. The challenge really took the groups out of their comfort zone and their qualities of leadership and determination were tested. All the pupils did really well.

**Mr J C Blencowe**

### YEAR 10 BRONZE EXPEDITION

On the 1 - 2 October the Year 10s completed their Duke of Edinburgh overnight Bronze expedition in the North Downs. The map reading was not always easy, the climbs were tough, the weather was grim and there was a log race first thing in the morning. All the teams rose to the challenge and impressed the assessing staff.

**Mr J C Blencowe**



## RUGBY

### 1ST XV

Rugby is the major Autumn Term sport at Ewell Castle School and the School plays 45 competitive fixtures against local independent schools. We are particularly proud of the number of boys who take part at all playing levels, with the School fielding over 60% of each year group at weekend fixtures. As well as this, there is a programme for House Rugby that has been fiercely competitive this season.

We enjoy strong links with Sutton and Epsom RFC who provide an excellent playing facility for the 1st XV home fixtures. Combined with our own expert coaching staff and facilities, we have employed the services of Paul Roberts (Bath / Esher RFC Fly Half) to ensure that boys receive the very best coaching.

The highlight of this season has been the progress shown by the U15s who made it through to the 3rd round of the Nat West Bowl. We are looking forward to seeing if some of these players can make the transition into 1st XV rugby next season.

**Mr G Coogan**



### YEAR 7

The Year 7 rugby squad have made significant progress this term, which is not reflected by their results. The team have played 9 matches, involving A&B teams and although they have won just 3 games there has been lots to praise. The first game of the season was against Richard Challoner School, who were big, strong and well drilled. Despite some ferocious tackling we suffered a 35-0 loss. Improvements came in the next game against Claremont Fan Court. Some excellent rucking and passing saw the team score 3 tries. Our first wins of the season came against Glyn School C and D teams, with 20-0 and 35-10 victories. On a very rainy Saturday we were hosted by Epsom College. In two closely contested games, and some high scoring matches, we scored 7 tries, despite losing 35-10 and 50-25. Our

next win came in a B team match versus The Cedars School. On a cold Monday games afternoon following some excellent running and passing moves the team ran out 45-0 winners. In a very tight A game only a breakaway try separated the two A teams with The Cedars School winning 10-5. In the last game, a very strong, physical and well organised Royal Albert and Alexander team beat the A team 35-5. The last game of the season is versus Dunottar School and will be another opportunity to show that the hard work put in training has helped their rugby development.

I would like to take this opportunity, as their coach, to thank all the boys for their hard work and commitment to training and matches and to the parents for the continued support.

**Mr P Bilsby**

## HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY 2016

The annual House Cross-Country event took place on the week beginning 14th November, with each year group running in their games afternoon. The event took place at Nonsuch Park in sunny but cold weather. Each event was sub-divided into two races over varying distances.

In the Year 7 event on Monday the boys and girls set off at a ferocious pace, which many maintained throughout the whole race. In the A race Joe Blakeman (Raleigh) won with a very respectable time of 18 minutes and 1 second. Second place went to Anthony Pires Da Silva (Raleigh) and third place to Finch Banham (Essex). In the B race Ashvin Ashokkumar (Castlemaine) placed 1st with Avinaash Vengadachalam (Essex) and Amaan Ahmad (Essex) finishing 3rd.

The Year 7 girls raced alongside the boys with the first one home being Sophia Sideras (Castlemaine) placing 1st and Belle Shipkolye (Castlemaine) and Talya Tuncer (Raleigh) 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In the Year 8 event on Friday afternoon Ben White (Essex) ran from the front and won in a time of 21 minutes; Daniel Hudson (Raleigh) finished second by .09 of a second and Elyes Ben Driaa (Essex) third. In the B race Oliver Steins (Raleigh) finished 1st, with Philippe Pioli (Castlemaine) and Philip Scholes (Essex) finishing 2nd and 3rd.

Matthew Garner (Essex) and Lewis McLellan (Raleigh) came joint first in the Year 9 event with a time of 21.26, with Victor Songui (Raleigh)

finishing 3rd. In the B race Umran Chaudhrey (Raleigh) ran very strongly to claim victory with Patrick Alford (Castlemaine) and Daanish Zafar (Castlemaine) closely following.

The Seniors (Years 11, 12 and 13) ran on Wednesday afternoon without the girls, who had a Hockey fixture. The race was conducted in an excellent spirit with Harry About (Castlemaine) of Year 11 winning in a time of 18.07, Thomas Renwick (Raleigh) second and Michael Slavin (Raleigh) third.

The week was busy, but fun, with 213 pupils completing the course. All of the points won will be calculated by Mr Bromley and added to the overall House totals.

*Mr P Bilby*

## HOUSE TABLE TENNIS



## SENIOR OPTION XI SOCCER 2016

There have been five challenging fixtures to date with victories over Box Hill and Kingston Grammar. In the latter match Vuyani Khaka scored a hat trick. A large number of students in Years 11 – 13 have been involved with Matt Smith, Guy West, goalkeeper Eshen Patel and captain Joe McShee playing with impressive consistency.

*Mr K B Peto*

## HOUSE NETBALL



## SENIOR GIRLS HOCKEY

**W: 2 L: 2 D: 0**

This season has so far seen growing success in Ewell Castle's Senior Girls hockey team. With a keen and very able group of girls joining the school in Year 12, our combination of experience and energy have helped us make a positive start to the season. Our recent defeat to Sutton High followed by a redoubling of efforts against Reeds saw us beat them 9-0 on 16th November, a real team effort.

Notable performances from both goal keepers Alex Hillman and Gabs Ebbs as super sub against KCS Wimbledon. A strong defensive line led by Olivia Snadden-Riddout with Rosie Odell and Jill Benvenuti making an impact in their first season. The mid field has been empowered by the energy and drive of our central midfielder Eloise Ballard and both Margot and Bridget Hiza and Chloe Haycock have worked hard up and down the pitch.

Up front, Joey Hillman has scored 7 goals, with a notable double hat trick against Reeds 4th's.

The girls work well as a team and are making good progress, greater levels of fitness as the season progresses is really making an impact on performance.

*Mrs J Jones*



## ARTISTS OF THE TERM



Toby Doyle - Year 12



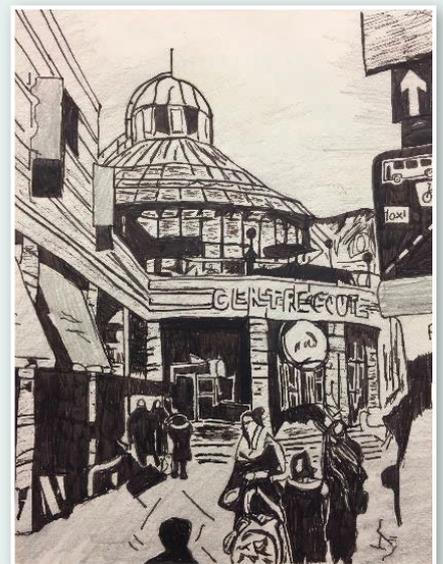
Nora Attal - Year 13



Oscar Vieira Martins - Year 9



Ben Riddleston - Year 8



James Suri - Year 10



Arthur Charlesworth - Year 7



Luke Rae - Year 11

## THE MISER

The Drama production of 'The Miser' on 1st and 2nd December has been hailed as a great success by parents and staff. The department has received many emails congratulating cast and crew for the professional performance of actors and for the excellent execution of technical skills in lighting and sound by our technical crew.

As the director of the play I am always very proud of the way all the pupils rise to the challenges of the play, its genre and the style of performance. This year the cast had to portray

characters from seventeenth century France. A world with mannerisms and language far removed from the known.

The humour and physical comedy of 'The Miser', based on Commedia del'Arte characters was portrayed with aplomb from all of actors and the audience really appreciated all their hard work. In addition, no play could go ahead without the fantastic support of colleagues and Sixth Form pupils who made valued contributions to areas such as: costumes, props, set design, stage-management and technical assistance. The play, a

celebration of Ewell Castle creativity was another success thanks to the whole community of Ewell Castle School being involved.

**Mr L Bader-Clynes**

