

## INTRODUCTION



As we look forward to the renewing energy of spring and to the hope-infused festival of Easter with its symbolism of rebirth and new life, I turn to a beautifully poignant phrase from *Great Expectations* (Ch.54) by Charles Dickens: “It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” While this certainly epitomises the weather I am currently enjoying as I write, it also resonates more deeply. With the terrible conflict in Ukraine unfolding before us through hourly news bulletins, as well as the “unfinished business” that is COVID, the notion of the “sun shines hot and the wind blows cold” seems the perfect ironic juxtaposition for our troubled and turbulent times. As a teacher and as a parent, I found Philippa Grayson’s article in *The Guardian* on 5th March helped me to reflect on how we can best support our children with everything they are hearing, and seeing, in the mainstream media and on social media channels. I commend this quick read to you in

how we support our young people in growing their lifelong resilience:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/mar/05/be-open-be-honest-and-listen-how-to-talk-to-children-about-ukraine>

As a learning community, enriched by a sense of social responsibility, I have been so impressed by the pro-activity of our young people, colleagues and parents. We have risen to the challenge of providing help to the humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine: a non-uniform day; a Donut-Drive; donations to the Surrey Supports Ukraine initiative; medical supplies donated to volunteer doctors heading out from the UK to Poland, to name but some of the efforts. Furthermore, our Prep pupils got into the spirit of Red Nose Day, wearing red to mark the occasion, and everyone has been helping the Easter Bunny by donating Easter Eggs for The Children’s Trust.

At the Senior School, we enjoyed our latest PSHE Challenge Day, with some excellent presentations

about relationships from ItHappens. Parents were able to join an evening webinar, covering the same topics from various perspectives. I enjoyed attending the final of *Dragon’s Den*, where a team of three formidable young women from Year 7 carried the day with a narrow and exciting victory. During STEM week, we celebrated Pi Day during an assembly and maths lessons with actual pie (no soggy bottoms) and the UK Maths Challenge initiative. The end of term has been finishing with keenly contested House Football matches as well as *Ewell Castle Live!* at Esher theatre, rocking us into the vacation. At the Prep School, Year 3 had a wonderful time at the Living Rainforest and Year 1 enjoyed the Horniman Museum. I enjoyed visiting a “Slice of Learning” with Year 5 (accompanied by a slice of cake) and the spring term Ensembles Concert was highly entertaining. You can read more in the latest edition of *Tales from the Turret*.

### GCSE and A-level

As we all speculate upon the run-in to the end of the Football Premier League title race, our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils are pre-occupied with their own run-in to the summer series of examinations. I am hugely appreciative of my colleagues, a number of whom are giving up time during the Easter holidays to run NEA workshop clinics, practice exams and additional revision opportunities (please see the weekly bulletin for more details). If you have not yet considered any of the additional sessions run by Impress, please do check out the link already sent out last week: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/impresstheexaminer>



### Staffing update

Following on from an update earlier this term, we are delighted to welcome the following new staff to Ewell Castle:

- Mrs Thomas has recently joined the Senior School Reception Team
- Mrs Johnson is the new Pre-Prep Administrator
- Mr Last has now joined the Site Team as a permanent member of staff
- Mr Starling is our new Supply Teacher at the Senior School and Mr Lennon at the Prep School
- Ms Hilding Ohlsson, Teacher of Chemistry, joins in September 2022
- Mr Ragulan will be a full time Teacher of Maths from the Autumn Term

### In other news:

- Mrs Buckley and Mrs Narayanan have delighted colleagues and pupils by returning this term to cover some learning support and Science lessons respectively in the Senior School.
- We congratulate Mr Young (Pastoral Coordinator) and Mr Short (Pupil Voice Lead) on their new appointments at the Prep school.
- We welcome Mrs Blake (Deputy Head: Academic) and Mrs Fullbrook (Part Time Teacher of 4T) back from maternity leave ready for the start of the Summer Term. Mrs Edwards (Teacher of Music) is returning from maternity leave in May and Ms Walford (Teacher of Maths) in July. Mrs Oldfield (Director of Music) has

announced her pregnancy and will be going on maternity leave later in the Summer Term.

- I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mr Bunce (Teacher of Geography) and Mr Manley (Lead Teacher of Biology/Head of Year 11) on their new bundles of joy.

It only remains for me to wish you all a refreshing Easter spring break. Take time to enjoy the daffodils and crocuses, and above all, make sure you eat plenty of chocolate.

**Silas Edmonds**  
**Principal of Ewell Castle School**

## HOUSE COMPETITIONS

The Spring Term kicked off with House Chess organised by the marvellous Mr Nugteren, where pupils from all year groups and all Houses challenged each other over a series of lunchtimes. Alex Blencowe in Arundel came out as King of this year's House Chess Championships, though with combined scores, Dover pipped the rest of the Houses to the post in the Sixth Form Challenge.

In-keeping with the School's focus on the environment and sustainability, Mrs Sarmiento ran a House competition to collect plastic bottle top lids. This was run in the Prep and Senior School and hundreds of bottle tops were collected, ready to be melted into usable products - recycling at its best!

Enterprise Week was another highlight of the Spring Term, with the amazing Mrs Rudd redesigning this so that pupils could acquire House points, as well as raise money for The Children's Trust and the Ukraine Appeal. Pupils enjoyed breaktimes, paying for the privilege of throwing water at the likes of Mr Leigh and Mr Edwards or earning money as a helper for the day. 8 Dover sped to the podium, taking first place with their Nintendo gaming experience, and adding more House points along the way.

In the Sixth Form Enterprise competition, Bodiam flipped their way into the lead with their 'Flip 'n' Sizzle' pancake stall, leaving the milkshakes of Arundel, and donuts of Carisbrooke in their wake.

In the same week as Enterprise Week, we also enjoyed a competitive edge to World Book Day as the English Department arranged the dress-up competition so that each House

selected a book from the hat. House members dressed as characters from their selected book and Arundel made the Wizard of Oz proud showing excellent level of House spirit and coming first!

House Debating, a new event for the House calendar, saw both a Seniors and Juniors competition. Topics such as quotas for universities to diversify admissions, were debated and Bodiam stood strong for the Juniors. Mr Stone is looking forward to working with pupils on their debating skills over the coming year so that next year's topics can be even more hotly debated!

The House events will be bought to a close in the final week of term with House Football for Years 7 & 8 and 9 & 10. There will be three tournaments - Girls A team, Boys A team and Boy B team competing against each other for the glory, and for the House Points!

Final points for the Spring Term will be announced in House assemblies after Easter, but as of 25th March, Dover were in the lead with 1355 points, closely followed by Arundel in second place on 1334. In third place Carisbrooke on 1195 and last but not least, Bodiam on 1129. Well done to all pupils who have contributed to their Houses over the course of the year so far. Bring on the Summer Term and the final competitions!

**Miss S Earthrowl**



## WORLD BOOK DAY 2022

On Thursday 3 March, pupils and staff at Ewell Castle School celebrated World Book Day.

World Book Day is a charity that seeks to change children's lives by making reading for pleasure a habit for life. Reading for pleasure is the biggest indicator of future success in life - even more so than family circumstance, educational background or income. That is why we celebrate this event each year and place great importance on encouraging our pupils (and staff) to get involved. This year, World Book Day took the form of a House Costume Competition.

Each House was given a book selected blindly by the House leaders: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; The Lord of the Rings; The Wizard of Oz and Peter Pan. The support shown by each House was excellent. However, the overall winners were Arundel, with the highest number of pupils and staff in fancy dress. A special mention must go to 8 Arundel for their fantastic efforts.

Alongside the Costume Competition, the English Department ran an 'Extreme Reading Competition', where pupils were asked to send a photo of themselves reading in the most unusual or interesting place. We had lots of entries for this competition and many pupils won prizes. The winning photo pictured a shark reading behind Mr Edmonds in his office! There was also a 'Blind Book Swap' amongst staff.

I would like to sincerely thank everybody that helped to run and organise this event, as well as everybody who took part. World Book Day is always a highlight in the academic year, and it wouldn't happen without the support of both pupils and staff.

**Mrs J Kerry**



## ENTERPRISE WEEK EXPERIENCE



This was my first time participating in Enterprise Week within the Sixth Form and the whole experience was truly invigorating and rewarding. To be part of the winning team was a bonus! Above all, it taught me how to co-operate effectively, which will be applicable later in life.

The process of bidding for both our product and location was an interesting and enjoyable component of Enterprise Week where strategy was key. We agreed to bid for 'Pancakes and Waffles', due to it being a new product for 2022. The additional benefit of this was that it would be an exciting, fresh product, and attract less competition (due to it being a bit of an unknown gamble), allowing us to spend less money in the auction.

Our team management and co-ordination were vital aspects of our success, and a visible outcome of this was our strong branding. We

established a brand for our product – Flip N Sizzle, to help present ourselves in a professional manner. To further our professional approach, we created targeted posters and advertisements for our brand. Our promotional video was a 'stand-out' performance of this, as we ensured that the video was both captivating in the scenery and conveyed our vision as a brand. Shae filmed the video in Florida to create an intriguing scene, and we created a slogan which tied into the narrative of the advertisement ("worth coming back for") to communicate our brand.

Our team really excelled in selling on the day, as we placed everyone in positions appropriate to their strengths, to help streamline the process of selling and thus turn more profit. We pre-prepared our pancakes and heated them on the day to reduce the amount of time people had to wait, as well as cooking our waffles on-site to enhance the sense

of quality in our products. We had conducted a test-run the day before using the D of E gas camping stoves, but this was a bit of a disaster and a good learning opportunity! We placed two people taking orders, two people on cooking and heating the products, four on serving the products with requested toppings, two people promoting the event on the day, and one person handling payment. This system worked very well.

One learning for next time might be to create a ticket-based system to help track people's orders and reduce wait time. However, the queues were clearly a result of an excellent product which was well priced. Some customers had definitely bought into our brand as they returned for seconds and thirds...proving that our pancakes really were "worth coming back for."

**Nicholas Mason-Apps, Year 12**



## ENTERPRISE WEEK ACTIVITIES



### DRAGON'S DEN WINNERS

As part of Enterprise Week, the Economics and Business Department always holds its own version of the popular TV show, *Dragons' Den*. This is a competition that runs from September which gives pupils from Years 7 to 10 an opportunity to explore ideas for starting an enterprise and to have the experience of 'pitching' their idea to real life 'Dragons' (or judges). It is a route through which we can obtain 'virtual' funding for our original idea. This year the 'Dragons' were The Principal (Mr Edmonds), Mrs Segal, Mrs Moti, a parent judge, and a previous winner of 'Dragons' Den', Ben Callaghan from Year 12. All

participants think that it is an excellent learning experience and also a lot of fun, but it is quite scary, especially when the questions from the judges are so difficult to answer!

This year I won with my team's pitch, which was called 'Bamboo Basket', which is a bundle of environmentally friendly healthcare and stationary products made out of bamboo, aimed at a niche market of first year university students. In my team with me were Zeina and Samantha. Our House, Bodium, actually won a trophy!

The runner up, Aran, was a very good competitor as his idea was an augmented reality product of a smart voice assistant programmed into a pair of glasses, called Fusion Glass.

We thank Mrs Rudd, Head of Economics and Business, for working with us all year on our pitches and for giving all of us the opportunity to improve our problem solving and creativity skills in a highly competitive but enjoyable way.

**Michelle Stone, Year 7**



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD UPDATE

We managed to keep the Duke of Edinburgh scheme going despite lockdown. Some 70 pupils will be presented with their Bronze or Silver certificates in the next week. After a challenging couple of years, our focus has been to get the delivery of Bronze, Silver and Gold back to the way they used to be in 2019.

We have launched the Bronze Award to Year 9 and have got the usual close to 100% uptake. The Year 9 pupils have taken to it well and are getting on with cooking, sport, volunteering, and a host of



other activities. Over lockdown we had to make a few concessions but now we are back to normal. The Duke of Edinburgh candidates will face the same full training and rigorous challenges of previous years. In the Summer Term, they will be doing a full five-day training programme covering all the navigational and campcraft skills that they need, together with an overnight practise expedition. This will lead to their assessed expedition in the Surrey Hills in September.

Mr Skinner is running Silver, and we have 25 candidates taking part from Year 10. We are running afternoon sessions to cover map reading, as their Bronze training was a little less thorough than I would have liked. There is a Silver practise to the South Downs at the end of March and the full Silver expedition to the New Forest in September.

Mr Hall is running Gold and we have two groups ready for the challenge of Dartmoor for the practise and the Cairngorms for the real expedition in July.

There is no doubt that these are exciting times for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

**Mr C Blencowe**



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD – SILVER PRACTISE EXPEDITION

We have 25 Year 10s signed up for Silver. Following some after-school sessions to brush up their map reading skills, they travelled to the South Downs to ensure that campcraft, map reading, and determination were up to the standard required.

We camped near Ditchling Beacon and had a great time. The walking was up on the South Downs - lovely scenery, steep climbs and beautiful weather. They were organised into groups of between four and seven. The climbs are steep, but they coped really well. The navigation

was spot on, and no-one got lost at any stage. The final pick-up point was on the Devil's Dike, in the clear conditions, we could see Leith Hill, Ranmore and Boxhill, about 40 miles away. That was the scene for their successful Bronze Expedition back in September.

A highlight for me was the First World War memorial on the South Downs to Indian soldiers, who were cremated on that site having died in a military hospital in Brighton. A long way from home for them but they are fittingly commemorated. The pupils listened intently as I explained the importance

of the site. Sadly, we were not able to take that year group to the Somme when they were in Year 9. Hopefully this will compensate a little.

The groups are well prepared for the final expedition in September. We will be travelling to the unfamiliar environment of the New Forest which will present new challenges.

My thanks to Mr Skinner who led the expedition, Mr Hall, Mrs Boer Nielson and Ms Hoddell.

**Mr C Blencowe**

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This year we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week during the week of 31st January-4th February. Our pupils took part in assemblies and tutor activities, with themes such as 'Supporting mental health during exams', 'Strategies for dealing with stress', 'Positive thinking' and 'Relaxation techniques'.

We also ran lunchtime drop-in sessions to chat and to try mindfulness practice, mindfulness colouring, art therapy and quilling (paper art). Thank

you to the pupils that attended, and we hope that you found the exercises helpful, enjoyable and relaxing.

The week provided us with a good opportunity to focus on what we all do to support and strengthen our mental health. Please find further links and resources about mental health on our website at <https://www.ewellcastle.co.uk/about-us/wellbeing-and-counselling-services/> or on the Mental Health board in Reception.



Most importantly please speak to someone if you feel you need help or support.

**Mrs Shepherd**

## THE WONDERS OF MATHS

On Friday 25th February, 13 students from Year 12 visited the Royal Institution at Green Park and listened to seven leading mathematicians talking about their work and 'The Wonders of Maths'. We heard from James Grime talking about 'Internet Maths'; Jen Rogers spoke about her work as a top statistician; Rob Eastaway - a puzzle expert and author; Nicole Cozens, a maths teacher and an exam expert (who gave us some tips on what examiners look out for and what not to do); Matt Parker, a stand-up comedian whose material focuses around mathematical topics, and finally, Ben Sparks who spoke about music and maths and how closely these are connected.

Matt Parker is a regular presenter of maths programmes on television and for the BBC News and has written two maths books. His second book called 'Humble Pi' became a No.1 Sunday Times best seller, the first maths book ever to reach this position. Matt hosted the days' events and introduced the other mathematicians to the stage. Later in the day, he shared some of his favourite mathematical puzzles which got us thinking in a fun and creative way. As confirmed by the enthusiastic cheers from the audience, Matt was the perfect host with his sense of humour and ease of manner when in front of the crowd.

Ben Sparks is a busker who is currently travelling around the country spreading his love of maths and music. His talk was called the 'Sound of Silence' and how sometimes silence is not silent at all. He showed this by performing a short demonstration. He started with two identical music tracks which he had pre-recorded on his computer. Ben zoomed into both tracks to show the different sound waves created when notes were created by the various musical instruments. He then 'flipped one of the tracks' by 180 degrees, so that it became the mirror image of the original track. He then played the merged tracks to show how they sounded together. Interestingly, for the short duration where the tracks had been flipped, the music became silent. Ben explained that this is the principle behind the technology used

for noise cancelling headphones. At the end of his talk, he treated us to a performance of Simon and Garfunkel's 'Sound of Silence' while singing and playing his guitar.

In conclusion, we all enjoyed a thoroughly informative and entertaining day. There was a strong, fun atmosphere around the auditorium which kept everyone listening and thinking about maths in new ways. My friends and I are looking forward to another opportunity to visit the Royal Institution again and would recommend the event to anyone interested in maths and all the fascinating ways it connects to our living world.

**Kamran Seward, Year 12**



## MORE ABLE AND TALENTED (MAT) CLUB UPDATE

This term we welcomed Dr Bagri, an expert Chemical Engineer with a wealth of experience, including working abroad in the Netherlands and Dubai, across the UK, studying at PhD level and now working to establish cleaner energy. This was a fabulous opportunity for our pupils, especially those studying Chemistry at A-level. Dr Bagri also provided lots of transferable knowledge on other areas of life, helpful to all the Academic Scholars. Like all Scholar's talks, all pupils and staff are invited if they have an interest in furthering their lifelong learning. If there are any parents/guardians that would like to present in the future, please contact [d.carrick@ewellcastle.co.uk](mailto:d.carrick@ewellcastle.co.uk).

In the first half-term, the MAT Club hosted the first round of public speaking experience within their year groups. Pupils had the opportunity to run through

preparative techniques such as body language and understand why this is a useful practise. The pupils presented on any topic they wished, so they could feel confident. Some chose to do this individually or in pairs and presented on a multitude of areas from philosophy to social media to their Scholarship specialism. Pupils were engaging and answered questions from their peers. For some it meant being taken out of their comfort zones and as such, were rightly very proud of themselves for doing so well!

The second half-term was based around 'Elevator Pitches' as a link from the public speaking, and how we present ourselves both positively and negatively. Pupils had lots to contribute to this and recognised situations that they have found themselves in.

This term has seen the start of Academic Mentoring for the top 10%

academically able in each year group, based on the computerised testing each child completes at intervals throughout their school life. Mentoring is a great opportunity to touch base with pupils about what is going well and how to support them with any areas they wish to develop. The groups have covered different kinds of questioning and the importance of asking questions in lessons and in life! Moving forwards, the groups will look more closely at Building Learning Power muscles – we have started with the traits of emotionally resilient people and how to bounce back from any results or feedback they weren't happy with. The pupils appear to have a great rapport in these sessions and are very willing to offer encouragement to each other.

**Ms D Carrick**





## MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Music Department continues to be vibrant and busy with timetabled music lessons, peripatetic music lessons, ensembles and rehearsals taking place every day. It has been wonderful to finally be able to showcase our musicians' efforts in live events – music is back!

Our Performing Arts Academy students held their 'Trinity Gold Arts Award Showcase', on Monday 7th March. The evening included fantastic musical and drama performances composed, arranged, and directed by the Year 13 students. The students were supported by pupils and students from other year groups including our Music scholars and GCSE Music students. Our Drama scholars and Drama Tech students also gave their time and support.

On 14th March, we were proud to host live performances of our A-level Music candidates' compositions: supported by a wealth of staff, we were so proud of the efforts and talents of our most senior musicians and the impressive work they have created.

The 'Spring Term Ensembles Concert' (Monday 21st March) was a great success. Pupils from our Prep School joined together with lower school pupils from the Senior School for this concert. Performances included *Ease on Down the Road* by the Year 8 Castle Choir, *Open String Samba* by the Year 3 Strings Group (their debut performance), a mighty Year 4 Wind

Band (some 15 strong in number) and a dramatic *Night on a Bare Mountain* by the Senior School Orchestra.

'Ewell Castle Live!' was held at Esher Theatre on 29th March – an exciting new venue managed by an Old Ewellian. Ewellians rocked to Rampart and Bastion Bands, grooved to Function Band and were inspired by the many solos, duos, and trios – a truly spectacular event.

Our 1-2-1 music lessons continue to go from strength to strength and we now have 14 visiting music teachers (VMTs) working within the Music Department every week providing lessons in Cello, Oboe, Clarinet, Piano, Guitar, Drum Kit, Voice, Brass and Woodwind instruments and Music Theory. Most of our VMTs now also run our ensemble rehearsals during lunchtime and after school.

Our Chapel Choir continues to meet every week and are currently rehearsing *Mozart Requiem*, which will be performed at St Martin's Church in Epsom in May. Chapel Choir will be supported by our newly formed Community Choir.

In the Senior School we have recently taken delivery of 22 new electric keyboards which will support and enhance the weekly academic class music lessons – a brilliant asset to our fabulous building.

**Mrs J McCallum and Mrs L Oldfield**



## STEM WEEK 2022

STEM Week took place from 11th-20th March with lots of fun, interactive activities for the pupils. Events included an Egg Drop, Marble Run and Rocket Launch, as well as a fascinating presentation by Mr Hall on *Why hydrogen powered cars are so much better for the environment than electric cars.*

### ROCKET LAUNCH



### EGG DROP



### MARBLE RUN



## SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

### MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)



Model United Nations at Ewell Castle School 2021/22 gave students the opportunity to research and engage on real issues that people across the world are having to face. The assembly was faced with providing a solution to France banning face coverings, including the Burka and other religious clothing which were argued and found to be a breach of human rights. It was up to the assembly to agree or disagree on this issue. The proceedings started seriously but finished on a light-hearted note.

In the first round of discussion, it was clear that a division between countries was forming. Former allies were turning against each other, and former sworn enemies joined sides to protect and voice their beliefs. We even saw the formation of new nations such as Skindonesia (a unified state of Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia). South Africa turned into a puppet state of the United Kingdom (UK) in exchange for the UK handling South Africa's foreign policy. Fierce rivalry broke out between the UK and USA, on the issue of who would lead the world in condemning the actions of France. Heated debates, personal attacks, and constant reminders of proper conduct from the chair were continued throughout the session, sixth formers took this opportunity to light-heartedly attack teachers who in this case, were the French delegation (who were so prepared, they even brought helmets to the assembly to protect themselves).

There was no shortage of humorous aspects in the assembly. Over the course of the week, delegates produced a resolution which was in the best interests of their nation, which then later would be voted on by other nations. Suddenly, the assembly

was flooded by masks provided by the newly formed Skindonesia and bandanas from Canada, in an attempt to gain signatures and form alliances. The statements made by all delegations were truly something, students and especially the teachers (France) really stepped into character to protect and voice the beliefs of their nations, Jamaica even blessed the assembly with some lovely tropical music to really stand out during their speech.

After an eventful two sessions of MUN with many jaw dropping statements, interesting alliances, U-turns and heated debates, the delegates from the UK (led by myself), gained a triumphant victory and condemned the actions of France. Successfully, the UK beat the Canadian delegation in a stalemate to lift the trophy and receive their prize. I would like to give a massive thank you to Ted and Renae for organising and keeping peace and order throughout the sessions.

**Charlie Gunson, Year 13**



## SIXTH FORM CAREERS CAROUSEL

During Enrichment on the 11th of March, the Sixth Form attended a Networking Careers Carousel, meticulously organised by our Careers Advisor Mrs Lawrence. Not only was the event amazingly organised, but it was also very informative.

Students were able to ask questions such as what their favourite or least favourite part of their job was, how they got to where they are now, and what they wanted to be when they were our age. Divided into groups of around five or six people, we each got to interview twelve guests from a variety of different industries and backgrounds.

Included were two of our School Governors, Colin Griffith and Andy Macfarlane. Mr Griffith has worked for various banks and trading exchanges and as a consultant at the London Metal Exchange. Mr Macfarlane has worked as a special education teacher and more at the University of Reading, a popular destination for Old Ewellians. It was also very interesting to hear from some Old Ewellians about how they believe the School has changed from when they attended, as well as what career path they have followed since.

Yehen Jayasena spoke about accountancy and Vincent Petrozzi exposed what it's really like working in investment banking, an incredibly intense and dynamic industry. Our talented musicians in the Sixth Form also got to hear from Jack Yardley, an Old Ewellian who is now one of the most in demand sidemen in London, playing for many big-name artists such as Ellie Goulding and Tame Impala. Any potential aviators in the Sixth Form were also able to find out about the commercial flight industry from Nick Handford, who told us all about how to become a pilot.



The Sixth Form were also able to hear first-hand experiences from a broad range of sectors, which was invaluable for students who are still unsure about what industry they might want to go into in the future. For instance, we were able to talk to Joshua Kelly, Connor Hand, and Sarika Varma who have all worked for the Government in the Pensions Management Institute, the Department of Health and Social Care, and the Atomic Energy Authority respectively. Our potential law students also found it intriguing to talk to Fae Maskrey, a trainee solicitor. We also got to hear from guests who had worked all over the world, including Barbara Ortnier who has worked in Vienna, Singapore, and

Shanghai as a business journalist and Brian Crockford who has worked for Microsoft in Hong Kong, Seattle, and London.

The Careers Carousel was an incredibly informative event that allowed the students to network with any potential connections in industries they might be interested in for the future. Our guests left us with valuable lessons that we will carry with us as we move to the next stages of our education or careers. A massive thank you to Mrs Lawrence for running it and to our guests for taking the time to talk to us!

**Lucy Crockford, Year 13**

## MISS RE-CYCLE 2022

On the 14th January 2022, the weekly Sixth Form Enrichment session commenced with a fascinating lesson about the detrimental effects of plastic on the environment. We were informed of several alarming details surrounding the usage of plastic such as the shocking fact that from 381 million tonnes of plastic waste a year, only 9% of single-use plastics are recycled! We were then asked to come up with suggestions on ways we could use plastic more sustainably and ethically and from this the challenge for the next half of the session was revealed; to create a ball gown using only plastic bags, scissors and masking tape. We were placed into groups, and it was then explained how our designated 'fashion model' would parade their outfit on a catwalk to their team's choice of music after which they would answer questions from a Year 12 student. Surprisingly we had quite a few team members willing to put themselves forward for the task and, before long, we had a model, designers and creators all set.

Excitement and concentration levels rose as each group fully engaged and competed to produce the most impressive ballgown, with students eagerly planning their designs and collecting suitable recycled supplies. The energy in the room was evident as students began snipping, sticking and repurposing



plastic bags in order to create the most extravagant and fabulous outfit that would dazzle the panel of keen-eyed judges. Each group used great teamwork to expertly design and produce their creation, as well as choosing a suitable piece of music to accompany them down the catwalk. As the allocated thirty minutes came to a close, the groups hurried to add finishing touches to complete their masterpieces and dramatic make-up was applied to add that extra 'je ne sais quoi' to the finished design.

Six dazzling models (all male) then made their way up to the mezzanine where they descended the spiral staircase and took to the catwalk in a way to best display their finished design. The performances were most enjoyable with the models sashaying along to songs including 'Staying Alive' and 'Buttons' whilst displaying the plastic fantasticness of their outfits. The audience entered into the spirit and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

After each 'Miss Recycle' had completed their walk, they answered

questions on the topic of sustainability with each of them taking on their own persona. The difficult decision was then left to the teachers' judging panel as to which model would be crowned with the coveted title of 'Miss Recycle 2022'. Creativity and masterly sticking of their ballgowns, as well as catwalk performance, were all taken into consideration and after a few tense moments ... 'Benjamin' was declared winner of the '2022 Plastics and Pollution Fashion Show'.

All the students immensely enjoyed the Plastics and Pollution Fashion Show. As well as the entertainment aspect, it gave us the opportunity to develop a vast range of skills, including teamwork, creativity, communication, presentation and problem-solving, along with increasing our knowledge of the many ways we can individually become more environmentally aware and sustainable in our actions.

**Riona Syed, Year 12**

## UK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

We congratulate Head of Year 10 and History Teacher, Miss Wilkinson, who was voted women's 'UK Player of the Year' at the annual Hockey Writers' Club (HWC) awards.



## WELLBEING UPDATE

There is a lot to celebrate this term in Wellbeing provision and training for both pupils and staff.

In Years 1 and 2, pupils are enjoying the dots mindfulness course and learning about being present and engaged with their thoughts, feelings, emotions and bodies.

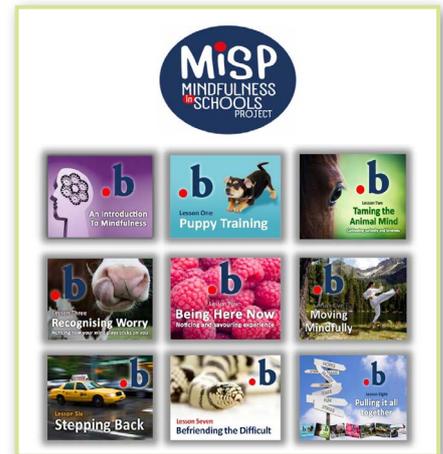
In Year 5 we have just completed the first ever Paws b (Mindfulness in Schools Project) course. The pupils have been really engaged in the process and relished the opportunity to explore mindfulness and wellbeing in such a structured and experiential manner.

In the Senior school, we have completed another Paws b Mindfulness courses with half of the Year 7s and are now working through the curriculum with the remaining classes.



Year 10 are enjoying the higher level mindfulness course called .b and learning about flourishing and emotional resilience.

Year 12 have been exploring mindfulness through the b2 course in preparation to moving on, in a year's time, to university.



Finally, we have just completed the first ever Staff 'Foundations' mindfulness course and they have hugely prized the opportunity of engaging with mindfulness and looking at their own personal wellbeing. Now they will be able to model these new skills in the classroom with their pupils.

*Mr L Bader-Clynes*

## FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE



## A RISING STAR IN WOMEN'S CRICKET

I love cricket and it has always been part of my life as I used to watch my dad play when I was much younger. I have played since I was seven years old and now my younger brother, Tom, also plays and is part of the Ewell Castle School (ECS) Cricket Academy as well. We would regularly practise together and have fun playing as a family.

I was first selected to play in the Surrey County Cricket Performance squads in Year 8 and invited to join the ECS Cricket Academy in Year 9. Having 1-2-1 coaching with Mr Turk has really helped develop my skills as an all-round cricketer, in particular

my batting. I have now got a wide selection of shots that I can use in my game.

When I started in the Academy, I had very little confidence in any of my skills and over the past two years, Mr Turk has really built my confidence levels up and managed to make me very proud of being a cricketer and a skilled bowler and batsman.

Being part of the Academy allows me to play with others who are older than me, giving me the opportunity to test and develop my skills against some of the best pupils in the School. This has really helped me grow in my

confidence, as well as my social skills. We are given access to early morning fitness training to improve our key muscle strengths within our sport. As scholars, we are invited to train with the wider School on Friday evenings, where we get to help others improve as well. Not only is it helpful to train with other skill levels, it is also very fun and entertaining.

Even though I'm the only girl on the Academy currently, that doesn't limit the amount of time I spend training. I'm always allowed to train and participate within the Academy and wider School.

**Ellie, Year 10**



## SURREY TENNIS AWARD – SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

We were thrilled to receive the prestigious Surrey Tennis 'School of the Year' award this year, with Mrs McManus and Mrs Battista accepting the award recently at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon.

Much hard work has gone into the development of the Ewell Castle School Tennis Academy, by staff and pupils alike. We have a great team that works together to put the pupils' needs first in providing a first-class education combined with a bespoke training programme with former ATP world ranked professional player and LTA coach, Tom Burn. This team combines the strengths of individual timetabling and educational planning, with tailored tournament planning and competition consultancy, including the all-important 'elite tennis training' package.

In the seven years since the Academy was set up, we have become one of the most successful tennis academy schools in the UK and are currently ranked 7th. We financially support gifted players who would otherwise never get a chance to mix education with tennis. We support players in their aspirations to reach positions within excellent universities in the US and UK. Ewell Castle School

is a great supporter of LTA Youth Schools Tennis and builds our competition calendar around this to specifically put Schools Tennis front and centre.

**Mrs E McManus and Mrs A Battista**



## NETBALL UPDATE – SPRING TERM

In the Senior U18As, R Baker-Manuwa (Center - eight Most Valuable Player's - MVP's) has captained the A's determinedly this year, supported by L Crockford (GA/GS - two MVP's and 53 goals) who took up netball in Year 11, (although you wouldn't know it as she has become the first choice GA) and has made amazing progress over the past few years. Despite a number of injuries and illnesses, our defence has been made up of G Barker, K Coleman, O Rayner, L Maniar (three MVP's), E Dixon, I Palmer and others have stepped in to support. We have been fortunate to have a selection of talented shooters in M Gunson (GA/GS 42 goals), S Pershin (GA/GS - 14 goals), I Brand and I Palmer. A Sterritt-Hernandez has been solid as WA throughout the season.

The U15 girls have played 13 matches and gone from strength to strength, captained by K Macallister (GS) who rarely misses from distance (37 goals so far this season and two MVP's). N Hartman (GA - 23 goals) and L Deville (GS - eight goals) have shown determination and drive to develop their shooting skills and T Wong (C), E Foster (WD) and A Borisova (WA) have worked hard and shown excellent levels of tactical awareness and fitness as the season has gone on. In defence, L Bowles (GD - two MVP's) and Vice-Captain M Croome (GK) are a force to be reckoned with. They have all learnt a lot about the game this year and we look forward to seeing them continue to dominate even further, playing for the Senior Team next season.

The U14s have made amazing progress this season as individuals

and as a team. S McLaughlin has excelled in her role as Captain. She is a skilful and hardworking player who is also the leading goal scorer for the team. She has been ably supported by E Clift, Vice Captain, who has provided the energy in the centre court. P Yuill and L Barfoot-Saunt have become a strong duo in defence, and O Kim, O Kahlberg have made huge progress as WD and WA respectively. Z Hardin has worked well alongside S McLaughlin as GS, scoring some impressive goals. G Ghedu-Molinari is a versatile player who has been able to add strength to the team in any position she plays. As a squad, they have been energetic and great fun to coach, and it has been a pleasure to see the improvements they have made.

***Mrs J Jones, Miss J Slinn and Mr W Harding***



## FOOTBALL UPDATE – SPRING TERM

After almost a two-year hiatus, it was great to finally get stuck into some football fixtures once more. Not only did we finally get some fixtures, but more teams and more games were played than ever before, with close to 150 matches being participated in.

The U12 teams have showed much promise, despite missing their 'star' Academy player for the season. They have started to play together as a team, and this has culminated in some recent fine victories.

The U13 teams have been hit the hardest with Covid and the lack of football has been telling, they are just starting to become a much stronger side to break down and the 'B' team have recorded the biggest football win of the season with a 12-0 victory!

The U14 Team have had a stellar campaign with an early winning streak that has continued into the spring. Mr Turk is almost a shoe-in for 'football coach of the year'!

The U15 have built upon their National Final appearance and are starting to find their football swagger again after a tough start to the term. Special mention should go to S Brits who represented the ISFA National Team in a game against Chelsea, a tremendous achievement.

The 1st XI are currently as we speak on a three-game winning streak and will be looking to make that five on the bounce with the remaining fixtures.

Well done to everyone who has participated this year and let's look to improve into next year.

**Mr T White**

