

THE Tower REVIEW



A CELEBRATION OF THE
2019/20 SCHOOL YEAR



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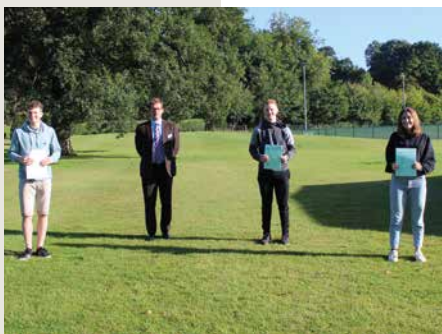
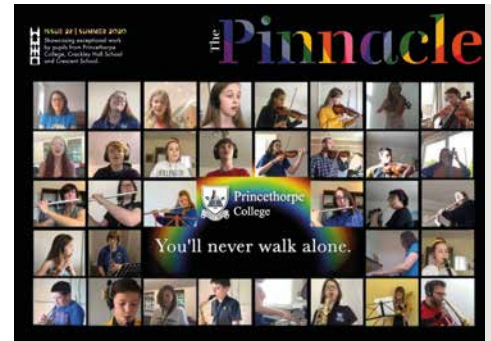


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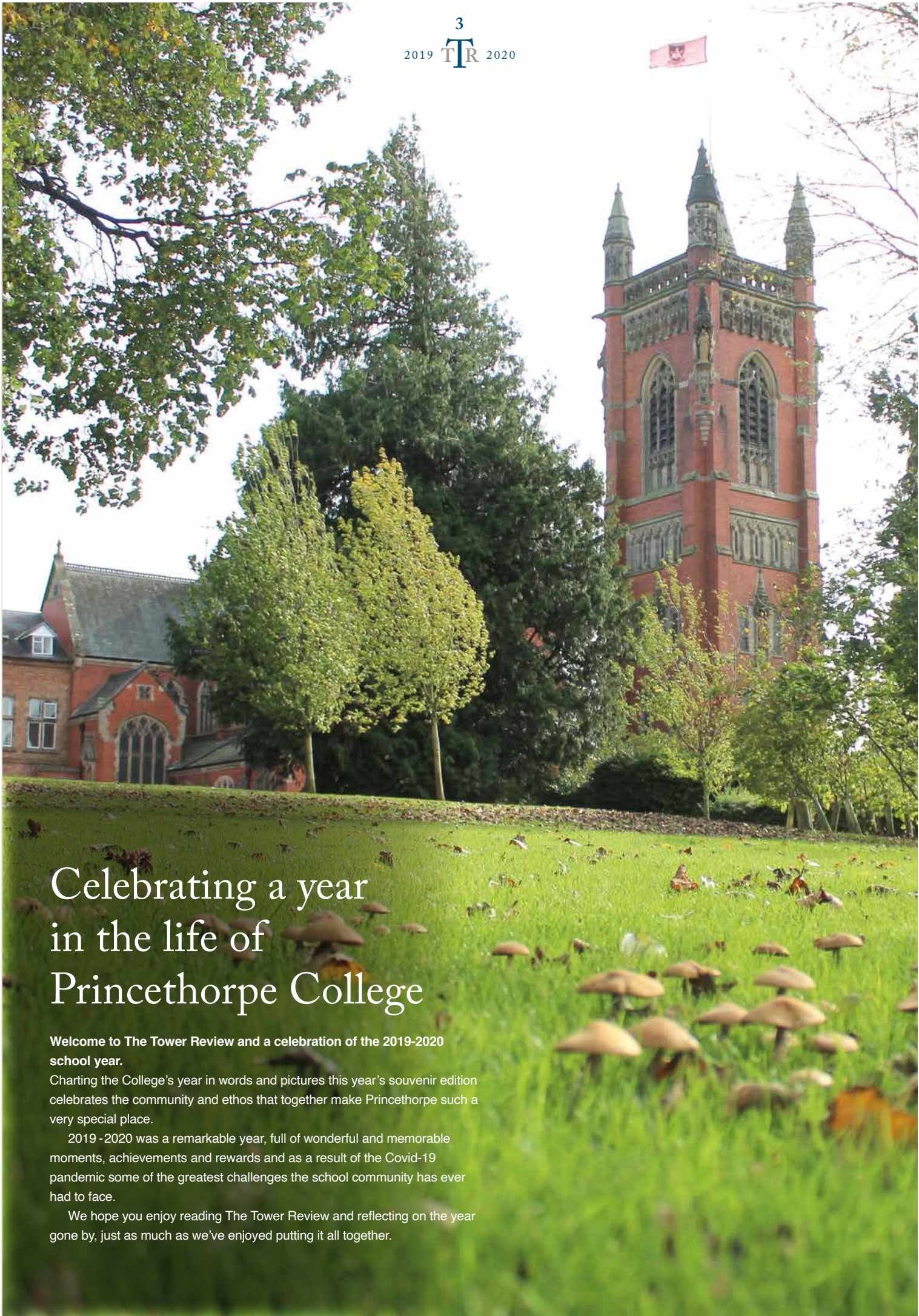
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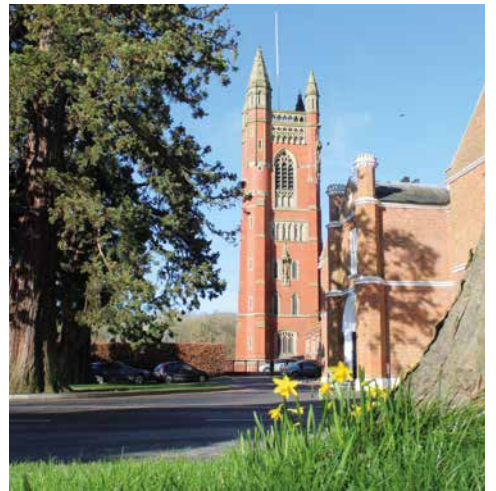
Celebrating a year in the life of Princethorpe College

Welcome to The Tower Review and a celebration of the 2019-2020 school year.

Charting the College's year in words and pictures this year's souvenir edition celebrates the community and ethos that together make Princethorpe such a very special place.

2019 - 2020 was a remarkable year, full of wonderful and memorable moments, achievements and rewards and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic some of the greatest challenges the school community has ever had to face.

We hope you enjoy reading The Tower Review and reflecting on the year gone by, just as much as we've enjoyed putting it all together.





Message from the Headmaster

2019/20 was quite simply a remarkable school year and one that I am sure we will never forget. Certainly, as I reflected on the year, I was reminded of the opening lines from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*...

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

For me the themes of uncertainty and volatility that Dickens refers to struck a very strong chord with the pandemic world and yet despite the difficulties and problems we all tried to get on with things and make the very best of it – parents, pupils and staff alike.

There is so much that goes on in the school, each and every day, and I am sure you will all have your own personal highlights, but here are some of the events, successes, stories and achievements that stood out.

Pupil Successes

There are so many occasions when pupils inspire us with their creativity: the House Talent Show; The House of Bernada Alba, We Will Rock You; the unbelievable Virtual Spring Music Concert; the Virtual Summer GCSE and A-level Art, Photography and Design Show; seeing the inspirational work produced for da Vinci projects and The Pinnacle; the Princethorpe Oscar Awards and of course the wide variety of sporting achievements and fixtures throughout the first half of the year.

As always, it is hard to single out individuals but some of the performance highlights include: the 1st XI boys football reaching the semi-finals of the Independent Schools' Cup; the U14A Warwickshire Boys Hockey runners up; U15 Warwickshire Netball runners up; the U13 Netball Midlands ISA Champions. In Cross Country; The Senior boys, Inter boys, Junior girls and Minor girls all placed first at the County Championships; while the U15 boys, U15 girls, U13 boys and U13 girls were ISA Midlands champions. Special mention must go to our individual athlete of the year, Kate Pomerleau who placed 1st in four individual, prestigious Cross Country events.

The multitude of House events at all levels have also been inspiring, giving each pupil the opportunity to contribute and represent their Houses; I am always inspired by the passion, ingenuity and enthusiasm of both pupils and staff alike.

Then there was the growth in the number of pupils involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, 150 pupils completed their whole award from last year (an 88% completion record), which was impressive.

Charitable Work

Some of the most memorable and special moments are when the whole school community comes together.

This is often by giving both time and energy to some wonderful charitable causes and living out the ethos of the school by showing kindness, compassion and love for others.

This has been another bumper year for projects and activities run with the sole aim of helping other people, not just by raising money but also by the giving of time. We have had cake sales, pancake races, 24-mile walks, non-uniform days, pink days, blue days, Valentine's flowers, visits to the Leamington Night Shelter, lunches and social events.

Once again, some of the charities we have been involved with are local, others are national or international. Mary's Meals, Breast Cancer Research UK, Orchid Prostate and Testicular Cancer Research, Father Hudson's Society, Small Change, British Heart Foundation, and our House Charity MIND, have all benefited.

The monies raised by the Princethorpe community so far this year amounts to over £23,000, with some money still coming in. Included in this total is money raised in conjunction with Mary's Meals for the Classrooms for Malawi School project trip which sadly was eventually cancelled.

Virtual Learning

The Trinity Term was one of Home Learning, Bridging Courses, Microsoft Teams and on-line assignments. Both pupils and teachers found themselves facing new encounters with technology; it was an example of resilience by all!

We were amazed by the standard of work submitted by the pupils and their unwavering support of the House challenges, activities and school ethos. Teachers were delighted by the commitment shown by the pupils to their studies. And of course, parents played a vital role in the home learning experience too, providing support and encouragement when needed.

At all times we remained committed to delivering a full programme of learning and I am immensely proud of the way all staff approached this.

Results Day

The A-level results day was very unusual especially as it was overshadowed by the controversy surrounding the algorithm used to award results. The eventual and inevitable U-turn from Ofqual on this was, under the circumstances the correct decision and I am delighted that the students both at A-level and GCSE achieved the results they deserved. There were many highlights at A-level of course, and thirteen pupils achieved 3 or more A* grades; a special mention must go to Hannah Porter who achieved five A*s at A-level.

We were delighted too with the GCSE results for all pupils and special mentions go to Caitlin Mason, Ben Scares, Ciaran Smith and Ben Shipton who all notched up straight grade 9s - 43 between them!

The majority of our Year 11s progressed on to Sixth Form to continue their studies. We bade a fond farewell to our Sixth Form Leavers, as they made their way on to the next stage of their life, ably equipped with the qualities of kindness, respect, determination and friendship which we as a community hold so dear.

2019/20 really was a remarkable year and I want to thank you all for your support for the College. I hope you enjoy reliving it with the help of *The Tower Review*.

E D Hester
Headmaster

Michaelmas News

01

Sense of community was High Sheriff of Warwickshire's message to Sixth Formers

In September Princethorpe welcomed the High Sheriff of Warwickshire to talk to Sixth Formers in assembly. The Sheriff, Simon Miesegaes, is the Queen's representative in Warwickshire for all matters relating to the maintenance of law and order and works to support the Judiciary, the Emergency Services and voluntary organisations in the county.

In his address to the Sixth Form he highlighted how important it was for young people to 'do their bit' to become responsible citizens. A philosophy that echoes the ethos of our school. He also encouraged the students to support crime prevention and to be the 'unsung heroes' of their local communities.



03

Princethorpe College gained prestigious Arkwright Scholarship affiliation

In October Princethorpe College announced that it had been recognised as an affiliated Arkwright School joining an elite group of schools, committed to inspiring future leaders in Engineering and Technical Design.

The scholarships offered by The Smallpeice Trust, the UK's leading STEM Education Charity, are the most prestigious scholarships of their type in the UK and are highly sought after. Awarded to high-calibre Year 11 pupils through a rigorous selection process, the scholarships identify, inspire and nurture exceptional pupils in Engineering, Computing and Technical Design.



02

College celebrates Journée Européenne des Langues 2019

At the College there are many opportunities to get excited about languages and celebrating European Day of Languages is just one of them. Set up by the Council of Europe in 2001, Journée Européenne des Langues promotes the importance of language learning and the cultural diversity that Europe provides.

Championed by the MFL and House teams, pupils were challenged to take part in Miss Verleure's fun lunchtime language trivia quiz, featuring a wide range of language-based questions, in the quest to win points for their House and lots of lovely language related goodies.

04

Coventry Airport Air Cadets land new home

In October one of Coventry's oldest Air Cadet Squadrons, 84 (Coventry Airport) Squadron, formed 75 years ago in 1945 and based at Coventry Airport since 1963 relocated to Princethorpe College.

The College was delighted that 84 Squadron chose Princethorpe for its new home after losing its Baginton Airfield base. Princethorpe has had previous connections to the cadet force having been home to a detached flight of another local squadron back in the early 1970s, so it was wonderful to welcome them back.

Michaelmas News



05

Princethorpe College invaded by Romans!

Visiting Roman Centurions invaded Princethorpe College in October armed with swords and scutum (shields) and ready to do battle. It was Year 7 Roman Day, a day when every pupil in the year enjoys lessons full of tales of blood and gore, as they learn about the Roman invasion and settlement of Britain.

The Centurions' passion and knowledge of the period was vividly dramatised as the two men, dressed in full legionnaire's costume, brought to life the strategic tactics and organisation of the Roman fighting machine. With replica costumes and equipment based on real archaeological finds, the sessions complemented the lessons Year 7 had been studying in History.

07

Princethorpe fell silent in Remembrance

On Friday 8 November, at 11.00am, the College community gathered together to silently reflect on the bravery and the selfless sacrifice made by so many of our country's service men and women. The service held outside on a cold and windy school playground offered all the community a time for reflection.

The College trumpeters, Year 8 pupil, Chloe Hurworth and, Year 7, Cara Ridd sounded the soft, melancholic and mournful call of the *Last Post* and a wreath was hung at the Pupils' Entrance by former naval officer, RS Teacher, Mr Cyprian Vella and Commanding Officer, Air Cadet 84 Squadron, Kevin Fairhurst.

06

Princethorpe celebrated National Poetry Day

Princethorpe's pupils joined in the celebration of all things poetical on National Poetry Day.

Mrs Baker's Year 7 English class chalked poems on the theme of 'Truth' out on the playground while other Year 7 English groups wrote their poems on coloured paper and posted them around The Limes. All around the College the walls were decorated with different poems so every time you turned a corner you could discover, enjoy and share poetry.

At lunchtime in the Refectory, Warwickshire's Young Poet Laureate, Academic Prefect, Hannah Owens, led an 'Open Mic' session with pupils and staff queuing up to recite poetry to their peers. Lots of pupils volunteered and everyone who took part earned house-points.

On National Poetry Day everyone joined in and had a little bit of poetry fun.

08

Princethorpe's FutureChefs showcased their amazing culinary skills

Princethorpe's aspiring young chefs showcased their superb cooking skills when they took part in the Springboard's FutureChef competition. The first-round heat took place in October and 13 contestants were tasked with cooking and serving up a main meal in just one hour. All the would-be chefs really wowed the judges, Jacqui Scott, Michael Reddish and Food Consultant Sarah King, with their culinary creations, serving up a range of tempting meals.

From the off, they worked quickly, demonstrating technical skills such as knife work and the finished plates of food looked tantalising and were full of flavour and seasoned expertly. What's more the contestants' attention to detail was superb with plates polished, the food presented artistically and their work surfaces scrubbed. It was a hard decision but in the end the judges decided that Rosie Reeve and Francesca Kelly had managed to hold their nerve and execute their dishes superbly to win the Princethorpe heat.

Michaelmas News

09

Year 7 got a buzz about books

Bookbuzz Week caused much excitement amongst Year 7 pupils as they all received a book of their choice from the Bookbuzz collection. Mrs Borman's class were first to collect and they were delighted and very happy to pose for a picture with their new books.

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from the Book Trust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year-olds. Pupils choose one of 17 different books, from a range of genres, all carefully selected to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.



11

Extraordinary and emotionally charged – La Casa De Bernarda Alba

In December the Drama department delivered a compelling performance of Federico Garcia Lorca's *La Casa De Bernarda Alba*, a bold but dark production about the horrors of repression.

It was a remarkable piece of theatre, disturbing and emotionally charged throughout. Thought-provoking and relatable to the modern day, the production explored the murderous silence that is at the core of oppression. It was a brilliant performance of a tragic tale. Our thanks go to all the cast and the behind the scenes team who worked so hard to pull this extraordinary production together.



10

A very successful Sixth Form Interview Day

Put together 107 Sixth Formers, 24 professionals and one day and you get a very successful Sixth Form Interview Day. Organised by the College's Careers Team, the Interview Skills Day was designed to perfect interview technique, sharpen communication skills, presentational qualities and the ability to respond to feedback.

Taking the role of interviewer were record numbers of senior professionals including Chief Executives, Managing Directors, HR Directors, Sales Directors and Consultants, from a variety of different business backgrounds. Feedback was very positive with many of the interviewers commenting on how impressed they were with the College's Lower Sixth students.

12

Mock election engages pupils in the democratic process

As the country went to the polls, pupils at Princethorpe College were learning about the process of democracy by participating in a mock election. Party manifestos were summarised, put on display across the school and discussed in form time. Politics students organised hustings and the voting took place in secret. Each of the 49 Tutor Groups was an individual constituency reflecting the structure of the UK parliamentary system

Turnout was fantastic with 92% of pupils engaging with the mock election and choosing to vote. The results were announced in school on election day, and here at Princethorpe College the Conservative Party won taking a majority of 13 seats over the second placed Liberal Democrats.

Michaelmas News



College Artists recognised in prestigious National ISA Art Competition

In November the College was delighted to find out that recent Upper Sixth Leaver, Helena Lintott, had been awarded first place in the prestigious Independent Schools' Association's National Art Competition.



Helena's stunning painting 'The Gift' took first place in the coveted Over 16 Painting category. 'The Gift' refers to the Three Graces who in Greek mythology are the personifications of beauty, charm, and grace; they were the daughters of Zeus and given these 'gifts' by him to bestow on the world. Her work was a superb, striking painting and a well-deserving winner. Her piece will be instantly recognisable to anyone connected to the College as it has featured on the cover of the school's Pinnacle magazine. It was not the first time that Helena had received recognition for her work as she had previously taken first place in the Key Stage 4 Drawing Category.

Lower Sixth Former, Sophie Cheshire's GCSE design project, was also recognised with a Highly Commended in the National Key Stage 4 Textiles competition. Her winning design project was her GCSE piece that used textures, sounds and colours to create a holistic aesthetic experience to help slow the development of Alzheimer's. Her work took an innovative approach and you can understand why it caught the judges' eyes. Sophie clearly has the makings of a talented designer.



Michaelmas Sport

Princethorpe hosted English Schools County Cross Country Qualifier

In October Princethorpe College hosted the county qualifying round of the English Schools Athletics Association's (ESAA) Cross Country Cup.

Visiting schools entered Junior (Year 7/8) and Intermediate (Year 9/10) Boys' and Girls' teams in two races of 60 runners each.

Princethorpe's Junior Girls ran an excellent race with two girls placing in the top five. Kate Pomerleau led the field home to finish first, she was closely followed by a determined Ava Farren who finished in 4th and Kaena Wasley who placed 14th. For the Junior Boys Oliver Farquharson ran well to finish 8th with Oscar Reynolds just behind in 10th position.

The Inter Boys team ran a steady race with Ollie Bench placing 8th, closely followed by Zak Johnson 10th and Will Antrobus in 12th. For the Inter Girls, Grace Darcy led the Princethorpe pack home finishing 10th, followed by Evie Phillips 11th, Jess Evans 12th and Julia Loftus 13th.

Excellent results against tough competition.



Great eight qualify for Warwickshire Cross Country County Team

The Warwickshire Schools Inter Area Cross Country took place in mid-October at Stratford-upon-Avon School. 20 Princethorpe runners took part from Years 7 to 11. It was another set of good running results for the College with eight girls qualifying to represent the County in the Inter Area Championships in mid-November.

In the Minor Girls race, Year 7, Caitlin Horan ran well and was delighted to finish 1st. Hannah Wildey came in just behind in 3rd, Olivia Bacon in 8th and Pip Evans in 12th. They qualified for the County team.

For the Minor Boys, Year 7 Jesse Estler placed 15th, Jamie Capelett was next over the line for Princethorpe in 25th.

Ava Farren finished in 5th in the Junior Girls race and Molly Minshull in 11th in the Inter Girls race, both girls also qualified for the County team. In the Junior Boys race Oscar Reynolds finished 15th closely followed by Ben Smith in 18th and Alex Matheson in 19th. In the Inter Boys Ed Mitchell finished in 21st.

Based on past performance Kate Pomerleau and Grace Darcy also made the cut for the County team.



Michaelmas Sport



Three individual golds and Princethorpe finishes third overall at ISA Midlands Swimming Championships

In a successful outing for the College teams at the ISA Regional Gala at Walsall Baths, the speedy squad shone across all strokes helping Princethorpe finish in an amazing third place overall.

Year 7, Harrison Guest began the roll of honour claiming gold in the 25m Breaststroke, Year 7, André Onyekwe followed suit with a second gold medal in a blisteringly fast 25m Backstroke. Stalwart of the pool, Year 10 Jess Mackenzie, continued her dominance, claiming the College a terrific third gold in the Year 9/10 50m Freestyle.

The boys put in a solid performance across all the year groups with other highlights including Year 7, Eddie Arkesden taking bronze in the 25m Butterfly, Year 8, Ethan Capelett winning a bronze in the 50m Breaststroke, Year 8, Ed Grindal taking bronze in the 25m Butterfly, Year 9, Connor Silvester winning a superb silver in the 50m Breaststroke and Lower Sixth Former, Toby Rigg just squeezing into bronze in the 25m Butterfly.

For the girls, Jess Mackenzie claimed a second medal with a bronze in the 100m Individual Medley and Year 11, Lucia McCosker-New clinched bronze with a sensational swim in a very close finish in the Senior Girls 50m Freestyle.

The College also had plenty of success in the Relay events. In the Medley Relays, the Year 7 Boys finished first, the Year 8 Boys finished second and the Senior Boys also finished second. In the Freestyle Medleys, the Year 7 Boys finished first and the Year 7 Girls finished third. Both the Senior teams also placed, with the Senior Girls finishing first and the Senior Boys coming third.

Princethorpe's swimmers take ten Medals at ISA National Swimming Championships

Four Princethorpe College swimmers qualified for the ISA National Championships at the London Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park in November.

Year 7, André Onyekwe, swam superbly in the 50m Backstroke finishing in a time of 35.74 seconds and claiming a well-deserved gold medal. Year 7, Harrison Guest, did almost as well, finishing in second place in 42.44 in the 50m Breaststroke for a silver medal. Both boys swam for the Midlands team in the 4x50m Medley Relay finishing in second place in 2.35 taking a silver medal, and then swam in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay helping the team to finish in first place in a team time of 2.13 and earning themselves a gold medal.

Year 8, Ethan Capelett swam for the Midlands in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay helping the team to finish in second place in a time of 2.07 for a silver medal. He also swam backstroke in the 4x50m Medley Relay helping the team take third place in a time of 2.25 and earning himself a bronze medal.

Year 10, Jess Mackenzie was, as always, on fine form, she took a silver medal in the Years 9/10 100m Freestyle in a time of 1.04 and then swam for the Midlands team in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay helping the team to a second-place finish and a second silver medal in a time of 1.59 seconds. Jess just missed a third medal when she swam backstroke in the 4x50m Medley Relay when the team finished in fourth place in a time of 2.18.

It was a very busy day for all and an amazing haul of 10 medals. Overall the Midlands team finished in second place nationally. A super, huge well done to all of our swimmers.



U13 Girls take Bronze at ISA National Hockey Tournament

Princethorpe College's U13 Girls Hockey team finished in third place taking the bronze medal after a sensational performance at the Independent Schools National Hockey Tournament in November. Facing 18 teams at the Lee Valley Hockey Centre, the girls stormed through the group stages without conceding a single goal and were delighted to qualify for the knockout stages of the Cup competition.

In the semi-final they faced an experienced Ballard School squad. It was a much tougher game, both sides played well and the match finished in a 1-1 draw.

Disappointingly Princethorpe then lost out on sudden-death flicks. The girls were down-hearted, but remained resilient as they went on to face Finborough School in the play-offs. Another super performance won their final match and earned them a third-place and the Bronze medal overall.

Playing for Princethorpe were Year 8 pupils Bea Boakes, Georgia Dowling (Captain), Honor-Mae Minshull, Kate Pomerleau, Anna Reay, Rosie Reeve, Liv Sarkies, Jemima Teeton and Sage Westbury.

Michaelmas Sport

Another great Hopbel Hockey Tour

Over the Michaelmas half term the U15 Boys and U14 Girls hockey teams travelled to the Netherlands for the annual Hopbel Hockey Tour. In addition to three days of training and tour matches the pupils also found time for plenty of fun; they enjoyed a trip to Rotterdam with a really entertaining cycling tour, a fantastic BBQ with all their host families and the chance to explore the cobbled streets of local town, Den Bosch.

The girls team played a series of matches against De Hopbel teams whilst the boys faced De Hopel, Map and Den Bosch. All the matches and the extra coaching and practice provided good development for everyone.

The girls had a great tour, they started with a fantastic 3-2 victory, followed by a 4-0 win, then lost a very close game 1-3 before coming back to win 5-1.

The boys had challenging opponents but that provided progression for all. In their first match against Map HC they lost 0-6 but the team stayed focused and were pleased to then beat Hopbel HC 7-1. On day two they faced Den Bosch away and appreciated the opportunity to play on their first team pitch, in their final match of the day the boys determinedly fought back from 3-1 down to finish with a 4-4 draw in an exciting and really entertaining game.



Molly Wincott-Thomas plays for ISFA U16 National Squad

Princethorpe College Year 10 pupil, Molly Wincott-Thomas, had a busy half term training with the Independent Schools Football Association's U16 Squad. Molly took part in a two-day development camp in Cambridge and enjoyed a successful outing with the team. They faced a fiercely competitive Cambridge City but pulled together well to claim a super 6-0 victory.

Molly went on to visit the English FA's national football centre, St George's Park, in December for further training, and played in international fixtures against teams from the English Colleges, Scotland Independent Schools, the English Schools FA and the Welsh Schools.

Michaelmas Sport

Plenty of progress on the South Coast Sports Tour

Also over the half term holidays Princethorpe College took 39 pupils on a four-day sports tour along the south coast. Now in its fifteenth year the netball and rugby tour included, three matches interspersed with plenty of off-pitch activities and fun.

The Year 9 boys had a good start winning a well matched, physical game against Portsmouth Rugby Club 21-26. They then faced the excellent and well-drilled Dauntsey's School, despite working hard they proved just too strong and the match went against the boys 29-19. The last match against Poole Grammar proved another close affair. Carrying some injuries, the boys had to work hard, and there was just one point in it at the end, with Princethorpe pleased to get the win 28-29.

The Year 8 netball girls battled with their own set of tough matches and learned plenty to take forward to future games. The girls first played Portsmouth High School. The A team faced a team full of club players, they had most of the possession and our girls went down 16-48.

Despite the B team's enthusiasm, they were overwhelmed 5-22. Up next was New Forest Netball Club and a couple of action-packed games. Both teams took on board their coaches' suggestions and the matches were competitive but fun throughout and the girls were pleased to get two good wins, U13A – 27-8 and U13B – 23-12. Their final matches were against Talbot Heath. The U13As faced a seasoned championship team who played an accomplished game, they deserved their 9-35 win. The B team worked very hard, and in an absorbing game play went end to end and the girls were delighted with an 11-6 win.

On tour, off the pitch is always a great chance to build team spirit through lots of different activities. This year pupils visited Splashdown, the all-action, flume filled waterpark in Poole, went ten pin bowling, had time for shopping at Gunwharf Quays and of course enjoyed a competitive morning of games on the beach.



Equestrian team competed in the NSEA Eventers Challenge

The College's Equestrian team, Harriet Boyd, Lottie Paybody and Lucy Watts, put in an excellent performance in a very wet but competitive National Schools Equestrian Association Eventers Challenge Qualifier at Washbrook Farm in Aston le Walls in October.

The College team also had individual success with Harriet Boyd placing 6th in the 90cm class and Grace Paybody placing 9th in the 70cm class.

Michaelmas Trips

01 **Sixth Form biologists boarded the RV Callista for Oceanography Discovery Day**

In September 35 Upper Sixth students visited Southampton University for their Biology Field Trip. The students took part in an Oceanography Discovery Day, a unique, hands on opportunity to go on board the University's state of the art research vessel, Callista and participate in a series of experiments. The students took a fascinating trip out on Southampton Water, to collect their own data, using both new and historic sampling techniques. During the session they collected biological, physical, chemical and environmental data from five different experiments. Back on dry land the students listened to lectures on waves and on unexplained phenomena and had a tour of the laboratories and aquariums. It all made for a very informative day.

02 **Lower Sixth developed leadership and initiative at Marle Hall**

Lower Sixth enjoyed a fabulous three days at Marle Hall. The trip offered students the chance to develop leadership and initiative skills, personal resilience and gave them the opportunity to bond together as a group. Students took part in team activities in small groups against the beautiful backdrop of Snowdonia. Water based activities were the name of the day – just how many ways are there to get wet in one wonderful weekend in Wales!

03 **Year 7 had an amazing time at Whitemoor Lakes**

135 pupils enjoyed a wonderful three-day programme at Whitemoor Lakes Outdoor Residential Centre. They took part in an itinerary that included archery, canoeing, climbing, high ropes and problem solving. There were lots of opportunities for pupils to develop their team working skills and the activities all helped to encourage initiative and develop resilience and social awareness. Over the weekend Year 7 all grew in confidence having approached new challenges with determination and enthusiasm and enjoyed a memorable three days.

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Michaelmas Trips



Michaelmas Trips



04 Year 11 Geography Field Trip explores Shrewsbury and Carding Mill Valley

Year 11 Geography GCSE pupils travelled to Preston Montford, to the west of Shrewsbury in Shropshire as part of their geographical investigations for their Geography GCSE. Pupils spent one day exploring human geography topics, investigating and comparing the quality of life in the Castlefields and Radbrook Green districts and then spent a rainy second day investigating physical geography topics in Carding Mill Valley, near the Long Mynd.

05 History trip to Berlin explores a complex but fascinating city

A much-anticipated trip to the fascinating capital city Berlin took place at the beginning of the Michaelmas half term. Some 58 pupils and six staff headed off to Germany for five days of sightseeing, historical contemplation and adventure. Princethorpe's historians from Year 9 to Year 12 were on a quest for knowledge, enrichment and understanding of how Berlin's complex past has influenced the world today.

All were riveted by the sheer breadth of history to engage with in this complicated and once divided city. From the Sachsenhausen Memorial Centre and Museum, to the Berlin Wall Memorial, the Palace of Tears, and the Reichstag, the Stasi Museum, Checkpoint Charlie and the East Side Gallery, the Topography of Terror, the Brandenburg Gate and the Alexanderplatz with its TV Tower. Pupils and staff returned to the UK with many striking memories from a complex but fascinating city and a real appreciation of its role in 20th Century history.



06 Parliament trip brought Politics and History vividly to life

In November, 24 A-level Politics and History students ventured to Westminster to visit a dissolved Parliament and join in activities taking place as part of UK Parliament Week. Starting in Trafalgar Square, the place of many a protest, they admired the statue of Charles I, took in 10 Downing Street and passed many government department buildings on a walk down to Parliament Square, there they visited the UK Supreme Court.

In the afternoon the group enjoyed a comprehensive and fascinating tour of Parliament which included the House of Lords, a Bill Committee room, Select Committee room, the Public Gallery and Westminster Hall. The students were in awe of Westminster Palace itself stating the architecture was overwhelmingly beautiful and commenting on the paintings and statues on every corner. They also observed a Youth Parliament debate and participated with vigour in a discussion and debate on 'Is Parliament an effective check on Government?'



Michaelmas Trips



07 Chemistry lectures give insight into the working scientific world

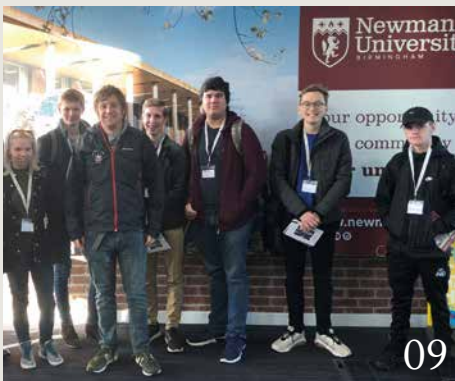
Sixth Form Chemists enjoyed two fascinating lectures organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry at the University of Birmingham. The extra-curricular trips both offered an insight into the practical applications of chemistry and how the subject translates into a career in the modern world. At the start of October, the students attended a talk titled *A Forensic Chemist's Tale: Smack, Crack, Speed and Weed* by Dr Mike Griffin formerly of the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Service. Then just before half term 12 keen chemists very much enjoyed Dr John Smith's talk titled *Discovering New Medicines, A Chemist's Tale*.



08 Sixth Form Mathematicians take on senior team Maths Challenge

In November, Princethorpe Sixth Formers, Lauren Mason, Caitlin McBride, Aidan O'Rourke and Rowan Tankard, took part in the Regional Final of the AMSP (Advanced Mathematics Support Programme) Senior Team Maths Challenge. Run in conjunction with the UK Mathematics Trust, the Challenge is a prestigious problem-solving competition for the best post-16 mathematicians.

Hosted by the University of Warwick, the students took part in an intense three hours of problem-solving, progressing through a series of rounds that tested their mathematical, communication and team-working skills.



09 Computer Scientists explore learning at Newman University

Sixth Form Computer Scientists visited Newman University in Birmingham to take part in a Computer Science Day, one of a series of workshops that the University hosts that offer subject enrichment alongside an insight into what studying at a University is like. The students took part in two sessions, the first explored the DNA of databases and their importance to organisations and the second investigated how machines learn and the implications this has for mankind.



10 Sixth Form trip to see *Death of a Salesman*

Sixth Form A-level English Literature students and intrepid Year 11 pupils, considering studying A-level English, took a trip to the Piccadilly Theatre in London's West End in December to see Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century. Starring Wendell Pierce (of *The Wire* and *Suits* fame) and Olivier Award-winning actress, Sharon D Clarke, it was an excellent production of an important examination text.

Prize Giving 2019

College Prize Giving celebrates pupils' exceptional achievements



Another exceptional year of achievement, progress, creativity and contribution was celebrated at Princethorpe College's prestigious annual Prize Giving Ceremony at Warwick University's Butterworth Hall on Friday 22 November.

Before the ceremony the Old Princethorpians Committee hosted a special Drinks Reception for the returning Upper Sixth and their parents, providing a welcome opportunity for last year's cohort to get together and catch up on their news since the summer.

Trustee, Bernard Warner, opened the proceedings, warmly welcoming parents, friends of the College and Princethorpians old and new to the occasion.

In his formal address the Headmaster, Ed Hester, gave thanks to all those who make Princethorpe the special place it is. His warm words paid tribute to all that is done in support of the College, the kindness, the compassion and the values that underpin the success stories of so many of our pupils and not just those who received prizes on the evening.

The atmosphere all evening was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes from the school Orchestra, Jazz Band and the Year 7 Chorus, who impressively sang *Bohemian Rhapsody*. It was a fitting tribute to the Leavers of 2019 who were the first Year 7 group to sing at Prize Giving and who had sung the very same song seven years before.

Prize Giving 2019

And then it was time for the presentation of the GCSE and A-level Examination Certificates and a myriad of trophies, cups and shields. Watching the stream of young people coming across the stage and shaking Mr Hester's hand was truly inspiring and humbling. The talent in evidence, the grit and determination, the passion, enthusiasm and commitment were all applauded and honoured.

Some of the young people took to the stage with confidence, others more self-consciously, some made us laugh, some brought a tear to our eye as we listened to, Head of Sixth Form, Ben Collie's citations.

And finally, it was time for the main award, the Princethorpe Shield, the oldest and most prestigious College award presented annually to the student who is seen to embody the spirit and ethos of the College in many facets of their school life. It was a very popular decision, that brought the audience to their feet, cheering a delighted and surprised Meera Chauhan who was welcomed to the stage to receive the Shield.

Then to close the proceedings Head Girl, Leah Dunkley, and Head Boy, Jack Bent, gave an eloquent vote of thanks before the evening finally came to an inspiring end with enthusiastic singing of the College Hymn, *Here I Am Lord* by the assembled throng.



“ The atmosphere all evening was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes from the school Orchestra, Jazz Band and the Year 7 Chorus, who impressively sang Bohemian Rhapsody.

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Michaelmas Charity



01 Princethorpe support World Porridge Day

Pupils supported World Porridge Day raising money for Mary's Meals. Championed by Sixth Form students, pupils participated in a posse of Scottish and porridge fundraising fun. At break time pupils tucked into a pot of porridge, from the College refectory. Then at lunchtime the brave participated in the *William Wallace Welly Wanging Challenge*.

This year the winning throw came from Fisher House when none other than Headmaster, Ed Hester, welly wanged a whopping throw of 30.8m. Final House standings placed 1st More, 2nd Fisher, 3rd Benet and 4th Austin. Well done to all the pupils who participated.



02 Sixth Form #WoreItPink in support of Breast Cancer charities

Sixth Formers celebrated 'Pink Day' on Friday 18 October, and wholeheartedly embraced the theme. The Sixth Form Centre and College corridors were graced with fluffy pink costumes and tutus galore. The Sixth Form body organised cake sales and also laid on pay-as-you-go entertainment such as leg-waxing all to raise funds to support research into the disease. Pupils across the College took part in a non-uniform day donating to support the Sixth Form fundraising efforts.



03 Princethorpe pupils support Parish T4U Shoebox Appeal

A grand total of 85 boxes were collected by pupils for the Parish Shoebox Appeal. They were packed full of little gifts but also included educational and hygiene essentials, every day, ordinary items to us but of great value to those who receive the gift.

Year 8 pupils, Daisy Burke, Jemima Teeton and Isaac Kirby worked tirelessly in lunchtimes helping to sort and pack all the boxes.



04 Princethorpe embraced the Faith In Action challenge

The Princethorpe community enthusiastically embraced the Faith In Action challenge laid down by Director of Ethos, Kieran McCullough. The school community did not disappoint, showing a sense of empathy, generosity and solidarity that at one stage led to the school's student hub overflowing with boxes and bags of donations.

Richard Gordon from the charity, St Vincent de Paul Society, was almost speechless when he arrived to transport the donations to the homeless and refugee charities the SVP supports.



05 Three Peaks no challenge for Princethorpe's staff team

A triumphant team of staff: Rod Isaacs, Ben Collie, Cyp Vella, Will Bower and DoFE instructor Paul Coombes, completed the 25-mile Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge in a mere 8 hours 20 minutes in the October half term taking on the peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough and 5,200ft of ascent, on a gloriously clear but cold day.

The team were raising funds for a Classrooms for Malawi building and refurbishment project at Lauderdale school.

Christmas



Chapel Christmas tree decorated with stars

The Christmas tree in the College Chapel was lovingly decorated with twinkling lights and hand-cut stars, each holding the name of a special someone.

A testament to the presence of love in the world and hung by Year 8 pupils Isaac Kirby, Jemima Teeton and Thomas Bucknall.



Bea took first place in the Christmas Card competition

The College Christmas Card competition was won by Year 7 pupil, Bea Taylor. Her detailed painting featured Mary and Joseph arriving at the College's front door accompanied by a host of wildlife.



College Feast Day celebrates School Ethos

Friday 6 December was Feast Day, a celebration involving the whole of the College community, marking the day back in 1854, when the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart was founded. In the afternoon the whole school came together in the Sports Hall to celebrate the anniversary. Director of Ethos, Kieran McCullough, reflected on the reasons why we observe Feast Day. He spoke about being part of a worldwide community and introduced pupils to Downlands College in Queensland, another MSC founded school which shares the same spirit and ethos as the College.



Sixth Form Hosts Special Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

Sixth Formers welcomed over 100 guests from local care homes together with local parishioners for a special senior citizens celebratory Christmas lunch. Now an annual community event, the guests were served turkey and all the trimmings, prepared by the College catering team and waited on by pupils and staff.

Sixth Former, Will Puchy, did a sterling job entertaining with festive tunes on the keyboard and pupils from Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Princethorpe also performed. Will also led the assembled guests in the now traditional joyful sing-along of much-loved traditional carols.



Twelve Days of Christmas brought the term to a close

Coming together for the annual College Carol Concert at the end of the Michaelmas Term is an occasion much look forward to by pupils and staff alike. The concert always concludes with a fabulous rendition of the Twelve Days Of Christmas orchestrated and led by the Sixth Form who donned suitable seasonal attire and galvanised the 900-strong Princethorpe community to join in with the traditional finale to the term.



FHB Donned Santa Suits

Tutor Group FHB were feeling festive when they dressed in Santa Suits at Tutor time. The suits had been left behind after a Santa Dash and Mrs Hardware thought they would be perfect for her form! They all looked fabulous so we shared some photos.

Lent News



01 OP Murray Wells inspires engineers with tales of the Bloodhound Supersonic Car

Princethorpe College was delighted to welcome back OP Murray Wells in January to talk to Lower Sixth students and Design Technology pupils about the Bloodhound SSC (Supersonic Car) Project.

Murray left Princethorpe in 2014 and went on to study Aerospace Engineering. He gave a fascinating talk and it was incredible to hear about the project's achievements so far. Our thanks go to Murray for taking the time to come into school to talk about the project and his involvement with it.



02 Year 8 Rosie Reeve wins Futurechef Local Finals

Year 8, Rosie Reeve, cooked up a storm to win the Springboard Futurechef Local Finals in January. The competition was hosted by Caludon Castle School in Coventry and saw ten school heat qualifiers battling for a place in the Midlands Regional Final. Competitors were challenged to cook a two-course meal, a main and a dessert, for two people in 90 minutes for a budget of up to £7, under the scrutiny of two professional chefs.

Announcing the winner, the judges commented that they were impressed with the talent shown throughout the morning. They praised the contestants for the high standard of the dishes produced.



03 New Conservative MP Jonathan Gullis pays tribute to his Princethorpe teacher

The College was delighted when new Conservative MP for Stoke-on-Trent North, Old Princethorpean, Jonathan Gullis, paid tribute to his former History and Politics teacher, Dr Simon Peale, in his maiden speech in the House of Commons.

Mr Gullis who attended Princethorpe from 2001 to 2008 became an MP in the December 2019 general election. In his maiden speech he spoke about the importance and impact of the teaching profession and credited the 'effective' teaching of Dr Peale as one of the reasons he made it into Parliament saying, "Everyone has a teacher who changed the way we think and made a difference to our lives. The teacher who inspired me was Dr Simon Peale, who was head of History and Politics at my school. His dedication to his students, his extensive subject knowledge and passion for the job stuck with me and I would like to thank him for all that he did."



04 Year 11 explore life in the Sixth Form

The Year 11s Freshers' Fair took place in January. Set out in the Sixth Form Centre Atrium were a host of subject stalls with vivid displays, models and informative handouts, all manned by enthusiastic Sixth Form Subject Ambassadors and teachers.

The Year 11s were also given the chance to visit the Sixth Form Resource Centre and Common Room to get a feel for some of the wider Sixth Form facilities and attend presentations on the enrichment and leadership opportunities and the different sorts of support available.

Lent News



05

Oxbridge offers for high-flying Princethorpe girls

Three recent Princethorpe College Sixth Formers, Lizzie Carr, Amy Field and Daisy Vucevic, were thrilled to receive unconditional offers for places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The high-flying girls all received outstanding A-level results in 2019 and on the back of that made the decision to apply to the UK's two most prestigious universities.

Oxbridge places are highly oversubscribed and increasingly competitive, so the talented trio faced a tough selection process consisting of pre-tests, intensive scrutiny of their academic and personal achievements and rigorous interviews before receiving the good news.

07

Delight in Brecht

In January pupils from Years 10 to 12 studying Drama and Theatre Studies were lucky enough to enjoy a visit from Gen from Splendid Theatre. Splendid create challenging and vibrant productions and the pupils were thrown into a workshop of epic proportions as they explored the practical nature of Brecht's theatre.

Gen's wonderful wit and idiosyncrasies charmed and disarmed the pupils in equal measure as she drove them to discover the 'spass' (fun) in their work. It was a brilliant workshop that really benefitted their practical work.

06

College Sixth Formers are runners up in Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

Upper Sixth Formers Anthony Lock, Samuel Wycherley and Oscar Doyle impressed the judges to finish as runners up in this year's local Youth Speaks.

Youth Speaks requires a team of three students to stand up and deliver a speech on a subject of their choice. It provides a great opportunity for young people to develop the ability to speak on a public platform, carry out research and formulate ideas, improve their self-confidence and presentation skills, and work together as a team.

The students had worked hard to prepare thoroughly. They were helped and supported by Head of English, Chris Kerrigan. It was an excellent result in what is always a tightly fought competition.

08

Year 7s benefit from The Bookbuzz Book Club

Having read their exciting new Bookbuzz books, Year 7 pupils enjoyed discussing them with each other. In February, Mrs Moon and Mrs Borman's English groups joined forces to create 'Book Club' groups. They pondered probing questions that encouraged them to think in greater depth about the stories they had read.

Some of the pupils volunteered to take on the role of group leaders, preparing the questions and managing the discussions; and all pupils enjoyed the chance to share their views.

The Year 7s learned to formulate their own opinions, consider alternative interpretations, and think more actively about the writer's craft.

We Will Rock You

We Will Rock You - It's a Kinda Magic

What a 'kinda magic' this year's College production *We Will Rock You* was. Featuring a hilarious script, thrilling storyline and the Greatest Hits of Queen, the cast surpassed themselves as the *We Will Rock You* Schools Edition simply blew our minds!

Set in a scarily accurate future, the production tells the story of two revolutionaries as they try to save Rock in a post-apocalyptic world. It is packed full of much-loved classic Queen favourites including *Another One Bites the Dust*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Killer Queen*, *We Will Rock You*, *Somebody To Love*, *We Are The Champions*, *Don't Stop Me Now* to name just a few. Songs and melodies that parents and relatives grew up listening to and that are back in the limelight now following the success of the film *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

As always, audiences were treated to a spectacular evening of rocking entertainment. The cast were, of course, the champions and everyone enjoyed whistling the hits and tap tapping along!



Lent News



09

Giants of the car industry visit Princethorpe College

Princethorpe College was delighted to welcome British Jaguar car designer, Ian Callum CBE and Phil Popham, CEO of Lotus Cars, to tour the College in March.

They were impressed by Princethorpe College's strong design heritage commenting, "This school has got it right, the creative design and STEM subjects are hugely important for all our futures. It will be down to the young people of today to address the challenges and schools should be equipping them with the skills to do so. The design work on show here at the College is just amazing."

Ian and Phil also met with Sixth Form Product Design students and took time to answer their questions on a wide range of topics that ranged from their route into the design world and the process of design through to the challenges facing designers today.

11

Drama evening full of stunning work

The College's GCSE and A-level pupils mesmerised their audiences with a stunning evening of devised and scripted work.

Year 10s' original creations *Liese*, *Everyman* and *Vi Rose* portrayed powerful and emotive visions of the Holocaust, dystopian rebellions and cyber bullying. Whilst Year 11s gave a variety of beautifully observed and convincing portrayals of characters from plays such as *Blink*, *Tissue* and *Art*.

The evening ended with a mature and highly topical expressionistic piece entitled *This is not a moment - It is a Movement*, performed by Charlotte Fitzpatrick and Elsa Isaacs with a maturity and vigour beyond their years.

10

Princethorpe's Mathematicians are put to the challenge

In March, Princethorpe Year 9 and Year 8 pupils, Ben Smith, Ed Twyman, Emma Sarkies and Rahul Samra, took part in the Regional Final of the AMSP (Advanced Mathematics Support Programme) Team Maths Challenge.

Run in conjunction with the UK Mathematics Trust, the Team Maths Challenge is a prestigious problem-solving competition for the best Year 9 and Year 8 mathematicians.

The pupils took part in an intense four hours of problem-solving, progressing through a series of rounds that tested their mathematical, communication and team-working skills.

Princethorpe's team did very well and were pleased to finish eighth overall.

12

'Seven questions: Mad Lib Theatre' Takes Best Movie at Princethorpe's Seventh Annual Oscars evening

Each year Hollywood celebrates their prestigious Academy Awards, but here at Princethorpe College we have our own 'night of nights', the Princethorpe Oscars, when the Sixth Form Atrium is transformed and the red carpet is rolled out, to celebrate our very own film stars.

In 2019/20 20 films on the theme of the number 7 were up for consideration with 'the best of the best' being awarded much-prized mini Oscars.

The main award of the night, Best Movie, proved to be a difficult decision for the judges. In the end the ingenuity of the dialogue and the artistic talent of the pupil participants helped Lower Sixth Formers Charlotte Fitzpatrick and Lauren Mason claim the overall prize.

Lent News

Princethorpe shines the Spotlight on Science

In March, Princethorpe took part in British Science Week and throughout the week pupils enjoyed entertaining and interesting activities designed to highlight the importance of Science and inspire and engage the next generation of scientists.

Pupils in Year's 7, 8 and 9 followed a curriculum of Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons combining hands on practical investigations and experiments with key scientific skills such as recording observations.

In Tutor Time pupils from Years 7 to 11 faced design technology challenges and participated in the inter-tutor Science Quiz. Year 8 pupils also enjoyed a trip to the British Motor Museum where they participated in a series of science shows and activities with programmable RVR Robots, LEGO Gears workshops, Land Rover art activities and also explored the museum' superb collection.

Science teacher, Rob Southern held a series of science themed assemblies featuring an electric car, an amazing original Sinclair C5 from 1985, and Sixth Form Physics and Design Technology students even had the chance to drive it. Within the school pupils had the chance to take part in a STEAM themed, inter-house, public speaking competitions.

British Science Week allowed the College to shine a spotlight on Science.



Lent Trips



01

01 Sixth Formers Explore National Portrait Gallery

In January Sixth Form Art and Photography students visited the National Portrait Gallery in London. Home to the largest collection of portraits in the world, the National Portrait Gallery provided the students with a unique opportunity to develop their ideas and inspirations as they started to prepare for their summer A-level examinations.

It was a productive day out for the students, they enjoyed three uninterrupted hours in the gallery and it was really useful preparation for their A-level assessment.



02

02 Drama and Theatre Studies trip to *Woman In Black*

100 Year 9 to Lower Sixth Drama and Theatre Studies pupils enjoyed a trip to the Curve Theatre in Leicester in January to see *Woman In Black*.

Based on Susan Hill's acclaimed ghost story this long running play tells of a lawyer obsessed with a curse that has been cast over his family by a ghost. It proved to be a terrifying, spine-chilling evening out but provided invaluable support and preparation for the live theatre elements of pupils' studies and for the creation of their own scripted and devising work.



03

03 GCSE Artists Find Inspiration In Oxford

28 GCSE Fine Art pupils visited the Pitt Rivers and Ashmolean Museums in Oxford. The trip offered an opportunity to take photos and produce drawings and sketches from first hand observation, all of which could then be used as stimulus for their coursework portfolios.

The Ashmolean Museum displays a range of ancient and modern art and antiquities covering world civilisations, plus fine and applied arts. Full of atmospheric galleries and artefacts from all corners of the world, the complex and diverse collections offered pupils plenty of choice. All worked exceptionally hard and came away with plenty of valuable inspiration.



04

04 Peak District Warm Up For Malawi Adventurers

Plans for the Malawi 2020 expedition were well underway when pupils and staff took part in a half term team-building training walk up in the Peak District.

It was a glorious day and the 18 pupils and five staff walked a demanding 18km route through the picturesque Vale of Edale, accompanied by Head of Outdoor Education, Will Bower. The walk was a small taste of the two-day hike the expedition participants would have completed in Malawi in the summer.

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The walk was a small taste of the two-day hike the expedition participants would have completed in Malawi in the summer.

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Lent Sport



U14 Boys qualify for Hockey Regional Finals

In January the U14 Boys Hockey Team competed in the Warwickshire Schools' County Championships. Against skilful opposition the boys played a confident game, with plenty of excellent passing and accurate shooting.

Finishing top of their group they qualified for the semi-finals where in a tight match they slickly dispatched Bishop Vesey's 1-0. The final proved to be a tougher challenge and despite the team holding their own against Solihull they eventually went down 0-2 to finish County Championship runners-up overall. It was a great finish for the team, that qualified them for the Regional Finals.

Playing for Princethorpe were: Will Antrobus, Thomas Becker, Jamie Carr, George Downey, William Elms, Radley Evans, James Hawkins, Tom Hollis, Harry Kelly, James Robinson, Rahul Samra, Luc Sen-Gupta, Jamie Smith and Akaash Verma.

Minor Girls, Junior Girls, Inter Boys and Senior Boys are County Cross Country Champions

The Warwickshire Schools County Cross Country Championships took place in January at Kineton High School. It was a bright but chilly morning for our 38 Princethorpe runners, who were drawn from Years 7 to 13. They were competing against some of the best runners in the County, from 29 Warwickshire schools. All the early morning cross country training paid dividends with another excellent set of individual and team results for the College; team placings are based on the positions of the first four runners from a school.

The Minor Girls, Junior Girls A, Inter Boys and Senior Boys teams all placed first overall claiming the County Cross Country Championship titles. The Junior Girls B and the Junior Boys teams also ran well to come third with the Minor Boys placing fifth.

In a superb run Year 8, Kate Pomerleau finished first overall in the Junior Girls race, with Grace Darcy hot on her heels in second and Ava Farren fourth.

Well done to all the competitors, there were some excellent personal performances in tough races.

Four team titles and 14 Qualify for the National Cross Country Championships

14 Princethorpe runners qualified for the National ISA Cross Country Championships after competing in the Midlands regional competition at Bedstone College, Shropshire in February. In addition, the U15 Boys, U15 Girls, U13 Boys and U13 Girls teams all placed first, the icing on the cake for the College teams.

Both the U13 Girls' and Boys' teams ran well, qualifying for the Nationals for the U13 Girls were Kate Pomerleau, Ava Farren and Hannah Wildey who ran superbly to come 1st, 3rd and 5th position respectively. For the U13 Boys Ben Smith, Oscar Reynolds and Ollie Farquharson were just as determined to qualify, finishing their race in 3rd, 5th and 9th.

For the U15 Girls, Grace Darcy and Jess Evans had excellent runs to finish in 3rd and 6th place. Whilst for the U15 Boys Zak Johnson, Toby Collett and Jamie Smith came home in quick succession in 5th, 6th and 7th place. They all qualified for the Nationals too.

The U18 Boys team ran swiftly with the Crowfoot twins in excellent form, Tom finished 1st and brother Will 2nd, reversing the results of last year, both qualified for the Nationals.

In the U18 Girls, Molly Minshull had an excellent race taking 3rd place in a competitive field, she qualified for the Nationals too.

A fantastic team performance in difficult cross-country conditions.

Lent Sport



U14 Boys take Silver Medal at National ISA Football Championships

Princethorpe College's U14 Boys Football team finished as runners up after a sensational performance at the Independent Schools Association (ISA) National Football Championships. The six-a-side competition took place in January at Nottingham University. 20 teams had travelled from across the country to take part in the prestigious event.

The boys stormed through the group stages finishing top of their pool without conceding a single goal. In the semi-final the team faced Red House School but Princethorpe's boys capitalised on every opportunity. Superb goals from Dawson Barnett (2) and Joseph Bird ensured the match finished in a fantastic 3-0 win. In the final Princethorpe went up against a strong and experienced team from the Priory School. It was a much tougher game, both sides played well and the U14s were unlucky to lose out just going down 0-2 at the end.

Playing for Princethorpe were Year 9 pupils: Joseph Bird, Dawson Barnett, Radley Evans, Alexander Hammond, Barnaby Hammond (Captain), Ben Putt, Jamie Robinson, Rahul Samra and Luc Sen-Gupta.



U15 Netball Girls are County Runners Up

The U15 Girls' Netball team were runners-up in the Warwickshire County Netball Tournament at Kingsley School in February. The girls worked very well together, putting into practise all their training, bringing the ball down the court for plenty of goal opportunities.

In the group stage, the team won three fast paced and tight matches against Rugby School, Kingsley School and Stratford Grammar School. In the semi-final they faced Alcester Grammar School where more super netball helped them to another 7-1 win. The final was a more challenging match against King's High, tough opponents, and the girls struggled to make headway eventually losing 1-6 to finish the tournament as County Runners-Up.

Playing for Princethorpe were Year 10s: Issy Bunting, Eve Farquharson, Millie Giffin, Ruby Harris, Mia Johnson (Captain), Evie Phillips, Rosie Pritchard-Jeffs, Lara Tripp-Smith, Holly Waterfield and Molly Wincott-Thomas.

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The boys stormed through the group stages finishing top of their pool without conceding a single goal.
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U15 Boys Hockey Team are County Runners Up

In February it was the turn of the U15 Boys Hockey team to compete in the Warwickshire Schools County Championship.

Facing teams from Bablake School, Warwick School and King Edward VI School Birmingham, the boys played fantastic hockey, their accurate and slick passing and strong defence taking them all the way through to the final. Like their younger counterparts they faced Solihull School in the final but the team held their own to finish with a draw. Very disappointingly Princethorpe then lost out on penalty flicks.

Playing for the team were Year 10s: Joshua Apaya, William Gibson-Sexton, Toby Gorburt, Ben Hardy, Will Hawkins, Jody Hollingsworth, Harry King, Tom Knight, George Landreth, Adam Ledbrook, Edward Mitchell, Evan Ridd, Jamie Smith, Samuel Tubb and Madoc Williams

Lent Sport



Netball Girls victorious at the ISA Midlands Netball Tournament

In March the U13A Girls Netball team took part in the ISA Midlands Netball Tournament in Loughborough. The competition kicked off with a round robin tournament. Princethorpe started with a good win and made progress in each match, it was great to see the team grow in confidence throughout the tournament. In the semi-final the team faced RGS Dodderhill again and another strong team performance helped them to another 15-4 win.

The final was against Bedstone College, and the girls knew they had a challenge on their hands. They worked extremely hard, putting into practise all their training; providing plenty of passing options, marking tight to force turnovers, protecting and maintaining possession of the ball which provided plenty of scoring opportunities. It was a very close match but the girls never gave up and were able to force two crucial turnovers in the last 30 seconds of the game to win 12-11.

A fantastic performance by all. Playing for Princethorpe College were Year 8s: Sammie Borland, Georgia Dowling, Abigail Gillard, Emily Hennegan, Honor-Mae Minshull, Anna Reay, Rosie Reeve, Mia Samra, Liv Sarkies and Sage Westbury (Captain).



Princethorpe pupils help Warwickshire U17s to an excellent win

Princethorpe College pupils, Year 11, Paddy Grace and Lower Sixth Former, Cameron Taylor, played for Warwickshire U17s in their match against Oxfordshire in early March.

Both boys gave their all and Paddy scored two tries to help the team to an excellent 27-10 win. It is fantastic to see pupils play at County level, their experiences always benefit the College's squads.



Pupils help Rugby and East Warwickshire Hockey U14s qualify for Regional Finals

No fewer than six Princethorpe pupils helped Rugby and East Warwickshire's U14 hockey team qualify for the Regional Finals in the England Hockey Tier 1 Championship.

Four victories against Bromsgrove 3-2, Beeston 4-2, Leicester 8-0 and a superb away win against Repton 8-2 on Sunday 8 March, helped the team finish joint top of table alongside Sutton Coldfield qualifying them for the Regional Finals.

It was a great achievement against the top clubs in the Midlands region. Tier 1 is the highest level of hockey a junior player can compete at.

Playing in the team were Will Antrobus, Tom Hollis, James Robinson, Jamie Carr, Matthew Carr and Ben Smith.

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It is fantastic to see pupils play at County level, their experiences always benefit the College's squads.

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Lent Sport



James Crabtree selected for England Counties U18

Upper Sixth Former, James Crabtree, fought his way through a tough selection process to be confirmed as part of the 23-man squad to represent England Counties U18 in their two-match series against Ireland.

James was amongst 160 boys who initially began by playing three inter-County games at Loughborough University. Selected to go forward to the Midlands squad, he survived the cut to 30 after the first training session and then made it on to the final Midlands 23-man team.

James played in a match against the North, participated in an intensive residential weekend and then faced London and the South East.

James was then picked by the selectors to be part of a 23-man squad to represent England Counties U18.

Pulling on an England shirt is a great honour and the College was incredibly proud of James's exceptional achievement.

Schools National Judo Championships

The College was delighted when Year 9 pupil Tahlia Collis-Smith took Gold at the British Schools Judo Championships in March.

Tahlia, who trains with Nuneaton Judo Club, competed in the Years 8 and 9 age category, represented Princethorpe College against a field of just over 80 contestants. The Championships took place at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

Tahlia's tenacity and determination paid off as she worked her way through the competition beating opponent after opponent in a series of three-minute matches. Her focus, concentration and sheer hard work helped her come first in her age group and confidently claim the gold medal.

It was an incredible achievement for Tahlia.

Six Princethorpe runners represented Warwickshire at English Schools' Cross Country Championships

Six Princethorpe runners travelled to Liverpool in March to compete for Warwickshire in the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships. The runners had been selected to be part of a 48-strong Warwickshire squad, with the top eight runners from each age group representing their county on the day. Year 8s, Grace Darcy, Ava Farren and Kate Pomerleau, Year 9, Zak Johnson and Lower Sixth Formers, Tom and Will Crowfoot represented Princethorpe in the Warwickshire team.

Our hard-working runners had put in extensive training throughout the season in the build up to this pinnacle of the cross-country season. In windy, muddy and challenging conditions the Junior Girls ran a 3km course, the Junior Boys a 4.4km course and the Senior Boys a 6.7km course around the 235-acre park. Kate, Ava and Grace were placed 1st, 2nd and 6th for Warwickshire. Zak Johnson came home 6th for Warwickshire and Will and Tom Crowfoot came in 2nd and 3rd respectively for Warwickshire.

The runners did fantastically well to qualify for this prestigious event and performed very well on the day against very stiff competition. A great effort all round.

Lent Charity



College Sixth Formers help beat heartbreak forever

Individual red and white carnations were hand delivered by Sixth Formers to classrooms across the College in February, in celebration of St Valentine's Day.

In the preceding weeks Princethorpe's Sixth Form students had been busy promoting the charity fundraiser in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Late on the Wednesday afternoon, Princethorpe's very own Cupids, began preparing the flowers, delicately wrapping and handwriting personal messages for the anonymous gifts, ready for their surprise deliveries. There were red carnations for that special someone and white carnations as a thank you to a great friend.

This year there were a lucky 136 recipients helping the Sixth Formers to raise £272 all of which was donated to help the British Heart Foundation in their mission to 'beat heartbreak forever'.



Sixth Form walk 24 miles for Mary's Meals

91 walkers from Princethorpe College trudged just over 2,000 miles to raise money for the charity Mary's Meals. For the twelfth consecutive year Sixth Formers and staff laced up their walking boots and took on the challenge of walking 24 miles in seven hours.

The route followed a big loop around the side of Coventry from Ryton to Meridian, taking in varying terrain. The relentless rain made for waterlogged conditions underfoot but thankfully the weather remained clement on the day.

Luke Brotherton, Ellis Chaplow, Louis Coleby, Tom Crowfoot, Will Crowfoot, Sion Murphy and Tomas Wilcox crossed the finish line first completing the course in 6 hours and 41 minutes.

They were followed home by a procession of jubilant finishers with the final walker completing the challenge at 6.16pm.

As always there was a wonderful spirit of camaraderie along the route. Everyone was helping each other and keeping focused on the aim to raise as much money as possible for impoverished children around the world.



Princethorpe 4 Makalanga

The College completed another super year of fundraising for Mary's Meals, finishing Year 3 of the Makalanga project at £8,442 - fully funding the feeding programme for 622 children at the school for the year.

Over the course of the year Princethorpe 4 Makalanga has received donations from pupils, staff, parents and friends of the Foundation across a range of fundraising events that have included the Cycling Pilgrimage #2, World Porridge Day and in particular the 24 miles in 7 hours sponsored walk. Some 169 individual online donations were received ranging in size from £5 to £500 which together with the in-school collections helped the College top its fundraising target.

Huge thanks to all involved in supporting the project, together you helped Princethorpe College become one of the top school fundraisers for the charity Mary's Meals.



Annual Blue Day raises funds for Cancer Charities

The College's annual Blue Day saw Sixth Formers raising awareness and funds for Prostate and Testicular Cancer Charities.

Held traditionally on the last day before Lent Half Term Sixth Formers donned an eclectic mix of blue costumes and organised fundraising activities that included a brektime cake sale and a lunchtime scavenger hunt.

Prefects

Virtual Inauguration Ceremony welcomes new Princethorpe Prefect Body



The new Princethorpe College Prefect Body for 2020-2021 was formally inaugurated into their roles in a virtual ceremony shared with the College community and parents on Friday 17 April.

The outgoing Head Boy, Jack Bent, and Head Girl, Leah Dunkley, gave a poignant speech reflecting on their year in office and time at Princethorpe before wishing the new Prefect Body well. Mr Ben Collie, Head of Sixth Form introduced the 2020-2021 Prefects for the first time, before the smartly attired group spoke individually to their audience about themselves and their hopes for their new roles.

2020/21 Prefect Body

Head Girl	Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey	Social Prefects	Isabella Wardman Keeley Jarrett
Head Boy	Jack Neale	Charity Prefect	James Walker
Deputy Head Girl	Lauren Mason Grace McGrory	Chaplaincy Prefect	Elsa Isaacs Hannah Bryer
Deputy Head Boy	James Gallagher Prajeet Prabakaran	Junior Chaplaincy Prefects	Andre Barnett – Year 7 – Austin Sean Birtley – Year 7 – Fisher Louis Yuen – Year 7 - Fisher Thomas Bucknall - Year 8 – Austin Jemima Teeton – Year 8 – Austin Zoe Shayler – Year 9 – Benet
Pastoral Prefects	Beth Hutcheson Ross Low Georgja McCallum Olivia Rawle Jess Scott Elyse Hyland	Academic Prefects	Zack Ahmed Amelia Cunnington Mia Hornett (Transition Prefect) Daisy Walker
Austin House Captains	Charlotte Fitzpatrick Luke Brotherton	Marketing and Communications Prefect	Will Marshall
Benet House Captains	Gracie Gerrard Harvey Wells	Games Prefects	Madeleine Glasspool Emelia Tubb Tom Crowfoot Oli Thomas
Fisher House Captains	Aimee Llewellyn Isaac Ryan		
More House Captains	Kian Mellett Connor Parris		

#COVID19lockdown



Princethorpe helped WCS Care with essential PPE supplies

WCS Care, who run a number of local care homes, contacted us in March with a plea for Personal Protective Equipment. Supplies of essentials such as aprons, gloves and masks were running low across the country. Of course, the College was only too happy to help and quickly put together 120 or so old but still usable face masks, 4 boxes of nitrile gloves (some 600 brand new gloves) and 30 sets of old but still useable goggles. Working together and supporting each other was what really mattered and Princethorpe was delighted to help.



Spring 2020 was a difficult and emotional time for us all, on Friday 20 March the school closed its doors – pupils, parents, staff and the wider community went into lockdown and learning went online. Across our community there were many examples of people going the extra mile, as the whole country pulled together to support each other. Just a few of the uplifting stories and moments that inspired us all are celebrated here.



Michael Luis mobilised for operation RESCRIPT

Princethorpe College Estates Assistant Michael Luis was one many Reservists mobilised under Operation RESCRIPT to support the Government's response to COVID-19.

Michael was part of Mobile Testing Unit 36 supporting the government's drive to increase testing. He worked in the South East of England. One of many who answered the call of their country, bringing their skills and experience to support the country as it navigated its way through the crisis.



Benet's empathetic messages for residents on lockdown in their home

In their final week in school pupils in Benet House used their Tutor Time to write letters and emails to the residents of Low Furlong Residential Home for the elderly. Low Furlong in Shipston-on-Stour was on lockdown due to COVID-19 and the residents were very much missing visits from family and friends. Benet's pupils wrote beautifully empathetic emails and handwritten letters, reaching out to the residents in a time of isolation and loneliness. It was a wonderful example of kindness from all those involved.

Princethorpe's Matron worked in A&E

On International Nurses Day, we thanked all nurses working so hard across the NHS and we gave a special thank you to our very own Senior Matron, Paula Greig, who had answered the call to return to the NHS. At that time Paula was working in the A&E department at Nuneaton Hospital. Just one of many providing care and attention to those unwell and in need, we thanked them for all that they do.



#COVID19lockdown



Teachers' volunteered to support key worker provision

Across the Foundation teachers volunteered to provide care to children of critical workers. Lisa Emery, Year 1 teacher at the Crescent School, and Mike Taylor, Head of Geography at Princethorpe College, volunteered their time over at Crackley Hall during the Easter holidays where our provision was focused. Doing their bit to help everyone stay safe.



OP David Jones' creative countryside tribute to NHS

We loved the amazing countryside tribute created by arable farmer and Old Princethorpean, David Jones to the NHS. Filmed and shared on social media the story was just one of many showing how the wider country pulled together to support for the NHS.



Ed's excellent practical application of DT skills

Year 8, Ed Twyman's DT Teacher, Tom Walton, and Form Tutor, Will Bower, were both very impressed by Ed's practical application of his DT skills during the lockdown.

Ed got involved with sewing much needed scrubs. He was provided with fabric and a pattern by a member of his village sewing group who was coordinating their local effort. He then used instructional videos on You Tube to work out how to sew the scrubs together.

It was fantastic to see Ed's skills put into practical application and we were very impressed.



Team McCollin play marathon tennis in aid of NHS

Fund-raising members of the Princethorpe Foundation family picked up their tennis rackets for a ten-hour match to support the NHS over the Easter holidays. Neil McCollin, Princethorpe's Assistant Head Co-curricular and his wife Rachel, a teacher at Crescent School spent ten hours in one day playing tennis with their children raising more than £1,000 for NHS charities.



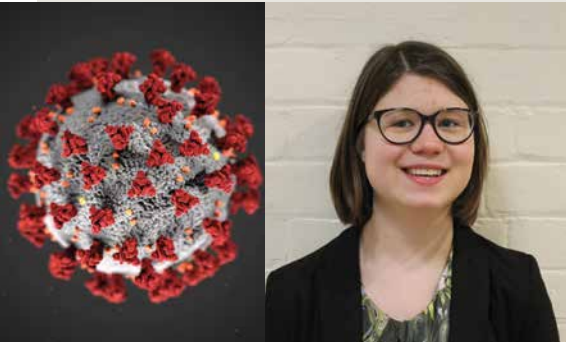
Liv's Little Stitches

Year 7, Liv Fox started her own enterprise 'Liv's Little Stitches' making masks for her family, friends and neighbours.

DT Teacher Miranda Porter was very impressed commenting on how industrious Liv was. The masks were lovely and Liv put into practice her enterprise skills setting herself up as a business, and working on how to package and promote her products.

“Across the Foundation teachers volunteered to provide care to children of critical workers.”

Trinity News



01 Combating COVID-19 Junior Academy Challenge

Princethorpe STEAM Ambassador and Deputy Head Girl, Lauren Mason, took part in a 'Combating COVID-19' Junior Academy Challenge for the New York Academy of Sciences.

Lauren represented the UK in an international team working on the COVID-19 challenge. Together they undertook primary research collecting data for analysis on a range of different factors associated with living in a country affected by the virus. The survey asked people about their current situation regarding the pandemic's progress in their country. Topics included food supply, access to medicines, reliance of news and social media and community support.

Lauren really enjoyed participating in the challenge as it provided a focus outside of schoolwork and gave her the opportunity to network internationally and see how different cultures were coping with the pandemic.



02 Young Conservatives Award for Upper Sixth's James Paterson

Upper Sixth Former, James Paterson, was jointly awarded the first ever Local Young Conservatives Award for Outstanding Contribution and Political Activism in recognition of hard work and dedication throughout the year and in the 2019 General Election campaign.

James who studied A-level Politics and hopes to one day go on and become an MP himself received the award from Hinckley and Bosworth Young Conservatives Association in recognition of his contribution in supporting the campaign for the Bosworth MP Dr Luke Evans.



03 Foundation marks the Anniversary of VE Day

In May the country celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day, the end of the Second World War in Europe.

There were plenty of celebrations to mark this anniversary and the Foundation schools' marked the event in their own small ways.

Here at the College we virtually flew the Union Jack by posting a picture of the flag atop the Tower across all our social media. Then, College pupils enjoyed a special VE Day House Challenge by creating their own British flag in any form.

At Crackley Hall pupils took part in a special VE Day Assembly while at the Crescent School the children spent Thursday 7 May off timetable, taking part in a special VE Day of lessons.

Together The Princethorpe Foundation gave thanks to all those who gave so much to secure the peace, freedom and prosperity our society enjoys today.

Trinity News

04

Seb Dobb Awarded The Julia & Martin Wilson Short Story Prize

Year 11, Seb Dobb, won the Broadway Arts Festival's The Julia & Martin Wilson Short Story Prize. Introduced to encourage creativity and imaginative writing during the lockdown, in particular by young people, the competition received some 193 entries from writers across the world.

Seb was inspired to write his story having read Charles Dickens' novella A Christmas Carol. His prize-winning story was titled *Broken Heating* and can be read on the Arts Festival website.

Well done to Seb, we were delighted to hear of his story-writing success.

06

Two day TEFL course teaches valuable skills

Nine Sixth Form students completed a two-day online course in Teaching English As A Foreign Language (TEFL). Princethorpe's Sixth Form has offered the TEFL qualification for a number of years as it is particularly useful for those students considering a gap year abroad. Despite giving up two full days of their weekend, all the Sixth Formers who took part really enjoyed the course.

Head Girl, Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey, said, "It was a brilliant few days and even though we did the course at home our instructor kept us all engaged and interested. It was really worth taking and she also gave us a lot useful information for what to do when travelling in the future. The course was fascinating and she explained everything so clearly and gave me a new appreciation for teaching."



05

Honor-Mae takes first place in Rotary Young Writers Competition

Year 8 pupil, Honor-Mae Minshull's poem *Connections* took first place in both the local and district Rotary Young Writer's Competitions. Locally more than 300 young people from eight schools across Rugby entered in the three age categories and the Judges greatly enjoyed reading their work. The choice of the winner for each age-group was made by a panel of three Rotarians. Honor-Mae took first place in the Intermediate section, for ages 11-13 years, and her winning entry then went forward to the West Midlands District competition where it won again.

Head of English, Chris Kerrigan, commented, "Congratulations to Honor on her superb achievement in this popular competition and on writing such a moving piece of work."

07

Warm welcome for Princethorpe's new faces

The College hosted its first ever first Virtual Induction event in June for pupils joining the school in September. The new pupils and their parents were excited to receive links to a series of pre-recorded videos to help introduce them to their new school. Everyone was warmly welcomed by Headmaster, Ed Hester, Deputy Head Pastoral, Beth Sharpe, and Head of Transition, Sue Harris.

There were friendly messages of encouragement from the College's Head Boy and Head Girl, Jack Neale and Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey and helpful advice from Year 8s, Ben Smith and Renee Ndungu before with a spin of the banner, pupils discovered which College House they would be joining. Their Head of House then introduced themselves before in turn their new Tutors welcomed pupils individually to their new Form Groups.

Trinity News

International cricketer Ben Stokes presents prestigious winter sports prizes

Princethorpe College's Virtual Winter Sports Awards took place in April and celebrated the achievements of the College's young sportsmen and sportswomen at all levels and across all sports.

Host for the event was Assistant Head Co-curricular, Neil McCollin, who led the special virtual celebration of the season's sporting endeavours. The event included a special guest appearance by a sporting global superstar, English international cricketer and vice-captain of the England Test team, Ben Stokes.

The award ceremony began with a summary of the performances of the College's sports team. Then Mr McCollin announced the teams of the season for which there were many contenders.

Girls Sports Team of the Year was awarded to the U15 Hockey team.

Boys Sports Team of the Year was awarded to the U13A Rugby team.

A number of pupils received full colours recognising their commitment and dedication to sport both on and off the field. They included Emelia Tubb, Maddie Glasspool, Jack Bent, Sam Armstrong, Will Basford, Izzy Smith, Caitlin Parris, Lucy Gribben, Oli Thomas, Henry King, Will Cooper-Harris, Tom Crowfoot, Will Crowfoot, James Crabtree, Fionn McCormack, Thomas Parker and Oscar Phillips.

Then it was the turn of our special guest speaker, Ben Stokes, who began by reflecting on the importance of sport and the role it plays in the lives of young people. Ben was delighted to announce the individual sports prizes congratulating each of the winners, they included:

Junior Sports Girl of the Year	Alice Whittaker
Junior Sports Boy of the Year	Jamie Smith
Senior Sports Girl of the Year	Lucy Gribben
Senior Sports Boy of the Year	Freddie Draper
Sixth Form Sports Girl of the Year	Izzy Smith
Sixth Form Sports Boy of the Year	James Crabtree

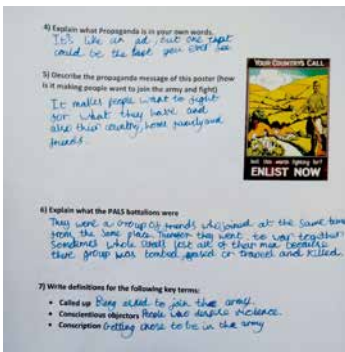


Another very successful season for the College with plenty to celebrate.



Virtual Learning

During lockdown learning moved online, in the weeks before intense preparations had readied systems, teachers and pupils for the move as the College moved heaven and earth to provide the best experience possible for all. Teachers were delighted by the commitment shown by pupils to their studies and the College was grateful to parents for the vital role they played supporting and encouraging the home learning experience.



Outstanding History home learning

Jimmy Frazier in Year 8 produced a super piece of work on Recruitment In WWI - he showed a good understanding of propaganda and excellent insight into the positives and negatives of the PALS Battalions.

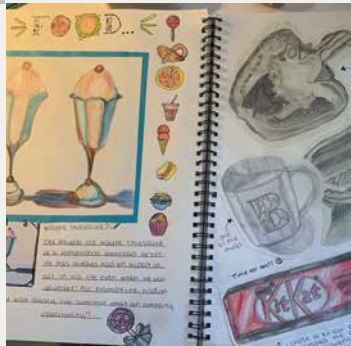


Lower Sixth Form artists' sophisticated explorations

Keeley Jarrett explored the theme of 'Contrasts' considering contrasting light and emotions in portraiture. Her sophisticated self-portraits in different media were by the work of Kathe Kollwitz.

Bea's food glorious food

Bea Boakes' Food Glorious Food submissions caught Mrs Harris' eye. Year 8 really enjoyed the topic and Bea's book work was outstanding.



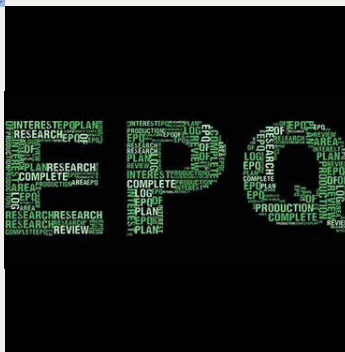
Izzy Wright's robot cake

DT Teacher, Tom Walton awarded Year 9, Izzy Wright, a da Vinci merit for her fantastic robot cake. Izzy decided to go ahead and make the cake after completing research tasks in her lessons. It was, reportedly, very yummy. It really looks amazing!



Amélie achieves a perfect score

Year 10 Amélie Friess' assessment impressed Mrs Challinor and received a rare perfect score of 45 marks. It was a sharply-observed piece written in entertaining style on how these times bring out the best and the worst in people.



Year 11 EPQ Bridging Course

75 Year 11 pupils used the period of lockdown to get ahead of the game in the EPQ course. The students engaged brilliantly completing weekly tasks to familiarise them with what the Extended Project involves. Williams was delighted with their submissions.

Year 9 bread art challenge

Food and Nutrition Teacher, Jacqui Scott, set her Year 9s an interesting Bread Art Challenge. Pupils were asked to submit a bread that had been decorated with fruits, vegetables or herbs. The results were impressive, well done to Sofia Vicente Thomas whose fantastic focaccia is pictured.



Year 8 French Cher Frère Blanc

MFL Teacher, Sarah Duran's Year 8 pupils explored a French poem about race equality called Cher frère blanc (dear white brother). One of their tasks was to create something with the words and there were some super responses including Amaanya Bose's work here.



Virtual Learning



Geography Favela dwellings

As the culmination of a unit about Brazil, Mrs Baker's Year 8 Geography pupils recreated a favela dwelling. There were some impressive responses including Douglas Bray recreation of Rio's colourful homes using his stairs as a backdrop for the steep hillsides they are built on.



Lines of symmetry in Maths

Maths Teacher, Tanya Cowan's Year 7 class studied lines of symmetry. They were tasked with making their own symmetrical patterns from objects at home and describing their symmetry. There were some very creative submissions.

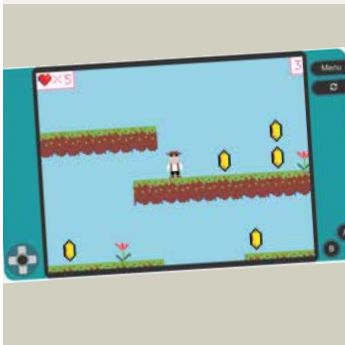
Outstanding Clock Design projects

Year 7 pupil, Heather Allen and Year 8 pupil Raphi Kane were both awarded da Vinci merits for their DT Clock Design Projects. DT Teacher, Tom Walton was delighted with their outstanding work.



Imaginary islands explored in English

English Teacher, Fiona Moon's Year 7 class created their own imaginary islands and completed activities such as writing folk tales, describing the plants, producing Attenborough-style documentaries as well as creating their own languages. Pictured is Sam Divers island map.



Year 7 use Make Code Arcade to code games

Computer Science Teacher, Jan Ryalls, had some of her Year 7 pupils coding games using Make Code Arcade. She was particularly impressed with the work completed by Ignash Librowski.



Excellent Economics research

Lower Sixth student, Luke Palmer, completed a fantastic research project on three global economies. Luke's detailed and professionally presented analysis considered Nigeria, Yemen and Sweden and used images, facts and figures to present an insightful and detailed analysis.

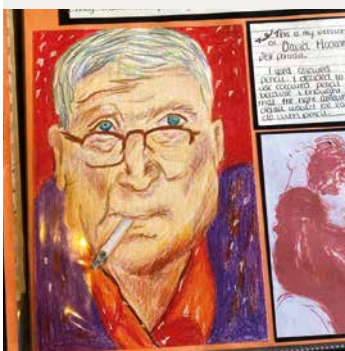
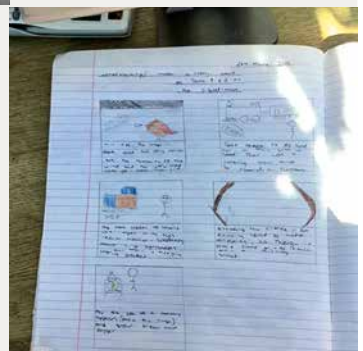
Delicious Art!

Eloise Keil in Year 9 studied the work of Wayne Thiebaud, a colourful, American artist. She drew an ice cream in his style – and it certainly looked delicious!



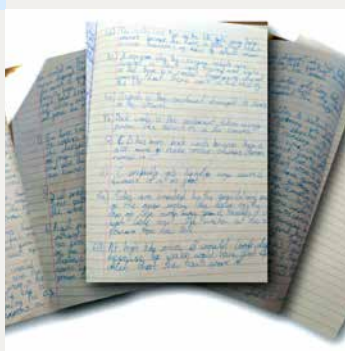
Super Story Board

Ida Kelley in Year 8 provided a detailed story board as her response to the mystery story The Signal-Man for her English home learning for English teacher, Helen Pascoe-Williams.



David Hockney project

Art teacher, Sue Harris, was very impressed by Millie Giffin's eye-catching project on the artist David Hockney.



Great Geography work

Jamie Smith completed his Geography work on coasts to an incredibly high standard. It was a super effort full of extra detail that extended his answers.

Virtual Learning

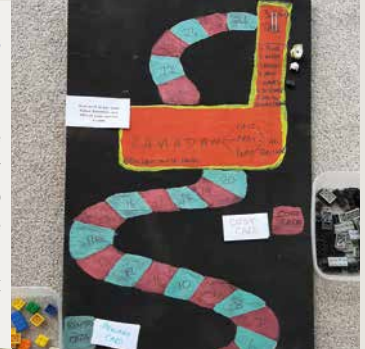
Of Mice and Men sketch

Year 10 Issy Bunting completed this sketch as part of her pre-reading work on John Steinbeck's classic examination text *Of Mice and Men*. Her English Teacher, Helen Pascoe-Williams, was most impressed. This was a great piece of pre-reading work.



Religious Studies

Year 8 were tasked with researching and presenting information on one of the Five Pillars of Islam. They really used their imagination! Theo Knight designed a board game on Zakat (the duty to give 2.5% of your income to charity) that impressed Mr Vella.



Descriptive writing about a time in history. 1666- The Great Fire of London by Emma E Year 8

Panic surrounds the city in a cloud of thick black smoke. Everyone rushing around to get water, to escape or even just in fear. Chaos is the only noise that fills everyone's ears, overpowering the crackling of the fires. Everything seems strangely inside out, normally all the people are hurrying about their busy little lives, preparing food in the kitchens and hanging washing in the gardens, but now all the hustle has been flipped and nothing inside.

When I passed the threshold in my home, the singe in the air hit me immediately. Like the first breath of fresh air in the morning, only chaos filled it instead of chirping birds. The sound of the streets is that of a riot and similar in behaviour too. The only difference would be the orderly way people are pushing and shoving each other to get to their loved ones. After a while, the noise dies down, purely due to the fact you get used to it, it never stops getting louder.

The stench of smoke and burning thatch fills the air to the point where clean air is not an option. You must either breathe through the burning or not breathe at all. It gets hotter and hotter, unusual because its drawing to winter and colder months now. The further you run the faster the fire catches up to you, it's like a prison: no escape.

English

Year 8, Emma Eastwood produced an outstanding piece of descriptive writing. English teacher, Lisa Challinor tasked her class with imagining a moment in the past and writing descriptively as if they were actually there. Emma chose The Great Fire of London.

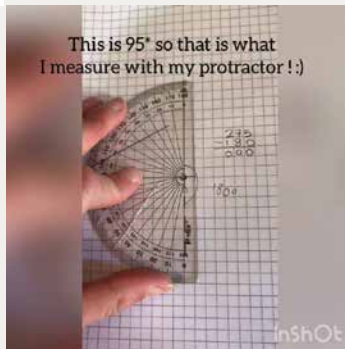


DT Upcycling

Year 8 pupils Georgina Barnes and Isabella Cunningham impressed Mr Scopes. They were asked to upcycle an item in the home and design and make a product using any wood available at home. Their creations were superb and included a chicken coop, a teapot stand and a pen holder.

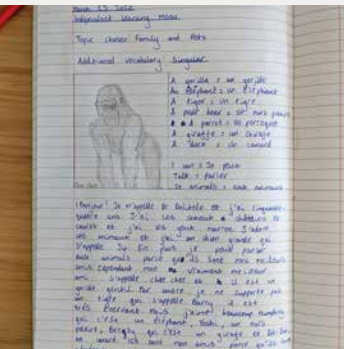
Hattie's Problem Solving

Head of Maths, Sharon McBride, was very pleased with, Year 8 pupil, Hattie Underhill who produced an outstanding video explaining how she used bearings and scale drawing to solve a problem.



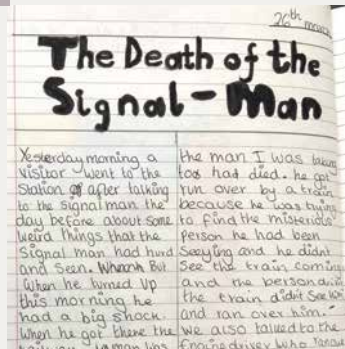
Medieval Castles

History teacher, Abi Adams' classes investigated British History, studying medieval castles, and exploring the changes in Britain from the 18th to 19th centuries. Working in their books or online pupils had no problem completing tables and providing excellent written answers to her questions.



Family and pets

MFL teacher, Sarah Duran was very impressed by Jack Dando who produced an exceptional piece of work in French about Dr Doolittle and his favourite pets.

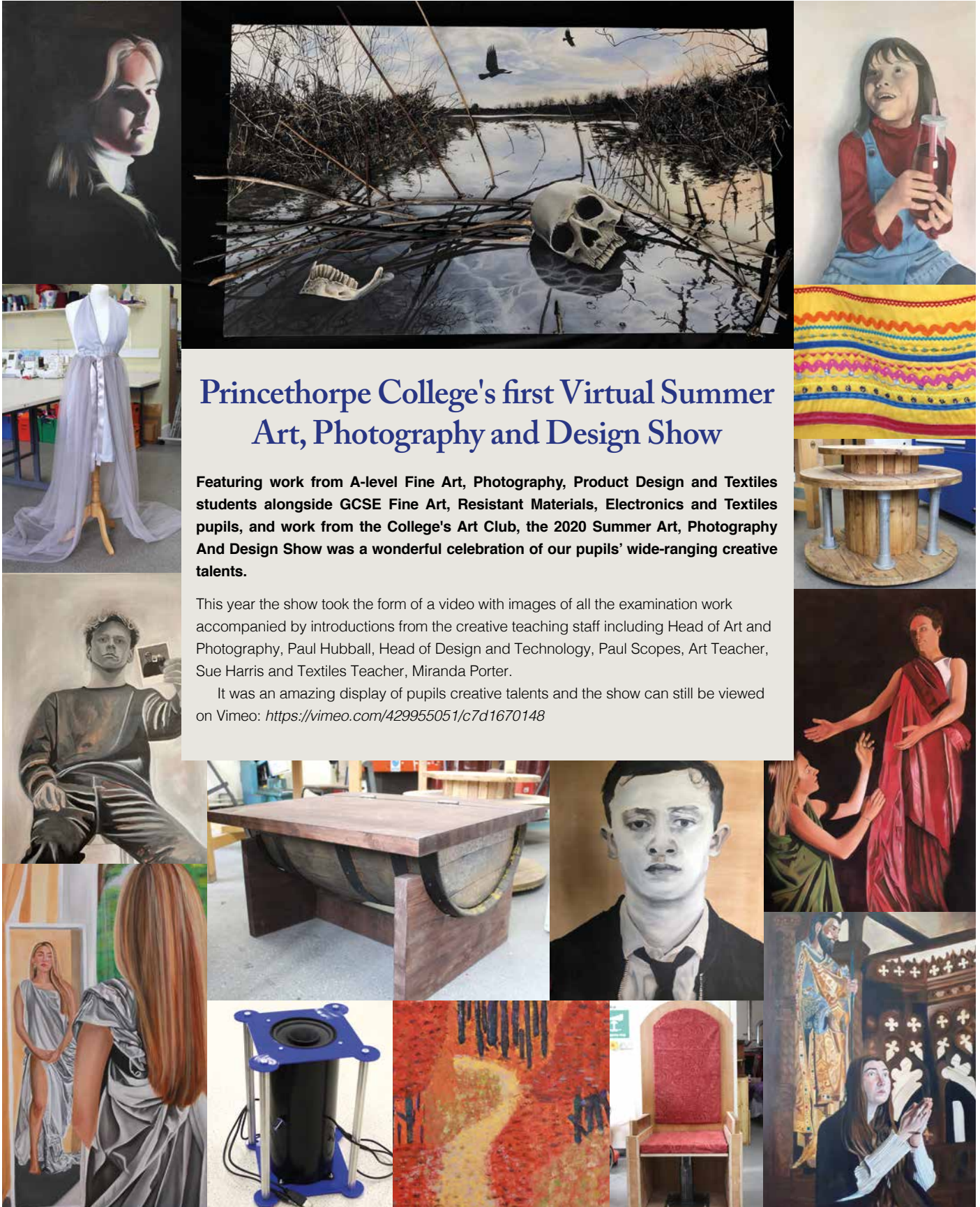


The Death of a Signal-Man

English teacher, Helen Pascoe-Williams was also impressed with Year 8 pupil, Layla Wolsey's composition based on Charles Dickens' short story.

“ Teachers were delighted by the commitment shown by pupils to their studies and the College was grateful to parents for the vital role they played supporting and encouraging the home learning experience. ”

Summer Show



Princethorpe College's first Virtual Summer Art, Photography and Design Show

Featuring work from A-level Fine Art, Photography, Product Design and Textiles students alongside GCSE Fine Art, Resistant Materials, Electronics and Textiles pupils, and work from the College's Art Club, the 2020 Summer Art, Photography And Design Show was a wonderful celebration of our pupils' wide-ranging creative talents.

This year the show took the form of a video with images of all the examination work accompanied by introductions from the creative teaching staff including Head of Art and Photography, Paul Hubball, Head of Design and Technology, Paul Scopes, Art Teacher, Sue Harris and Textiles Teacher, Miranda Porter.

It was an amazing display of pupils creative talents and the show can still be viewed on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/429955051/c7d1670148>

Virtual Performances and Concerts

Princethorpe hosted 'The Social Distance - Sing' Spring Concert

Thanks to the wonders of technology and the dedication of our fantastic Director of Music, Gil Cowlshaw, in April Princethorpe presented its first virtual Social Distance-Sing Spring Concert. Involving 60 members of the school community, including pupils, staff and peripatetic music teachers, all performing from home.

Nothing, not even a pandemic, was going to stop us having our Spring Concert and a joint performance of Elbow's anthemic hit, *One Day Like This*, seemed a fitting and uplifting choice for the times we found ourselves in.

In addition to the flagship performance there were a host of other musical items in the hour-long concert which streamed to the College community via Teams.



Princethorpe At Home Recital - You'll Never Walk Alone

The Princethorpe At Home Recital was the College's second virtual concert and proved to be a real treat. It included 27 performances submitted by pupils from Year 7 up to Lower Sixth, at Grades 1 to 8, some serious, some light-hearted, some downright silly (and wonderful!) and one pupil even using technology to perform a quintet with herself!

The lockdown recital streamed on the Friday before the Trinity half term and included the College's tribute to Captain Tom and his NHS fundraising walk and all frontline medical staff working in the current crisis, a stirring 40-piece rendition of the moving anthem *You'll Never Walk Alone*.



Foundation musicians rose to the occasion with an uplifting performance of *The Climb*

In a Foundation finale to the end of an extraordinary year, Director of Music, Gil Cowlshaw, and musicians from across the schools came together in a third virtual concert, the Summer Sing and Play. At the end nearly 90 pupils and staff performed Miley Cyrus' magical and moving ballad *The Climb*, the lyrics of which describe a difficult but rewarding journey and the challenge to keep the faith.

I may not know it, but these are the moments that I'm going to remember most, just got to keep going.

And I've got to be strong, just keep pushing on!

With pupils, from Reception right up to Upper Sixth, and staff representing all three schools including the Head of the Foundation, Ed Hester. *The Climb* was a heart-warming and inspirational reminder of this singularly unusual term in the Foundation's history.

The wonder of virtually sharing music together was an experience we will remember for years and years to come.



You can still watch the finales to all three concerts on Vimeo:

Social Distance-Sing – One Day Like This <https://vimeo.com/411356048>

Princethorpe At Home Recital – You'll Never Walk Alone

<https://vimeo.com/421441005>

Summer Sing And Play – The Climb <https://vimeo.com/434676980>

Chaplaincy



01

01 Giving is the school theme for the year

At the beginning of September, as part of the termly Eucharist, led by Father Alan Whelan MSC, the theme for the year 'Giving' was introduced. In the service Father Alan encouraged all pupils and staff to reflect on how we can all 'Give' and how by thinking of others and through acts of kindness we can all individually make a difference. Together pupils and staff prayed for the whole school community, our families and all those in the world who needed help in any way.



02

02 Poppies symbolise college's reflections on Remembrance

During November the College reflected on the theme of Remembrance. The month is the last in the Church's calendar and commemorates all those who have departed from life. It begins with the Feast of All Saints, a tribute to the saints, and is followed by the Feast of All Souls, when we pray for those who have died, particularly our loved ones.

In November our Junior Chaplaincy Prefects led House Assemblies for the school on the theme of Remembrance. The Prefects talked about the legacies of war and why we commemorate today those who fought and served in the World Wars, and in recent conflicts, and the sacrifices they made. As part of the assembly pupils had the opportunity to write down the name of a special person in their life. The poppies were then assembled into an impressive display.



03

03 Epiphany services offer a revelation into giving

In January, pupils participated in a series of Epiphany Services exploring the unexpected benefits of 'Giving'. The services offered College pupils the opportunity to reflect on how 'Giving' at Christmas could go further and to consider how and what they could give across the year.

Father Alan Whelan MSC encouraged pupils to reflect on opportunities for 'Giving'. He talked about the true meaning of Epiphany and how it offered insight and understanding of the important act of 'Giving'. Then Sixth Form students shared their experiences of volunteering, and how through visiting care homes and working at the Leamington Night Shelter they are actively 'Giving'. Before pupils completed Thank You cards, as a reminder of how simple it can be to 'Give'.



04

04 Ash Wednesday services remind us that by giving we can all make a difference

Princethorpe pupils and staff marked the beginning of Lent in a series of Ash Wednesday services. Held in the Chapel during Tutor Time and then at lunchtime, the services offered an opportunity for contemplation and reflection.

Father Alan Whelan, MSC led the services, with the message that Lent is a time to give and through giving each one of us has the power to build a better world. Together pupils and staff watched a short film about the work of CAFOD (The Catholic Agency For Overseas Development), one of the charities the College was supporting. In response to the story, and to Father Alan's message, everyone wrote on a paper hand how they would individually give to make a difference during Lent.

Year 7 and 8 pupils, Jemima Teeton, Louis Yuen, Andre Barnett and Sean Birtley, helped Junior Chaplaincy Prefect, Zoe Shayler, to peg the hands on the net attached to the cross whilst Sixth Former, Elsa Isaacs, helped to distribute the ashes.

Achievers Lunches

Achievers' Lunches recognise pupils' outstanding contribution to College life

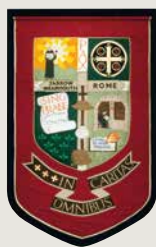
So many of our pupils commit in extraordinary ways both in and outside of College rising to the challenge of the College's ethos.

Pupils are always modest about their achievements and often surprised by the attention they received, not realising the commitment, motivation and tenacity such success demands.

It is just such qualities that the Celebration of Achievement Lunches reward and across the Michaelmas and Lent terms 124 pupils from across all year groups were nominated by members of staff and invited to the College Roundhouse by Assistant Head (Co-Curricular), Mr Neil McCollin to celebrate.

	Michaelmas Achievers	Lent Achievers
Year 7	Bobby Chapman, Harrison Guest, André Onyekwe and Luca Smith	Heather Allen, Sean Birtley, Roxy Glenn, Jess Hedgecock, Jessica Lane, Liam Mutukwa, André Onyekwe, Ned Roach and Dylan Williams
Year 8	Douglas Bray, Daisy Burke, Raul Camargo-Jones, Bertie Critchley, Chloe Henderson and Ben Smith	Raul Camargo-Jones, Jimmy Frazier, Kate Pomerleau, Rosie Reeve and Ben Smith
Year 9	Kitty Bonsor, Jens Cowdry, Katie Richards, Jamie Smith and Zara Simpson	Freddie Hadley, Tom Hollis, Matilda Houghton, Grace Isaacs, Tom Lomas, Emma Sarkies, Connor Silvester, Evie Teall, Alice Whittaker and Lottie Wilkins
Year 10	Ethan Brown, Harry Clements, Amelia Greig, Molly Harper, Jess Mackenzie, Keira MacRae, Freya Mills, Evie Phillips and Lara Tripp-Smith	Roualeyn Alford, Alex Allison, Laurel Arkesden, Leah Burford, Libby Chapman, George Gault, Rupert Hatton, Charlotte Lister, Jess Mackenzie, James Maclean, Keira MacRae, Freya Mills, Edward Moon, Wilf Sansum, Jamie Smith and Madoc Williams
Year 11	Oscar Blunsom-Washbrook, Max Critchley, George Dunkley, Robyn Field, Lucy Gribben, Nell Johnston, Ben Killian, Mary Lomas, Hannah McBride, Lucia McCosker-New, Izzy Nelson, Izzy Riley, Ciaran Smith, Jonti Spilman, Ella Woodrow and Prabhvir Vraitch	Harpreet Birdi, Greg Burford, Robyn Field, Paddy Grace, Daniel Hogg, Nell Johnston, Elsie Kelley, Mary Lomas, John Rabeti, Lucy Ratcliffe, Jack Reeve and Ben Scares
Lower Sixth	Lauren Abba, Sophie Cheshire, Josh Tidd and Emelia Tubb	Lauren Abba, Luke Brotherton, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Jack Fletcher, Gracie Gerrard, Evie Headland, Jack Neale, Cameron Taylor and Emelia Tubb
Upper Sixth	Rajpreet Birdi, Ellen Bucknall, Maddie Downey, Millie Hainge, Ciara Hancox, Alys Hemmings, Sophie Mitchell, Hannah Owens, Thomas Parker and Katie Shorten	Will Cooper-Harris, James Crabtree, Oscar Doyle, Ciara Hancox, Anthony Lock, Aidan O'Rourke, Fred Self, Isobel Smith and Samuel Wycherley





House News

01 Fabulous Fisher came first in the amazing House Talent Show

The House Talent Show took place on Thursday 7 November and the enthusiastic audience in the Clarkson Theatre was treated to a non-stop stream of talented and inspirational young people. The show included an array of dazzling dance routines, stunning instrumental and vocal performances, a fabulous boy band, an artistic roller skater and the uniquely talented Greg Burford whose audience led song-writing routine delivered our favourite line of the night "All you need to be cool ... is a piano .. and a few years at Princethorpe school". After the serious acts had performed the judges retired to deliberate, the audience then had the pleasure of two extra special synchronised acts, first the House Captains' Surprise, a super dry swimming routine, and an awesome finale by the First XV rugby aerobics team that simply had to be seen to be believed.

After watching all of the performances, guest judges Debs Taylor and Lisa Fowler from the Catering team, announced their decision. This year in third place, for Austin, was the incredible contortionist, Jemima Teeton. Then, placed second, for Benet, was their answer to the Back Street Boys, Jackson Roderick, André Onyekwe and Ignash Librowski. Finally in first place, much to their surprise and to huge applause, were Fisher's Freya Mills and Keira MacRae, for their powerful and haunting performance of *She Used To Be Mine* from The Waitress.

Our thanks to all of the performers on the night including: Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Grace Thomas, Greg Burford, Liv Fox, Jemima Teeton, Jackson Roderick, André Onyekwe, Ignash Librowski, Tallis Alford, Imogen Long, Frankie Kelly, Chloe Potts, Freya Mills, Keira MacRae, Lauren Taylor, the House Captains and last but not least the First XV Rugby Team.

02 Festivities commence with House Sixth Form Christmas Tree competition

The Sixth Form House teams gathered excitedly at the end of November for the annual Christmas Tree competition. Christmas songs echoed in the atrium and fellow students crowded around the balconies, down on the ground floor four teams of six students opened boxes, took off their jackets and rolled up their sleeves. In front of each of them lay the components of an artificial tree and a box of lights and decorations.

Quickly piecing together the jigsaw of branches, the trees began to take shape. Lights were unravelled and artistically draped, decorations hung and then with seconds to spare, and one final stretch, stars were positioned on the top.

This year's guest judges were from the IT team, they considered the originality, appearance, balance, up-cycle contribution and House spirit of the trees before declaring the result. In first place was More followed by Austin, Benet and then Fisher.

03 Success for Fisher at Feast Day House Singing Competition

College Feast Day always concludes with the House Singing Competition. This year Austin started with a rousing rendition of *I Want You Back*. Benet came next with a lively rendition of *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*. Fisher House confidently belted out *Build Me Up Buttercup* before More enthusiastically sang *Sweet Caroline*.

The competition was judged by professional singer and D Day Darling, Emily Jane Brooks, who was very impressed with the standard, she commented, "I really enjoyed the performances, it was a very difficult decision to make but in the end I decided that the winner should be Fisher House." The competition is an important annual event for the College, and it was great to see pupils and staff taking part so enthusiastically.



House News



04 Magnificent More won the 2019/20 House Cup

In April the winners of the 2019/20 House Cup were revealed in a video, which featured highlights of the year's house activities. Organised by Jessica Newborough (House Activities Leader) assisted by her enthusiastic team Hannah Carminati, Julia Lindsay, Lily Dyble and Anna Fennell-McLoughlin, pupils from all houses and all year groups took part in events and challenges that included; a Spelling Bee, Bake Off, House Sports, House Activities Day, European Languages Day, Welly Wanging, Christmas Tree Decorating, Talent Show, Christmas Quiz, University Challenge and The Oscars.

Winning the House Cup is never easy, and this year it was all about participation. More's support for every event helped them take the title.

More	8,398 points	Benet	7,538 points
Fisher	6,369 points	Austin	5,882 points

The House Cup was presented 'remotely' to More's Head of House, Simon Robertson, and outgoing House Captains, Katie Shorten and Oscar Phillips. A delighted Mr Robertson said, "I am overjoyed that More have lifted the House Cup - it is testimony to the hard work of everyone in the House that we are champions for 2019/20. It was a well-deserved and hard-fought victory."

05 Your House needs you for the weekly challenge

The 2020/21 House Cup kicked off with a series of weekly challenges and pupils and staff enthusiastically got involved.

Starting with the Blinding Lights video challenge they went on to include a Scavenger Hunt, Iconic Movie Moments Quiz, the Be more like Bill challenge, NHS Tutor messages, VE Day Flags, the Land's End to John O'Groats challenge, Loo Roll Inner Creative Constructions, Painting and Photo challenges and finished with a week-long Olympic Challenge!

A huge thank you to House Activities Leader, Jess Newborough and her wonderful House Activities Co-ordinators and House Captains who worked so hard to keep our spirits up during the lockdown.

06 House Activities Afternoon

At the end of Assessment Week, just before Half Term, the College organised a virtual 'Friday Fun House' activities afternoon.

Working together in their Forms, pupils completed a series of seven interactive challenges. Put together and co-ordinated by Assistant Head Co-curricular, Neil McCollin, alongside the House Activities team.

There was a Question of Sport Quiz with five rounds, that included the famous picture board, a series of quick-fire multiple-choice questions, Princethorpe's sporting names and logos challenges and even a guess the mystery sports coach round. Then there was the Spelling Bee, where pupils took part in online tests and the best score for each year group in each form earned points for the Tutor team. There was a very popular Mario Kart race, a Mastermind Quiz round with the specialist subject, the Princethorpe Ethos, a Crystal Maze Treasure Hunt and of course Princethorpe's very own University Challenge. Then to finish pupils were asked to recreate a famous sporting moment and upload a photo or clip to their House Team.

The afternoon proved to be fantastic fun for all and after totalling up all the points the results were very close, with just one point between the top two teams, 1st Austin, 2nd Fisher, 3rd More and 4th Benet.

Thanksgivings

Year 11 and Upper Sixth enjoyed Virtual Thanksgivings

To mark the end of their journeys through the school, Year 11 and the Upper Sixth both took part in Virtual Thanksgiving Services hosted through Teams. Both events included prayers, reflections, readings and music giving pupils, parents and staff the opportunity to give thanks for the completion of this important examination year.

The Thanksgiving events were joyous occasions full of celebration and optimism and we were delighted that they were so well received. They were wonderful opportunities to remember and reminisce over pupils' time at the College, the friends they have made and the many adventures they have had along the way.

We wished all our Year 11s and Upper Sixth the very best as they moved on to the next exciting chapter in their lives. They were both delightful year groups, who worked hard and remained resilient in the face of the year's unique challenges.



Duke of Edinburgh

Outdoor education celebrated pupils' achievements

Over 240 pupils, parents, invited guests and staff gathered together in February for the College's third annual Duke of Edinburgh's Award Certificate Presentation Evening. 2018-19 had been another challenging year for outdoor education, with activities including orienteering, climbing, cycling and a record ten Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

Of the 170 pupils who had completed their qualifying expeditions, 80% had gone on to sign off their whole award. A superb achievement for all, as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a big undertaking, the Gold taking at least 450 hours of commitment.

The College was delighted to welcome special guest, mountaineer Jon Gupta, as speaker, Richard Lea from expedition partners, Peak Pursuits, and Princethorpe Trustee Mike Fletcher to help celebrate pupils' achievements.

Will Bower, Head of Outdoor Education, began by summarising the year before speaking briefly about the positive impact exposure to the outdoors has on us all.

In an inspirational speech, Jon spoke about his involvement in the famous Project 7 in 4 as guide to Steve Plain, who beat the world record to climb the highest mountains in seven continents in under four months.

During the evening the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards were presented.

Luke and Jack were Princethorpe's first Duke of Edinburgh Ambassadors

Lower Sixth Formers Luke Brotherton and Jack Neale were appointed as Duke of Edinburgh Young Ambassadors to work alongside Princethorpe's Duke of Edinburgh team promoting, guiding and mentoring pupils participating in the Awards scheme.

The boys completed Ambassador training in January, and in recognition of their new role, Mr Bower, presented them both with a Duke of Edinburgh tie. They were some of the first pupil Ambassadors within the DofE Central Region and the very first Duke of Edinburgh Ambassadors here at Princethorpe College."

Volunteering recognition

The College was delighted to receive recognition from the Duke of Edinburgh Central Office celebrating participants volunteering hours. College pupils had spent a grand total of 2,860 hours giving their time freely as part of their Duke of Edinburgh activities over the previous year.



PTA



New parents enjoy Headmaster's Quiz

The annual Headmaster's Quiz took place in September in the Refectory, and parents new to the College got to enjoy a challenging mental workout, accompanied by a warming curry supper.

The questions were varied, with rounds including Sport, History, Maths, Films and Celebrities, as well as some extra table challenges with dingbats and 'guess who?' photos to solve.

Running concurrently in the Sixth Form Centre the Year 7 Social, organised by Jessica Newborough, House Activities Leader, and the House Activities Co-ordinators, also proved very popular with pupils, who all enjoyed the chance to mix with their new friends.



“ All enjoyed the chance to mix with their new friends. ”

PTA Christmas Fair full of festive cheer

Princethorpe's popular PTA Christmas Fair marked the start of the festive season at the College.

Resplendent with decorations, the College welcomed hundreds of visitors to a feast of stalls, games, activities, refreshments, decorations, music and all-round Christmas cheer.

There was an array of seasonal activities for all ages to partake in, and Father Christmas and his elves made their usual stop off at the Fair.

Everyone enjoyed musical entertainment from the wonderful Bilton Silver Band, who spread cheer with a range of festive melodies to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Our huge thanks go out to the many helpers, supporters and workers who make the event such a success every single year.



“ Our huge thanks go out to the many PTA helpers, supporters and workers. ”



Old Princethorpians

College saw success at annual OP Sports Day

The OPs vs College Sports Day took place at the end of August 2019. The College teams had their most successful day for many years clinching three wins, including a nail bitingly close Netball game and victory for the Staff/College side in the Football and only suffering two losses in the Girls' Hockey and the John Shinkwin Trophy Match.

At the after-match awards, it was honours even with the College proudly raising the Alex Wallis Memorial Shield and the OPs the John Shinkwin Cup.

Neil McCollin, Foundation Director of Sport, commented, "We were incredibly pleased to see so many familiar faces, all the games were played in true Princethorpe spirit and enjoyed by all who watched and played. A huge well done to all.

The results of the matches were as follows:

Football	Staff/College 2 v OPs 1
Netball	College 23 v OPs 20
Boys' Hockey	College 4 v OPs 1
Girls' Hockey	College 1 v OPs 5
Rugby	College 0 v OPs 29
Rugby	OPs 27 v Old Coventrians 43

“ All the games were played in true Princethorpe spirit. ”



Old Princethorpians

Record numbers for OPs Rugby Pub Meet

The Old Princethorpians' Pub Meet at Inside the 22 in Rugby in March, was the association's most popular pub meet ever with well over 50 OPs and Old Crescentians in attendance, including current and former members of staff.

There was a lovely friendly atmosphere as OPs from across the decades socialised and caught up with each other's news over drinks and a delicious buffet. The leavers of 2014 were once again out in force including former Head Boy, Paddy Mills and Head Girl Hannah Brindley, plus strong contingents from the Cahill, Lowe, Hedderwick, Hilditch and Lea families.



First ever OP Virtual Event voted a big hit

We had a great response to our first ever OP Virtual Event - a Quiz Night held in May with attendees videoconferencing in from around 30 locations. The event replaced our London Meet which was postponed to March 2021 due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Participants from across the decades included former pupils and parents from the 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s and beyond, current staff and former teachers Peter and Liz Griffin, Ed MacFetridge, Greg Hunter and Robert Startin. Dedicated Hong Kong and Asia based OPs Alan Young, Vitus Leung and Anthony Ku even stayed up until the early hours of the morning to join us.

The fun kicked off at 8.00pm, with two quiz sessions with an interval in the middle and the final quiz-goers signed off from the call at around 10.30pm. Hosted by Headmaster Ed Hester over Zoom, the quiz tested general knowledge, vehicular, sport, film and musical know how in seven challenging rounds. The final round related to all things Princethorpe and a tie breaker of 'your funniest memory of Princethorpe' put an additional 20 points up for grabs.

There were several strong teams in the field – but at the end it came down to the tie-breaker between the O'Gormans (Lee, Paddy and Meg), who had been very strong contenders from the outset, and the leavers of 2013 (Dan Lane, Chris Bond, Lucy Tallis and Carmen and James Simpson). The 2013 leavers' memories of Mr Hester in the sports hall on the exploding space hopper, was judged the 'funniest Princethorpe moment' and gained them the extra 20 points they needed to clinch first place with a fantastic overall score of 74 points.

Well done to all the participants, it was great to get everyone together via the wonders of Zoom!



Old Princethorpians

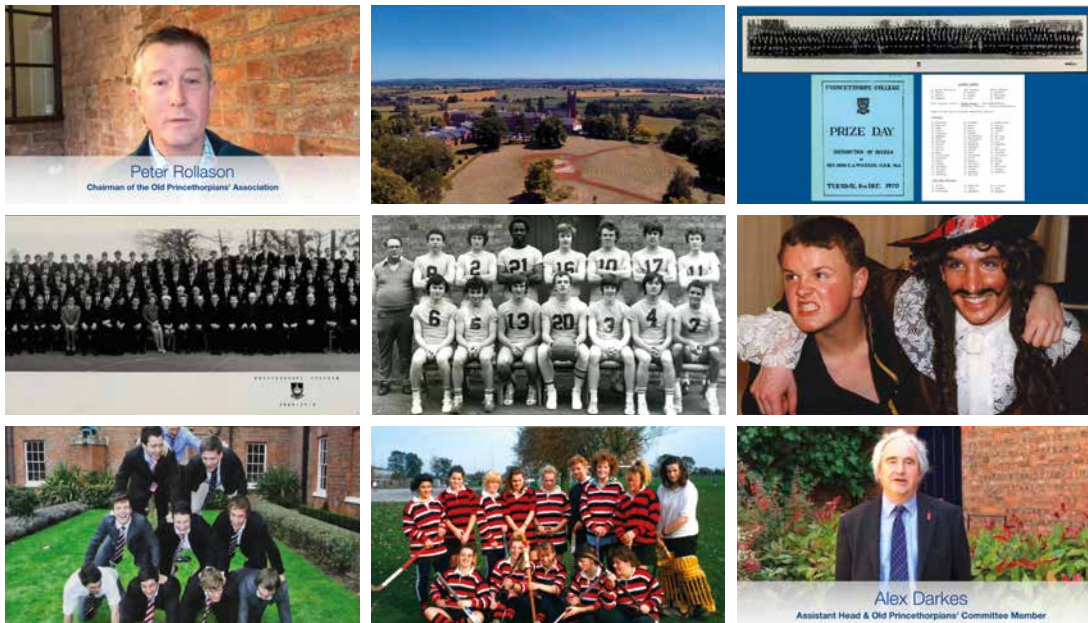
OP summer video replaced Annual Supper Reunion

Every summer, towards the end of the Trinity Term, we host our Summer Supper Reunion, warmly welcoming Old Princethorpians back to the College. We always enjoy catching up with all their news and reminiscing over times gone by. This year we were particularly looking forward to meeting OP leavers from the Classes of 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 as they celebrated their 50th, 40th, 30th, 20th and 10th anniversaries respectively.

Sadly because of the continuing COVID-19 restrictions we had to postpone the event and instead, we put together a special reunion video compilation. It included, a welcome by the OP Chairman, Peter Rollason, a virtual tour of the College and its grounds, a selection of archive photography from the anniversary years and a special guest appearance by Princethorpe legend, Alex Darkes.

Feedback was very positive as OPs enjoyed the video compilation and the chance to revisit the College from the comfort of their own homes.

You can watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/432844057>



Princethorpe Connect

Princethorpe undertook its largest ever 'Keep in Touch' initiative



The Princethorpe Connect Team embarked upon a huge 'keep in touch' exercise, attempting to track down and reconnect with as many 'lost' Old Princethorpians as possible.

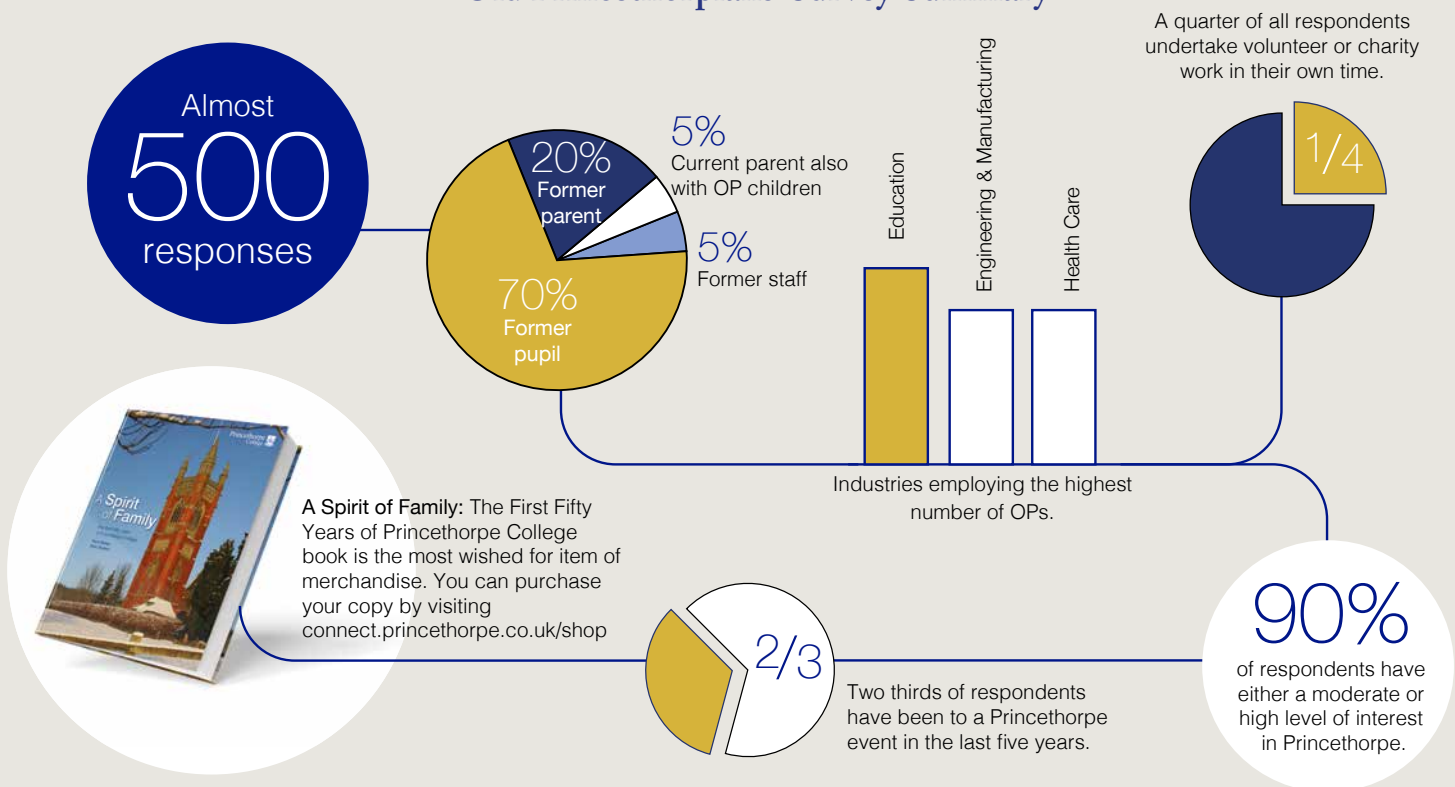
It was the first time the College had undertaken such a huge exercise, attempting to contact many thousands of former pupils, former parents and former staff. We received hundreds of replies and have been touched by the many warm and interesting responses from people across the Princethorpe community some of them whom we haven't heard from for many years.

We've had nearly 750 returns and been able to update all the records.

We encourage everyone to stay in touch by going online to <https://connect.princethorpe.co.uk>.

Following on from our 'Keep in Touch' initiative we emailed an expansive survey to all Old Princethorpians to canvass their views on a range of subjects, from our communications, to fundraising and merchandise. You can see the results of the survey summarised below.

Old Princethorpians' Survey Summary



Everyone who completed the survey was into a prize draw and the lucky winner of a £50 Amazon voucher was Phil Thomson (OP 1974)

Phil was delighted to receive his voucher and said: "I was at Princethorpe a long time ago in 1974. I have fond memories. I was more arty than academic, and more cheeky than geeky. I was very sporty though and loved cricket, hockey, football and athletics."



“The Princethorpe Connect community just keeps on growing.”

Development

In its fourth year the Development Office continued with its work to Make a Difference



Development Team welcomed council leader visit to discuss Commonwealth Games

The Development Team welcomed Birmingham City Council Leader, Councillor Ian Ward, to the College for a tour and discussion about how the College could get involved with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

On his visit Ian Ward toured the school and grounds, taking in the Sports Centre, Orchard, the all-weather sports surface and the rugby pitches. Accompanied by Liz Griffin, Chair of Trustees, Bursar, Eddie Tolcher, Assistant Head (Development) Alex Darkes and Development Director Chris Lee, Ian got to see Princethorpe in the sunshine and was very impressed at the number and quality of sporting facilities at Princethorpe.

We're very hopeful that the College can be involved with the Commonwealth Games, perhaps as a training ground for one or more of the many visiting teams during the summer holidays in 2022.



Princethorpe College's plans for Science+ took a major step forward

The state-of-the-art £8 million Science Centre, that will allow the College to redevelop and cluster several other departments, was granted planning permission in May 2019 then in December 2019 the College revealed further plans for a new suite of Art studios, additional space for Maths and Technology, increased dining capacity and sporting facilities. The widening of the scope of the Science Campaign to encompass all STEAM subjects was to enable the College to provide pupils with the finest facilities to give them the best opportunities for their future.

The Science Centre building entered the detailed 'developed design' stage with local RIBA members, AT Architects of Leamington, with work beginning on the development of a cost plan before a period of value engineering and technical design.

A fundraising campaign was launched to work hand in hand with the delivery of the project. The Science+ Campaign outlines a menu of giving including engraved pavers and bricks, sponsorship of elements on a giant periodic table and personal and corporate naming opportunities.



Science+ Campaign appoints expert fundraising board to drive success

Princethorpe's Science+ Campaign appointed an expert fundraising board to drive its fundraising objectives and facilitate achieving the goal of opening our brand-new, £8 million, Science Centre.

The Science Campaign Board, chaired by the Headmaster, Ed Hester, is made up friends from within the Princethorpe community who have the influence, gravitas, business acumen and enthusiasm to drive the Science+ Campaign forward and ensure a successful outcome. The board consists of current parents, past parents, Old Princethorpians, staff and trustees.

Our board volunteers include: James Hutcheson (current parent and Managing Director (Finance), Aldi Supermarkets), Rachel Jeffries (current parent and Director of Newbold Ltd and JF Ltd), Rowland Johnson (current parent and CEO of Nettitude), Phil Popham (former parent and CEO of Lotus Cars), Timothy Douglas (Old Princethorpean and Senior Policy and Campaigns Officer, PropertyMark), Mary Wheildon (Former Pupil of St Mary's Priory) and Quintin Cornforth (Trustee).



“Bursaries remain central to the work of the Development office.”

Primary School Programme



01

Cawston crowned U10 Football Champions in Princethorpe Primary Schools Tournament

Princethorpe's primary school's sports programme kicked off with a well-attended U10s football tournament in only the third week of term. Taking part were nine teams from local primary schools, who were all more than delighted to get out in the glorious autumn sunshine and enjoy the chance to play football on the College's pristine, playing fields.

Refereed by Princethorpe Sixth Form Sports Leaders, the mixed teams of girls and boys threw themselves into each game enjoying the opportunity to put their skills to the test in a competitive environment. Congratulations go to overall winners Cawston Grange Primary, who were delighted to take the title, and to St Augustine's Catholic Primary School and Crackley Hall School who came second and third respectively.



02



03

02

Local schools rise to inaugural Princethorpe College Year 5 Maths Challenge

Teams from Loxley Church of England Community Primary School took first and joint third place in the inaugural Princethorpe College Year 5 Maths Challenge. The event was run by Douglas Buchanan of DCBEAGLE Challenges, a specialist in exciting and innovative maths activities for primary school aged children.

Competing against 28 pairs of enthusiastic and talented mathematicians from 15 local schools, the pupils took part in a series of puzzles against the clock. In six eight-minute rounds the children tackled Tangram Triangles, Broken Calculators, Domino Jigsaws, Catch The Train, Card Order and Curly's Cycling Circuits, before finishing with a bonus round of five final mathematics questions.

Ably supported and marked by a team of Princethorpe's Year 10 pupils, the competition stretched and challenged the children with mathematical activities that required both reasoning skills and mathematical knowledge.

The event proved to be huge fun for all who took part, the winning teams all received mathematical prizes and everyone who participated received a certificate and a special Princethorpe cookie.



04



05



06

Primary School Programme

03

Inspiration for all at Princethorpe's Choral Fun Day

Some 70 young singers from local primary schools enjoyed a super day of singing when they joined Princethorpe's Director of Music, Gil Cowlshaw, Music Teacher, Alison Wakeley, Peripatetic Music Co-ordinator, Felicity Coulson, and members of the Princethorpe College Choir for a fabulous Choral Fun Day.

The Year 5 and 6 pupils tackled a variety of choral pieces from popular favourites such as Bruno Mars' *Count on Me*, traditional works such as *Siyahamba* and *Canon*, to the inspirational *High Hopes* by Panic at the Disco.

The day culminated in an impressive gala performance of their newly learnt pieces in front of an enthusiastic capacity audience of family and friends in the College's Clarkson Theatre, followed by afternoon tea for all

05

Try Tag Rugby was tremendous fun

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from local primary schools enjoyed a fun introduction to the sport of Rugby when they took part in Princethorpe's Try Tag Rugby event. The after-school session took place in January and was organised by the College's PE team out on a cold but dry all-weather pitch.

Working in small groups, led by Sixth Form Games Prefects and coaching staff, the children began with energetic warm up activities. They were then split into groups depending on their experience for a series of skill building drills. There was plenty of quick, agile passing and slick ball handling from the young players as they got to grips with this fast-paced sport. The session finished with a mini tournament played in front of an enthusiastic crowd of parents and siblings. The youngsters then wended their way home clutching certificates and munching one of our legendary Princethorpe cookies.

04

Pottertastic Princethorpe screening enjoyed by Year 6 offer holders

Princethorpe College wove a magical spell on muggles and wannabe wizards who came to the school's Saturday Morning Cinema showing of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. The special screening for Year 6 pupils took place in February and the College was delighted to welcome the children into school for an early introduction to the magic of Princethorpe!

The spellbinding entertainment began with a warm welcome from our very own 'Albus Dumbledore', Headmaster, Ed Hester. He spoke to the children about starting a new school, a theme reflected in the film, and about the College's house system. Midway through the screening there was an interval when the children visited the College's dining room to stock up on popcorn and even a sip of polyjuice!

At the end of the morning the children were joined by their families and after more refreshments everyone went home having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

06

Claverdon are High 5 Netball Champions

Four Warwickshire primary school teams took part in Princethorpe College's High 5 Netball Tournament. Welford-on-Avon Primary School was joined by Ettington Church of England Primary School, Radford Semele Church of England Primary School and Claverdon Primary School.

The competition took place in early March on the College's outside netball courts and the teams had the chance to test their skills against their opponents in a round robin of matches playing to England Netball High 5 netball rules; a popular entry format of the traditional game that has players rotating positions and ensures the ball keeps moving. With vocal support from the side-lines, the children threw themselves enthusiastically into the matches clearly enjoying the competitive nature of the tournament.

Umpired by Princethorpe's Young Sports Leaders, you could see the children's skills developing game by game as they took on board feedback and suggestions.

After completing the first round the teams all played one further match to decide the final placings. Claverdon faced Radford Semele in a fast-paced final. Both teams played with flair and enthusiasm but Claverdon just clinched the title 1-0 with a super shot on goal.

Results Days

Another year of excellent results for Princethorpe's A-level and GCSE pupils.



Princethorpe College celebrated another year of excellent exam results. In the summer of 2020 47% of all A-level grades were A* or A and over 90% of grades were C or better; at GCSE pupils celebrated excellent GCSE results with 60% of all entries graded 9, 8 or 7 and 50 pupils achieving nine or more 9, 8 and 7 grades.

Ed Hester, Headmaster, said, "Our students have worked so hard and we are incredibly proud of their achievements."

He added, "This year's A-level results were arrived at in a very different way to normal. Overall, we are pleased and feel that the results reflect the hard work and achievements of our Upper Sixth. A special mention must go to Hannah Porter who was awarded 5A*s."

At GCSE Princethorpe pupils performed well and there were many exceptional personal achievements.

Congratulations go to Caitlin Mason, Ciaran Smith, Ben Shipton and Ben Scares who were awarded an outstanding eleven or more grade 9s each.

Headmaster, Ed Hester, continued, "All credit goes to our pupils and staff for their commitment and hard work. Our 2020 A-level and GCSE results are very strong indicators that the school's academic achievements across the ability range continue to go from strength to strength."

A-level summary:

97 candidates

28 students achieved 3 or more A* or A grades

47% A* and A

91% grade C or better

GCSE summary:

155 candidates

60% of all grades 9-7

98% of grades 9-4 or better



Staff hellos and goodbyes

A school, of course, is only as good as its staff and we are tremendously fortunate to have such a large number of hard-working, caring and dedicated professionals. We would like to thank them for all that they do for the pupils in so many ways, not least in the way they rose to the challenges of Home Learning and home working during the 2020 pandemic. During the 2019/20 school year:

We welcomed:

Abi Adams, Nuno Alves, Kayley Arkesden, Heather Aston, Patrick Bullock, Libby Butler, Lucy Butler, Ellie Callan, Tom Crowton, Sarah Duran, Lily Dyble, Bethan Dyke, Louise Eaton, Carols Gane, Dominic Grainger, Charlotte Hancock, Stacey John, Nicola Jones, Sophie Jones, Lamorna McNevin, Peter McLeish, Meg O’Gorman, Anne O’Hanlon, Megan Owen, Dominic Phelps, Emma Pont, Leanne Rickart, Sally Ritchie, Theo Scoutas, Aimee Sen-Gupta, Katie Shorten, Fleur Street, Charlotte Verleure and Tom Walton.

In the Mathematics department, we wished **Karen Bannister** a very happy retirement, although she has joined our roster of cover staff.

In the Science faculty, **Carlos Gane** moved on to take up a position at St Paul’s School.

In the MFL department, **Finola Coy**, Teacher of German, left with our thanks for all her support and we wished **Charlotte Verleure** well as she moved to start her teaching career at Ryde School on the Isle of Wight.

In the Law department we said goodbye to **Loretta Jones** and bade farewell to **Nicola Jones** who left us from RS.

Michelle Baker left the English department to go to Rugby School and **Melinda Palmer**, Teacher of Latin, also departed.

Matt Parsons, Teacher of Design and Technology and Art took up a new post at Bablake School.

In the Computer Science department **Jan Ryalls** left taking a very early retirement.

We also said goodbye to **Lucy Butler**, **Dominic Grainger**, **Emma Pont**, **Stacey John** and **Ben Venson** who all joined us as part of their teacher training courses last year; we wish them luck with their future careers.

We also bade farewell to our outgoing TAs, **Lily Dyble**, **Fleur Street** and **Megan Owen**.

Before Christmas popular Estates Assistant **Charlie Warner** moved on to pastures new and **Nicola Browne**, our friendly Shop Manager, left during the summer to return to the Isle of Man.

We thank all our leavers for all they have done at Princethorpe and wish them all well in the next phase of their lives.

And we said goodbye to:

Michelle Baker, Nick Baker, Karen Bannister, Patrick Bullock, Libby Butler, Lucy Butler, Finola Coy, Lily Dyble, Bethan Dyke, Carlos Gane, Dominic Grainger, Stacey John, Loretta Jones, Nicola Jones, Megan Owen, Matt Parsons, Emma Pont, Jan Ryalls, Fleur Street, Ben Venson, Charlotte Verleure and Charlie Warner.



“ We wish them all well in the next phase of their lives. ”



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