

# Rendcombian

2016-17



Your adventure starts here ●●●



Front image: Junior School pupils sand-sailing in France





# Contents

Introduction .....	4
Prefect Team .....	5
Staff Farewells .....	8
Junior School Review .....	13
Junior School Prize Winners .....	15
Senior School Academic Review .....	16
Business .....	17
Science .....	17
English .....	18
Library Matters .....	19
Junior School Drama .....	20
Senior School Drama .....	22
Dance .....	23
Junior School Music .....	23
Senior School Music .....	25
Ukulele Club .....	26
Junior School Art .....	27
Senior School Art and Photography .....	29
Junior School Sport .....	31
Senior School Sport .....	35
Forest School .....	36
Trips .....	38
International Stars Concert and Celebration Evening .....	45
Year 7-9 Arabian Nights Ball .....	47
6th Form Midsummer Night's Ball and Leaver's Do .....	48
News .....	49
Junior School Parents' Association Report .....	59
Senior School Parents' Association Report .....	60
Alumni Reunions and Sports Events .....	61





# Your adventure starts here

At Rendcomb College we talk about “your adventure starts here” and, as you can see from the following reports, we have enjoyed an adventurous year. While there have been many academically enriching trips, the expedition to Patagonia stands out as one of the most adventurous. While it might seem a cliché, those who went returned fundamentally changed, having experienced everything from urban poverty to incredible vistas from the top of Fitz Roy. While the majority did not get to experience such an opportunity they adventured in their own way, be it kayaking down the River Wye as part of the L6th induction weekend, camping on the Brecon Beacons for Duke of Edinburgh Award or in the Wilderness, as the Year 7s did as part of their outdoor education programme.

Adventure also occurs in the classroom, with our pupils being encouraged to stretch themselves. Seeing our pupils work with 3D printers or our new Polymerase Chain Reaction DNA sequencing machine is preparing them for life beyond school. So too is the opportunity to act and sing and play in the new Griffin Centre where we have been awed by the brilliance of the pupils from the youngest in nursery to those that are now leavers and are on to their next adventure.

Our pupils have thrived within the Rendcomb Family this year and this would not be possible without the care and dedication of all the staff (teaching and support staff). I am, as always, extremely proud of our pupils and their willingness to try something new and I hope that you will enjoy reading about many of the exciting events, challenges and achievements of the last year.

**Rob Jones, Head of College**





# Prefect Team 2016-17

Head Girl

Eleanor Brealy

Head Boy

Clem Ash

Deputy Head Girl

Niamh Smith

Deputy Head Boy

Harry Newman

## Prefects

Tashmit Ganai

Thomas Godwin

Will Hollands

Ellie Jones

Sergii Kosianenko

Anna Migone

Doris Shen

Borgia Su

John Walker

Jared Wason

Will Witts

Tom Whichelo













# Staff Farewells

## Martin Graham



It has been an honour and a privilege to have worked with Martin for the past ten years. The pupils and I will miss his sense of humour, quick witted one-liners and historically related jokes. Martin enriched the lives

of many over his 32 years of teaching History here. His passion for the subject and his extensive bank of knowledge, never ceased to amaze. He inspired all who were lucky enough to be taught by him or to have him as their academic Tutor. Martin was always incredibly supportive to staff and pupils alike and we will miss him hugely. We wish Martin all the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

### Marina Kinson, History Teacher and Stable Housemistress

Though we never met then, Martin Graham and I were at the same university at exactly the same time. In which case, Martin, it will give you some satisfaction and wry amusement that as you slip out of your various Rendcomb harnesses and off to a retirement of ease, an exact contemporary of yours finds himself slipping into one of those same harnesses!

I've enjoyed many instructive conversations with you in the Common Room over the last year or so but clearly didn't pay enough attention to the one about "Advanced Retirement Planning."

I offer here a few words about Martin Graham's 24 years as the Rendcomb College Librarian.

Struck no doubt by the modern elegance of the Griffin Centre, dazzled probably by Apple Macs in the computer rooms, there is still often a sharp intake of breath from visitors coming into the Library. Ornate plasterwork, elaborate fireplace, wide bay windows, tall sashes, drapes and pelmets out of a Habsburg Palace...yes! But the books...quietly, defiantly, a statement about knowledge, study and thoughtfulness; in the case of a subject like - oh, I don't know, History, perhaps - a whole glorious wall of them!

The writer Borges said that he "...always imagined Paradise will be a kind of Library". In recent times

at Rendcomb the Library has been fashioned and maintained as a rich archive of information and a place of scholarship and reflection by you, Martin. Rendcomb's Library as a kind of paradise.

Going through the old Library files when I first arrived - all those handwritten letters - was to be made aware of your care and meticulousness. Exhibit A: Martin to the College's bookbinder. Subject: The History of Haverfordwest...

"Dear Mr. Chesters,

Pages 17 to 24 have been bound between pages 8 and 9...in error. Please could they be restored to the proper place...i.e. between page 16 and page 25?"

We were in the "Reserve Stockroom" the other day sorting out redundant History books for disposal. It summed us both up, probably, that while I offered a flippant remark and silly story about most of the books, you'd actually read them! And your instant appraisals were relishable: "Mmm...Carlyle on the French Revolution...(fingers book lovingly)... Wonderful literature!...(lobs book into disposals box)...Very bad history!"

Change the Library no doubt will, but I hope that it will also retain your reverence, Martin, for knowledge and quiet consideration.

Some parting gifts. This is from "The Library". From Librarians (Penny Baker and me) to a Librarian... the nature of this gift leaves little to the imagination [The Psychology of Military Incompetence]; its subject is History, particularly military history and the psychology of people shaping that history. Read, evaluate, review...possibly in essay form!

And this is from me [a "King of Kings" CD: music played on the restored organ of King's College, Cambridge]...it ticks so many Martin Graham boxes - music, organ music, Bach organ music; Cambridge; the grand, old Harrison & Harrison organ at King's College, Cambridge, recently restored; the gilded pipes of that organ restored in your home county of Durham. It is such a brilliant choice, Martin, that I can only imagine that you bought it for yourself months ago!

From the Library we offer you these modest parting gifts with affection, thanks and all our good wishes.

**Ian Corkett, Librarian**



## Alex Whitham-Swan



Alex joined us from John Curl High School and spent 3 dramatic years here: predominantly as a Drama teacher but with witty and thought-provoking interjections of Religious Studies.

Her students' results speak for themselves: A\* for both A Level students last year. Never have I seen such a balanced love of practical work and theory, which has been evident in such excellent results for her students' written work.

Alex introduced the ritual of an annual lower school Shakespeare production – a genre that had been missing here until her arrival. I'm sure there are many of us that hope that this tradition will continue.

The Comedy of Errors will be remembered for its modern vibe of Brits abroad, boasting hilarious accents, loud and crazy colours in costume and set, and of course karaoke interludes. This brilliantly ridiculous creation gave us all an insight into the mind of our colleague.

Hamlet strummed a more serious chord: with the story unfolding in a dark and slinky 1920s speakeasy. Although this was in huge contrast to the previous year's play, it still clearly shone with Swan moments of genius: a Day of the Dead masked waltz, slow motion banquets and group movement sword fighting.

Then a small step to the next Shakespeare production, and a giant leap into the Griffin Centre for this year's production of As You Like It. Set in the 1970s, of course. Once more we heard hilarious accents and witnessed crazy colours in set and costume in the Forest of Arden, but this time in contrast to the monochrome court scenes. Classic 70s hits with ensemble movement, spinning sets, and a forest of books dangling from the fly bars: another amazingly crafted and well received production.

I'm sure these performances will remain unforgettable to staff, but most importantly to students, who will be able to recite scenes and storylines from Shakespeare for the rest of their lives because of such clever direction and design. These students have also been given a valuable gift - the antidote to the fear of Shakespeare. Something that will be useful in so many future moments in their lives.

Alex has been truly inspirational to our students. She has made complex writing, tricky texts and abstract ideas so accessible to her classes, while maintaining engagement and progress. If you've ever been asked to cover one of her practical lessons you'll know what I mean. Using music, physical theatre, and original projects to avoid obvious drama games and exercises.

What impresses me the most is Alex's meticulous planning of productions and detailed schemes of work, and yet an incredible spontaneous attitude and ability to adapt, which creates a sense of originality and freshness in all she does.

We share a love of Shakespeare, and I have learnt so much over the past few years. Alex met her husband Frank here and they have an adorable daughter, Hera, together. I hope that she will always remember us with fond memories and reminisce about the good times. She will be a real loss to the common room and the drama department.

I think I should finish here by saying that after a total of 7 years as a drama teacher, we wish Alex all the best in her new and much deserved role of Head of Drama at Alcester Grammar School.

**Oonagh Hughes, Head of EAL**

## Frank Whitham



Frank arrived at Rendcomb in the September of 2010 to join the Physics department. His calm and laid-back approach to teaching Physics quickly endeared him to pupils across all the key stages. His patient and

easy going manner allowed pupils the opportunity to enjoy Physics, which out of the three Sciences can be the least exciting at times. Within a year, Frank quickly progressed to Assistant House Parent in Lawn House, where he remained for the next three years. Lawn House boys were very fond of Mr Whitham and thoroughly enjoyed their many pool competitions with him. They teased him relentlessly about his Mazda mx5, calling it a hairdresser's car, but he was never offended by their taunts and would laugh it off. Frank taught for seven years here at Rendcomb where he forged close friendships both at school and within the Rendcomb community. He will be sorely missed by both students and staff alike and we wish him all the best in his new school.

**Paul Bevans, Head of Physics**





Frank brought physics to life for the students in the science labs and made a very difficult subject accessible and engaging for all pupils. He has a real talent for bringing the concepts being learnt into context, allowing the pupils to see the point in learning the, sometimes very abstract, ideas.

His love of cars and bikes and general “man stuff” has been shared by pupils, inspiring them to tackle the subject in lessons but also participate in lots of extra-curricular activities such as STEM clubs, the successful Flying Start Challenges, with “real” engineers, and the Space Dome.

We even managed to convince him, very reluctantly, to dress up in the Science Weeks – namely as Aristotle, the colour blue and wolverine from X-Men, with forks for claws. Not bad for someone who doesn’t do dressing up.

He was loved and respected by the pupils in Lawn House when he was Assistant Houseparent and the tutor group I took over for him when he went on parental leave showed how highly they thought of him and his guidance in that role.

Frank has been a very popular member of staff with pupils and colleagues alike, being part of the Common Room Committee and the JCC at various points. He will be greatly missed by the science department, we will miss the prep room chats and bizarre antics, and the wider Rendcomb Community – many village pub night memories shared by residents past and present.

So, I am sure you will join me in wishing him, Alex and their beautiful daughter Hera all the best in their new adventures. Please all come back and visit us.

**Alice Wyndow, Chemistry Teacher**

## Patrick Durkin

Patrick brought tremendous energy and humour to the department during his all-too-short stay with us as Head of English. An excellent teacher, he set high academic standards for the pupils in lessons, while also overseeing successful events outside the classroom such as the Literary House Party and Big Book Quiz. Patrick made valuable contributions to the pastoral and sporting sides of school life, through his evening duties in Lawn House and lively football sessions. Unfortunately for us, family circumstances took Patrick to Switzerland at the end

of the academic year; we wish him every success in his new life in Zurich.

**Mary Harries, English Teacher**

## Rocio Romero



Full of ideas and innovations, Rocio has transformed the Spanish Department in her relatively short time here. With her flair for the theatrical, in the best sense, in and out of the classroom, her lessons were

certainly never dull. Ever creative, her pupils could be seen learning through Plasticine, Duplo or a giant canvas dice to throw around the classroom. Her passion for grammar also gave her pupils an excellent grounding in the language. As a friend and colleague, Rocio was kind, caring and above all great fun - colourful and spirited as a flamenco dance! We will miss you very much indeed. Do stay in touch.

**Rachel Fielding, Head of German and Key Stage 3**

## Sarah White



Sarah joined us to do Maternity cover in the German Department in 2002 and being a highly competent dual linguist, she subsequently took over the management of French. Her passion for languages made

her an inspirational teacher who will be greatly missed, and the public examination results speak for themselves. Sarah has been a great friend and a wonderful colleague. As a department we share very many happy memories, not only of break time chats over the coffee machine, but also numerous school trips to Germany and France. So few words can hardly do justice to everything you have done here but thank you for everything.

**Rachel Fielding, Head of German and Key Stage 3**



## Mark Dennis



Mark Dennis joined the Rendcomb College Maths Department in September 2016 having previously been teaching at Wycliffe College. His CV included a long and impressive career in the U.S. Navy before

he became anglicised through marrying an English nurse and settling down in Cirencester. He quickly became popular with the pupils with his gentle American accent and nautical tales. He rather appropriately set up and ran a codebreaking group in Activities time and also continued his involvement in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust, helping run various Maths Challenge competitions at schools across the country. He will be remembered for his very calm, good natured and patient approach along with a very positive willingness to assist whenever he could. Due to his health, Mark decided to take some time out from teaching to speed up his recuperation. We wish him well for the future.

### Stephen Clarke, Head of Mathematics

## Fiona Stanford



Fiona Stanford joined the Medical Centre Team in September 2012 coming from Salisbury Hospital where she had been working as a respiratory nurse. During the last five years, Fiona has become a very valuable member of

Rendcomb life and is well known by parents, pupils and teachers.

While Fiona has been very busy in the Medical Centre she has also been teaching PHSE in both the Junior and Senior School including the introduction of the British Heart Foundation, Heart Start day. If this was not enough, she also held an active role on Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions and took part in the staff tennis tournament.

Fiona has left Rendcomb College to accompany her husband during a three year tour in Oman while her son and daughter complete their University Courses between holidays in the sun.

### Jill Church, Sister

## Dan Cave



During the 3 years that Dan Cave worked on the maintenance team, he became a valid member. He also involved himself fully in village life and will be dearly missed. We wish him good luck in his new role.

### Pete Cairns, Works Manager

## Jackie Major



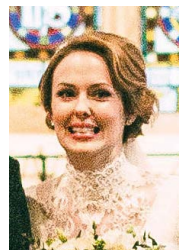
Jackie Major has been my TA, friend and work 'Mum' for the last 7 years. She has dedicated 11 years to Rendcomb College and has seen both of her children through both the Junior and Senior schools. Jackie was

always an absolute pleasure to work with, although she did have a reputation as rather a practical joker! Her relationships with the children were outstanding and her creative ideas were always welcome. She understood small children exceptionally well and always demonstrated endless patience.

Jackie has a great sense of fun and is a real life enhancer. She will be sorely missed within the school by the staff, children and parents. She has earned her very early retirement and I am sure she will enjoy spending more time with her beloved Radley and going on the many holidays that she has planned!

### Penelope Morrow-Brown, Junior School Teacher

## Amy Bird



It is such a great pity that Amy's teaching did not overlap more so with my own here at Rendcomb College. I felt very welcomed and looked after by her during our crossover time during the autumn term of 2016, so thank

you Amy for being such a great support to both the pupils and myself before your maternity leave began.

The Art and Photography Department will greatly miss your positive attitude and fun-loving personality. The young people with whom you will work in your next post will be very lucky indeed to be taught by such a whirlwind and highly motivated professional Art specialist such as you. "Art is long,





and time is fleeting." (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow). Wishing you and your beautiful family very best wishes for the future.

**Mel Holness, Head of Art and Photography**

## Jess Folley



It has been an extraordinarily avant-garde year working with Jess. I can't tell you how difficult it is to describe how sad I am for her to be leaving the Art and Photography Department. She has been such a strength and support to all our pupils and especially me.

When I started my post here in September 2016, I would never have realised how connected I would be to such a warm community of people here at Rendcomb and I know that Jess felt the same. Many times I have been humbled by the kindness of her teaching and the efficiency of her approach towards the children in her care.

When I look back at our year together, I will remember fondly the iced coffees, marking frenzies and the encouraging ways in which she so graciously went from new teacher to becoming a more experienced practitioner.

Jess leaves us to embark on a nearer teaching opportunity in Bristol. I will be in a strange limbo without her. During her teaching practice, she hit the ground running for which I am eternally grateful. Jess brought out the best of her pupils, channelling her enthusiasm, giving the pupils so much to continually aim for and I feel professionally enriched from just knowing her.

I also want to mention her sterling warmth and good humour that kept her pupils going through exam season. Always encouraged with a smile, no matter what kind of a day she'd had, yet another example of her generosity and tolerance that I would like to emulate. To quote T.S. Eliot, who is a better word-smith than I am, "The progress of an artist is a continual self-sacrifice" (from 'Tradition and the Individual Talent, 1919') which sums up Jess's commitment to succeed.

**Mel Holness, Head of Art and Photography**

## Diana Baker



Diana came to Rendcomb as part of a job share on Main Reception in January 2002, when the other half of the job share moved on. She was the first person we saw every morning as we entered the building, always busy answering the numerous queries that pupils, parents, staff and visitors bestowed on her upon their arrival at school.

Diana's background was as a long haul Flight Attendant for British Airways and we always joked she had travelled everywhere, as she always remarked "I've been there" whenever somewhere in the world was mentioned! That stood her in excellent stead for a role in hospitality and she was perfectly comfortable at the hub of the College.

In later years she took on the additional role of supporting the Works Manager in Health and Safety administration and the Works Team; her knowledge in all sorts of inexplicable site matters was extensive. We will miss her very much in the coming weeks and months but wish Diana the very best of fortune on her retirement and hope that she is able to fulfil the dream of moving down to the Dartmouth area and to be able to dedicate more time to spending time with her family and especially her grandchildren.

**Carol Endersby, Bursar's Secretary**

## Mark Naylor



Mark has played such an influential part in so much of Rendcomb College life that it is hard to know how to encapsulate it in a few words. As Commercial Operations Manager, his role was busy, varied and certainly never

dull: one minute he could be talking about everyday items such as paper towels or food stocks, the next he could be chatting to an external client about their upcoming wedding reception. Mark took particular pride in knowing the pupils and greeted most of them by name each day as they came in for lunch – he always had the best interests of the pupils at the heart of everything he did. Although Mark took his well-earned retirement in April, it is typical of him that he was soon back in school, helping out with exam invigilation, and his ongoing relationship as



a Trustee of the Friends of Rendcomb means that his departure is not so much of a farewell as a 'see you soon.'

**Eleanor Sharman, Bursar**

## Victoria Beevers



Victoria joined Rendcomb College as Head of Juniors in September 2015. She played a key role in helping to develop the Junior School's facilities with her tenure seeing the opening of the new Junior School Science lab and a

programme of cosmetic refurbishment across the Junior School buildings. Towards the end of the last academic year, Victoria decided that the time was right to leave Rendcomb and seek new challenges elsewhere. I have little doubt that her professional outlook and dedicated approach will stand her in good stead in the years to come.

**Rob Jones, Head of College**

## Graduate Sport Assistants



We said goodbye to a number of our Graduate Sport Assistants at the end of this year. While it is always sad to say farewell, we have appreciated the value they have added both to Sport and to wider School life. Thank you to Miss Morrison (who leaves to start her teaching career back in sunny 'Straaalya'), Miss Wilcox (who leaves to travel in SE Asia before beginning a career 'in something to do with Forensic Science'), Mr Thornley who is moving on to a different career challenge and Mr Waldron (who returns to university to undertake his PGCE) for their enthusiasm, passion and coaching input this year. I know they have added great value to the wider school, but their work on Sport in particular has been first class and we wish them all well for the future.

**Will Mbanga, Director of Sport**

## Junior School Review

Many prospective parents ask me what our aim is as a Junior School and the answer is simple. Our job is to ensure that our pupils leave the Junior School with the confidence to enter the next stage of their education. Moreover, it is that our pupils are happy and enjoy coming to school each day and are ready to approach a new challenge with enthusiasm. I genuinely believe that, at Rendcomb, we have a group of pupils who work hard to fulfil both of those aims.

This has again been a strong year academically and across the Junior School from Nursery to J6 we have witnessed pupils making excellent progress in all areas of the curriculum. 21 of our Year 6 cohort will transfer to the Senior School and we are delighted that they will remain with us at Rendcomb. Three of our pupils were successful in being offered academic scholarships to the Senior School as well as scholarships being awarded to others in Sport, Art and Drama and one pupil being awarded the Rendcomb Scholarship. Furthermore, three pupils gained grammar school places.

During the course of the year, many Junior School pupils have been successful in a wide range of areas from dance to sailing, martial arts to gymnastics, swimming to speech and drama and shooting to music to name just a few. Our Friday morning distinction assemblies have continued to be a highlight of the school week and I am sure that we shall continue to enjoy celebrating our pupils' eclectic array of talents next year.

Special mention must go to everybody who represented the school at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts where, in addition to the outstanding individual achievement of Samuel Au, our Dance Off group proved to be a formidable team and gained a well-deserved second place. Well done to all involved!

We have many naturally gifted pupils but, no matter what ability you are blessed with naturally, hard work is essential and a realisation of this is something that we seek to instil in every pupil. With this in mind, this year, the Junior School introduced a new merit system with pupils being awarded certificates as they reached a variety of numerical amounts. I am pleased to say that our pupils responded to this challenge with gusto and that the number of





certificates which have been presented during Distinction Assembly certainly reflects the pupils' consistently high levels of endeavour across many subjects and other areas of school life.

Any successful school must be a community and the partnership between parents and school is clearly a vital aspect of this. This remains evident on a day to day basis but I should like to take the opportunity to thank all parents for their support this year. Of course, support is a key attribute of any family environment and I remain very proud that the Rendcomb family continues to extend their support to the wider community. This year we have continued to raise money for charity in a variety of ways and we have made significant contributions to Macmillan Nurses, Children in Need, Comic Relief and the National Star College. In addition, we supported the Help for Heroes soft toy collection at Christmas and our Harvest Festival offerings were much appreciated by Cirencester Food Bank and Cirencester Housing. I am also aware that a number of our pupils have taken it upon themselves to raise money for charities close to them by undertaking a number of fund raising activities; as ever, we are very proud of them for doing so.

Sport remains a key part of Rendcomb life and whilst participation is paramount; there are always times throughout the year when we are, to use an old boxing adage, 'punching well above our weight.' In all sports, our pupils have competed with great determination and always in the right spirit.

Winning and losing are facts of life. In the poem 'If,' Rudyard Kipling advises us that when we meet with Triumph and Disaster, we should treat those two impostors just the same. In other words, it is important to learn how to lose and it is important to learn how to win. It was clear that both Junior School and Otters' Sports Day and the Swimming Gala were shining examples of the good sportsmanship on show at Rendcomb and all of our pupils, whether successful or

not, should be proud of their achievements and of the manner in which they have competed. Well done all.

There are a few notable individual achievements which I should like to highlight. Lucinda Norris gained the outstanding achievement of being the current record holder of all Junior School Girls' swimming records from J3-J6 – well done, Lucinda. It was fantastic to see Toby Beckett crossing the finish line in second place at our inter-schools cross country event and Oliver Stanley made us very proud as our school with his success in the IAPS Shooting Competition last term. All three pupils certainly have a bright future in their respective sports.

Throughout the year, those of you who have attended Distinction Assemblies will have enjoyed a variety of musical performances from our pupils and we have enjoyed a number of concerts and performances throughout the course of the year. We were hugely entertained by the 'mooving' and 'udderly fantastic' Junior School Production of 'Porridge' which this year made its debut in the Griffin Centre and the pupils clearly enjoyed performing on the 'big stage'. Events such as these require a great deal of hard work, a fair amount of patience and a tremendous amount of dedication and commitment; however, they also bring huge enjoyment for the pupils and foster skills in so many other areas such as building confidence and working as a team. Long may they continue.

The school year concluded with our Prize Giving event which was also held in the Griffin Centre for the first time. As always, this event provided us with the perfect opportunity to celebrate the many achievements and successes of our pupils and to offer the audience a flavour of the diversity and the quality of the activities and opportunities on offer at Rendcomb.

Our pupils are the best advertisement that we could ever wish for the Junior School and we are very proud of them. We are proud of the well-rounded and confident individuals they are becoming and we are also proud of the Junior School for its role in shaping them as thoughtful, adventurous and academically ambitious young people.

**Gavin Roberts, Head of Juniors**

**Our pupils  
are the best  
advertisement that  
we could ever wish for  
the Junior School**



## Junior School Prize Winners

The following prizes were awarded in the Final Assembly:

### J3

**Academic** – Cleodie Wills

**Effort** – Maria Belfrage

### J4

**Academic** – Jack Wilcocks

**Effort** – Imogen Langley

### J5

**Academic** – Amelia Holloway

**Effort** – Tom Miles-Sayers

### J6A

**Academic** – Bertie Parkes

**Effort** – Henry Carr

### J6B

**Academic** – Guy Francis

**Effort** – Florentyna Sztuka

### Boys' Cross Country Cup

Toby Beckett

### Girls' Cross Country Cup

Amelia Jones

### Reeves Cup for Improved Reading (Otters)

Noah Chatterton

### Roberts Family Cup (Otters Effort)

Edward Neaves

### The Westie Salver for Performing Arts (Otters)

Samuel Au

### Carden Cup for Music

Lucinda Norris

### Dufosee Art Cup

Henry Carr

### Shackel Cup for Drama

Chloe Freeman

### Shark Cup for Most Promising U9 Sportsperson

Grace Garcia Day

### Osborne Cup for Girls' Sport

Amelia Jones

### Palmer Cup for Boys' Sport

Roo Jones/Oliver Stanley

### The Haas Technology Cup

Frankie Stinchcombe

### Phelps Effort Cup

Thomas George

### Arkle Cup for All Round Improvement

Edward Sweeney

### Trim Happy Cup

Georgina Hiscock

### The Kindness Cup

Archie Storey

### Good Example Cup

Jessica Mackenzie

### Potter Cup for Overall Contribution

Eleanor Langley

### Dance Trophy

Georgina Hiscock/Florentyna Sztuka





## Maths Day

This year, Maths Day took the form of a giant treasure hunt. Children searched the grounds in mixed age groups for questions and collected treasure along the way. They completed a large number of maths problems, some of which challenged even the most able mathematicians in J6. It was wonderful to see the older children looking after their team-mates from the Otters; we even had some sixth formers who joined us to help, adding to the family feel of the day. We also held a speed tables tournament in which Guy Francis emerged as the school champion, completing one hundred questions in only two minutes and fifteen seconds. All in all, the day was a great success.

**Fiona Auster, Head of Key Stage 2**

## Senior School Academic Review

This year has been an exciting if challenging time in the academic sphere. Having enjoyed a staggeringly good set of A Level results in the previous summer, it has been quite difficult to say good-bye to the old AS and A Level courses. However, the collective wisdom is that the new two year courses are better for the pupils and certainly the more demanding nature of the assessments is raising aspiration. At GCSE too there has been no little change, with more demanding content to study and more than a little fog surrounding the new 9 – 1 scale.

To support the pupils through this more demanding educational landscape, staff have been working hard on the Academic Performance Plan. This has included strengthening pupil tracking, the introduction of ambitious but realistic target grades, evolving our provision for gifted and talented pupils and reflecting on best practice in marking and feedback under the mantra meaningful, motivational but manageable! Increasing stretch and challenge for all pupils has been a theme throughout the College and it has been great to see pupils benefiting from techniques based on learning taxonomies, especially the use of de Bono's thinking hats. Pupils have continued to attend Elevate Study Skills sessions and at all times a Growth Mindset has been advocated.

Since arriving at Rendcomb College, I have been struck by the myriad of academic opportunities available and

the gusto with which everyone gets stuck in. Browsing through the College's Twitter feed, pupils have enjoyed the Cheltenham Literary Festival, a talk on Particle Physics, Raspberry Pi and Microbit projects and no less than 7 Gold, 16 Silver and 9 Bronze certificates in the Senior Mathematical challenge. There have also been some outstanding individual achievements including Gold Crest Awards for Grace Balchin, Alex Green, Louis Szopinski and Bob Tharme for their part in the EES Engineering Scheme, a top 5% in the national cohort for Oscar Morris in the Royal Society Biology Challenge and a Gold medal for Lucy Hollands in the Biology Olympiad.

With all this hard-work, stimulation and careful support, it was no surprise that the pupils achieved a very pleasing set of examination results in the summer. At A Level, 61% of grades were at A\* - B grade and 91% of pupils won places at their first or second choice universities. There were many superb performances but special mention should go to Anna Migone for securing her place at Queen's College Oxford, Robert Zheng for achieving A\*A\*AA who will read Physics at Durham and Harry Newman who secured an academic Scholarship to study Applied Medical Science at Swansea University. It was also a relief that our GCSE cohort successfully navigated the fog of the 9 – 1 scale and achieved very good results. In old currency, this cohort matched their A Level counterparts with 61% of grades awarded being





equivalent to A\* - B. There were some spectacularly good crops including Grace Tushingham scoring 6A\*s and an 8, Polly Chen with 5A\*s, an A (distinction) and a 9, and Sissy Wang with 5A\*s and a 9.

The year ahead will be one in which we consolidate and build after this period of considerable change. However, not content to rest on our laurels, we do look forward to broadening the curriculum through the introduction of two new qualifications (A Level DT and BTEC Travel and Tourism) and the reintroduction of EPQ.

**Nick Cox, Deputy Head Academic**

## Business

In March, the Lower Sixth Business Studies students enjoyed a tour around the Mini plant near Oxford. The visit formed an active part of their studies of Operations Management and gave a rare opportunity to see first-hand a world class manufacturing facility.

The Mini factory produces over 200 cars per day and exports to 191 countries worldwide. Students were highly impressed with the scale of production, the level of automation and the ability to custom make Minis with over a million different combinations, all on the same assembly line.

**Dan Britton, Head of Business and Economics**



## Science



To celebrate the end of the November internal exams, Year 10 took part in the Autumn Science Challenge. Students worked in teams to solve problems across the three sciences, from using a chemical reaction as a clock, to examining medical evidence to diagnose patients and finding mystery masses in physics. It was pleasing to see how well the students worked together in their teams; chocolate incentives may become department policy in the not-too-distant future!

A Level students now have their practical skills assessed continually throughout the course and, if they reach the required standard, are awarded a Practical Endorsement to their A Level. To maintain standards, each school is visited by an inspector from the exam board who observes the students carrying out experiments. The Physics department was visited by an inspector in January and was impressed by the high standard of practical work by the students. The inspector praised their responses to his questions and was happy that the school is applying the standards correctly.

In January, the Year 13 chemistry students sat the most difficult exam available to them at their level; the annual Chemistry Olympiad. Jared Wason was very pleased to earn a Silver certificate after a top 20% performance. Students also enjoyed success in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad, a national competition that attracts the brightest and best biologists from Year 12. Lucy Hollands achieved a Gold certificate, securing a place on the Field Studies Council's course 'Ecology of a London Park' this Autumn. Oscar Morris achieved stunning success in the Biology Challenge achieving a Gold certificate in this popular and demanding competition, open to students in Year 10. In total 26 Rendcomb biologists





achieved commendation or higher certificates. The bar has been set high for next year's students!

February saw four fantastic physicists from Year 12 attend Bath University's Engineering Education Scheme event. After four days of researching, building, modifying and evaluating, the students achieved an Industrial Cadet Gold Award.

A highlight of the year is Science week, which takes place every March. The Space Dome made an eagerly awaited return to Rendcomb College, with students from both the Juniors and the Seniors enjoying the chance to explore topics ranging from the Solar System to genetics. Students from all years were entertained by Mr Cox's pet Tarantula, Terminator. Despite the spider's threatening name, no pupils were harmed in the making of this enjoyable and informative lunchtime activity. CSI Rendcomb gave students in Year 10 the opportunity to apply their scientific techniques and methodology to crime solving. Using skills learned as part of their IGCSE Science courses, the students were able to generate evidence to find out who the thief was. It would hardly be a Rendcomb Science Week without some dressing up and this year students were challenged to dress as their favourite scientist. Students from Year 9 visited the Big Bang exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham. The exhibition is the largest event for STEM subjects in the UK, with over 150 different activities to try as well as talks and career advice from industry experts.

In April, Year 10 chemists visited Bristol University Chemistry Department to experience advanced practical techniques and procedures. Under the watchful eye of the postgraduate demonstrators, students extracted caffeine from tea, purified it and analysed it using IR spectroscopy. The students were then given a talk from a postgraduate chemist and a lecture demonstration before heading home. Stefan Hossle commented: "this was an amazing trip and we learned a great deal about how real chemists work."

Year 7 visited the Cheltenham Science Festival in June. Students learned in a hands-on way about sustainable energy and the future of transport at this informative and engaging event.

We have continued to invest in the most up-to-date equipment and resources in science. This year saw the complete refurbishment of B1, the final lab to be fully modernised. A generous bequest

with additional help from the Friends enabled the purchase of a PCR machine. More commonly found in research laboratories, this machine will bring molecular biology and genetics to life by allowing students to multiply then analyse samples of DNA.

**Matt Cox, Head of Science**

## English

### Cheltenham Literature Festival

When we arrived at the festival, we were shown around. My first impression of the place was of the atmosphere; you felt inspired already to be writer. It felt so kind and friendly, like you weren't being pushed into anything, instead that you were part of a school that went there to learn.

After an interesting tour we were sent to Shaun Hegerty's show. He was very funny and, during part of his speech, talked about when he was in Year 2. He spoke about writing a poem which included a fluffy bunny rabbit getting lost in a sugar cane forest; even his tiny 7-year-old brain told itself that he wanted to be a writer.

When he read a page or two from his book you felt like you were in it. He used very strong adjectives that described his monsters, he also used real mythical monsters that made me think you don't have to make everything up...instead think what you have read before and steal some ideas.

After the reading from his first book Darkmouth he showed us the monsters from his books that the illustrator had made and they looked exactly like the picture I had in my head.

You can't go to a literature festival and not have some teacher embarrassment though, we were really pleased when he made them dab, but then came the end of it all and I went home inspired by the sheer greatness of his writing.

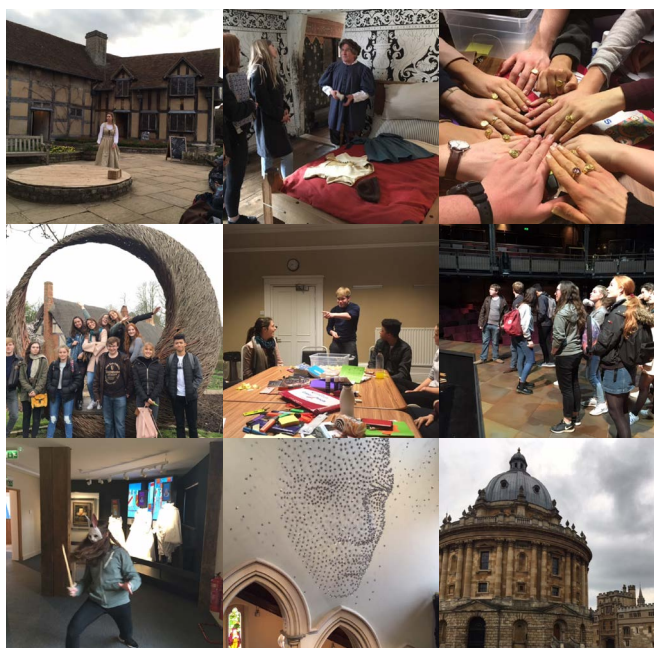
Thanks to Mrs Read and Mr Durkin for an inspiring trip.

**Caleb Timmis, Year 7**



## Ode to the Literary House Party

Lost in a locker,  
 Bewildered and alone.  
 Treading the boards  
 In a dream future home.  
 Feasting on Italian food  
 And feeling full to bursting.  
 Enjoying the Oxford vibe  
 And after Queen's College lusting.  
 Revealing in the serenity  
 Of Capability Brown's fractions.  
 Winning at Celebrities  
 By practising the actions.  
 Struggling in the morning  
 To start the new day.  
 Getting in to all sorts of trouble  
 By encouraging affray.  
 Commenting on dogs of  
 Every type and breed.  
 Bamboozled by a literary guide  
 In his threadbare tweed.  
 A horrendous breach of rules  
 By studying Maths.  
 Quickly averted through a  
 Whole host of wrath.  
 We've walked, we've talked,  
 We've seen and we've heard.  
 Now we're sad to part  
 From this adventure of words.  
 A final journey is needed  
 Before we get back.  
 A wonderful time we've shared  
 As a Rendcomb Literary Pack.



## Trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon



The final trip of Year 9 was the Shakespeare trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon. We were extremely lucky with the weather although some could say it was too hot. The first place we went to was Shakespeare's home in Henley Street. This is where he grew up, where he lived for the first few years of his life and also the location of his father's shop. We learnt facts such as his father was a Glover, the beds were short as they slept sitting up and that the children would have been born in the parents' bedroom. After we went to his new house in Chapel Street and learnt the history of how many owners it had. We were then given an hour to explore Stratford; many enjoyed the sweet shop. The next part of the trip consisted of experiencing what it would be like to be a schoolboy (girls would have left school at 7). We experienced what it was like to write with a quill and learnt about their school routine. Our final stop of the day was Shakespeare's grave in the Holy Trinity Church before heading back to school.

**Alice Balchin, Year 9**

## Library Matters

A plan of the ground floor of Rendcomb House in Nikolaus Pevsner's Buildings of England shows the large corner-room looking out towards Rendcomb's Church and Park as the old House's Library. 150 years later, House having become College, it's still a Library. Almost uniquely in the transformation of private



home into public school, the room has kept its original function, and there is much in the fabric and fittings of the present day Library – ornate plasterwork, grand fireplace, tall bay windows - that are reminders of the House's Victorian heyday.

That a well-stocked Library continues to be a place of quiet scholarliness at the heart of the College owes much to the Librarian for the past 24 years, Martin Graham, who retired from Rendcomb at the end of the Summer Term. Martin was a great example of the pleasures and rewards of scholarship to generations of Rendcomb students, and through his love of books and careful curating he has left a Library that is a wonderful source of knowledge and ideas.

But, like all meaningful and successful organisations, Rendcomb's Library adapts and changes, and it looks forward as well as back. This year, for instance, has seen the appearance online (and therefore accessible to all at Rendcomb College) of the Library Catalogue, complete with many helpful suggestions for books and authors. And while Sixth Form students must spend at least four of their study periods in the Library on weekday mornings, the Library has also been regularly visited by classes throughout the school for Inductions, introductions to new books, themed lessons and the special occasions in a Library's year such as National Poetry Day and World Book Week. Courtesy of The Book Trust, Rendcomb College receives a free collection of "Young Adult" fiction and non-fiction each year and the new stock was employed in the spring for

some enjoyable "Speed-Dating-With-Books" sessions with Years 7-9.

Particular emphasis has, in fact, been put this year on revitalising the Library's stock of Middle School fiction using the various national prize competitions (the renowned Carnegie Medal, for instance) as frameworks. Rendcomb continues to be a member of the School Library Association and has this year joined several other local and independent school organisations, all wonderful sources of good practice in Librarianship and full of ideas for books and materials helpful to our students.

Those students are, today, active and inventive members of a thrilling digital world. And while Rendcomb is a College superbly endowed with computers and educational software, the Library continues to be a reminder of the slower, quieter pleasures of the book, the newspaper and the magazine...as it might the founding Goldsmid family at Rendcomb House all the way back in 1867!

**Ian Corkett, Librarian**

## Junior School Drama

### Otters' Nativity: Away in a Manger

Maurice the mule was not happy! All he wanted to do was munch away on some fresh hay and settle down for a peaceful night's sleep; but one by one he finds a





hen, a mouse, a bird and a spider in his manger and he doesn't like sharing it with anyone!

Chasing them all away Maurice tries to settle down to sleep when suddenly there is yet more commotion. Why is there a baby in his manger? And why have shepherds and Kings come to see Him?

This year we joined Maurice, played by Saskia Davies, and his friends to try and puzzle out exactly what is going on in their busy stable.

It was delightful to see all the children from Nursery, Reception, J1 and J2 be part of this special performance. The children sang and performed beautifully and the many rehearsals certainly paid off! The J2 narrators delivered their lines with poise. Away in a Manger was definitely a huge success!

**Catherine Breare, Head of Key Stage 1**

## Porridge!

The Juniors were so excited to be performing for the first time in the Griffin Centre. They all rose to the occasion and enjoyed the whole experience. Being able to listen and watch the show whilst back stage was a real treat. Mr Roberts and Mr Lawrence were incredibly good sports by agreeing to play the part of Marigold, the pantomime cow. They especially appreciated the wonderful air-conditioning!

The scene was set, Happy Valley had been hit by a crime wave and there was a caseload of mysteries to

be solved by Jack Spratt, Private Detective! Who'd stolen Ma Hubbard's recipe book? Who'd kidnapped Marigold the cow? What dirty secret was Papa Bear hiding behind his Porridge empire? It was down to Jack Spratt to uncover the terrifying truth in this tale of mystery, suitcase mayhem and breakfast cereal!

Jack, Goldie Lox, Junior Bear and a cast of crazy characters including barmy billy goats, loopy lumberjacks, a potty police squad and a runaway cow all made this a side-splitting musical comedy. It was a familiar tale, with familiar fairytale characters brought to life as you'd never imagined! Porridge had all the ingredients for a delicious production - packed with spoonfuls of sparkling songs and bowlfuls of belly-laughs. Who could forget the complex choreography of 'Boys in Blue' executed so well by the police force and the terribly catchy song of 'The Porridge Pot' - Yum, Yum!

My thanks, as always go to all the pupils for giving of their best throughout the rehearsals and performances, Mrs Hayward and her staff band for making beautiful music, Andy Webb and Will Mercer for their tireless work with the lighting, sound and staging, and all the staff who gave of their time to help backstage. It was a perfect show for the Juniors to perform as their debut in our amazing new theatre.

**Amanda Brealy, Junior School Drama Teacher**





## Senior School Drama

After much anticipation, the Griffin Centre was ready for the opening performance of "And Then There Were None." This Agatha Christie masterpiece could not have wished for a more prestigious venue.

The building, with its state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems and equipment, was comparable to a West End production in the heart of the Rendcomb village. The question on everyone's mind prior to the opening night was: "Could Senior students in the school do justice to one of the greatest crime writers of all time?"

By the end of the first half on the opening evening, the answer was a resounding "Yes!" The enthusiastic and talented cast were transported back to the 1930s. The setting and costumes enhanced their portrayals and soon they took on their roles with masterful aplomb. This combined with the grandeur of Rendcomb's 'Jewel in the Crown' ensured that it was an unforgettable occasion and set the bar high for future productions.

## As You Like It

It was a cold afternoon in January and 40 eager cast members piled into the newly built Griffin Centre for our first rehearsal of Shakespeare's "As You Like It". Fast forward to 4 months later when it was our last performance and tears were streaming from our eyes. Mrs Whitham Swan took the whole cast on an adventure back to the 70s to transform Shakespeare's work into a crazy, colourful jumble of David Bowie songs and the band KISS appearing here, there and everywhere. The leads spent countless lunch breaks working on cracking the "joys" of Shakespearian speech, however eventually we pulled it off. With a lot of glitter and plenty of makeup, we performed to an audience of hundreds and made them laugh, cry, not have a clue what was going on at points, but most of all have a truly incredible experience. All of our thanks go to Mrs Whitham Swan and Miss Hughes for their time, effort and creativity which they threw at this play in bucket loads. Being a lead role was an amazing experience and being able to act on a stage next to your best friends... what can be better than that?

Anna Frost, Year 10





## Dance

Dance is offered as an extra-curricular activity to all pupils at Rendcomb College. Rendcomb pupils did the school proud by gaining a second place for 'The Mad Hatters' dance at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts in the category 'Primary School Group' and a bronze medal was awarded to the talented Senior School pupils Najya Abdullah and Morgan Ogle for creating and performing their own work in the category 'Own Choreography' for duets and trios 13-18 years.'

A 100% pass rate, gaining Distinctions and high Merits were achieved for the RAD (Royal Academy of Dancing) international graded ballet examinations. 25 Pupils in both the Junior School and Senior School took their ballet examinations on Monday, 25 March 2017 and enjoyed performing their exam work to an external examiner in the brand new dance studio of the Griffin Centre. Other than examinations and festivals, children get the opportunity to present and perform their work during regular parents' watching days. Some children had the opportunity to showcase various solos and group dance pieces at events such as the Great Big British Dance Off,

held at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon and the gala evening to open the newly built Griffin Centre.

Apart from ballet, other dance forms offered to Junior School pupils include Musical Theatre, Folk Dancing, Classical Greek and Modern Dance. Contemporary Dance, Modern Lyrical, Limbering, Stretch and Tone and Pointe work classes are offered to pupils in the Senior School. Children in the Early Years enjoy their weekly Music and Movement lessons and creatively explore with dance and movement on various enrichment days throughout the year, whereas Nursery express lots of excitement and enjoyment during their weekly ballet lessons, which is offered during term time.

**Sume Liebenberg, Dance Teacher**

## Junior School Music

As a new member of staff this year and Head of Junior School Music, I have been very impressed by the standard of musicianship and enthusiasm demonstrated by the pupils. The year started off with an informal performance of the choir singing "Somewhere only we Know" and several instrumental



Children get the opportunity to present and perform their work during regular parents' watching days



soloists to a group of Japanese visitors, giving the pupils an early opportunity to perform and also the chance to try out their Japanese language skills!

2016 ended in style with the Carol Service and Nativity. There were performances from all years and from the choir, with a rousing rendition of "Gaudete" being one of my highlights. The readings by J6 and lighting of the candles by Topher and Amelia certainly ensured that Christmas started with a suitably festive feel. Otters entertained us with their Nativity, including performances by Clara and Otto as Mary and Joseph, and Saskia as Maurice the Mule.

The Lent term ended with the Spring Concert, held for the first time on the Griffin Theatre stage and involved the whole Junior School. The Otters began the event singing their Tadpole Rag explaining the life cycle of a frog, and the second section focussed on the J3-6 pupils, who sang and played in various different groups, including orchestra, flute club, Junior Strings and two choirs. It was great to see how they rose to the challenge of having the new performance space to fill.

Our inaugural Primary Big Sing was held in March and we welcomed 140 children from local primary schools to join in a day of singing, along with our own J5s.

The children spent the day learning new songs from all different genres and then took part in an informal concert at the end. It was fantastic to see so many children enjoying singing on the stage in the Griffin centre and going away with lots of new skills.

At the very start of the Summer term, J4 attended the Cheltenham Jazz Festival Schools Concert and had a very groovy time. They learnt a musical meaning for 'jam' and had fun playing inflatable saxophones as well as watching some world class jazz performers.

Performances in Distinction Assembly have continued to be popular and we have had entertainment from pupils in Years 1 to 6, showcasing a wide range of ability on lots of different instruments. Several additional musical clubs have been created this year, including Junior Strings and Flute Club, with some of the more experienced musicians being invited to perform with the Senior Orchestra. ABRSM, along with Trinity and Rockscool, exams have been popular and students have excelled in demonstrating their skills to examiners. Pupils have showed themselves to be so keen to perform that we are introducing Musical Teas every half term this coming academic year and added even more co-curricular opportunities to get involved in.





I am looking forward to seeing our pupils continue to improve their musical skills and join in with a wide variety of experiences, and also to be inspired by their talents and enthusiasm.

**Laura Hayward, Head of Junior Music**

## Senior School Music

How can I possibly sum up the exhilaration, exhaustion and dedication seen in the Music Department this year in only a few well-chosen words? This year has been one of contrasts: musical and otherwise! With two entirely new teachers in the department the school, the pupils, the Visiting Music Teachers all entered into the Michaelmas Term with a certain degree of trepidation. Suffice to say, within a few weeks Mrs Hayward and I had little memory of a life pre-Rendcomb and we would like to thank the 'Rendcomb family' for the warm and encompassing welcome they gave us.

However, things rarely stand still and we staged our first Pupils' Concert in October with amazing performances from Edwin Ward, Carmen Lee, Jared Wason, Tom May, Doris Shen and Anna Migone.

The Chamber Choir gave a performance of Victoria's motet *O Quam Gloriosum* and the College Choir performed Faure's beautiful *Cantique de Jean Racine*. Only a few weeks later we were delighted to welcome the legendary international jazz soloist, Greg Abate, who gave a concert and led several pupils in a workshop – both of which were enthusiastically appreciated by a healthy audience.

Following Mr Carter's solo instrumental and singing competition, ABRSM exams, theory exams, the term ended, as is traditional, in the sumptuous surroundings of Cirencester Parish Church. The carol service was beautiful and the choirs excelled themselves, giving particularly stirring performances of Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin* and Bob Chilcott's *Coventry Carol*. By the end of the Michaelmas term we felt like old hands.

The Lent Term managed to be just as busy, with a pupils' concert, evensong and compline in the chapel, and an outreach event for 150 visiting year 5 pupils branded the 'Big Sing' led by Mrs Hayward. The highlight of the term, however, was undoubtedly the Gala Concert in the newly-opened Griffin Centre. Our newly formed Choral Society, comprising pupils,





staff and parents, performed Vivaldi's *Gloria* with a professional orchestra and the solos were sung by our very own pupils. I was incredibly proud of all of them. The Chamber Choir sang Bob Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass* with a jazz trio provided by Messrs. Agg, Coldrick and Wright. This concert also gave us the opportunity to allow some of our best instrumentalists to perform with the orchestra: Viola Migone and Marls Aspinal gave a spirited performance of Vivaldi's *Concerto for two cellos in G minor* and Edwin Ward treated the audience to a wonderfully atmospheric and sensitive performance of the second movement of Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto in F*.

The summer term was understandably one dedicated to work and exams, and as always, saying goodbye to a number of pupils who have whole-heartedly supported the music department. Whilst we were sorry to bid farewell to Doris, Niamh, Jared, John, Tom and Will (and indeed Mr Graham and Mrs White) we are delighted that they played such a big part in the musical life of the College and we would like to thank them for it. This constant change and development allows new talent to step forward: the younger members of the choir performed at the Cirencester Fleece Fayre and I was delighted with the number of young performers who appeared in the end of year concert and the Founder's Day Concert. Our new Coffee Concerts, taking place in morning breaks with the aid of cake and coffee, are specifically designed to give an informal platform to younger performers. The musical year ended with the orchestra giving a rousing performance of Purcell's *Rondeau* in Clock Hall, and I suspect the ears of all who heard it are still ringing from the triumphant timpani rolls at the start and conclusion of the piece!

It has been an incredible year and it is not possible to mention (or even remember) everything that has happened. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who had taken part in our musical year, especially our wonderful Visiting Music Teachers who do so much to support and inspire our pupils. In the department I could not have done without the support, enthusiasm and good humour of Mrs Hayward, who has been invaluable to me, the department and the College, and the two GAP Students that have had to put up with us both over the year, Jess and Laura.

Just wait and see what I have planned for next year.

**Tom Edwards, Director of Music**

## Ukulele Club

On Wednesday, 16 November we held a ukulele concert and groups of students and staff attended. Although it was not as formal as our International Concert, we still practiced hard. My group performed People Love the People, which was quite a challenge for us to complete because we didn't have very long to practice. Shirley and Jayting were the singers; they were not in the Ukulele Club, but they decided to help us perform this song.

After a few weeks' practice, the concert came. The atmosphere quite relaxed for us to perform, but we still felt a bit nervous. I learned a lot from the concert, not only the skills of how to play the ukulele, but also how to give a fantastic performance. Thanks to every performer, I look forward to performing in another concert with all of you!

**Catherine Huang, Year 10**





## Junior School Art

A number of Junior School pupils took part in the annual SATIPS National Prep Art Exhibition. This fantastic exhibition took place in April at Cheltenham College Preparatory school and the following children exhibited their work alongside art work from schools across the country:

**Clara Cox - Flower study**

**Makari Dodo - Flower study**

**Cleodie Wills - Van Gogh landscape**

**Joe O'Reilly Burge - Henry VIII**

**Jessica Mackenzie - Still life**

**Florentyna Sztuka - Still life**

**Henry Carr - Seal**

**Guy Francis - Dolphin**

Many pupils took part in the Chinese New Year competition to create a poster celebrating the Year of the Rooster. Very well done to everyone who took part, the winners this year were: Edward Sweeney, Tallulah Colquhoun, Jessica Mackenzie, Roo Jones, Georgina Hiscock, Lucinda Norris, Oliver Spencer, Eloise Shortt and Esme Cartwright.

A wonderful range of artwork was produced throughout the year by the Juniors, a small selection of which is displayed in this year's Rendcombian.



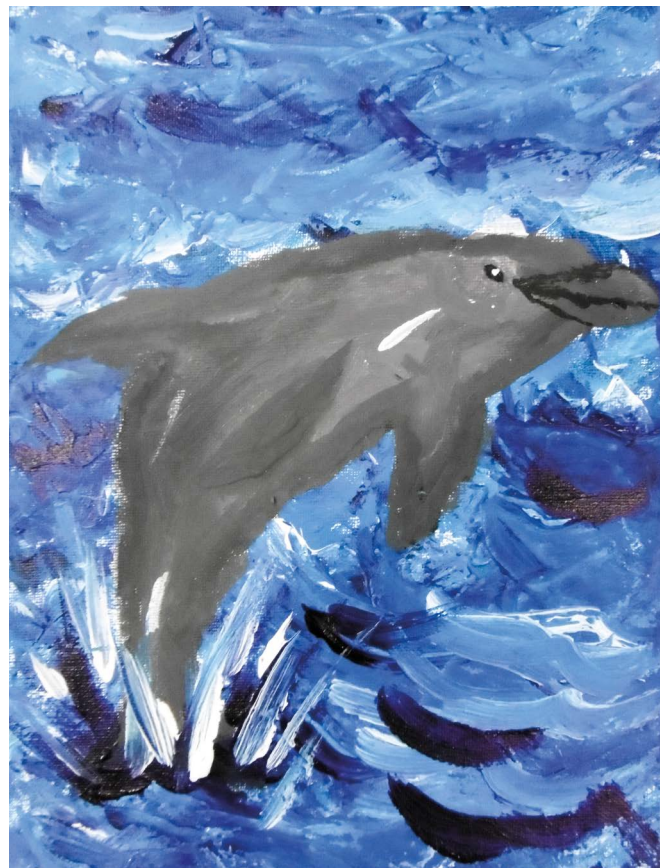
J4 Mehendi hands in clay



Jessica Mackenzie J6 Satips exhibition



Anne Boleyn by Mia Mbanga J4



Guy Francis J6 Satips exhibition



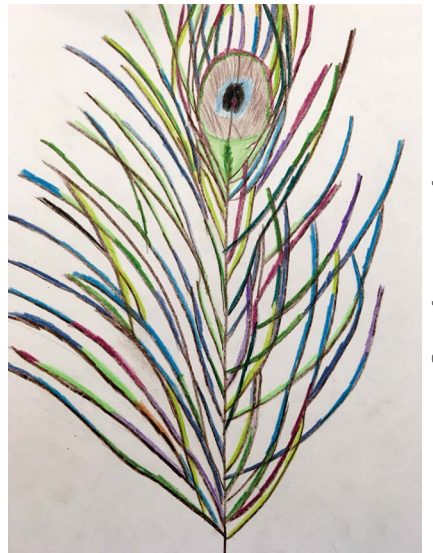
Ethan Hill J6



Elle Langley J6



Peacock feather by Joe O'Reilly Burge J4



Cleodie Wills J4 Satips exhibition



Tudor miniature Ted Whitaker J4



Esme Art Club



Georgina Hiscock J6



James Whyld J5



Thomas Stanley J5



Chloe Freeman J6



Florentyna by Amelia J6





# Senior School Art and Photography

It has been an exceptional year and a feast of creativity within the Art and Photography Department. This year saw a myriad of approaches and difference on a scale previously unmatched. The diversity of our displays and exhibitions is a testament to the cogent directions our pupils pursue in both visual and written form. The latest technology has been incorporated and pursued alongside the more traditional practices of drawing and painting. There was an 'etching boom' also, and the etching press was in more use this year than in its working life: all years, all approaches, all styles and subject matters. The boundless use of line was so much in evidence.

Our GCSE exhibits have been an absolute triumph this year, stepping into the contemporary with a wave of technology being used within the pupils' projects. Conceptual ideas have been the back bone to such fantastic visual compositions, including Fei

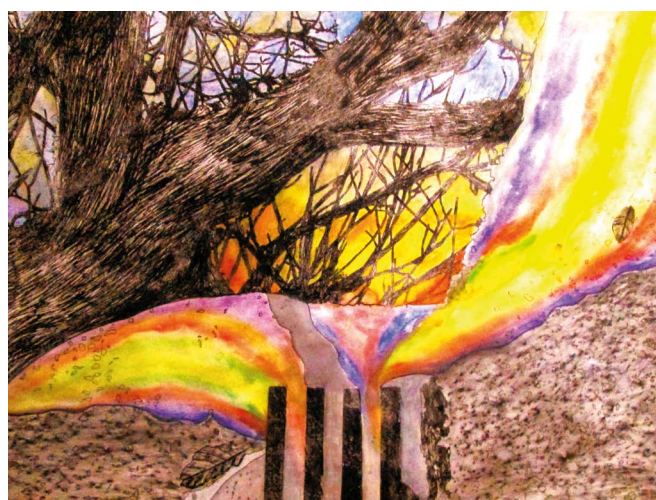
He's installation of diverse mixed media and Eve Harker's exceptional oil portrait inspired by the impasto layering of Van Gogh.

Whilst some students have opted for more subtle statements on life and the people living in and around Rendcomb, painting has been at the forefront of the show with a splash of surrealist and abstract art forms. There has been stellar drawing in the multi-faceted Art Department where our motto, 'Aut viam inveniam aut faciam' – (I will either find a way or make one), was fully expressed.

There are no superlatives to adequately describe the depth, the range and the sustained commitment involved in our A Level Photography exhibitions. Our pupils have worked very hard to produce their best work to date.

It is a testament that our young artists and photographers are pursuing art and photography beyond A Level at leading art colleges and architectural schools at university this coming year.

**Mel Holness, Head of Art and Photography**



Charlie Roberts Year 11 Exam Piece 2017



Eleni Dimopoulos Year 12 Art



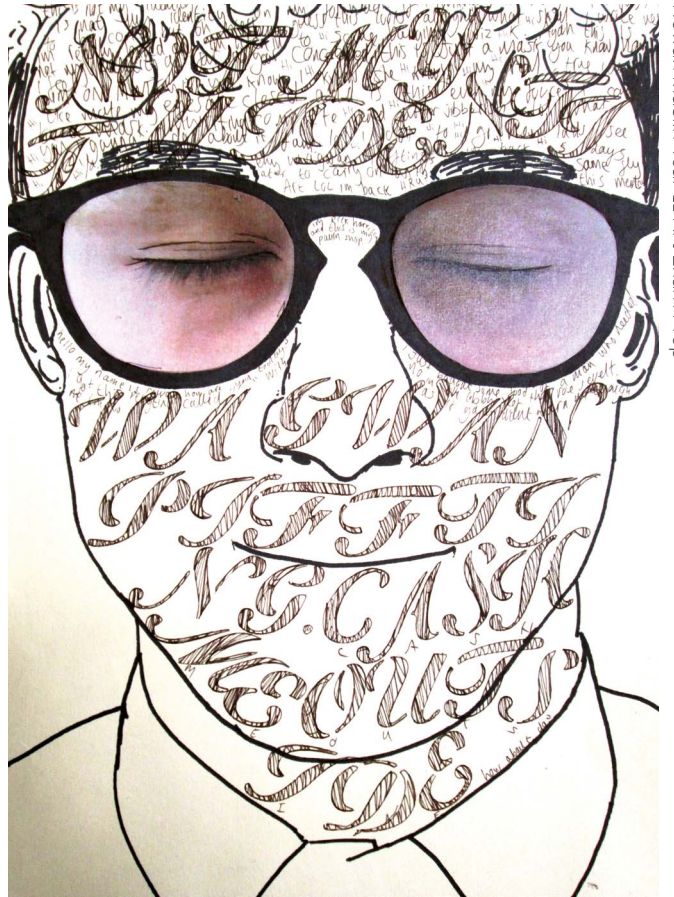
Rowan Maslin Year 11 Art Exam



Stephen Tan Year 12 Art



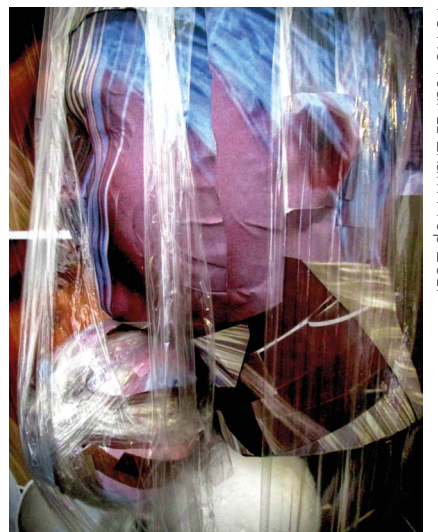
Rowan Maslin Year 11 Art Exam Prep



Coco Tsz Ying Year 12 Art



Fe He Year 11 Exam Prep 2017



Eve Harker Year 11 Exam Prep Oil Study



Stephen Tan LionYear 12 Art





# Junior School Sport

## U11 Rugby

Every U11 boy represented the school once again in rugby this year; from those more experienced club players to those who were taking up the game for the very first time. All the Rendcomb Junior boys did themselves and our school proud by working hard and with a great deal of determination and application.

This year's squad was led by Reuben Jones and was ably supported by Thomas Stanley and Henry Carr. A super team effort was shown in every match and throughout this season. I want to thank Reuben Jones who captained the side with dignity and pride and set a super example to others.



**Captain Reuben Jones**

## U10s

The U10 rugby team started off the season well and worked hard to absorb the new rules of play. They found their first few matches very challenging and were beaten by some of the bigger schools that we play against. As the season progressed, the boys' skills improved hugely and their approach to the game became more positive. We finished the season on a high by beating some of the schools that had beaten us earlier in the season.

## U9s

This year group were playing for the very first time, having worked and prepared well they were very excited. The boys were getting a taste of competing and playing against another school. The Estate Gardens were packed with supportive parents and grandparents. The game was eventful with lots of effort, determination and plenty of tries. All the boys enjoyed the experience playing for school but most agreed the match tea was the best thing!

**Colours - Reuben Jones, Oliver Stanley and Henry Carr**

## U11 Football

### U11A

**Captain of Football: Felix Beckett**

There were many close encounters once again this term. The squad improved a great deal and were often playing against many boys who play for clubs outside school. Felix and all the squad worked tremendously hard for each other in every match.

### U11B & C Football

The U11 B & C football teams worked well to develop their skills, understanding of the rules of the game and improving their fitness during the football season. There were many opportunities for the boys to represent Rendcomb across all of the squads. There were a good number of draws and some great wins across the season.

## U11 Cricket

### U11 1XI

Oliver Stanley was the captain of cricket. The team also included his younger brother Thomas who was playing a year up. These brothers had a fantastic season both with the bat and the ball. Overall, it was a successful and rewarding season for all the boys who played. All the squad played their part in some form or other with the ball or bat or simply chasing a ball in the outfield. Oliver opened the batting usually with Thomas and built a solid opening partnership for their fellow teammates to carry on. However, Oliver often batted throughout the innings securing a win. His most notable performance was against Hatherop where he scored a magnificent 76 not out. He had also been very close on three occasions in





scoring a half century. Overall this was a splendid season with many notable performances which led to success on the field of play.

### Colours Awarded - Oliver Stanley



### U11B 2XI

The boys worked hard to develop their fielding, batting and game play across the season. There was significant improvement in their skills during the Summer Term and all the boys enjoyed representing Rendcomb in matches.

## U9s Cricket

### U9s v Berkhamstead

A young and very excited U9 cricket team travelled to Cheltenham to play their first ever pairs cricket match against Berkhamstead. Joe Burge was our captain. All the squad had been working hard on their batting, bowling and fielding techniques and were keen to put all that practise into action. Our team contained some of our Year 2s - Master Neaves and Wolton – who with all the other boys did a sterling job.

## Cricket Honours

Congratulations to Oliver and Thomas Stanley on being selected for the Cheltenham and Cotswold

District and the Gloucestershire County teams respectively this summer. All the very best for this forthcoming season.

## Winter Warmer

On Monday, 14 November, Rendcomb Juniors held their 14th annual Winter Warmer cross country race. All of the children from KS2 took part in the race, there were 57 runners in total.

The ground conditions were lovely and made for great racing. The mile-long course took in the usual climb up to top pitch, a descent to Mr Cairn's cottage and then a scenic run through the deer park to finish with a final sprint to the line behind our playground.

Toby Beckett was first in, in a time of 7:59, Amelia Jones was the first girl in, in a time of 9:34 placing fifth overall. First U9 boy in was Joe O'Reilly Burge in a time of 13:19 placing 27th and first U9 girl in was Emelia Neaves in a time of 10:10 placing 11th overall.

## Sports Day



On Wednesday, 14 June, once again top pitch looked magnificent - with the sun shining brightly and a cooling breeze - perfect conditions. All the parents and grandparents lined up opposite the children and the atmosphere was electric. Throughout the afternoon, many races were very well contested and all the children put a superb amount of effort in. There were many close races and exciting finishes but for the first time in many years, no school records were broken. However, Emelia Neaves had a super day winning 5 medals and Archie Storey in his last Junior Sports Day won 4 medals.

**The winner of the house trophy was Griffin, congratulations!**

## Otters' Sports Day

With all the children primed and ready to go the track and surroundings were splendid with the school



bunting flapping in the warm breeze and edging the home straight. Every child in the Otters had the opportunity to show their prowess in a number of different events on their Sports Day. Traditional sprinting races, bunny hops, a sack race and egg and spoon were all part of this exciting day.

Before the presentations there was the siblings' race which is always a lovely event. All went without



a bump or fall. The parents' race is always a lot of fun and this year the mums were asked to balance a bean bag whilst carrying the egg and spoon from 40m. The dads were asked to bunny hop 40m and then sprint 40m. It was certainly a day of fun and laughter with plenty of happy children.

**Race winners: Mrs Hiscock and Mr Muccilli**

**House winners: Dunwoody**

## Swimming Gala



Many races were closely contested throughout the afternoon, especially the J6 girls' free-style race. Lucinda Norris had a fantastic afternoon winning 5 medals and breaking 3 more school records. Lucinda now holds every swimming record from J3- J6. She was not the only competitor to have a great day in the pool. Toby also won 5 medals with Sienna and Joe winning 4 and Esme and Oliver winning 3 each. Once again the gala was a great success, well done, everyone.

**House winner: Corinium**

## U8 & U9 Girls' Sport Hockey

**U9 Played 4: Won 3 Drew 1**

**U8 Played 1: Won 1**

Our younger girls had a fantastic unbeaten hockey season. The Year 4s went from strength to strength developing excellent stick skills and supporting each other maturely in their match play. They scored 11 goals in total and conceded just 3. We look forward to watching some of this exciting young talent continue to fine-tune their skills as they move up through the school.

The Year 3s also enjoyed their first introduction to competitive matches and are excited at the prospect of building on this experience next year.

## Netball

**U9 Played 3: Won 2 Lost 1**

**U8 Played 2: Won 2**

In addition to their routine matches the highlight for the Year 4s this season was beating three local schools to win the Hatherop U9 Netball Tournament. Having beaten hosts Hatherop and Westonbirt Prep School, Rendcomb went on to beat St. Edward's School in the final to become overall winners. Superior team work won the day and this team should be very proud of their efforts.

Champing at the bit the U8s also won both their friendly matches against local schools and are enthusiastically developing their early knowledge of the game.

## Rounders

**U9 Played 4: Won 4**

**U8 Played 2: Won 2**

The U9s dominated all their matches, outplaying their opponents with sharp, tactical fielding and intelligent batting. They scored some excellent Rounders and communicated well as a team.





The U8s also enjoyed the success of their first matches and are getting to grips with the many intricacies of the game! They have really benefitted from training alongside their older more experienced peers this season.

## Girls' Sport

### U11 Hockey

**Played: 9 Won: 8 Lost: 1**

Playing a great number of fixtures this term ensured plenty of time for all the girls to put the skills learnt in coaching sessions in to game play and throughout the season they confidently demonstrated their development and commitment to the game. Only losing one game all season was evidence of their hard work, excellent team play and passion for the sport.

The A team also took part in the National In2Hockey School Championship Tournament, placing 3rd and being awarded bronze medals, playing brilliantly in their games which were incredibly close and



well fought.

**Captain: Amelie Eggleton.**

**Colours were awarded to: Amelie Eggleton, Amelia Jones and Eleanor Langley.**

### Netball

**Played: 8 Won: 3 Lost: 5**

From the first match, it was clear that finding space and marking their opposition tightly was key and the girls worked hard all season to improve in this area. Playing a number of large schools ensured tough games and kept the girls working hard; great goals

were scored, amazing interceptions and team spirit never dwindled from this enthusiastic bunch of girls!

This season, the U10 team travelled to The Richard Pate School for their annual netball tournament, consisting of seven schools. Our whole team displayed brilliant teamwork throughout the whole morning and playing some much larger schools challenged the girls to remain focused and never ease up on their defence or attacking opportunities. Rendcomb placed fifth overall which was an excellent result!

**Captain: Amelia Jones.**

**Colours were awarded to: Amelia Jones.**



### Rounders

**Played: 7 Won: 4 Lost: 3**

As always at the start of the eagerly awaited Rounders season, all the girls were well focused and determined in both coaching sessions and matches. I am sure that those watching the games



would agree that some truly outstanding rounders were scored, their fielding decisions were quick and decisive and that the girls were a great support to each other. Winning the final game of the season 23-10 was the perfect end to a very positive season!

**Captain: Eleanor Langley. Colours were awarded to: Georgina Hiscock, Eleanor Langley and Jessica Mackenzie.**



## Senior School Sport

At the close of another year in Sport, it is my great honour to summarise what has been another impressive year in terms of breadth, development and achievement. Our pupils continue to engage in and enjoy the full range of major sports, and at Sixth Form, the Recreational Games on offer, along with participating in the many additional sports activities on offer throughout the year.

Our accomplishments on the field this year have been impressive for a small school. We've hosted tournaments, attended County trial events and had around 40 students represent the District, County and above in their main sport.

Congratulations to all our teams and individuals on your success this year and the Department staff and I are looking forward to helping you build upon your success next year.

My thanks go to all the Academic and Sport Department staff, our Visiting Coaches, Bruce Ballance, Ryan Higgins and Bradley Dial from Gecko, along with Cerys Davies (OR) and Matt Collins for their coaching and management of teams; to the Estates and Grounds team for our superb facilities and to Eagleline Coaches and AlexCars for safe travel throughout the year.

**Will Mbanga, Director of Sport**

## Highlights of the Sporting year



**Sports Dinner:** A most enjoyable celebration evening was held on Friday, 23 June in the Dulverton Hall with an inspiring presentation from guest speaker, Richard Whincup, humorous and very eloquent reports from the 1st team captains, Tom Godwin and Maddie Morgan for Shooting; Eleanor Brealy for Lacrosse, Ellie Jones for Girls' Hockey; James Nickson for Boys' Hockey; Tom Whichelo for Rugby and Cricket; and Clare Farnham for Tennis.

**The award winners were as follows:**

**Service awards to Girls' Sport:** Ellie Jones

**Service award to Boys' Sport:** Tom Whichelo

**Sportswoman of the year:** Eleanor Brealy

**Sportsman of the year:** James Nickson

## Rugby Coaching clinics



The 1st XV Rugby squad backs had a coaching session from former Springbok, Gloucester and Worcester legend Thinus Delpoit, where they were exposed to different running lines and attack options. The session was challenging and enjoyable and it was great to have a Q&A afterwards with Thinus and discuss life as a professional Rugby





player/sportsman, as well as the importance of education (Thinus has a Bachelor of Commerce degree). My thanks to Thinus for coming out and spending the afternoon with us and giving the boys some great on and off field insights. We also held a very enjoyable and productive Rugby Day on which all our teams experienced a carousel of mini coaching clinics run by our own staff.

## Family Tennis Tournament

On the last Saturday of term, the RCPA/RCJPA hosted the 2nd Family Tennis Tournament on the College Astro and Hard courts. It was a gorgeous day and with over 300 people from across both schools plus extended family in attendance, it was a truly Rendcomb community event. It was interesting to note the varying levels of competitiveness, with some taking the “this is Wimbledon” approach and others embracing the family fun aspect; whichever approach teams took to the event, the spirit in which everyone played was positive. Thanks and congratulations to Miss Bell on organising such a great event; her unseen hours of stress and effort ensured a successful event.

Thank you also to Sport staff who assisted, in the build-up and on the day, along with pupil helpers and huge thanks go to the RCPA/RCJPA for their efforts and for manning the stylish Pimms bar; to the Catering staff for the hog roast and of course to all the College staff and pupils who helped run the tournament on the day. Thank you to Lorraine Ristic for sponsoring the fantastic prizes for all the semi-finalists and winners; to the LTA Coaches for their support and coaching clinic and of course to all the participants, young, older and in between for taking part and making the event a success.



## Winners

**Improvers:** Team Oscar Morris

**Intermediate:** Team William Periera

**Advanced:** Team Clare Farnham

## Forest School

Forest School activities are ever changing and evolving in tune with the changing seasons. However there are so many activities which are firm favourites and continue throughout the year such as den building, minibeast hunting, cooking on the camp fire and art in nature.

### Autumn

The Autumn is a magical time with stunning colours and beautiful autumn leaves to count, collect and catch. The Otters made some lovely leaf pictures and enjoyed jumping into big leaf piles. We held a special Autumn Day which included making hedgehog bread, Autumn poetry through dance as well as making leaf crowns and leaf art. We closely follow the busy activities of the different woodland animals as they prepare for the coming winter and learn about their habitats. Our Gruffalo activities have been particularly popular – storytelling, making Gruffalo mud pies with stick candles, building dens for the fox, a log pile house for the snake and a nest for the owl. We have been doing lots of bug hunting, finding lots of beetles, millipedes, woodlice and slug eggs. In the Autumn, J3 and J4 enjoyed creating monsters for myths, made tree friends, maps of Forest School and tried their hand at lighting fires and toasting marshmallows.

### Winter

This year's winter was mild. The children learnt about hibernation and made prickly clay hedgehogs. The children also designed and made homes for hedgehogs and squirrels as well as bird feeders using pine cones or they threaded cereal onto small branches. The children enjoyed making mud slides and getting covered in mud! We made pretty pine cone decorations which were used to decorate the Rendcomb-sponsored Christmas tree in Cirencester Church – the decorations returned to Rendcomb to be hung in the trees as they sparkled in the winter sunshine. We used the bow saw and drill to make Christmas decorations and Nursery acted out the Nativity story in our Forest School setting. In After



School Club, the children enjoyed den building, climbing trees and sharing spooky stories at dusk.

## Spring

We always know that Spring has sprung when the snowdrops appear and it's time for our annual visit to 'Snowdrop World.' Here the children tread carefully around the pretty flowers. They produced some brilliant observational drawings of snowdrops and enjoyed building by making cosy homes for the snowdrop elves. The cherry blossom was particularly stunning and the J3 and 4s enjoyed their Japanese style painting and Haiku poetry. Rendcomb bluebells were also stunning and made the perfect backdrop for storytelling, art and creative writing. The wild garlic did not disappoint; the smell

was amazing. Other Spring activities included making music instruments from natural materials and composing some music. Forest School even had its first 'wedding' complete with leaf rings and bouquets!

## Summer

The Summer term began with a Forest school working party; parent volunteers helped repair shelters, managed the rather large nettles and made a new base camp and a mud kitchen. The children learned more about the life cycles of the mini-beasts found in forest school and all the children were master mini-beast finders. There was even an injured tawny owl which Mrs Brealy took to a local wildlife rescue centre; it was successfully released back into



Forest School  
activities are ever changing  
and evolving in tune with  
the changing seasons.



the Rendcomb woods when it was well enough. J3 and J4 made magical nature photographs, using special photographic paper and the power of the sun. Our 'Bring a Grown Up to Forest School' day and the Nursery's Teddy Bears' Picnic gave the children the ideal opportunity to show off Forest School and take part in activities together. The parent and child den building activity was certainly very competitive. We look forward to more adventures in the coming year.



wonderful surroundings and space at Rendcomb and our children thought that a week's sailing course at the local beach was a brilliant summer term activity!

The programme included our usual visits to the excellent WW2 museum at Ambleteuse and WW1 cemetery at Etaples where some family graves



## Trips

### Junior School Trip to France

Our fourth Junior School trip to France saw 41 children from J5 & J6 discovering the seaside towns and countryside of Nord-Pas-De-Calais. We were blessed with sunshine and a warm welcome from the children and teachers at l'Ecole Elémentaire Notre-Dame du Rosaire. J5 and J6 exchanged little gifts and all managed to ask and answer questions about themselves. The French children were envious of the





were found. We could not leave out our visits to the market and chocolate factory which never fail to captivate children and staff alike! Thanks to the excellent guides we gained a good insight into the importance of Fairtrade chocolate and an appreciation of handmade chocolate compared to factory produced chocolate.

This year we included a new visit to a working museum and honey producer 'Musée de l'Abeille d'Opale' at Bouin Plumoison. Here we attended two workshops; the first to make candles from beeswax and the second to discover the life of bees and honey production. Everyone loved pouring wax into their mould, leaving it to set then discovering later the shape of their candle. Each child went home with their candle and a little pot of honey.

We were extremely lucky to have good weather again for our sand-sailing session. There was some great team work from the children when a helping hand from friends was required when the wind dropped, and some very fast runs with sand yachts with a good wind. Some teachers had the chance to experience a twin seater sand yacht – most entertaining for all!

We are looking forward to our next visit to this lovely corner of France in 2019!

**Adrienne Barker, Junior School French Teacher**

## Canoe trip May 2017

10 intrepid students enjoyed the challenge of canoeing at Symonds Yat. As well as marvelling at the beauty of the area (including a kingfisher) they also undertook fun games and even beached their canoes before floating down a rapid – very exhilarating!

**Alex Brealy, Old Rectory Houseparent**



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Gold Expedition

I did not realise when first signing up how challenging the Duke of Edinburgh's Award would be; undertaking it has encouraged many qualities, such as perseverance, commitment, and teamwork to develop. In preparation for the four-day expedition in July, we had to complete an expedition in Dartmoor and the Brecon Beacons for training and practise, along with weekly meetings to create a route that would keep us out for at least eight hours of the day.

Trekking along the peaks of Wales with no directions other than a map and compass, 40lbs in my backpack, and an 80km walk ahead provoked feelings of doubt and fright. However, breaking it into little chunks, with smaller achievements along the way made it manageable. Despite the huge achievements made within the four days, like being 1000 steps closer to completing the award, knowing we have the skills to survive four days in the wild, and managing to overcome my feelings of doubt that I couldn't do it, my highlight would have to be the friendships formed. Lucy, James, Will and I may be in the same boarding house, but after spending 96 hours with one another, it is safe to say we know each other infinitely better, and have developed newfound respect for each other. Especially through the ups and downs that are involved in climbing the tallest peak in the Brecons (Pen y Fan), and dealing with the indecisive weather - that included rain, fog, mist, wind, and sun.





Although this was the assessed expedition, which we had to take seriously, we did have fun along the way: sliding down mountains instead of walking; watching Will's backpack fall off a cliff- and the aftermath of him desperately trying to rescue it; having a break near a river, and watching James transition into Spiderman; and seeing Lucy's reaction to the

realisation her Jamaican patty (among other food) had been stolen by a crow. We have all come away from the expedition with new friendships, a new understanding of teamwork, and more confidence.

**Madeleine Morgan, Year 12**



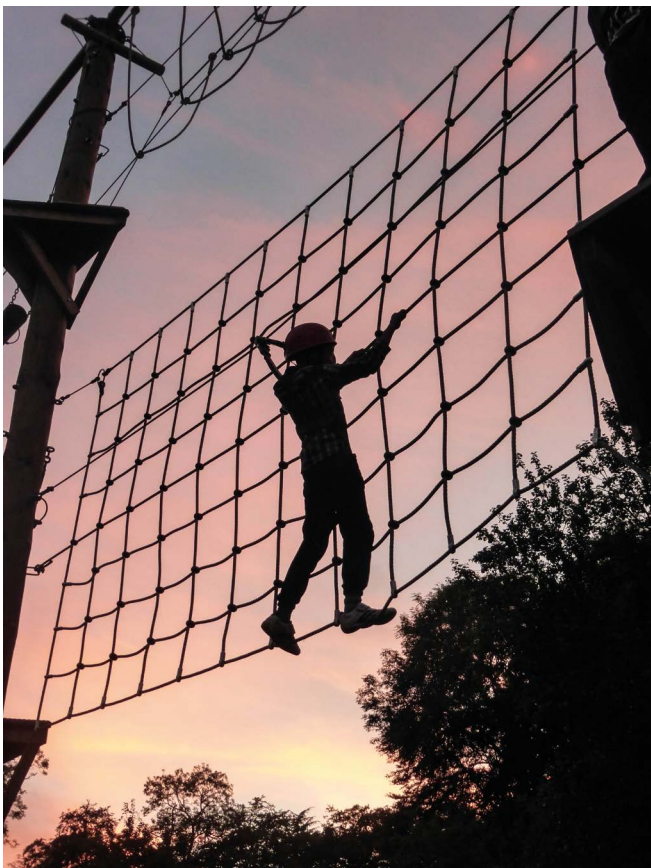
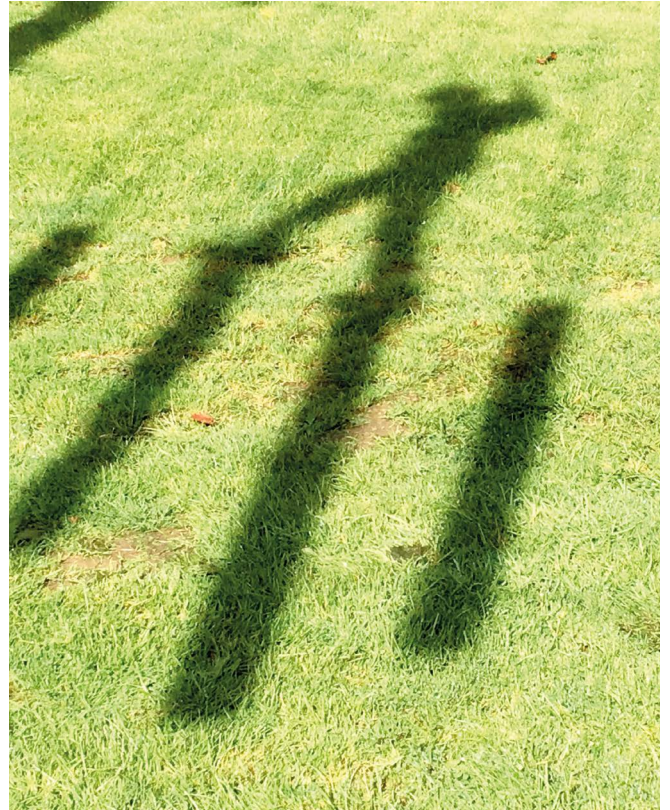


## Year 7 Adventure Weekend

All the Year 7 pupils set off to Shropshire on the first weekend of the academic year on their Adventure Weekend to Manor Adventure. It was a fun-packed weekend, full of different challenges for all. It enabled the year group to learn to work together as a team,

trust each other and bond over shared memories. The new high ropes course was a real highlight, as was falling into the lake off a raft. Apologies for all the muddy clothes which were brought home for washing!

**Amanda Brealy, Old Rectory Houseparent**





## Coasteering Adventure

The first weekend of the Summer Term saw 11 adventurous students journey to the stunning Gower Peninsular. The Saturday was spent enjoying both Rhossili Bay and the Three Cliffs Bay before undertaking an atmospheric night walk to the local cove nearby to their campsite at Pitton Cross. Sunday morning was spent coasteering at the “Mermaid Wall” cliffs which overlook the intriguing Worm’s Head. Well done for undertaking the impressive drops into the bracing waters of the Bristol Channel!

**Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher**

## Year 7 Geography Field Trip to



## Cheddar Gorge

The Year 7 Geographers undertook fieldwork techniques on the village as a honeypot: pedestrian flow, traffic flow and environmental quality. Once completed, the group went up “Jacob’s Ladder” to the Lookout Tower and then on to The Pulpit to discuss aspects of limestone formation and landscape processes and features. Coming down from the side of the gorge, the group then proceeded into Gough’s Cave to view its spectacular limestone formations. The afternoon ended with the coach



driving the length of the gorge in order to gain a greater impression of its size.

**Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher**

## Year 8 trip to the Brecon Beacons

Year 8 were taken to the Western area of the Brecon Beacons in order to undertake two walks. The first was through the spectacular ‘Waterfall Country’ at Ystradfellte; the 5km route took in 4 beautiful waterfalls, with Sgwd yr Eira being the most impressive. The groups were able to walk behind this one which afforded very much needed cooling off in the intense heat of the day.

The ‘Sleeping Giant’ bunk house was only 5 minutes’ drive from South Wales’ tallest waterfall at 27m, Sgwd Henryd. After marvelling at its height, Year 8 returned for a hearty dinner which concluded with marshmallows around the campfire.

The second day’s walk was to take on the challenge of completing a 7km circular route over South Wales’ tallest peak, Pen y Fan (886m). The groups rallied both individually and collectively to get everyone through the challenging, yet very rewarding mission of ascending 450m.

**Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher**





## Year 10 Trip to Germany

In June 2017 a group of Year 10 German students adventured to Bonn to experience German culture, a lot of Haribo and improve our German speaking skills. We stayed there for a week with lovely host families who cared for all our needs - we spent the days in our German partner school learning from other German pupils and doing work for our GCSE course. We had a great time and want to thank Frau Fischbach and Frau Fielding for organising it.

**Ella Lister, Year 10**



## A Level Psychology Trip to Bristol Zoo

At Bristol Zoo the students were trained to use structured observation and then, in small groups, they conducted a detailed observation of one animal. They were able to explore the techniques, strengths and weaknesses of observation that will be useful for their Psychology A Level examination.

The students also attended a workshop on Animal Learning. This covered the behaviourist principles for their course, but these were brought alive by conducting a simple experiment on a Great African



Snail (no snails were harmed!). They learnt how these principles are used to train the animals at the zoo in order to make care of the animals easier. This session involved close encounters with a snake, a rat and two phasmatodea.

**Jacqui Noel, Head of Psychology**

## Year 12 Geography Field Trips to Bourton on the Water

The Year 12 A Level Geographers undertook two visits to Bourton on the Water as a 'Changing Place' in order to become acquainted with the endogenous and exogenous factors that make it the place it is. The first visit was a walking tour of the village noting the characteristics that gave it a 'sense of place.' The day ended gaining some qualitative data from interviewing Joyce, a retiree that had lived in the village for 30 years, to gain insight to the changes that had taken place over that time and her views on these changes.



The second field trip was in order to visit a Linden Homes residential estate that was being built to gain an insight to the exogenous planning process through local and national strategic planning. The students were fortunate to have both the regional manager and a company planning officer come to speak to them. Many thanks must go to Mr Farnham for arranging the visit.

**Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher**



## Cross Curricular Trip to Patagonia

The Patagonia 2017 expedition group set off on their adventure of a lifetime at Easter. This trip was a joint extra-curricular project between the Science, Spanish and Geography Departments learning about geology, flora and fauna as well as seeing first hand glaciers and their impact on the environment.

The 6 staff and 16 students (from Year 8 to Year 12) flew to South America. Three days in Buenos Aires enjoying the sites, a visit to the Casa Rosada, a graffiti tour and a tango show was followed by a week in the Patagonian regions of El Chalten and El Calafate.

Next, the group visited one of Argentina's National Parks, Los Glaciares, where they expanded their understanding of glaciation and explored local flora during amazing hikes

to Laguna Torre and Laguna de los Tres, under the Fitz Roy massif.

In the evenings, the group learnt to dance like the locals with a Folklorica dance lesson, made their own empanadas and went back up into the hills to stargaze at the Southern hemisphere constellations.

The group viewed the impressive and fast moving Perito Moreno Glacier and ice-field and next went on to Chile to visit an estancia (a working ranch) to see gauchos rounding up the sheep and cattle and enjoy an amazing 'asado' (whole lamb barbecue).

The finale of the trip was a visit to "Useless Island", at the very tip of Chile, to see the King Penguin colony; seeing penguins this close and in the wilderness was a fabulous end to our trip; a trip never to be forgotten.





## International Stars Concert

What will the acoustics in the new auditorium be like? Will it live up to expectations? Will the audience appreciate it? Understand? Want to understand? The minds of people coming from every corner of the world before a performance are crowded by these thoughts.

On the 23rd of February 2017, most of the international students performed in the newly built Griffin Centre in aid of the International Stars Concert. Every performer, motivated by their desire to share part of their culture, employed music as a universal language to communicate their roots. It was a concert full of life, thanks to the variety of the performances chosen by the students.

Everyone seated, lights off and the concert started with an original arrangement of the British band Coldplay's Viva la Vida for cello and voice (vocal: Tom May, British student, cello: Viola Migone, Italian student). Afterwards, one of our most talented singing students, Doris Shen, invoked emotion in all the audience with her performance of the

song called "Like a star." Following this, Catherine Huang brought a part of China onto the stage with a performance of Qiu Feng Ci on her Gu Qin, a rare instrument only played in certain regions of the country. Two of our Italian students then created a purely Italian atmosphere performing a piece called "Reverse Canon" written by one of the most famous Italian composers, Ennio Morricone (violin: Anna Migone, cello: Viola Migone).

The International Stars Concert, this year, has offered the opportunity to perform even to our youngest students. In fact, the young Gary Fang debuted on the violin with an arrangement of the famous song "Take five" by David Brubeck. Approaching the end, the audience were caught up in the rhythm of Chinese rap performed by Patrick Zhang, and a rock band involving Henry Li, Frank Cai, Bosco Chow and Fei He.

Finally, our concert this year happily ended with the famous song "Don't worry, be happy," as an encouragement to positivity, performed by four of our students: Lucy Hollands (England), Bolu Ade-Onanuga (Nigeria), Alina Lisnenko (Russia) and Louis Szopinski (England).

Viola Migone, Year 12

## International Celebration Evening

On Tuesday, 4 October, the International Celebration Evening took place. It was my first time celebrating it and I really enjoyed looking at all the different cultures and countries that were represented there. There were tables that were about China, Russia, Italy, Spain, America, Nigeria, Greece, Austria and Germany.





Each county decorated their table with their flags and pictures of their home, their football team, their capital, their celebrities, food and much more. On each table you could do different things like playing a national game, getting your name written in Chinese signs, spelling words in their language or just eating their food. I personally enjoyed the food the most! You could eat your way through Russian sweets to Spanish antipasti to Chinese hot pot to German currywurst. Honestly, it was amazing. I ate everything!

It was a great opportunity to learn more about different cultures and their traditions. I also got to know where all the people I am seeing every day come from and try out the different food they usually eat at home. I think I really got to know everybody better by seeing what their country is like.

I am an international student too so I got to feel like I am the expert in something and show all the British people what my country looks like. It was simply a great evening.

**Amy Nowodworski, Year 10**



## International Round Up

The 'Rendcomb Family' has welcomed new nationalities into the school community this year from Italy, Malaysia and Nigeria. The international community adds tremendous value to the school and through our Cultural Enrichment Programme, pupils learn about new countries and their cultures. It is important for our pupils to learn to study and live among pupils from across the world to help prepare them for the global community in which we may live and work in during our lifetime.

The International Prefects have once again been great ambassadors for Rendcomb throughout the year supporting new pupils and recruitment events.

Since September 2016, 29,023 air miles have been flown exhibiting Rendcomb overseas to new international markets helping us to add further diversity and richness to the 'Rendcomb Family.' We are very excited to be welcoming pupils from Thailand, Israel, Kazakhstan and Taiwan for the new academic year 2017-18.

The international community continues to attain at an excellent standard. This year, particular successes included;

**Anna Migone** A\*AAB progressing to University of Oxford - French

**Robert Zheng** A\*A\*AA progressing to University of Durham - Physics

**Leo Lai** A\*AAA progressing to University of Bath – Accounting and Finance

**Ray Ouyang** A\*AAB progressing to UCL – Finance

**Polly Chen** and **Sissy Wang** attained 11 A\* grades between them at GCSE

**Chrissy Laycock, Head of International Recruitment**



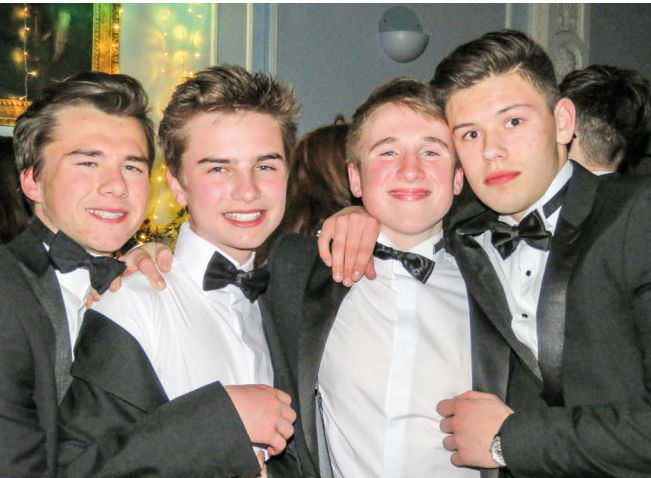


Year 7- 9 Arabian Nights Ball





# 6th Form Midsummer Night's Ball and Leaver's Do





## News

### Rendcomb College Supports Cirencester Church's St Nicholas Appeal

Rendcomb College Junior School once again sponsored a tree at Cirencester Parish Church's Christmas Tree Festival in aid of the St Nicholas Appeal.

The Appeal develops and supports youth and children's work within the parish of Cirencester.

The children at Rendcomb College Junior School, aged 3 to 11, took inspiration from the school's beautiful woodland environment to decorate fir cones to place on the tree. Covered with glitter, pom-poms and tinsel, the children had great fun and are looking forward to the public supporting the Festival and viewing all of the trees in the Church.



### Drama Students are 'On The Button'

GCSE and A Level Drama students took part in a Theatre in Education workshop led by On the Button Theatre Company.



On Thursday, 17 November, the theatre company worked with the Year 11, 12 and 13 Drama students and performed a piece of Theatre in Education that dealt with the issue of anxiety. The students then took part in a workshop that offered coping strategies to help them overcome the pressures they are confronted with in an ever-changing society.

Following the workshop, the students then worked to devise and produce short sketches with a view to adapting and using the ideas for their GCSE and A Level examinations.

Rendcomb College's Head of Drama, Kate Redmond, said: "The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyable and the students left feeling both educated and enthused. We look forward to welcoming On the Button back to Rendcomb in the summer term."

### Shooting Trophy for Maddy

Year 12 pupil Maddy secured a win at Millfield's clay shooting competition.

On Thursday, 10 November, our Senior Clay Shooting Team headed to Wells in Somerset to compete in Millfield School's competition. Teams of three competed and Maddy joined two Millfield girls in a





mixed team to win the ladies' competition. A second Rendcomb ladies team also came third out of six teams overall. The boys' A team were placed 12th out of 25 teams and the B team were placed 16th.

Rendcomb's Shooting Coach Pete Cairns, said: "It was a fantastic day and we are proud to have coached all who attended. There was some great shooting from all pupils and the day was lots of fun."

## Pupils Raise Money for Disadvantaged Young People

Two Sixth Form pupils took on the DofE Diamond Challenge last December to celebrate The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 60th Diamond Anniversary to raise funds to help the DofE put two million more young people through the program – 400,000 of whom are disadvantaged.

Year 12 students Robert Sharman and Will Vaughan chose to hold a cake sale at Rendcomb College and baked over 200 cakes to sell during break time. They raised more than £125 and said: "It took us a whole day to bake the cakes, biscuits and flapjacks and we had a great deal of clearing up to do afterwards! We raised £125 and sold nearly all the cakes in just over 20 minutes."

Speaking about why they chose to undertake the challenge, Will said: "We are both currently working towards our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, having achieved our Silver and Bronze Awards over the last two years."



"We have both benefited tremendously from taking part in the DofE programme, undertaking voluntary work, learning new skills and taking part in expeditions. We have completed our practice Gold Expedition and although it was quite tough going we felt a real sense of achievement once we had completed it. It's a great programme to be a part of."

Peter Westgarth, CEO of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award said: "As we celebrate 60 years, it's clear that the Charity is an integral part of life at Rendcomb College, which has played an invaluable role in the development of hundreds of young people in the community."

## FRANT-as-TIC Day for Drama Students



The Year 12 and 13 Drama students had a 'FRANT-as-TIC' day when Steve Miller from the internationally renowned theatre company, Frantic Assembly, visited Rendcomb College to deliver a high energy and engaging workshop.

After a gruesome workout, the students unlocked their creative potential, producing contorted formations and thought provoking dramatic moments that they can build on for their assessed practical performances later on in the academic year.

The students all said that it was "a rewarding and intense experience" and all agreed that they would need at least the Christmas holidays to recover!

## Oxford Interviews for Rendcomb College Duo

Rendcomb College students, Anna Migone and Robert Zheng, were selected to undertake interviews at the prestigious University of Oxford in order to secure a place on their chosen undergraduate degree courses in 2017.



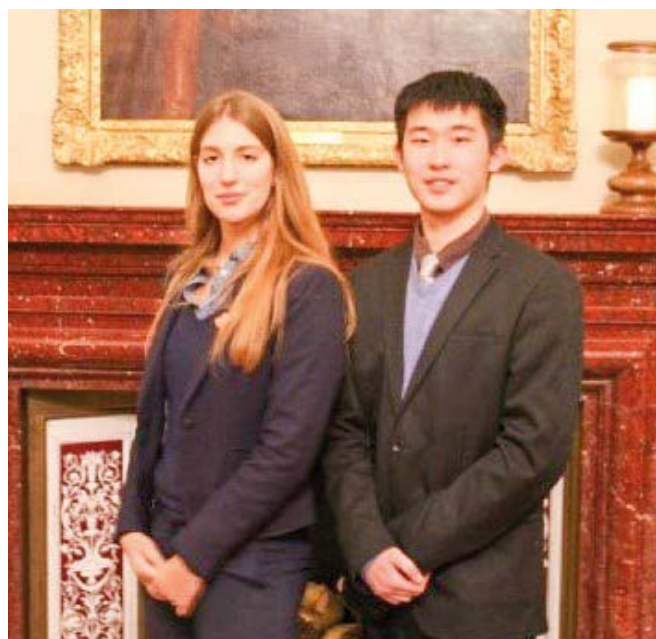
18-year-old Anna, a budding linguist, attended a four-day selection process at The Queens College, Oxford to study French Literature, while Robert, also 18-years-old, was invited to interview at Exeter College, Oxford to compete for one of only four places to study Physics.

Speaking about being selected for the interview, he said: "I am really excited about attending the interview; I will have the chance to meet and speak to so many world experts who have been studying Physics for many years."

Both Anna and Robert had to complete tests set by the University before being selected. Robert sat a two-hour Physics Aptitude Test (PAT) while Anna submitted three pieces of written work and also sat the English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT) and Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT).

Head of Sixth Form at Rendcomb College, Jacqui Noel said: "We are very proud of Anna and Robert's achievements; they have both worked very hard preparing personal statements, studying for the tests, completing the written work required and preparing for their interviews. As always at Rendcomb College, this has been a team effort and they have been supported by their tutors and subject teachers. The school Governors have even been involved in the students' mock interviews."

Anna has studied Italian, Spanish, French and English and hopes to become a lecturer in Modern Languages while Robert hopes to continue with researching the application of Physics in daily life.



## England Hockey and Lacrosse Selection for Girls



14-year-old pupils, Eva and Alice, 15-year-old Emily and 16-year-old Kieze were headhunted by team selectors to join junior development programmes with both England Hockey and English Lacrosse.

Eva, who loves sport, has secured a place with the England Hockey Performance Centre in their U15 team. Both Emily and Alice secured a place in England Hockey's Junior Academy Centre.

All the girls have also been selected to join the English Lacrosse Talent Pathway; they will attend intensive weekend training camps at various times throughout the year. At the camps they fine tune their lacrosse technique and will also undertake fitness and core strength training.

Speaking about the selection process, the girls said: "We are really happy to be selected out of everyone who took part in the process. All the other girls were really good so we're very pleased!"

Head of Girls' Games at Rendcomb College, Sarah Bell said: "Eva, Alice, Emily and Kieze work so hard and are very talented so I am delighted that they have got this opportunity. We are all incredibly proud and look forward to supporting them all the way."

## League Tables: Head "Delighted" by Performance

Following the Department for Education's publication of the country's School Performance Tables this year, Headmaster, Rob Jones said he is "delighted by Rendcomb's improved standing."

Of the independent schools in the county, Rendcomb College is ranked top for Progress and





second for students achieving three A Level grades at AAB or higher where at least two are in 'facilitating subjects' – subjects preferred for entry into Russell Group universities.

Head Rob Jones explained: "The latest crop of A Level results at Rendcomb College saw our students achieving an average of three As across the board with 95% of students being offered places at their chosen universities. We encourage our pupils to learn from both success and failure and these results reflect their efforts along with the excellent support given in and out of the classroom."

He continued: "We educate the whole child at Rendcomb, encouraging pupils to be the best version of themselves; our small class sizes throughout the school enable us to tailor our approach to educating each individual which is apparent in our results."

## Pupils to Restart a Heart

On Tuesday, 31 January, Rendcomb College held a 'restart a heart' day, with the help of British Heart Foundation training kits and mannequins. More than 260 pupils aged 11 to 18 (Years 7 to 13) were taught vital CPR skills, and the three simple steps that could help save a life:

- CALL 999 immediately
- PUSH hard and fast on the centre of the chest 30 times
- Give two RESCUE breaths

And to keep going until the emergency medical services arrive.



Fiona Stanford, Registered Nurse at Rendcomb College who arranged the event said: "Taking part in this national initiative is an exciting prospect. In doing so we aim to give our pupils the confidence to save lives in an emergency situation."

The team of Registered Nurses at Rendcomb College, along with First Aid trained Sixth Form students, will teach pupils the lifesaving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills which will help double the chances of survival for someone in cardiac arrest.

The British Heart Foundation's initiative is to create a nation of lifesavers by giving this training to schools, workplaces and community groups across the UK.

## Girls' Shooting Team Take Home Trophy From Harrow Competition

Rendcomb College's girls' clay shooting A team were victorious, bringing home the winners' trophy from the Clay Shooting Competition hosted by Harrow School in February, 2017.

The girls' team of Sixth Formers, Grace, Lizzie, Rebekkah and Maddy, scored the top spot against teams from Millfield and the hosts, Harrow.

Rendcomb's shooting coach, Pete Cairns, said: "Despite storm Doris creating erratic conditions with the clay targets yesterday, our Rendcomb teams did fantastically. The challenge was heightened by the weather but that certainly didn't dampen our spirits!"

The boys' team went up against equally tough opponents and put on a strong display.





## Big Sing! Hits Right Note

Around 140 children from primary schools across Gloucestershire took part in Rendcomb College's first BIG SING! event on Monday, 27 March.

The Year 5 children from Fairford, North Cerney, Gardners Lane, Severn View, Watermoor and Withington primary schools joined Rendcomb College Junior School's Year 5 class to create a mass choir which performed in the school's brand new 350-seat theatre in the Griffin Centre.

The children spent the day learning three new songs with Rendcomb's specialist music teachers and all took part in the informal concert at the end of the day in front of family, friends and teachers.

Songs included 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' made famous by Disney's film 'The Lion King' and the nursery rhyme 'Old Abram Brown' sung in a four-part round.

Rendcomb College's Music teacher, Laura Hayward, who led one of the three singing sessions said: "It was fantastic to see so many local children enjoying singing and performing on our new stage. We all had a great time and look forward to more of these occasions."



## Pupil Edwin Triumphs at Young Musician Competition

13-year-old Edwin Ward has won the Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds' 2017 Young Musician of the Year competition.

Last year, Edwin took part in the competition for the first time and was awarded the 'best pianist' prize and was placed second overall. This year, he returned to the competition to take home the winner's trophy.



Director of Music, Dr Tom Edwards said: "We are thrilled by Edwin's phenomenal achievement at the Rotary Competition. He is the perfect example of what the prize is intended to celebrate and support: a dazzling and engaging performer with a bright future ahead of him."

Edwin performed the following pieces:

- *Impromptu No 2 In E flat Op90* by Schubert
- *Misty* by Erroll Garner (arranged by Fabrizio Caligaris)
- *Liebestraum No 3* by Liszt

## First Rough Runner Race Held at Rendcomb College!

Rendcomb College held its first ever 'Rough Runner Challenge' obstacle race for Year 7 pupils at Prep Schools around the country, in March this year.

The Rendcomb Rough Runner Challenge saw more than 100 11-year-olds from Rendcomb College, Dean Close, Kitebrook House, Bredon, Castle Court, Daneshill and Bruern Abbey follow the 2.5 kilometre off-road trail. Kitebrook House took home the girls' team trophy while the Dean Close boys achieved both the fastest team time and individual time.

Rendcomb's Head of College, Rob Jones, awarded the prizes and said: "This event is precisely what Rendcomb College is all about; team work, comradery, adventure and overcoming challenges. All of the participants were a true credit to their schools and all approached the course and each obstacle as a team."





He continued: "Getting back in touch with nature and the great outdoors is vital, now more than ever, as there are so many technological distractions around us. This event, one which we hope to repeat in future, is just one of the ways at Rendcomb College we encourage adventure outside the classroom."

The obstacle race was set within Rendcomb College's 230 acre countryside estate and was



sponsored by the leading sportswear brand Squadkit. Crossing through the River Churn at two points, following a forest trail, scrambling over hay bales and enjoying a very muddy water slide ensured the children all crossed the finish line with smiles on their faces.

## Gold and Bronze for Olympic Shot Hopefuls

Four of Rendcomb College's top shots took part in the Olympic Shooting Experience organised by British Shooting, on 26 April, and the pupils brought home an individual gold medal and team bronze medal.

Junior School pupil, 11-year-old Oliver Stanley, was the youngest shot at the event and he teamed up with 14-year-old pupil Matthew Krenik to win the overall bronze medal for the Down the Line, Skeet and Sporting Target events. Oliver was also awarded a special individual gold medal for outstanding shooting for his age – an award given spontaneously on the day by the organisers.

British Shooting's Talent Pathway Coordinator & Development Coach, Christian Schofield, said: "It was great to see Rendcomb at the Schools' Olympic Challenge. Rendcomb's young shooting athletes epitomise what British Shooting is looking for; commitment, united as a team, responsible and enthusiastic. The team did very well coming third against very strong opposition."

He continued: "Rendcomb were a delight to have at the event and I hope that the team will make a regular appearance at British Shooting events. The Schools' Olympic Challenge is an opportunity for British Shooting to identify talent and, most importantly, encourage the shotgun shooting disciplines within the Schools' community."





Of the 25 teams who took part in the day, Rendcomb's team of Matthew and Oliver finished in third and, the second team of Robert and Maddy came fourteenth; a highly commendable result particularly given that two of the disciplines were new to the pupils on the day. Competing under Olympic rules and scoring, the teams went through 25 sporting targets, 25 skeet and 25 Down the Line (DTL).

Rendcomb's shooting coach, Pete Cairns said: "The Rendcomb pupils were against some of the best young shots from around the country. To come third and fourteenth is an incredible achievement. The way our pupils conducted themselves on the day was exceptional and they remained calm and collected when competing in the new disciplines."

The teams participate in approximately 12 competitions per year and this year, hosted the first event at the College which was a resounding success.

## Winning Streak for Clay Shooting Stars

Year 6 pupil, Oliver Stanley, won his second gold clay shooting medal within a week at the Independent Association of Prep Schools' (IAPS) Clay Shooting Competition on Friday, 28 April.

Taking place at the West London Shooting School, the IAPS competition brought together teams from prep schools across the country with the Rendcomb College Junior School team claiming 5th place out of 11 teams in the U11 group in addition to Oliver's individual gold.

11-year-old Oliver had won a gold medal at British Shooting's Olympic Experience Day for outstanding shooting for his age just two days before the IAPS competition.



Rendcomb College Shooting Coach, Pete Cairns, said: "I am delighted that our pupils have done so well at this national competition! Oliver's achievement, coming first in his age group, is evidence of his skill and hard work."

The shooting teams at Rendcomb College participate in approximately 12 competitions per year.

## Top 9 Result For K'nex Challenge Pupils



Year 5 pupils Jack Wilcocks and Tom Miles-Sayers, were selected as a 'top 9 team' for representing Rendcomb College in the STEMworks County K'NEX final on Wednesday, 26 April.

The boys competed against 44 other teams during the morning session having won the in-school competition held at Rendcomb last term. Their challenge was to build a space rocket which could collect samples, move over varied terrain and be able to send photos back to Earth - all in just one hour.

Engineers from GE Aviation assessed each team as it developed its solution and judged the final models against the original specification.

The organisers said: "A fantastic range of creative and innovative solutions were displayed presenting the judges with a really difficult process of determining the winners."

With so many teams involved, over 100 in total, the challenge was run in two sessions, and top teams and winners identified at each session.





## Olympic Hockey Star Gives Training Session to Scholars

Rendcomb College took part in National Sports Week with Olympian Hollie Webb.

As part of Rendcomb College's National Sports Week celebration, we were privileged to have Hollie Webb, England and GB Hockey player (and the scorer of that epic goal that sealed the Women's Hockey Gold in Rio) spend the day with us. She inspired, coached and shared her experience with our pupils and staff in Headmaster's assembly.

Year 7 and 8 pupils, along with a group of our Sports Scholars, were fortunate to take part in a Hockey session, have photos with and get an autograph from Hollie; some were even able to touch the medal!

Thanks goes to Clare Burrows from Squadkit for her help in facilitating Hollie's visit and to Hollie for taking time out of her preparation for a tournament in South Africa over the whole of July to spend the day with us.



## West End Debut for Nathan

13-year-old Nathan Seatter-Messer, who is in Year 8 at Rendcomb College, made his West End musical debut earlier this year.

Nathan, who trains regularly with the Pauline Quirk Academy of Performing Arts (PQA) in Cirencester, took to the stage at the Shaftesbury Theatre in front



of a sold-out audience. He performed a solo in the production of *The Lazy Ace* - a musical comedy set on the glitzy, glamorous Las Vegas Strip in the 1950's. Among the hustle and bustle of the casino scene, detective Chip Buddy is in search of a card shark known as *The Lazy Ace*.

## Gold for Rendcomb Biologist in National Challenge

16-year-old Oscar Morris has triumphed in the national Biology Challenge run by the Royal Society of Biology achieving a Gold certificate for scoring in the top 5% in the country out of 40,000 participants.

Rendcomb's Head of Key Stage 4, Natalie Johnston, said: "Oscar's achievement is even more remarkable when you consider this year's grade boundary for a Gold award was 77 points and he scored 81."

All Triple Science Award students in Year 10 took part in the Biology Challenge with 26 pupils gaining either Gold, Silver, Bronze, Highly Commended or Commended certificates.

The Biology Challenge (Junior Biology Olympiad) is a competition open to 13-15 year olds in the UK. The





Challenge is an online competition which takes place in schools and consists of two 25 minute papers. Questions are set on the topics covered in most general biology courses for pupils of this age but the Biology Challenge will also reward those students whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes and taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, students who are generally aware of our natural flora and fauna.

## Pupil Selected for Regional Championships



14-year-old Jessica Baker in Year 10 at Rendcomb College, was selected for the South Wales and Central U18 British Eventing Team and competed at the four day Regional Championships at Frickley Park, South Yorkshire at the end of July.

The BE100 U18 programme allows riders to compete against their own age group and provides a stepping stone up to Pony Trials/Pony Squad or the Novice U18 Regional Programme. The country is divided into eight regions and every year, each region holds a minimum of four qualifying competitions giving riders the opportunity to be selected for their regional team.

Jessica is one of 10 selected from 50 that qualified. She is also a member of the Cotswold Hunt Pony club and two others from the same pony club were also selected.

Karen Coups, leader of Rendcomb's Equestrian Club said: "Jessica regularly represents the College at NSEA Events and is an inspiration to all the riders at Rendcomb. She started riding at age four and we are looking forward to following her progress in the coming years."

## Rendcomb Wins ICT Facility Award

Rendcomb College won the ICT Facility Award at the Education Business Awards Ceremony in London on Thursday, 6 July.

The school was also commended in three further categories; School Buildings, Educational Visits and ICT Innovation.

Receiving the award, Head of College Rob Jones said: "The ICT and Computing department here at Rendcomb is forward-thinking, creative and innovative so receiving this award is a true testament to the hard work my colleagues dedicate to the success of the department day in, day out.

"The department has a maker-space, a computing laboratory, 3D printer, Oculus Virtual Reality headsets and Computing lessons are delivered using real-life examples; pupils are currently working on creating 3D printed prosthetic limbs operated by Raspberry Pi computers.

"The department are also linked closely with other STEM subjects and cross-curricular activities take place regularly; pupils recently took part in the SSC Bloodhound and BBC micro:bit Rocket Car Challenge bringing Computing, Physics, Design Technology and Mathematics together."

Rendcomb College was commended in the School Building category for their new £3.3m performing arts centre, in the Educational Trips category for the recent Geography, Spanish and Science cross-curricular trip to Patagonia and in the ICT Innovation category for the use of technology across the school's 230 acre campus.

The award ceremony was hosted by Stephen Drew, Headteacher of Brentwood County High School who found fame after featuring on the Channel 4 documentary, Educating Essex.





## A Levels: 61% A\*-B Grades for Rendcomb College Pupils

This year, pupils achieved an average of 130 UCAS points, bringing the average clutch of results per student to ABB.

Student Anna Migone was particularly ecstatic after learning that she has earned her place at Oxford University to study French Literature at The Queen's College. Robert Zheng also achieved highly gaining A\*A\*AA to secure a place to study Physics at Durham University. Harry Newman secured an academic scholarship to study Applied Medical Science at Swansea University.

The school awarded 61% of grades A\* to B. 41% are A\* to A and 10% are A\*s.

Speaking about the Sixth Form provision at Rendcomb College, Head of College, Rob Jones, said: "At Rendcomb we offer an unrivalled setting for pupils to grow, to learn and to contribute to all aspects of school life.

"Our leavers' destinations this year include pupils going on to study Politics, Applied Medical Science, Accounting, Drama and Theatre Studies

and Chemistry at universities such as Oxford, Bath, Exeter, Swansea and Durham. We are very proud of what they have achieved as they have all made excellent progress over the last two years, particularly given the changes to the A Level system.

## GCSE Results 2017

This year, pupils attained a clean sweep in Biology, Physics, French, German, History, Drama and Further Maths with 100% of pupils achieving A\* to C grades.

Head of College, Rob Jones said: "Today's results reflect the pride our teachers take in their subjects and their students. Pupils can truly thrive at Rendcomb and today's grades are the result of excellent support and guidance given by our teaching staff and by our outstanding pastoral team.

"Exams were more difficult this year across the board so I am incredibly proud of our results. With the majority of pupils going on to join our Sixth Form, this year's cohort is set to be stronger than ever and I am looking forward to following their progress during their final two years at Rendcomb College."





# Junior School Parents' Association Report

2016/17 has welcomed a new Social Chair, Jason Langley and Secretary, Lisa Hewett, as well as a raft of new faces to the Rendcomb College Junior School (RCJPA) Committee. It has been another successful year on the social events side with a Curry & Quiz Night, cake sales, Sports Day refreshments (a new and highly successful initiative) as well as our Summer Fete and Raffle. We also joined forces with the Senior School to run a bar at the Family Tennis Tournament which was a great event organised by Sarah Bell from the Senior School, bringing together families from the whole community. In addition, during the Michaelmas term we collected teddy bears to donate to the children of servicemen who were going to be in hospital over the Christmas period.

Through these activities, I am delighted that we have been able to give generously to our chosen charities: The National Star College, with whom we now have an ongoing partnership and will be an ongoing benefactor of fundraising activities in both the Junior and Senior Schools, and Cheltenham Animal Centre.

In addition to supporting our charities, as in the past, we held Christmas parties, movie nights and

contributed to the limousines for the J6 Leavers' Party. We have also purchased equipment for the school. This year the RCJPA was able to buy a mud kitchen, 10 dipping nets for Forest School as well as a maths mat puzzle.

I would like to thank Jason and his team for all the hard work over the last twelve months. I particularly thank Barbara Cartwright for her outstanding contribution to the RCJPA as Treasurer over the last seven years, she will be sorely missed by us all.

In the last year, more than ever, the RCJPA has been working incredibly closely with the RCPA (Senior School Parents' Association). This has been hugely successful and no doubt helped by the number of parents who have children in both the Junior and Senior School. This connection has meant that over the coming months there will be an amalgamation of the two Associations – but more to come of that in next year's report!

Thanks to everyone who has supported our activities – either through helping or supporting by attending. We look forward to another exciting year of events and activities.

**Zoë Walton, RCJPA Chair**





# Senior School Parents' Association Report

It has been another good year for the Senior School Parents' Association building on the activities and events of previous years whilst providing enrichment to the pupils via financial support in a number of ways. We have had great participation and support from many parents and I would like to thank all those who supported the RCPA throughout the year.

The main social event this year was the Curry and Quiz Night in Michaelmas Term which was run jointly with the RCJPA. In addition, we were delighted to run a bar and provide a free hog roast at the Tennis Tournament in the summer term, another joint initiative with the RCJPA. The RCPA also held a Coffee Morning and a Parkland Tour both focused on welcoming new Senior School parents to the College.

Once again, we received a number of varied funding requests from providing some bibles to the Rendcomb Church, lending some money to the Patagonia Coffee Club to help them buy stock for fundraising activities, supporting the May Ball and purchasing Rendcomb-branded full-length thermal jackets for the first team substitutes. We have also agreed to provide funds towards the school

purchasing a portable hospitality 'horse box' that can be used by the School and the Parents' Associations to provide quality refreshments at all events.

As mentioned above, the two Parents' Associations have collaborated closely in organising and supporting the social events throughout the year. So much so that it has been proposed that the two Associations merge to form a single Parents' Association in keeping with the 'One College' ethos promoted by the Heads. In response to this idea, a new constitution has been drafted in the context of a single PA that will be put forward for a vote at each of the current PA AGMs at the beginning of the 2017/18 academic year.

Assuming that the revised constitution is ratified at the AGMs and the PAs are merged then I will step down as Chair of the Senior School Parents' Association and hand the reins over to the new Chair of the combined PA. I would like to thank all of the committee members and the Head of College who have supported me as RCPA Chair over the last 3 years; such support has been fundamental to the re-establishment of the Parents' Association and is greatly appreciated.

**Tim Roberts, RCPA Chair**





# Alumni Update

## Alumni Hockey Team Second In Sixes Tournament

On Sunday, 23 October, Rendcomb Ladies' Alumni hockey squad travelled to Dean Close for their inaugural Hockey Sixes tournament and came second overall. Supported by Sarah Bell, Rendcomb's Head of Girls'

Games and Hannah Boydell, Development Manager, the Rendcomb Squad were a force to be reckoned with.

Nine teams from across the UK competed and Rendcomb were delighted that they won their way into the final where they were beaten 1-0 by Bloxham. Team Captain, Jessica Weston (OR '05) said: "It was such a great event and a well-fought contest by all the teams; Alumni Ladies' hockey is firmly on the agenda!"

**The teams that took part were from:**

Bloxham  
Bromsgrove  
Bryanston  
Cheltenham College  
Dean Close  
King Henry VIII (Coventry)  
Malvern College  
Rendcomb College  
St Edwards (Oxford)



Pictured (L-R): Delia Rich 2001-2011, Charlotte Ellis 1999-2004, Alice Tredwell (nee Barefoot) 1997-2004, Harriet Kingsford 1999-2004, Charlie Clements 2005-2011, Jessica Weston 1998-2005, Sarah Colson 1997-2004, Becca Edwards (nee Demczak) 1999-2002, Maria Highlands 2010-2012 (Goalie)





## Champion Jockey Completes Trek Challenge

Former Rendcomb College pupil and champion jockey, Richard Dunwoody MBE, finished an epic 2,000 mile charity trek across Japan in June 2017.

Richard is raising money for bone and soft tissue cancer charity Sarcoma UK as his nephew George, 21, who represented Great Britain at the Junior World Rowing Championships in 2014, is fighting the disease. The three-time champion jockey, who rode 1,699 British winners in his career, started the trek in February.



Richard attended Rendcomb College as a pupil between 1975 and 1981 after his family moved to England from Ireland. He has remained a strong supporter of Rendcomb and he officially opened Rendcomb College Junior School in 2000 and the Junior School House, 'Dunwoody' is named after him. Completing around a marathon per day, he travelled from south to north, the length of Japan's three largest islands: Kyushu, Honshu and Hokkaido.

## Oxford University Chemist re-visits Rendcomb

Oxford University Chemistry Students, including former Rendcomb pupil Olivia Knapp, led a workshop with Year 12 pupils in July.

Former pupil, Olivia Knapp returned to Rendcomb to carry out a 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase'

workshop with Year 12 Chemistry students. During the workshop, students were shown how to use a UV spectrophotometer.

Students had the opportunity to run their own IR spectra and interpret both Mass Spectra and IR Spectra as part of the workshop where they are investigating chemicals found at a crime scene. As well as covering the principles of spectroscopic techniques, the activities use real-life contexts to demonstrate the applications of the techniques. Head of Science at Rendcomb College, Dr Matt Cox would like to thank Olivia, Shan, Dominic and Cameron who gave up their time for the workshop.





## New Theatre Opened by Jonathan Suffolk

The brand new £3.3m theatre complex, the Griffin Centre, was officially opened on Friday, 24 February by special guest and former pupil, Jonathan Suffolk, the National Theatre's Technical Director.

Speaking in the Griffin Centre's auditorium, Suffolk attributed his interest in the arts to his time at Rendcomb College and spoke of the way the school had shaped his future. He said: "I had changed, I was ready for the new world of theatre...I'd learnt the value of collaboration."

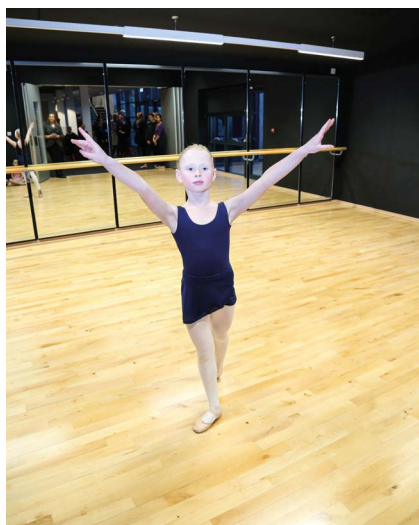
After leaving Rendcomb College in 1984, Suffolk followed what is now considered to be a meteoric rise from electrician's mate to Technical Director; he now oversees 350 technicians who together realise the National Theatre's 20 productions every year.

Commending the new theatre, which includes a 350-seat auditorium, mirrored dance studio with ballet

barres and a sprung floor, dressing rooms, prop and set workshop and costume store, Suffolk offered some words of wisdom to pupils: "This is a brilliant building, but it is just a building, that has this evening been brought to life by this bold and wonderful performance, so grasp the opportunity this space has to offer, become more skilled, more cultured, and accomplished versions of yourselves."

The evening included performances from pupils. Guests watched dance performances in the dance studio, poems were performed in the drama classroom, pianists entertained in the foyer and in the main auditorium, an excerpt from "And Then There Were None" was performed.

Rendcomb College's Chair of Governors, Sir Francis Richards KCMG, CVO, DL and Head of College Rob Jones, thanked those who had supported and donated to the building project, the first major building to be constructed at the school for 27 years.





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