

Rendcombian

2017-18



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From the Head of College

The Rendcomb Family has truly thrived this year, as you will read in the following pages, and I have enjoyed seeing the staff and pupils' sense of exploration and discovery continue as new things are tried and the idea of 'growth mindset' is instilled in the school's culture.

Our outdoor education programme is ever evolving and, in addition to the activities and timetabled sessions, pupils donned their backpacks and maps on a trip of a lifetime to climb Norway's highest peak. Our intrepid explorers traversed local landscapes too as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Children in the Junior School also embarked on their own trek to Chedworth and back.

On the Griffin Theatre's stage we witnessed mesmerising performances, notably during the sold-out production of *Les Misérables* when I couldn't have been more proud of the teamwork and confidence of our young performers. Founder's Day was a special occasion too in the theatre when we welcomed our guest, Baroness Floella Benjamin, to the stage. She spoke with such enthusiasm and encouragement and I know her words resonated with many students, staff and parents.

Adventures also continued in the classroom and our public exam results are a testament to the education our pupils receive and the strong support network provided by the Houseparents and their teams. The GCSE cohort achieved record-breaking results and our A Level students have now gone on to universities far and wide undertaking courses in photography, business, genetics, computer science, biochemistry, law and medicine, to name a few.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about many of the exciting events, challenges and achievements of the last year.

Mr Rob Jones, Head of College



Prefect Team 2017-18

Head Girl

Rebecca Breare

Head Boy

William Vaughan

Deputy Head Girl

Lucy Hollands

Deputy Head Boy

James Nickson

Prefects

Adeyemi Boluwatife (Bolu) Ade-Onanuga

Grace Balchin

Martina Bonassera

William Chapman

Andrew Chen

Alex Dennett

Henry Golesworthy

Alex Green

Megan Hardie

Najya Mohammed Afique Abdullah

Maddy Morgan

Robert Sharman

Louis Szopinski

Bob Tharme







Staff Farewells

Aaron Read



Joined Rendcomb in 2012 as the Assistant House Parent for Park, working as Assistant until 2017 when became the House Parent for Park. During his time as a House Parent he worked tirelessly to improve conditions

for pupils and the role of House Parent. Aaron volunteered to support a number of our pupils, most notably those who needed greater support. They young men grew tremendously thanks to Aaron's strong personal example and positivity. He also managed to indulge his love of all things postal by delivering (and intercepting!) the mail for the Park House residents. A fine tribute to one of his many roles in the Army.

Aaron took on responsibility for coordinating boarder activities and making the College a better place to be at the weekends, but this was actually part of his secret plan to build his own personal extension onto the climbing wall and promote his love of macho camping. He led and supported a number of trips to the Cairngorms and eventually further afield to Patagonia. He's not just a man of the woods, often seen wincing at the 'plans' sixth formers produce on his leadership days and running or cycling around the Cotswolds, but has been rumoured to be an underdog for MasterChef following his stint in the kitchens cooking for the whole school when the snow sealed off to the school to all but the most Nordic of teachers.

The sad culinary truth is that Aaron is actually leaving Rendcomb to join the South Western Ambulance Service as an Emergency Care Assistant with a view to progression on to a career as a Paramedic returning to public service once again. He has already passed his initial training with flying colours and can be seen piloting emergency response cars around the South West, helping deliver people the care they need, just like he did at Rendcomb.

Mr Jonathan Torbitt,
Director of IT and Computer Science

Jennifer Longbourne



Jen came to us in 2012 from Somerset and has taught French, German and EAL throughout her six years here. Amongst other things, she has come to be known for her caring tutoring and fabulous report writing. We are

grateful to Jen for giving up her time to accompany years 7-10 on trips to Germany. During this time, apart from perfecting her pretty much perfect German, she also enjoyed sampling the delights of youth hostel menus, working her way through the huge variety of herbal teas and trying out the slides and hot stones at Aqualand.

In developing her new role at Scrubditch Care Farm, she will be instrumental in bringing about our closer connection with them. As she will be doing tutoring in addition to all this, we are bound to have ongoing contact one way or another.

We will miss her at Rendcomb and wish her all the very best.

Mrs Rachel Fielding, Head of Key Stage 3
and Mrs Adrienne Barker

Dan Britton



Rendcomb said a regretful farewell this summer to Dan Britton, Head of Economics and Business Studies. Dan brought to his Department not only the well-practised skills of a career educator but also the first-hand

experiences of an entrepreneur and businessman. Economics and Business Studies were for Dan not only academic pursuits but also practical projects. His students benefited greatly from that dual perspective.

Any Identikit of an effective teacher will involve: commitment to a subject and great knowledge of it; the willingness to prepare and support lessons meticulously; a shrewd sense of how different students can be motivated; and the flair to make serious study enjoyable. As a teacher, Dan certainly has these qualities.

Dan's Common Room colleagues at Rendcomb will greatly miss a warm, engaging personality

who threw himself into all areas of College life: Dan coached Football; he was the driving force behind last year's Rendcomb Christmas Hamper (produced by his Young Entrepreneurs group); and he played a full part in 6th Form Tutoring and the Enrichment programme.

We all wish Dan the very best of luck for the future - in education and business - and confidently expect to see him pitching one of his many business ideas on a future edition of Dragons' Den!

Mr Ian Corkett, Librarian

David Baker



David Joined Rendcomb in 2007 and as Second Master had a wide-ranging brief from overseeing pastoral matters and discipline to arranging cover. In essence, he was responsible for the operational running of

the School on a day-to-day basis and did so with great dedication. In his time he led or supported on two successful inspections, oversaw the change of the College uniform, swapped Lawn and Stable Houses over and deputized for the Head of College on many occasions. David was dedicated to his role and always put the pupils welfare first. He dealt with issues carefully and thoughtfully, worked with parents and while always professional cared very deeply about the many Rendcombians that went through the College in his time.

David was also an excellent Maths teacher and was held in high esteem by his colleagues in the department. Recent Rendcombians may not have realised that David was also an excellent sportsman and coach, with a particular enthusiasm for cricket. In his earlier years at the College, David coached the 1st XI and also supported a successful tour to the Bahamas.

We wish him well as he moves on to new opportunities, enjoys his home in Devon and spends more time with Penny.

Mr Rob Jones, Head of College

David Ashman

Having joined the Rendcomb music department in September 2012, it was immediately clear from his calm, enthusiastic manner that David would become a valued member of the team.

Although David taught Music Technology in the senior school, he was always willing and able to turn his hand to helping out in a variety of different roles throughout the school.

Students of all ages benefitted from David's wisdom and encouragement. He would often give much of his personal time to allow students to produce their best possible performance to showcase their talents.

David would recount stories about the artists that he had worked with over the years and share his many interests, particularly his love of cricket.

David will be sorely missed by all, particularly his colleagues and friends in the Music department, and we wish him continuing success in his future endeavours.

Mr Paul Cordell, Guitar teacher

Katie Street



Katie's contribution during her time at Rendcomb simply cannot be underestimated. There are many pupils who will always have fond memories of being taught by her, whether that may have been in Nursery or Reception,

during a Music lesson or as part of a Forest School session. Indeed, the work that Katie put into the Forest School is particularly appreciated and we shall do our very best to maintain the Forest School setting and to keep it as the sector-leading example that she helped to create.

Of course, it is not just the pupils who shall miss Katie's presence at Rendcomb. As colleagues, we shall all miss her professionalism, dedication and above all else, sense of fun. I should like to wish Katie the very best of luck for the future.

Please do remember that you are always welcome to visit us at Rendcomb; we will always be happy to see you!

Mr Gavin Roberts, Head of Juniors



Will Mbanga



Will arrived fresh from St. Edwards with a wealth of knowledge and experience, and took on a new role as our first full-time Director of Sport. Under his guidance a structure was created for coaches to

follow to allow a set of common drills to run through the school, and he constantly strove to maximise progress in all sports. Injuries in rugby were reduced under his leadership due mostly to better strength and conditioning of pupils, and he brought in speakers to give general guidance to our most able students on topics such as sports psychology, and nutrition. He also developed and adapted the Jonny Wilkinson Cup, assisting with it becoming highly valued annual fixture in the rugby calendar.

Will was an accomplished PE teacher and A Level moderator, with departmental colleagues greatly benefiting from his experience at times of major changes in all academic courses. He always wished pupils to get the best out of themselves, both in and out of the classroom, and he wanted them to have fun, learn and be independent. He was also keen for pupils to take responsibility for themselves, and to do right for the team for which they were playing: a keen sense of sportsmanship was a key part of his own character.

His contribution as Chair of the Staff Common Room Committee was greatly valued. He had a ready smile and warmth that staff and pupils will miss.

**Mr David Illingworth,
Deputy Head (Co-curricular and Staff)**

Pete Cairns



Pete Cairns was so much a part of Rendcomb life for so long that it was always hard to imagine a day when he wouldn't be here. However that day came this year, when he and his wife Mary decided that the time was right

to move on and look for new challenges. During his time here Pete wore many hats, latterly as Works Manager, and with his extensive knowledge of the buildings and site he was the obvious person to respond to any type of emergency situation. His love of the landscape and site was never in question and probably his happiest times came when he was able to be outside looking after the site or making sure the deer park was secure. He was also instrumental in running the successful clay pigeon shooting activity at school and ensuring that pupils had the chance to compete locally and nationally. We all wish Pete and Mary a long and happy retirement in Wales.

Mrs Eleanor Sharman, Bursar



Junior School Report

Our aim as a Junior School remains simple. Our job is to ensure that our pupils leave with the confidence to enter the Senior School of their choice. Moreover, it is to try and ensure our pupils are happy and enjoy coming to school each day, are willing to make the most of the opportunities on offer to them and approach a new challenge with enthusiasm. A high number of prospective parents ask me the question: 'What does a Rendcomb child look like?' I am proud to be able to answer that with the reply that I do not believe there to be 'a Rendcomb child' in the sense that our aim is not to produce a child which is 'typical' of the school rather it is to focus on the individual and to help all of our pupils to be the best they can be.

Academically, this has been a successful year across the Junior School; from Nursery to Year 6 we have witnessed pupils making excellent progress in all areas of the curriculum. 72% of this cohort will transfer to the Senior School and we are delighted that they will remain with us at Rendcomb. Two of our pupils were successful in being offered academic scholarships as well as scholarships and/or exhibitions being awarded to others in sport, drama and music. In addition, others were rewarded through a Headmaster's Award and of course one pupil was 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 an eclectic mix of activities from swimming to skiing, martial arts to gymnastics, diving to dancing and also in music and speech and drama to name just a few. Our Friday morning distinction assemblies remain a highlight of the school week and continue to provide us with a unique platform upon which to celebrate our pupils' fantastic variety of talents.

Again this year, special mention must go to everybody who represented the school at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts and particularly to Kathleen Sweeney, Edward Needham and Isabella Hayward-Wright for their superb individual achievements and to our Dance Off group for their achievements as a team. Well done, all!

We are delighted to have so many naturally gifted pupils but, in line with our efforts at Rendcomb to encourage a growth mindset in our pupils, we consistently reinforce the message that - no matter what ability you are blessed with naturally - hard work and a willingness to practise and improve is essential. At Rendcomb, effort and participation are valued highly and, over the course of the year, regular attendees at the distinction assemblies will have noted how our pupils have really grasped the merit system this year and made a huge effort to achieve their certificates. These certificates reflect the pupils' consistently high levels of endeavour across many subjects and other areas of school life.



At Founder's day, I spoke at some length about the importance of community and evidently I feel strongly that this remains a major strength of our school. This year has seen the Junior School grow in size and I shall look forward to us continuing to grow stronger.

The Rendcomb family continues to extend its support to the wider community and this year, the Junior School has raised funds for and supported a number of charities in a variety of ways. We have held a coffee morning for Macmillan Nurses, dressed up for Children in Need, ran a mile for Sport Relief and helped to raise a significant sum for our whole-school charity, 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 for Young People. 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. As a small school, all of this is only possible by everybody pulling together so, once again, thank you all very much.

Music continues to go from strength to strength in the Junior School and we now have approximately 50% of our pupils who are taking extra music lessons and more who are joining with music activities such as ukulele group or Junior Rock Band. We have enjoyed a number of concerts and performances over the course of the year and it has been wonderful to see the return of the musical Teatime Concerts. These events have given all of our Junior School musicians the opportunity to perform in public and they well have developed considerably from the experience both as musicians and as people in general.

No school year would be complete without the Junior School production and this year saw the event happen a little earlier than usual with our performances of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' taking place towards the end of May. As ever, I am indebted to Mrs Brealy for her leadership in this area and for all that she does to ensure that the show is such a success.

When you sit down and make a list, it really is incredible to see how much goes on in only one school year and to think just how many new things

have been learnt. We are fortunate that Mrs Brealy is on hand to regularly update the plasma screen in the Junior School but, I have to admit, even I missed the visit of Rosie the tarantula this year. I am always pleased to see new events taking place and you will see here that this year has seen the introduction of a Junior School Science morning, a Junior School Quiz team taking 3rd place in a regional heat of the Schools' General Knowledge Challenge, Year 3 and Year 4 playing Quidditch with broomsticks they had made in Forest School and Year 6 putting their OS map skills to good use by planning their own 16km walk around the locality. I have no doubt that we will all have our own personal highlights as there have been so many special moments to enjoy over the course of the year.

Many of you will have seen some of the fantastic artwork that has been produced this year either during Distinction Assemblies or on display around the Junior School. We have seen everything from drawings of jungle animals to ceramic Tudor roses and the absolute breadth of artistic talent that is evident within our school is a joy to behold. This year a number of our pupils have gained notable external success with their work being exhibited at the SATIPs Independent Schools Art Show and at the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year exhibition.

At Final Assembly, I asked you all to consider the words of William Blake who told us that we should always remember that 'what is now proven was once only imagined.' This is a message that we aim to instil in all of our pupils so that they are never afraid to dream and never afraid to fail. It does not matter that ultimately some of us will miss out on being an Olympic champion or a prize winning author or the Prime Minister. It does not matter if it turns out that other people are better than us. What matters is that you get out there, take a risk, dare to fail and give it everything you've got.

Mr Gavin Roberts, Head of Juniors

Junior School Prize Winners

The following prizes were awarded in the Final Assembly:

Year 3

Academic - Otto Lelieveld

Effort & Progress - Thomas Wolton

Year 4

Academic - Cleodie Wills

Effort & Progress - Julia Stewart

Year 5

Academic - Nathan Mathur

Effort & Progress - Eloise Shortt

Year 6A

Academic - William Wolton

Effort & Progress - Matthew Stewart

Year 6B

Academic - Evelyn Mathur

Effort & Progress - Tom Miles-Sayers

The Henniker-Gotley Boys' Victor Ludorum

Matthew Stewart

The Meborn-Hubbard Girls' Victrix Ludorum

Vittoria Muccilli

Boys' Cross Country

Will Jones

Girls' Cross Country

Mia Mbanga

Reeves Cup for Improved Reading (Otters)

Cassie Cox

Roberts Family Cup (Otters Effort)

Isobelle White

The Westie Salver for Performing Arts (Otters)

Kathleen Sweeney

Carden Cup for Music

William Wolton

Dufosee Art Cup

Vittoria Muccilli & Evelyn Mathur

Shackel Cup for Drama

Tom Miles-Sayers

Shark Cup for Most Promising U9

Sportsperson

Amelia Langley

Osborne Cup for Girls' Sport

Imogen Langley

Palmer Cup for Boys' Sport

Thomas Stanley

The Haas Technology Cup

Jack Wilcocks

Phelps Effort Cup

William Jones

Arkle Cup for All Round Improvement

Tallulah Colquhoun

Trim Happy Cup

Langley

The Kindness Cup

Sienna Jones

Good Example Cup

Connor Stewart

Potter Cup for Overall Contribution

Amelia Holloway

Merit Prize

Julia Stewart



The Library Year

Janus-like, Rendcomb's Library has again looked both ways this academic year: wistfully backwards a century to the heyday of Rendcomb House, and expectantly forwards towards the centenary of Rendcomb College.

In clearing the Library's chock-a-block "Reserve Stockroom" (our own, Hogwartian "Room of Requirements" at the top of the Main Building), a number of fine, antiquarian books have been returned to the Library, their bindings and titles redolent of Edwardian Rendcomb. One of them, the handsomely-produced, 1913 Sales Catalogue for the old Country House, advertises pre-Great War splendour in sepia tones (and offers in its pages ownership of a "noble mansion" and many "capital small holdings")!

A century later, the Library serves the needs of spirited youngsters rather than sedate Edwardians. By vigorously weeding old stock and replenishing it with materials attractive to current students, and by welcoming *all* Rendcombians (from the Junior School's Nursery class - whose first glimpse behind the Library's forbidding door was softened by a sticker game and free book - to Sixth Formers seeking a pre-exam "Panic Room" of peace and quiet...or just a piece of cake at one of last year's "Lit Lunches"), the Library continues to be a popular hub in the hurly-burly of Rendcomb life.

The Library Year begins each Autumn with pupil Inductions to familiarise newcomers with the room's stock and systems (though there's also much awed gazing at its painted, Victorian ceiling, ornately-carved fireplace and elegant sash-windows...through which, at that point, sunshine pours in while viewers look dizzily out over Church and Park).

In September, Year 7s take part in the Bookbuzz scheme, by which they “speed-date” a dozen suitable novels, choose one, and are presented with their own copy as a welcome to College and Library. In encouraging young people to read, Rendcomb aims to “pull from the top” (serving the specialist needs of Sixth Form students on set texts and topics) whilst energetically “pushing from below” (engaging younger students by way of Bookbuzz, through activities related to The Book Trust’s free, annual box of middle-school novels, and by one-off Library activities such as “Creating Book Covers”). The Library always celebrates National Poetry Day (in October; anthologies displayed

and the room decorated with poems), Remembrance Week (through words and images, in November), and World Book Week, in March (with free book tokens for all and a Library “Book Trail Quiz”).

The Library is also well used throughout the year for other activities: the College Governors meet termly for strategic planning under the gaze of a Library portrait of one of the founding, Wills family; last Autumn, the Head of College held the first Rendcomb "Prefects' Dinner" in its atmospheric setting; and student groups from Japan and Germany enjoyed visits here (in the case of the German Exchange group, responding to a Library quiz about "British Royal Weddings" in the run-up to Prince Harry's marriage). Memorably, last spring, the Library became the lair of J.K. Rowling's "Fantastic Beasts" as current Year 6 and prospective Year 7 students and their parents got a Harry Potter-themed look at the Senior School (the Library - and Librarian - richly dressed for the occasion)!

And as well as drawing users to it, the Library reaches out to the College each year: the Librarian invited to teach various English, History and Language classes; also, this summer, to give an assembly about one particular acquisition - *The Lost Words*, a much-celebrated, beautifully written and illustrated volume about the disappearance from student dictionaries of some well-loved entries.

The new academic year will begin with quiet reading a formal part of weekly Tutor time throughout the College: an initiative that will surely draw more students to the Library. The observant among them will notice there, on some shelves, displays of the leather-bound, gold-inscribed books mentioned earlier - beautiful witnesses to the Rendcomb Library of a century ago. Old books for new eyes!

Mr Ian Corkett, Librarian



English

Year 10 and 11 students visited the Everyman theatre in early September to see the amazing puppet theatre performance of 'Picture of Dorian Gray' by Box Tale Soup. As GCSE students study a 19th Century novel, Wilde's exploration of the human psyche added to their knowledge base of texts from this era. Additionally, the small theatre performance demonstrated a huge range of production techniques that left room for a great deal of discussion afterwards.



Year 8 and 9 students visited the Cheltenham Literature Festival in early October to see Tanya Landman; the award winning Carnegie Medal author of more than thirty books for children and young adults. Students expanded their knowledge of authorial craft and gained a great insight into the varied life of an author, as well as getting to know Tanya's characters in more detail.



In January, Year 5 to Year 8 were treated to workshops with the Bard of Windmill Hill (aka Trevor Carter) in the Griffin Theatre. From learning about performance poetry, to how to construct a believable character, through to poetic forms the students were able to utilise these skills to create their own performance poems on wildlife and the gothic.

The annual Rendcomb College Big Book quiz took place in March with teams from across the College competing for the coveted team prize. After 10 gruelling rounds of fiendishly difficult literary questions, team LIMPETS emerged as the winner. The Yellow Lighted Bookshop was on hand for eager book purchases to be made, as well as lovely snacks to be devoured during the half-time break. Thanks must go to Martina and Kieze for adjudicating the evening.

In March numerous students across KS3 and KS4 had their poems printed in the South West 'Truth or Dare' anthology, meaning that we now proudly have many published poets roaming the corridors of Rendcomb College.

April saw all pupils in Year 10 and 11 watch the RSC school's production of 'Macbeth' through a live-streaming event in the Griffin Theatre. The superb acting and Q&A style session meant that all deepened their knowledge of this key GCSE text and gained key insight into the characters' thought processes.

Finally in June, Year 9 explored Shakespeare's world through a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon to visit: his birthplace, the site of his first town house, his daughter's home and finally his resting place in Holy Trinity Church. The exhibitions, staff knowledge and tour guides' information emboldened the students to create their own project pieces on the Elizabethan era; a wonderful way to round off a very busy year in the English Department.

Mrs Sarah Read, Head of English



Junior Drama

Pirates of the Curry Bean



"Shiver me timbers," this year's Junior production was the fantastic "Pirates of the Curry Bean." A show full of pirates carrying dynamite, who were rather partial to eating curry and beans, one sporting a pink beard, sailors with mops, the Periwinkle family, a parrot, a cat, two health and safety officers, an Admiral, Chief Wonga, the locals of Lumbago, the comedy duo of Scuttle and Slack, pesky rats, mischievous monkeys and a treasure map. Oh, and I almost forgot, the gorilla..!

So many great songs and dances were performed in true "Piratical Style."

The quest was to rescue Pearl Periwinkle and the stolen treasure map, captured by pirates from the "Curry Bean" and to find the "Pot of Gold." So, once Jack, Liza and Fiddlesticks had sweet-talked Captain Cod into taking them on board the "HMS Crunchy Frog," we had "Anchors Away" from the Old London Docks, the search for their mother and treasure map could begin. Scuttle and Slack kept the audiences entertained throughout and caused great hilarity during the infamous "Mop Dance."

Everyone ended up shipwrecked on the Island of Lumbago, in the Sea of Sciatica. They were met by some friendly and not so friendly locals, who like to

hula. Who could forget the appearance of Mr Roberts as the gorilla, playing the drums and giving away bananas and Cadbury's chocolate?! The Periwinkle family were finally reunited with Captain Swaggersword and it all ended happily ever after, well apart from Captain Redbeard, who had a rather close shave.

As always, I could not put on such a great show if it wasn't for the wonderful commitment from all the Year 3-6 pupils who were the stars of the show, Mrs Hayward, my unflappable musical director, Andy Webb and Will Mercer, my sound and lighting directors and all the help and support from my amazing colleagues. The teamwork most definitely makes the dream work. "Aha me hearties...."

Mrs Amanda Brealy

Nativity



Senior Drama

Our Day Out

When I first presented the idea of using crates to the cast, tumble weed swept across the stage punctuated by an exchange of confused looks and disbelief. "Just crates Miss?" "Yes, just crates, trust me".

Rehearsals began slowly, however, introducing the 80s' dynamic of Salt and Pepper, Ah Ha and Duran Duran helped keep spirits and motivation high.

Soon the cast became a solid ensemble and the atmosphere and support from the group, has been immense. Although initially met with hesitation, each member of the cast can now manipulate the crates as if playing with a meccano set. The openness to learn and develop their skills' set has made the rehearsal process a wonderful, and at times, a hilarious experience for all involved.

I would like to thank the cast for making this process so worthwhile and for all of their hard work. The play wouldn't be what it was without them.

Miss Anna Lambert, Drama Teacher



Junior School Music

It has been another busy and diverse year in Junior School Music. One of the first events was a Body Percussion Day for local Year 6 pupils. Eight different schools and over 160 children joined in with a day of fun, energy and complicated rhythms! The final performance was enjoyed by parents and friends, who had the pleasure of joining in (some more readily than others!).

The first of our Musical Teas was held in October and they are intended to be an informal introduction to performing for all age groups and abilities. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available for parents and help to make the performance a friendly and relaxed affair. The Teas are held at least once a term and have grown in popularity, meaning that at the last performance in June we had twenty different performance items. Children from every year group from Reception to Year 6 have been involved and many have accomplished their first performing experience. I have been touched by the thoughtful and empathetic way in which other students have encouraged first-time performers.

The older and more experienced performers have had more opportunities to perform with the Senior School this year. It started with a cameo appearance

in *Les Misérables*, an adventurous activity that brought out the drama in all who participated, included singing at the Senior School Carol Service, and finished with joining the Orchestra at the final concert of the year.

The Lent Term brought more musical occasions, including the second Big Sing, again attended by Year 5s from local primary schools, and concluded with the Spring Concert. The Otters put on an udderly adorable performance of 'There's A Sunflower in my Supper', followed by performances by ensembles such as Junior Strings, Ukulele Group, Rock Band and choirs.

Year 4 made a return visit to Cheltenham Jazz Festival's Jazz for Schools concert, along with the new members of Year 5, and enjoyed joining in with performances such as 'I Wanna Be Like You'. This was swiftly followed by a first visit of English Touring Opera, who set up in the Dulverton Hall to perform their original opera, 'Shackleton's Cat'. It was the first experience of opera for many of the Year 3 and Year 4 who attended, and it was a particular highlight to see them completely captivated by the story.

Distinction Assembly performances continue to be popular and we have been entertained this year



by performers on the piano, violin, cello, recorder, guitar, and many more, with composers ranging from Bach to David Guetta and everything in between. Individual lessons continue to thrive in the Junior School, with nearly half of pupils learning a musical instrument. Pupils have been entered and succeeded in gaining ABRSM and Trinity qualifications, showing their growing determination, enthusiasm and ambitious spirit.

I can't wait to see what next year brings!

Mrs Laura Hayward, Music Teacher

Senior School Music

It can often be something of a shock in the summer term to look back at everything that the music department has done or achieved over the past year, and this year is certainly no exception. This year we hit the ground running with a newly refurbished department and the usual collection of Coffee Concerts, Pupils' Concerts, Musical Teas, trips and events stretching out ahead of us.

The stand-out occasion of the year has to be the wonderful performance of *Les Misérables* Schools Edition in the Michaelmas Term. It was a substantial

and serious undertaking but as three sold-out performances attest it was a wonderful occasion with stellar performances from all involved, although special mention should go to George Roffe, as a moving and dignified Jean Valjean, William Vaughan, who totally captured the life of Valjean's nemesis Javert, and the young lovers Bob Tharme and Ella Higgins-Anderson as Marius and Cosette. Daisy Billington's death as Fantine brought the house down each night. Whilst the stars shone this was very much an ensemble piece and I would like to thank everybody who took part in the chorus, other soloists, the band, the stage crew and technical team. It was a daunting task but with true Rendcombian spirit we came, we sang, we conquered. I can also confirm that Max McKeown, as M. Thenardier, succeeded in the challenge I set him of making me laugh in a different place each night.

Only a few hours after the final rousing curtain call and having to contend with an unexpected arrival of snow, the choir performed beautifully and moving at the annual Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church, which this year included Darke's In the bleak mid-winter, John Rutter's Quem Pastores, Peter Cornelius' Three Kings and Andrew Carter's A maiden most gentle. The Chamber Choir sang



Herbert Howells' hauntingly beautiful Here is the little door from the side chapel, and the congregation sang the usual carols heartily, stylishly accompanied by Mr Wright on the organ.

The music department has another show piece in our annual Choral Society Concert, this year held in March in the Griffin Theatre. The Choral Society performed Haydn's *Nelson Mass* with professional soloists and orchestra. This challenging piece was excellently performed by the choir which numbered over 60. This concert also included pupils performing with the professional orchestra: Andrew Chen's rendition of the Rachmaninov's second piano concerto was a remarkable feat and his control and expression was exceptional. Viola Migone played two movements from Haydn's *Cello Concerto in C* with remarkable assurance and poise. Edwin Ward delighted the audience with the final movement of Mozart's *Piano Concerto in C minor*, and Grace Tushingham performed a movement from Marcello's *Oboe Concerto* with much taste and delicacy. It was a wonderful occasion with everybody on exceptional form.

In the Lent Term we launched a new series of concerts in the Griffin Theatre, given by professional musicians and ensembles. The first concert was given by John Law and his quartet who performed their acclaimed "Re-Creations" set and the second concert, in May, was given by our own Jeremy Carter, Head of Piano, who gave a wonderful recital full of depth, warmth and charismatic virtuosity. These regular concerts will continue next year and I very much hope they will grow in audience numbers and help to put the Griffin (and Rendcomb) on the map.

This year has not all been about major events, however, our informal series of Coffee Concerts at morning break continues to grow in popularity with performers

and audiences (the excellent cake on offer may have something to do with this). Our evening concerts are always well supported and provide an excellent and supportive show piece for all our students, regardless of their levels or ability: the culmination of these concerts is the annual Founder's Day concert which included performances from those at the top of the school and those just beginning on their musical journey. In addition to our co-curricular activities life in classroom continues and our Year 10 and 11 students have been out and about. In September they travelled to LSO St Luke's in London for a LOGIC ProX workshop, knowledge we could quickly put to use in our new computer suite, and early in the summer term they travelled to Tetbury to take part in a GCSE study day, with pianist William Howard. In early May our Year 7s travelled to Gloucester for a Gamelan workshop which was greatly enjoyed by all.

The summer is often a period of reflection, some wistful and other melancholic, I am always aware at this time of year that we will be losing some wonderful musicians who have done a huge amount to support the school and music department. I am particularly grateful to Alex Green, Andrew Chen, Viola Migone and William Vaughan for everything they have done for music at Rendcomb – the department is stronger for your time here. Thank you.

As ever, the music department has been busy, often hectic, and we could not achieved half of what we have without the herculean support of Mrs Hayward, our wonderful visiting music teachers, and the two gap students that have supported us over this year, Laura and Mikayla. Music at Rendcomb is strong and flourishing and I hope that next year even more people will be able to take part in our activities.

Dr Tom Edwards, Director of Music



Junior Art

SATIPS

National Prep Art Exhibition 2018

The following eight children were selected for the SATIPS national annual Art Exhibition held this year at Bromsgrove Prep School:

Jessamy Beard	J3	Silhouette
Maria Belfrage	J4	Tudor drawing
Julia Stewart	J4	Tudor drawing
Mia Mbanga	J5	Flower study
Maelys Eggleton	J5	Flower study
Vittoria Muccilli	J6	Deer
Matthew Stewart	J6	Kingfisher
Will Wolton	J6	Underwater

The work looked beautiful amongst many other art works from 49 different schools.

Gloucestershire Young Photographer of The Year

Connor Stewart and Will Geary (J6) were selected from over 900 entries from Gloucestershire's schools to have their work shown in the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year exhibition held at Chapel Arts in Cheltenham.

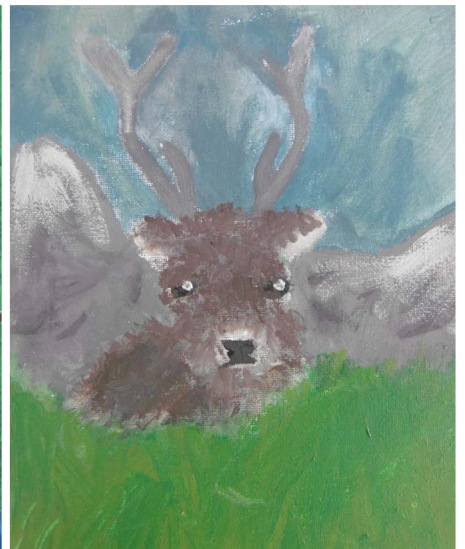
Another year of some great Art and DT by the Junior School pupils – here is a selection of some of the work:

Buzz Lighthare

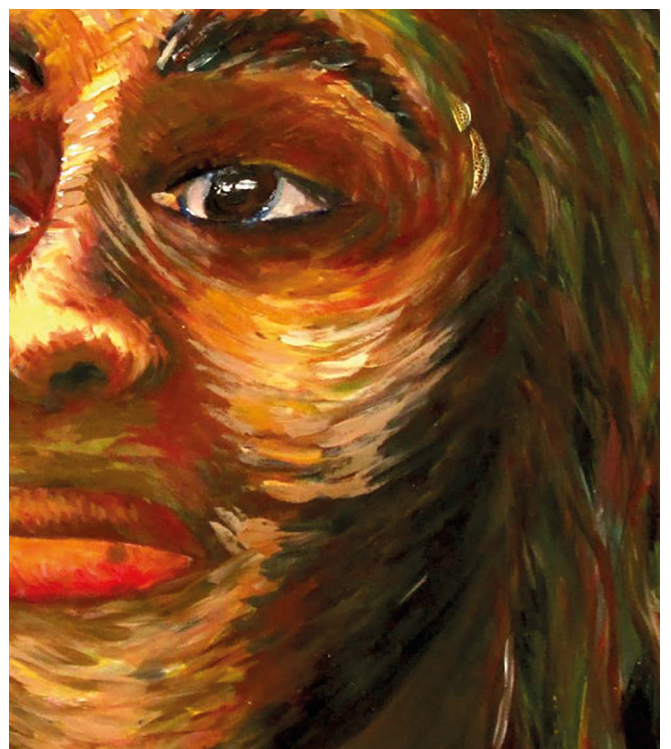
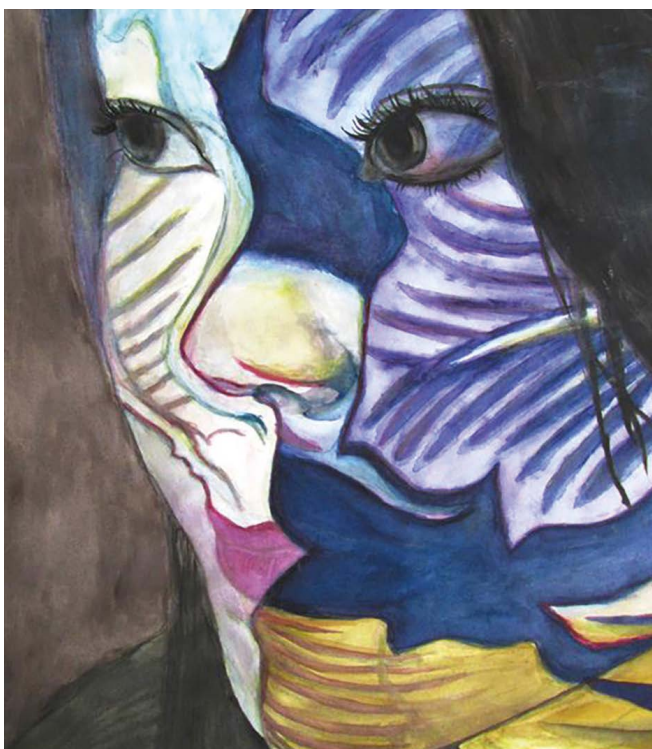


Mrs Amanda Brealy and Miss Penny Morrow-Brown worked with Year 3-6 on decorating a new addition to the Rendcomb Family – Buzz Lighthare. Designed to raise awareness of the importance and protection of bees and our natural environment, Buzz formed part of the Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail. He has a number of bumble bees, along with other minibeasts and flowers, all over him.





Senior Art





Design and Technology

This year has seen the launch of Design and Technology A Level at Rendcomb College. The College has a strong history of practical skill-based learning and it is fitting to now be able to offer the modern day equivalent that echoes this past. Of course, times have moved on; the height of commercial technology at the turn of the 20th century was possibly Henry Ford's model T1 car, which as one of the first cars to be made on an assembly line made it cheaper and accessible to the masses. Today we are in the throes of another automobile technological revolution with electric driverless cars and associated technology, to which the modern day subject of Design and Technology very much reflects 'Technology.' We also have a great lineage of innovation in the UK, and through the new D&T A Level course we can now teach the highest level for the students at Rendcomb College.

The current A Level students are already demonstrating this innovation through their major project choices, worth 50% of the A Level. One student's project focuses on the design of student accommodation based on pre-fabricated manufacturing techniques to allow shorter lead times, lower costs and flexibility to university compasses.

The UK currently lags behind Europe in this sector as prefabricated techniques are seen as the way to cope with future demand. Another A Level student is designing a 'radio controlled jet powered life bouncy ring' with the dual function of it also being used for fun in the water sports sector, making it more commercially viable. The next project focuses on a gap identified in the market by the student that looks to combine a mobile racing car garage with overnight accommodation space, ergonomics play a crucial role in this project. The final student project choice is the design and development of a robotic vehicle to move large wheelie bins to the end of a drive aimed at assisting people with limited physical capacity.

To support the A Level course, Rendcomb College now has Solidworks, which is industry standard 3D Computer Aided Design software. This will allow the students to realise their designs by manufacturing parts using one of the most up to date and recently purchased Additive Manufacturing Machines (commonly now known as a 3D printer). We will be show casing their innovative projects this time next year.

Mr Marc Silverthorn, Head of DT



Junior School Sport

Sport remains a key part of Rendcomb life and so many pupils have represented the school on the sports field this year. Being a part of a team brings with it many valuable lessons and it is always a pleasure to see or hear pupils encouraging their team mates during fixtures. In all sports, our pupils have competed with great determination and always in the right spirit; within this, can be found the true essence of sport.

Choosing a highlight of the sporting year is a difficult task but a few specifics must be mentioned. In the spirit of grasping every opportunity that arises, it was brilliant to see our Year 5 and Year 6 girls taking part in some Lacrosse in the Michaelmas term and then taking it upon themselves to request a girls' football activity with Mr Lawrence. Those that took to the field for Rendcomb's very first girls' football fixture should be very proud of themselves.

For the boys, there can only be one highlight; the tremendous success of our U11A cricket team. Having won all of their fixtures up until their final encounter with St. Edward's, the boys found themselves staring defeat squarely in the face but as Rocky Balboa tells us 'it ain't over, till it's over' and inspired by their captain Thomas Stanley,

the boys ultimately prevailed and ended with an unbeaten season. This is a fantastic achievement; congratulations to all involved.

Both 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. Sports Day in particular was a huge success and all pupils from Nursery-Year 6 were included in the one event.

Winter Warmer

On Monday, 13 November the Juniors held their 15th annual Winter Warmer run. The course is not easy and takes in several proper hill climbs and a lovely wilderness run through the Deer Park. Fifty two Year 3-6 children took part and all finished, which is a real testament to their mental fortitude. It was great to see all the children supporting each other at the finish and showed true Rendcomb Spirit.

Congratulations to Will Jones who finished first and first U11 boy in a time of 8.52 minutes. Mia Mbanga who was first U11 girl, in a time of 13.03 minutes, Samuel Au who was first U9 boy, in a time of 13.20 minutes and Julia Stewart who was first U9 girl, in a time of 13.35 minutes.



Sport remains
a key part of Rendcomb life
and so many pupils have represented
the school on the sports field this year

U8 & U9 Girls' Sport

Hockey

Played 3: Won 1 Drew 1 Lost 1

Our younger girls had an enjoyable hockey season and are developing some good skills. With a squad of ten girls rotating fairly everyone contributed equally and more importantly at this age, gained experience in a variety of playing positions. A convincing win over The King's School, Gloucester together with a nail biting draw with Berkhamstead were reward for the hard work put in by these girls; the standard of hockey definitely improved and lots of fun was had along the way. Well done to all who took part.



Netball

Played 3: Won 1 Drew 1 Lost 1

The Netball season was more challenging than ever this year as we contested snow and ice to train and maintain our fixture programme. A core of more experienced Year 4 players led this team and played a vital role in its success. An early draw with Hatherop Prep School gave the girls a taste of what they could achieve when they dug deep and pulled together and a super win over Berkhamstead



School was their just reward. For many, this was their first experience of competitive netball and I look forward to watching them build on the skills they have developed thus far.

Rounders

Played 2: Drew 1 Lost 1

Understanding the many intricacies of the game is the key to rounders at this age. With many young and inexperienced players, this season was all about building a platform for the future. As the term progressed, the girls improved focus and tactical play was evident for all to see. In training they gave the older girls a run for their money and their 9 ½ -9 ½ draw against Berkhamstead School was a compelling match to finish on with the final ball determining the result. Well done to all who took part with such enthusiasm; your diligence certainly paid off!

U11 Girls' Football

History was made on 21 March at Rendcomb with our first girls' fixture against Hatherop Castle. The girls had trained hard during their lunch times and in after school club. The match was played at a good pace with some super passing and defending from both sides. Rendcomb looked the more confident and dominated the match for long periods of time. After the initial exchanges, Rendcomb broke the deadlock with Amelia Holloway scoring the first goal. This gave the girls a lift and Rendcomb worked hard for a second before half time. After the break, both sides worked hard and Rendcomb created many chances but Hatherop's keeper was on top of her game. Eventually, a super pass lead to Imogen Langley scoring the second. Hatherop never gave up and were duly rewarded with a goal with a superb strike from outside the box. Final score 2-1 to Rendcomb.



Senior School Sport

There have been some stand-out performances, individual achievements and outcomes throughout the year, most of which have been tweeted, recorded in the bulletin and celebrated in the Head of College's Assemblies. During the Lent Term, every child from Year 7 to 11 represented the College in team sports and for a small school we have yet again been improving, notably with the following sports:

1st Boys Hockey XI – U18 County Plate Champions

1st Girls Lacrosse XII – U19 National Small Schools Finalists

Michaelmas Term Awards

Colours

Hockey: Emily Musgrave, Megan Hardie and Rebeccah Breare

Rugby: William Chapman, Tobias Tatara-Mills, Joshua Timmis, Charles Pugh, Jamie Southall, James Nickson and Sam Jones.

Captains of Lent term sport

Lacrosse Captain - Kieze Francis supported by Megan Hardie and Rebeccah Breare.

Hockey Captain - James Nickson supported by his 2 vice-captains Tobias Tatara-Mills and Alex Dennett.

Team Awards

1st XI Hockey

Player's player of the year: Megan Hardie

Coach's player of the year: Lilly Whitehead

Most improved player of the year: Ella Lister

Player of the year: Emily Musgrave

2nd XI Hockey

Player's player of the year: Lena Siebrecht

Coach's player of the year: Najya Mohammed Afique Abdullah

Most improved player of the year: Philine (Jona) Schoop

Player of the year: Elise Summers

(Mr Summerbell added that the majority of the team has worked really hard and improved!)

U15 Hockey

Player's player of the year: Isabel Verey

Coach's player of the year: Lilly Allen

Most improved player of the year: Momo Sakurai

Player of the year: Freya Angus



U14 Hockey

Player's player of the year: Isabella House

Coach's player of the year: Ellie Miles-Sayers

Most improved player of the year: Thea Carter-Hughes

Player of the year: Anya Pereira

U12 and 13 Hockey

Player's players of the year: Jemima Lister and Florentyna Sztuka

Coach's player of the year: Ellie Langley and Sydney Fairs

Most improved players of the year: Isobel Wood and Florentyna Sztuka

Players of the year: Jemima Lister and Lucinda Norris

1st XV Rugby

Player's player of the year: Charles Pugh

Coach's player of the year: William Chapman

Most improved players of the year: Percy Vincent and Robert Segrave-Daly

Player of the year: James Nickson

U16 Rugby

Player's player of the year: Joshua Vaughan

Coach's player of the year: Joshua Carr

Most improved player of the year: Riley Rowe

Player of the year: William Nichol

U15 Rugby

Player's player of the year: Jack Rohling

Coach's player of the year: Matthew Asbridge

Most improved players of the year: Matthew Krenik and Alexander Hendrick

Player of the year: Rory Hughes

U14 Rugby

Player's player of the year: Joss Breare

Coach's player of the year: Alexander Clayton Read

Most improved player of the year: Jack Liang

Player of the year: Joss Breare

U13 Rugby

Player's player of the year: Nathan Dube

Coach's player of the year: James Thompson

Most improved player of the year: Max Jones

Player of the year: James Thompson and Caleb Timmis



U12 Rugby

Player's player of the year: Oliver Stanley

Coach's player of the year: Max Poliza

Most improved player of the year: Archie Storey

Player of the year: Reuben Jones

Other Awards

U19 South West Regional Lacrosse Academy - Emily Sharman, Anna Frost, Emily Musgrave and Isabella Rohling

U17 Gloucestershire Rugby Captain – Jamie Southall

U15 South West Regional Lacrosse Academy – Kate Holloway, Anya Pereira, Thea Carter-Hughes

U14 Gloucestershire Handball – Dylan Summers

IAPS Judo Silver Medallists - Chloe Witt, Cameron Burr and Ewan Burr

Tennis – Anya Pereira and William Pereira

Swimming – Alfie Beckett and Lucinda Norris

Skiing – Genichiro Horrie

Lent Term Awards

Colours

Lacrosse: Rebeccah Breare, Martina Bonassera, Emily Sharman and Isabella Rohling

Hockey: Tobias Tatara-Mills, Alex Dennett, James Nickson and Sam Jones



Captains of Summer Term Sport

Tennis Captain for 2018 - Clare Farnham

Cricket Captain for 2018 - James Nickson supported by Tobias Tatara-Mills

Team Awards

1st XII Lacrosse

Player's player of the year: Rebeccah Breare

Coach's player of the year: Anna Frost

Most improved player of the year: Daisy Billington

Player of the year: Emily Sharman

2nd XII Lacrosse

Player's player of the year: Martina Bonassera

Coach's player of the year: Martina Bonassera

Most improved player of the year: Janelle Njuguna

Player of the year: Sophie Everitt

U15 Lacrosse

Player's player of the year: Anya Pereira

Coach's player of the year: Kate Holloway

Most improved player of the year: Ellie Miles-Sayers

Player of the year: Emily Finch

U15/U14 Hockey

Player's player of the year: Lilli Weinrich

Coach's player of the year: Minnie Hanks



Most improved player of the year: Mia Endicott and Juliet Bult

Player of the year: Nell Hanks

U12/13 Lacrosse

Player's players of the year: Jemima Lister

Coach's player of the year: Chloe Witt

Most improved players of the year: Minnie Franks

Players of the year: Hattie Watkins

1st XI Hockey

Player's player of the year: Ollie Jones

Coach's player of the year: Morgan Seatter-Messer

Most improved players of the year: Tony Pow

Player of the year: James Nickson

2nd XI Hockey

Player's player of the year: Ricardo Suarez

Coach's player of the year: Joseph Brewer

Most improved player of the year: Moritz Mueller

Player of the year: Robert Sharman

U15 Hockey

Player's player of the year: Alex Hendrick

Coach's player of the year: Rory Hughes

Most improved players of the year: Lukas Buchweitz

Player of the year: Nathan Roberts

U14 Hockey

Player's player of the year: Rufus Handley

Coach's player of the year: Roman Bilinski

Most improved player of the year: Jack Liang

Player of the year: Joss Breare

U13a Hockey

Player's player of the year: Freddie Billington

Coach's player of the year: Nathan Dube

Most improved player of the year: Ewan Burr

Player of the year: James Thompson

U13b Hockey

Player's player of the year: Ruairi Elliot-Jones

Coach's player of the year: Max Jones

Most improved player of the year: Cameron Burr

Player of the year: Max Shortt

U12a Hockey

Player's player of the year: Max Poliza

Coach's player of the year: Christopher Roberts

Most improved player of the year: Henry Everitt

Player of the year: Archie Storey

U12b Hockey

Player's player of the year: Felix Beckett

Coach's player of the year: Oliver White

Most improved player of the year: Toby Beckett

Player of the year: Hugo Wells



Forest School

Throughout the changing seasons our pupils have enjoyed so many activities in Forest School; from blackberry picking, walking through Rendcomb's woodland and valleys, learning some knots and square-lashing in order to become 'master builders'. They have had close encounters with snow and ice, jumped into huge leaf piles, jumped over a babbling brook, created leaf pictures, made broomsticks and played Quidditch. They studied our stunning snowdrops using microscopes, made magic potions, baked wild garlic bread, laid under blossom trees, wrote poetry about primroses, made bog babies,

painted pictures using twig brushes, spent time focusing on mindfulness, built lots of dens and learnt more fire-lighting skills, toasted marshmallows, crumpets and brioche.

We have held several Open Days for Forest School for pre-school children which have been very well attended and we were very grateful to all the parents and governors who gave their time to help us on the Working Party Morning in May. We are always looking at new ways to improve our beautiful Forest School, whilst making sure we protect and manage it effectively.



Trips

Year 9 visit the Black Country Living History Museum



All of Year 9 visited the Black Country Living History Museum to gain an insight into living and working conditions in nineteenth-century Britain. They took a trip down a coal mine which gave a greater appreciation of the dark, cramped conditions they worked in, and entered a variety of different houses where students were particularly struck by the lack of a bathroom or inside toilet!

The canal boat ride took everyone into a variety of caverns and tunnels, and a couple of students practised 'walking' the canal boat through the tunnel by lying on their backs and pushing against the tunnel wall with their feet. There were a range of different shops, stocking typical nineteenth century foods, some of which are still familiar today (Tate and Lyle's golden syrup, oxo) and we watched a chainmaker forge a link in a chain with some awe. There was time for a lesson in the school where we were taught as in Victorian times, writing on slate and reciting the times tables. Despite the huge range of activities, we still had time to try some of the fairground rides at lunchtime and enjoy the old-fashioned sweet shop!

Year 7 and 8 History Trip to Chalke Valley History Festival

On Tuesday, 26 June the History department took all of Years 7 and 8 out for the day to Chalke Valley History Festival, near Salisbury. It was a fiercely hot day, and the ice cream and drinks stalls were busy all day! However, the heat didn't diminish the

enjoyment of our students as we wandered around stalls and displays including a WW2 Spitfire and working tank, demonstrations of WW1 weapons and Victorian children's toys. Students were allowed to touch and try some of these artefacts, gaining a real sense of what life was like.

We attended a range of seminars to find out about periods of History in more detail. Year 7 found out about Tudor and Medieval cookery while Year 8 were put through their paces in drills as pikemen in the English Civil War. We learnt how gunpowder was made and there was much excitement when the cannon was fired and created a perfect smoke ring that stood out clearly against the blue sky. We enjoyed a talk from historian Christopher Lloyd on the ten defining moments in British history, many which we had studied this year such as the Battle of Hastings, Magna Carta and the reformation of the church under Henry VIII. The WW1 trench experience was a particular highlight; there was disgust as they were advised to wee on a handkerchief if they did not have a gas mask and a stampede to leave the trench when we were suddenly under fire!

This was certainly a chance to get up close and personal with historical events and objects, and the students enjoyed all the opportunities offered.



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!

Mr Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The highlight this year was the two completions of the Gold Award by Robert Sharman and William Vaughan whilst still in the Sixth Form. Robert received his award at Buckingham Palace.



Other successes were the number of Year 11 students, having completed their Bronze last year, going on to do the Silver. Added to this was the change in policy that enabled Year 10 to participate at Silver award leaving Year 9 to do the Bronze.

The Bronze Award is going well with 25 pupils having completed the expedition. The Silver Assessed Expedition saw hot conditions in the Brecon Beacons. The Year 11 groups did particularly well building on their Bronze experience.

Year 6 visit Kilve Court



Year 6 were very excited, yet nervous at the same time, as they headed off on their residential trip to Kilve Court in Somerset in February. They threw themselves into each of the exciting activities, learning lots of new skills along the way. They took part in grass sledging, archery, rifle shooting, high ropes, climbing

and team games. They also really enjoyed the walk to Kilve Beach and went on an extremely successful fossil hunt. Their absolute highlight was playing zombie apocalypse in the dark in a huge maze during the night walk. What's not to love?!

Literary House Party 2018

On Friday, 26 January, nine Sixth Form students, Miss Mott and Mrs Read headed down to Dorset to start a weekend of literature immersion.

Visiting Lyme Regis, students walked in the footsteps of the *French Lieutenant's Woman* on the Cobb,





wrote creatively in the sunshine and then headed on to Chesil beach for immersion in McEwan's modern masterpiece; an evening of convivial literary games, writing and reading followed.

Saturday saw team English exploring Hardy and Barnes in and around the Dorchester area experiencing Dorset dialect poetry, seeing the desk where Hardy wrote such greats as *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and exploring the landscape that he walked in as a child and relied heavily upon in his later works. The National Trust's lecture on 'poetry in landscape' at the cottage was excellent, and a trip to Hardy's grave in Stinsford was made all the more memorable with tales of his final wishes. More games followed with Bella Rohling, Martina Bonassera, Geordie Hall and Sam Jones winning Hardy book prizes for their creative work over the weekend.

Our final day took us to Salisbury for a literary walking tour of the area. Our guide enabled the students to read literature in context as they delved into Fielding, Golding, Hardy and Norris. A final stop to see the best preserved version of the Magna Carta finished off a weekend of literary immersion.



The students were highly complimented on their engagement and enthusiasm wherever we went; a great weekend all round!

Mrs Sarah Read, Head of English.

Year 7 go on an Adventure

Thirty-two intrepid Year 7 Adventurers set off to Manor Adventure in Shropshire on the first weekend of the academic year. Their confidence was definitely tested on the high ropes and confidence course. They set themselves team challenges whilst crate stacking and during the muddy obstacle course. They learnt to trust their new friends on the blind trail, and tested how well they would survive during their Survival activity. Everyone gave of their best, really pushing themselves out of their comfort zone and returned with so many wonderful shared memories of their adventures.



Norway Trip

Over the summer, ten students travelled to Norway to climb Galdhøpiggen, the highest peak in the country.

The trip saw students from the Senior School and Sixth Form spend two weeks hiking and camping in the Scandinavian wilderness. They overcame flooded tents and had to consume more than 3500 calories each day in order to scale the peak.

Sports coach and member of staff on the tour, Ed Thomason, said: "All of the pupils were amazing. It was physically and mentally tough and there were definitely parts when they felt like giving up. I think they will have learnt that if you put your mind to something then you can achieve it.

"This type of challenge would not be natural to many of the students, so again, for them it was physically a

challenge, but with motivation from the whole group and determination everyone completed it."

Days 1 and 2: The group started their journey in the Turtagrø Hotel in the heart of Jotunheimen National Park, nicknamed 'The Home of the Giants', where they would spend the following fourteen days camping and hiking up to their ultimate goal, Galdhøpiggen.

Days 3 and 4: They spent the following day enjoying local walks around the village of Fortun before preparing for their ascent to Fannaråken where they stayed in the Fannaråkhytta Lodge. Fannaråkhytta Lodge lies 2068 metres above sea level and is the highest tourist lodge in Norway.

Days 5 and 6: Once rested, the group proceeded on their two day hike to Storbrua before moving on to Liervassbu Mountain Lodge located in the heart of Jotunheimen's hiking network.



Days 7 and 8: The next two days saw the pupils travel across the mountain ranges to Spiterstulen, a mountain lodge built in the 19th century for travellers to stay where organised trips would take place to Galdhøpiggen. The area is surrounded by beautiful native flowers, running streams and is steeped in Norse legend.

Day 9: The group were joined the next day by an instructor who would guide them to the summit of Galdhøpiggen, a journey that saw the pupils climb over a live glacier on the way to the top of the 2,469 metre mountain.

Days 10 - 12: The descent from the mountain saw them travel to Glitterheim before visiting the stunning green waters of the Bessvatnet Lake, overshadowed by their final challenge the Besseggen Ridge.

The ridge stands 300 metres above the lake and 700 metres above its sister, the Gjende Lake. The ridge is described in folk law as “a mountain ridge forged by Thor on the anvil of earth” and described by many as a hike everyone should do at least once in their lives.

Days 13 - 15: The final stop was the Gjendesheim Lodge which signalled the end of their fourteen day journey. Following on from their incredible journey they spent the final two days in the city of Bergen where they enjoyed the warmth of the hotel and a sit

down meal before travelling back to Rendcomb.

Throughout their journey the pupils experienced a mix of weather, experiencing “four seasons in one day.” One night they experienced a large thunderstorm which resulted in many of the tents flooding and forcing them to move sites.

As the group spent most nights camping after a hard days hiking, they had to sufficiently fuel themselves for the following day by cooking their own meals each night. They ate mostly dehydrated foods and were eating around 3500 calories per day. This consisted of a three course meal every night made up of soup to start, followed by chicken curry and a desert of rice pudding.



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.

Mr Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher

Year 8 Brecon Beacons Trip



The week before half term, the Year 8s 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 the Year 8s returned for a hearty dinner which was completed 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.

Mr Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher

Y12 Geography Fieldtrips to Bourton-on-the-Water



The Year 12 A Level Geographers undertook two visits to BOTW 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 BOTW for some 30 years, to gain insight to the changes that had taken place over that time and her views on these changes.

The second fieldtrip was in order to visit a Linden Homes residential estate that was being built in order 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.

Mr Alex Brealy, Geography Teacher

International

International Celebration Evening

On Tuesday, 10 October we had a great International Celebration Evening in our Dulverton Hall. With the twelve countries: USA, Italy, Nigeria, Japan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Thailand, Malaysia, Israel, China, Germany and Russia, we could fill the whole room. Each country had their own table on which the students could display typical gadgets and food from their country. A lot of students and teachers came to try some typical food or, for example, to have the experience of a completely new game from another country. Everywhere were flags and posters stuck on

the walls and you could listen to international music. Some songs were danced and sung, and the mood was very good.



I am from Germany and on our table we had posters and we made Bratwurst and German bread to taste.

Lara Brandt, Year 11

International Stars Concert



There was a special event which was called the International Stars Concert on Thursday, 8 March. The concert was organised by international students. There were rules about this concert: British students were not able to perform without an international student, but if British students performed something international, they could play. I think it is a brilliant rule, because the stars of the concert were international students.

In the concert, students performed amazing dances, impressive Chinese songs (which were really cool), Japanese traditional songs, and beautiful piano performances. We sang a trendy and famous Spanish song "Despacito" for the last performance. Every performance was really wonderful and as a result, we could perceive how wonderful the international cultural exchange was through this event.

Genichiro Horie, Year 10



News

Oxford University Chemists Visit Rendcomb

07/08/17



Oxford University Chemistry Students, including former pupil Olivia Knapp, led a 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' workshop with Year 12 Chemistry students.

Students were shown how to use a UV spectrophotometer and had the opportunity to run their own IR spectra and interpret both Mass Spectra and IR Spectra as part of the workshop.

The workshops are part of a Royal Society of Chemistry project with a strong emphasis on encouraging school pupils to consider studying chemistry and the career opportunities available.

Rendcomb Student Completes Charity Swim for Grenfell Fire Victims

13/09/17

9-year-old Reuben Parker spent last summer raising money for the victims of the Grenfell Fire Disaster.

Reuben contributed to the British Red Cross Grenfell Tower Relief Fund by taking part in an aquathlon at his local pool, the Sandford Parks Lido in Cheltenham, and baked and sold cupcakes and brownies. While not a regular swimmer, Reuben swam a total of 100m and ran 1300m raising a grand total of £367 for the charity, exceeding his target of £300.

Speaking about the event, Reuben said: "It was really fun but really tough but when I got stuck I just swapped to backstroke and I was fine!"



Polar Explorer Ventures Into Rendcomb

18/09/17



Polar explorer, photographer and author, Alex Hibbert, visited Rendcomb to deliver an enrichment talk to Sixth Form students.

Alex fell in love with polar exploration during his time at Oxford University where he studied Wildlife Biology and was heavily involved in the Exploration Club. After a year with the Marines, Alex set out

to break the world record for longest unsupported polar journey in history, which he completed at the young age of 21.

Pupil Meets Tennis Stars on Road to Wimbledon

11/09/17



13-year-old Anya Pereira in Year 9 has powered on in her tennis career. Anya won the girls' 'Road to Wimbledon' competition at Cirencester Tennis Club and went on to the Gloucestershire County Finals. Although she came second there, she had quite a consolation prize – meeting tennis greats at Wimbledon!

Along with other county players, she took part in a training session with tennis stars Tim Henman OBE and Dan Bloxham, the All England Club head coach and Wimbledon master of ceremonies.

Anya said: "I look up to all of these incredible tennis players. It would be amazing to play like them one day."

Rendcomb Pupil Rides to Glory

27/09/18



15-year-old Jessica Baker in Year 11 was selected for the South Wales and Central 2017 U18 British Eventing Team and competed at the four day Regional Championships at Frickley Park, South Yorkshire.

Karen Coups, leader of Rendcomb's Equestrian Club said: "Jessica has regularly represented the College at NSEA Events and is an inspiration to all the budding riders at the College. She has been a staple of the riding school for many years and we look forward to seeing her add to her already impressive list of achievements!"

Body Percussion Workshop Brings the Beat to Griffin Theatre

28/09/17



Rendcomb College welcomed over 160 children from eight local primary and prep schools to the Griffin Theatre to take part in a 'Body Percussion Workshop' held by the Beat Goes On.

The Beat Goes On was created by Ollie Tunmer, a former cast member of hit West End show, STOMP.

Gavin Roberts, Head of Juniors, said: "The whole day was full of energy, rousing beats and great fun! Having such training from a West End star has been a highlight of the term so far."

Year 4 Pupils Have Stories Published

28/09/17



Three pupils in Year 4 had their creative writing stories published after being selected following the judging of 40,000 entries in a competition run by Young Writers.

This year's theme for the competition was 'Crazy Creatures' and the three 8-year-olds let their imagination run riot with their creative stories.

Maria, Cleodie and Amelia entered the Young Writers' Crazy Creatures competition in October 2017 and their entries were published on Saturday, 30 September in the 'Crazy Creatures – Warwickshire & Gloucestershire' book which is available to buy online and in supported bookstores. The girls' stories will also be considered for the overall grand prize.

Cleodie's story, 'The Cheeky Chick' saw her creation embark on an egg-straordinary adventure, while Amelia's creature, 'Mr Foxy Fox', used his cunning intelligence to get through his journey. Maria's imagination led to the making of a monster made out of musical instruments who terrorised its victims in her off-key story, 'Music Madness'.

Pupils Venture Down the Rabbit Hole to Mad Hatter's Tea Party

24/10/17



We welcomed over 50 Year 6 children and parents to a Mad Hatter's Tea Party to spend the afternoon learning more about the Senior School, meeting future classmates, and of course, drinking lots of tea!

Children and parents were welcomed the Library for a drinks reception and quiz based on the classic novel, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll. The Library was decorated with an array of characters and quotes from the novel and film, with a number of outlandish hats on show from both pupils and parents.

Head of College, Rob Jones, and Head of Key Stage 3, Rachel Fielding, welcomed the guests. Speaking about the event, Rob said: "What a fantastic way for the children and parents to end the week. It was a pleasure to meet so many future parents and pupils of the Senior School."

The children took part in a number of themed activities including croquet, pin the smile on the Cheshire Cat, and a Tweedledum and Tweedledee three-legged race.

Everyone was then taken to the Reading Room, unveiling its transformation into the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The room was decked with bunting, playing host to a giant house of cards, chocolate fountain, and a table fit for the Mad Hatter and March Hare themselves.

Workshop Gets Blood Pumping

11/10/17



The Science Department welcomed the Medical Mavericks in an event which saw all pupils in Years 9 to 13 get involved in interactive sessions led by the outgoing scientists. They had a go at drawing blood from a fake arm and performed an ultrasound on their classmates.

The pupils were given the opportunity to get hands-on to understand the medical profession. They performed some basic medical observations, such as taking blood pressure and heart rate, and progressed to more advanced tests, such as respiratory rate and retina scans.

They also simulated keyhole surgery, ECG and blood tests. Other equipment they used were Pathology Goggles, Stethoscopes, Otoscope Ear Cameras and Intubation equipment.

Rendcomb Crowned Coding Champions

11/10/17

The Junior School were crowned Gloucestershire's Coding Champions as they ranked first place in the Discover Education Coding League Table.

Pupils have been learning how to code through the Discover Education programme, uploading a number of Applications as they progress. This academic year

alone, over 325,000 Applications have been shared on the site and the Junior School was recognised as the highest performing school in Gloucestershire.

Gavin Roberts, Head of Juniors, said: "We recognise the importance of teaching our pupils valuable skills that will benefit them both now and well into the future."

This achievement has meant the pupils and school are now in contention for a 'Gold Status' certificate with other schools around the country.



Choir in Fine Voice For Capacity Crowd

03/10/17

On Tuesday, 3 October the College Choir gave a concert at St. Andrew's Church, Miserden, to an enthusiastic audience who filled the venue.

At the invitation of Major Tom Wills, the Choir performed in the beautiful twelfth century building. The Schola Cantorum, Rendcomb's chamber choir, also performed along with a number of solos, instrumentals and organ works.

Dr Tom Edwards, Director of Music at Rendcomb College, said: "The choir was in particular fine voice, and it was a great pleasure to see so many Year 7s, in only their third week of choir practice, singing with gusto, style and precision."

Dr Edwards added "It was a wonderful occasion and it was a delight to see the College Choir in such rude health, so healthy in fact the chancel overflowed with choristers!"



The concert began with Gabriel Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine*. The choir also performed the sixteenth century madrigal *Now is the month of Maying* by Thomas Morley and selections from John Rutter's folk song cycle *A Sprig of Thyme*.

Head Boy William Vaughan performed Tchaikovsky's *None but the lonely heart* and Viola Migone also gave a wonderful, heart-felt performance of the same composer's *Nocturne*.

Pupils Put Together a Strong Challenge for K'nex Competition

13/10/17



Year 5 pupils got an insight into the world of engineering by taking part in a K'NEX Challenge held by local organisation, STEMworks. The 9-year-olds were presented with a challenge which required them to work in teams to create a working model of their solution using K'NEX construction kits. The challenge was: create a new playground, accessible for all primary school children using at least one form of mechanism.

Working in pairs, the teams created some amazing creations including working swings, zip lines, see-saws, rope swings and even a climbing frame with built-in WiFi.

Reuben and Maelys were selected the winners for their detailed array of playground equipment and will move on to the Gloucestershire K'NEX final later in the year.

STEMworks' Head Judge, Alison Kelly, said: "The detail involved was fantastic and they were one of the only groups to receive no assistance all day!"

Biologists Visit Bracelet Bay

09/10/18



Year 13 Biologists visited the Field Studies Centre in South Wales where they collected data in various forms and learnt to carry out statistical tests.

On the first day, the students travelled to Bracelet Bay to investigate biodiversity on a rocky shore. The second day was spent at the incredible sand dune system in Crymlyn Burrows, where they looked at succession as well as adaptations of plants to the environment on the dunes. On the final day, the group ventured into the woods in order to collect freshwater data to be used for a practical piece of work for their A Level, with each group deciding on their variables independently.

The trip, while intensive, was successful in providing students with data for their A Level work while also informing and teaching students practical skills to be used in the field.

Smoke and Mirrors: Junior School Science Morning

30/11/17

Junior School pupils had the opportunity to get hands-on with a number of exciting science experiments organised by the Head of Junior School Science, Jon Arnold.

The pupils, from Reception to Year 6, were in awe of the 'dry ice' used to neutralise alkalis; the 'whoosh bottle', creating a fireball using alcohol vapour; and creating loud bangs by popping hydrogen balloons with fire.

Alice Wyndow, Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Chemistry teacher, said: "It is brilliant to get the pupils

interested in science as early as possible. Special science days like this are aimed at encouraging pupils to delve deeper into the subject throughout their time both in the Junior and Senior School."

The tests for light refraction and chromatography saw pupils using mirrors, glass prisms and torches to create rainbows and light patterns, while felt-tip pens and water were used to unveil the hidden colours within ink. Pupils also created bubble masterpieces using pipe cleaners to create different shaped bubbles.



Top Result for Students in Mathematical Olympiad

23/11/18

In October, Rendcomb entered Polly Chen, Year 12, and Evelyn Yu, Year 13 into the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls.

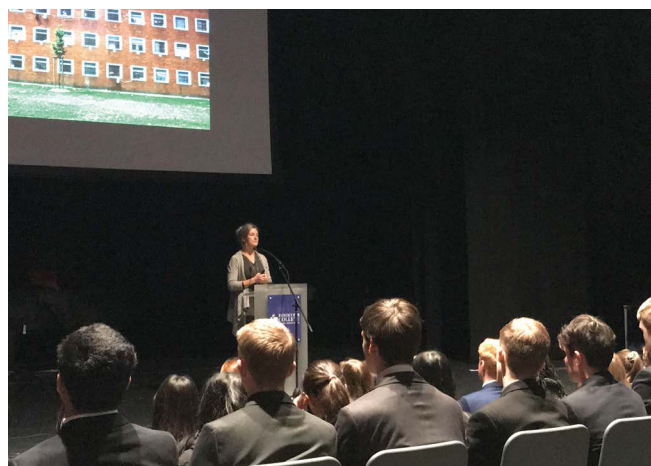
Competing against 1700 girls across the UK, they had to tackle five complex mathematical problems in the space of two and a half hours. Each question required justification of their results with their methods clearly explained.

Evelyn's result placed her in the top 25% and earned her a Certificate of Distinction while Polly's result placed her in the top 10% of the best 200 female A Level mathematicians.

Head of Mathematics, Stephen Clarke, said: "Their results place them among some of the elite female mathematicians in the country for their age. Huge congratulations are in order for such an impressive achievement."

Art Behind Bars – Enrichment Talk

23/11/18



Artist, writer, consultant and motivational speaker, Angela Findlay delivered an enrichment talk to Sixth Form students. The session focussed on the use of Art in Prisons and how it can be used in the rehabilitation process.

The key messages from the enrichment talk encouraged students to think about the wider community and the reasons behind key economic and social factors affecting the world today.

One student explained: "It was hard to see how art could help people in such a way but she demonstrated it in a way that made complete sense and really made me think."

Pupils Donate 113 Kilos of Food to Cirencester Food Bank

17/11/18

Junior School pupils donated more than 113 kilos of food to Cirencester Food Bank as part of their Harvest Festival. The Harvest Festival took place in St Peter's Church, Rendcomb, and was led by Chaplain Bob Edy.

The pupils' donations were given to two worthy causes, Cirencester Food Bank and Cirencester Housing for Young People. After leading the service, Reverend Edy said: "It is important that children are given this opportunity to reflect on the meaning



behind the Harvest Festival. The pupils may not understand just how much all their fantastic donations will mean to the less fortunate out there."



Global Social Leaders

09/11/17

A group of Year 11 and 12s took part in a Global Social Leaders (GSL) day which focused on inspiring pupils to take a stand and make a difference.

GSL set out to encourage the students to think about what leadership is, how to become a leader and also about a wide variety of social issues that are affecting the world today.

Andy Dunn, Course Director of GSL, said: "We believe that young people can be leaders of positive change in society. We feel encouraged and inspired that the pupils we've met here today can lead this change in our community."



Padel Competition

15/11/17



Year 9 pupil Charlotte Brien represented Great Britain in the Junior World Padel Championships in Spain.

Charlotte represented Great Britain in the international tournament with her partner Matilda, competing in the Under 14 competition in Malaga. She was also selected as Team GBs Flag Bearer.

The competition played host to a number of teams from around the world including Brazil, Mexico and Belgium.

With the sport only recently gaining interest in Britain, this is the second time Team GB have been able to field a team in the junior championships.

Students Gain Insight into EES Project

18/12/18

Sixth Form students visited TE Connectivity in Swindon to gain an insight into their upcoming Design and Technology project.

The Design and Technology A Level students took part in an Engineering Education Scheme (EES) competition where they had to undertake a realistic engineering project which would be graded by professional engineers on completion.

Marc Silverthorn, Head of Design and Technology, said: "Their project will see them create objects that often end up in military based equipment. This has given students an added enthusiasm knowing that they are possibly contributing to national security and the sort of technology that James Bond would be fond of!"



He continued: "The students experienced a board room meeting and discussion, with the opportunity to pick the engineers' brains as well as being scrutinised themselves. They were also given a tour of the company including their extensive research and development facilities where students got to witness the use of equipment and processes up-close."

Pupils Experience Design Wizardry at Harry Potter World

18/12/18

Year 9 pupils went on a Design and Technology trip to the Harry Potter studios.

The trip was designed to show the pupils world-class product design and modelling techniques in an interesting environment.

Marc Silverthorn, Head of Design and Technology, said: "This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience a wealth of first-class product design

and modelling techniques, together with problem solving and some cutting edge technology all set in the absorbing fantasy world of Harry Potter."

The trip directly linked two projects that the pupils will be completing throughout the academic year.



German Christmas Traditions for the Juniors

14/12/17



Year 6 pupils experienced bush craft and Christmas traditions from Germany with the help of some Senior School pupils. Head of Junior School Science, Jon Arnold, and Head of Junior School Languages, Adrienne Barker, led the sessions which saw pupils take part in a number of activities such as identifying different types of wood, and how to build a fire using the materials in the forest.

The pupils then moved inside to learn about the differences between Christmas in Germany and Christmas here.

Year 6 were joined by Head of German, Mrs Rachel Fielding and six of the College's German Year 10 and 11 students. They introduced themselves in German and the Year 6s had to translate what had been said.



Traditional Christmas treats were shared including Stollen, Lebkuchen, spiced biscuits and Apfelschorle.

Mrs Barker said: "It was delightful to see the Senior School and Junior School working together to help each other. This was the first time they had experienced German in the classroom so for them to hear it from German girls themselves was a real privilege and a fantastic way to start their German adventure."

Blue Peter Badge for Ted

16/12/18



Year 5 pupil, Ted Whitaker, was awarded a Blue Peter Badge for his contribution to nature and the environment.

Ted saved the life of a baby squirrel he discovered in his garden and decided to write to the hit children's television show to tell them all about it.

Ted said: "I found the squirrel in the garden being dragged by a cat. I chased the cat off and it left the squirrel on the floor.

"We took him to the vet and they suggested ways to look after him while he recovered from his injuries. We looked after him in the greenhouse every day and it was really good to see him running around when he was better. He was so friendly!"

Ted kept a record of the squirrel's recovery and sent it to Blue Peter who awarded him with a green Blue Peter Badge. Green badges are awarded for achievements about the environment, conservation or nature.

Solo Music Competition

06/12/18



On Friday, 1 December, the Music Department held its annual instrumental competition which saw 26 pupils perform in front of their peers.

The competition, run by the College's Head of Keyboard, Jeremy Carter, saw pupils from Year 2 to Year 13 play a variety of instruments across the three classes; preparatory, intermediate and advanced.

Preparatory Class winner: Archie Storey - Piano (*Highly commended: Cooper Harris; Kathleen Sweeney; Samuel Au*)

Intermediate Class winners: Edward Nichol - Piano; Nathan Seatter-Messer - Voice (*Highly commended: Thea Carter-Hughes; William Wolton; Edward Sweeney*)

Advanced Class winners: Viola Migone - Cello (*Highly commended: Edwin Ward*)

Charity Channel Swim for Ted

02/01/18

Year 5 pupil, Ted Whitaker, has spent the last ten weeks swimming the length of the English Channel to raise money for spinal injury charity, Aspire. He clocked up an impressive 22 miles in total.

Ted averaged 140 lengths each week at the David Lloyd Swimming Pool in Gloucester. Ted said: "It was quite tough but also really fun! It was worth it in the end."

Ted raised just over £100 and is looking forward to his next challenge. He said: "My next challenge is to swim back!"



Junior School Earns Clean Sweep of Distinctions

15/01/18

Junior School pupils were all awarded distinctions in their London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations.

15 pupils took the examinations in Solo Introduction and in Speaking Verse and Prose.

Paw-Some Effort for Help for Heroes

12/01/18

The Junior School were commended for their contribution to the Help for Heroes Teddy Bear Appeal and were awarded a special certificate.

Over the one week period, the children placed over 50 soft toys in front of the fireplace in the main

reception with a special Christmas message written by the pupils attached to each one.

The Teddy Bear Appeal was arranged especially by the Junior School in support of the injured service men and women who spent the Christmas period in hospital because of their injuries.



Big Sing! Strikes a Chord with Pupils

21/02/18



More than 100 children from primary schools across Gloucestershire took part in the College's annual BIG SING! event.

Year 5 pupils from Gardeners Lane, Meadow Park, Birdlip, Down Ampney, Yorkley and Watermoor primary schools joined the Junior School's Year 5 class in the Griffin Theatre to perform a number of songs.

The 9 and 10-year-olds spent the day with Rendcomb College's specialist music teachers, learning three new songs which would later be performed in front of parents in the finale concert.

Head of Junior School Music, Laura Hayward, said: "It was fantastic to see so many children enjoying singing and performing in the Griffin Theatre. They brought lots of enthusiasm and energy. We look forward to the next one!"

Arctic Adventurer Traverses Rendcomb to Speak to Sixth Form

20/02/18



The Arctic Explorer, Tim Oakley, visited to talk to Sixth Form students and visiting guests about his 700 mile journey across Canada and Alaska.

Tim and his team braved -50c temperatures in their journey across the North West Passage, to recreate the route of explorer Roald Amundsen; a journey that has been unconquered for over 110 years.

Tim told the audience of his dog sled expedition in 2016 and the dangers he faced over the month long trek. During the 29 days, he experienced frostbite, ice overflow, high speed winds and hollow snow, all of which posed serious threats to their attempt and their lives.

Funded by the Royal Geographical Society, Tim's quest aimed to raise awareness of the effects of global warming.

Tim's tales finished with a key message to the students: "The message is to find something you enjoy. Don't be afraid to explore and push yourselves. Explore the world and make the journeys you want in life."

Winter Olympics a Target for Gen

19/02/18



16-year-old Gen, who is in Year 10, has been skiing for 12 years in his native Japan and looks to continue his development in the United Kingdom with a view to representing Japan in the future.

Gen said: "My dream is to represent Japan at the Winter Olympics."

With the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics beginning last week, and seeing Japan's representatives in the competition, Gen has only reaffirmed his ambitions to follow in their footsteps.

He said: "Skiing is my love and I will continue to practise to be the best."

Gen recently competed in the Japan Junior High competition where he finished 3rd out of more than 50 competitors. He said: "I am incredibly proud. It is one of my best achievements."

This achievement did not go unnoticed, and Gen earned himself a contract with Fischer Sports, one of the largest ski equipment manufacturers in the world, who now sponsor him and will oversee his progression.

Pupil Selected for Handball Squad

13/02/18

Year 9 pupil, Dylan Summers, has been selected to represent Gloucestershire in the coming Handball season.

The 14-year-old was selected for the second time to represent Gloucestershire at Under 14 level.

The first tournament was held on Saturday, 3 February against teams from across the South West

with Gloucestershire winning one, drawing one and losing one. Dylan scored a handful of goals in an impressive display.



Head of Biology up for Teacher of the Year Award

09/02/18



Natalie Johnston, Head of Biology, is one of three teachers who were shortlisted for the School Biology Teacher of the Year Award 2018 with the Royal Society of Biology. The award recognises the very best and most inspiring biology teachers in 11-18 education in the UK.

Natalie has taught for 12 years and was nominated for her tireless efforts to seek out best practice in the classroom, including producing unique resources and hosting INSET training for heads of biology.

Speaking about becoming a finalist, Natalie said: "Being announced as a finalist is really flattering but is also recognition for the work the whole department does. It is an exciting time for biology

and at Rendcomb, we are fortunate to have great access to ecology resources - fresh water streams, ponds and woodland areas. Pupils also benefit from state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment enabling analysis to be carried out on site."

Dr Mark Downs CSci FRSB, chief executive of the Royal Society of Biology said: "Congratulations to all those being shortlisted. We're proud to recognise those who exhibit outstanding commitment to teaching, inspiring the next generation of biologists and equipping students with the knowledge they'll need in the next stages of their lives."

Ju-don't Want To Mess With This Silver Medallist

02/02/18



12-year-old Chloe Witt, who is in Year 7, represented Rendcomb College and came second in the Under 12 category at the British Judo Association's 'Just for Girls' competition at High Wycombe's Judo Centre.

Chloe was defending her title having won the gold medal for the last three years. Chloe's father said: "What she is finding now is that as she gets older, the competition is getting tougher!"

This was the first year Chloe has represented Rendcomb College in the competition and she is looking forward to more success in the future.



International Women's Day Celebrated with STEM Speakers

16/03/18



Girls in the Senior School took part in a day of workshops and seminars led by women working in STEM industries as part of International Women's Day 2018.

10 women, all who work in industries related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, shared their extensive knowledge and careers advice to girls in Years 9 to 13.

28-year-old Lieutenant Madeline Pizzoni, a helicopter pilot in the British Army who is set to be flying the Puma later this year, spoke about her route into the armed forces. A self-confessed "girly girl", Madeline told the girls about her selection process and how, being just one of four female pilots among 500, she is hoping to one day become a rotary instructor following a number of military tours.

Three colleagues from AWE, the Atomic Weapons Establishment, the company responsible for maintaining the UK's nuclear deterrent, Trident,

spoke about careers in STEM and how to open a few more doors into careers the pupils might not have considered.

Heather McLeish, the Incident Communications and Coordination Lead at Microsoft, gave a strong message to the girls about their future saying: "They shouldn't ever let fear stand in their way and there's no pressure to make their minds up about exactly what they want to do."

Rachel Williams, who works as an independent consultant for pharmaceutical companies around the world said that: "Girls should be able to do what they like doing, careers aren't linear and they will take knocks along the way. They should do what interests them and keep their minds open to different opportunities."

10-Year-Old Recognised by British Ski Academy

30/04/18



Year 5 pupil, Joe O'Reilly Burge, has been accepted into the British Ski Academy U12 training programme for the 2018/19 season.

10-year-old Joe spent his Easter break on the ski slopes of the Pila ski resort in the Alps, trying out for the British Ski Academy and this year's U12 training programme.

The British Ski Academy is a bespoke ski school for 10 to 18-year-olds who are coached by ex-professional downhill racers. One of the coaches was Olympic slalom skier, Alain Baxter, who represented Team GB at three Olympic Games from 1998 to 2008. The Academy is recognised as the primary training programme for the next generation of downhill and slalom skiers.

Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE Gives Inspirational Speech to Pupils

30/05/18



As part of the Founder's Day celebrations, Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE gave rousing speeches to pupils and parents and spoke about her childhood experience of coming to the UK aged 11 from Trinidad in the 1960s. She encouraged pupils to go the extra mile, consider those less fortunate and face challenges head on.

Baroness Benjamin, who earlier in the week had won gold at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show for her Windrush Foundation Garden, had some words of advice for the pupils in the form of the 'three Cs.' She said: "Be considerate and have empathy; be contented in your heart and don't be jealous or envious; and have confidence, don't ever be afraid of tomorrow or ashamed of what you did yesterday."

Speaking about Rendcomb College, Baroness Benjamin said: "I can feel how much your teachers care about you. They walk the extra mile for all their pupils."

Fun on the Farm for Nursery and Reception

29/05/18

Nursery and Junior School Pupils visited the Cotswold Farm Park. The trip saw the 3 to 5-year-olds have a fun-filled day while being encouraged to ask more questions about the world around them.

The children saw some new-born piglets and attended a 'chick-chat' session with one of the animal keepers. Here, they learnt about all of the animals and were able to hold a baby chick and meet Amelie the bunny rabbit.



Kim Hardie, Head of EYFS, said: "Holding the baby animals took many of the children out of their comfort zones and encouraged them to experience new things and develop a greater understanding of the animals."

The children took tractor rides around the farm and saw horses, sheep and calves along the way. They even saw some sheep being sheared.

Royal Family in Attendance for Gold Award Presentation

14/05/18

Sixth Form pupil, Robert Sharman, received his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace in front of the Royal family and a host of celebrities.

18-year-old Robert was presented with the coveted Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Certificate and commemorative brooch alongside Old Rendcombian, James Sinfield who is now studying History at Loughborough University.

Over 1700 recipients of the Gold Award attended and were presented with their certificates by The Great



British Bake Off star, Paul Hollywood, in front of HRH the Princess Royal, Princess Anne; HRH the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward and his wife, Sophie, the Countess of Wessex.

To achieve the Gold Award Robert and James had to complete five sections which encompassed all the skills he had learnt during the Silver and Bronze Award.

The award also required him to hone a 'skill' over the course of a 12 month period, leading him to develop his shooting skills with the school's clay pigeon shooting team. Robert has since become captain of the team and represented the school at a number of national competitions.

The key task in the Gold Award was the week-long residential trip for all participants around the country. Robert's residential was spent mountain biking around the Peak District; he excelled during this week and has been asked to return next year to help run the residential trip for future Gold Award participants starting this summer.

Robert said: "I have gained so many invaluable skills taking part in the award. I would recommend the award, at any level, to all students as it is something I have greatly benefited from."



Pupils Bring Home Impressive Medal Haul

16/05/18



Junior and Senior School pupils were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals across a number of competitions at this year's Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts.

Year 10 pupil, Alex Hendrick, received an Honours award in the Songs from Shows category for his rendition of *Leaning on a Lamp-post* by George Formby. Alex also won a Distinction in the U16 Boys Solo Vocal category with his rousing performance of *O Mistress Mine* by William Shakespeare.

Year 10 pupil, Mia Endicott, also picked up 4 Gold, 3 Silver, and a Bronze medal across 8 solo, duet and trio categories.

15-year-old Carmen Lee collected a Bronze medal and 3 more Honours awards for her performances.

Edwin Ward, also in Year 10, came 1st in the Festival's Piano Open Recital competition. Edwin was awarded a Silver Rose Bowl in a presentation in the Cheltenham Town Hall.

Junior School pupils also had success with the Junior School Dance Troupe coming 2nd in the Junior School Group competition.

Reception pupil, Isabella Hayward-Wright, gained a Silver medal in the Solo 4 Years and under class performing her piece, *Little Miss Muffet*.

Pupils Dance Their Way into National Final

10/05/18



The Junior School Dance Troupe qualified for the National Grand Final of the Great Big British Dance Off after coming 3rd in the regional heat in Swindon.

The group of pupils from Year 3 to Year 6, performed their specially choreographed piece *Splash of Colour* to a packed crowd at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon on Monday, 26 March.

Their performance earned them a 3rd place finish which qualifies them for the National Grand Final in Oxford.

Sume Liebenberg, Head of Junior School Dance, said: "Many congratulations to all the children who took part in the competition, they have worked so hard. What an amazing team effort, we can't wait for the final now!"

Year 6 Pupils take on Duke of Edinburgh-Style Hike

08/05/18

Year 6 put their orienteering and map reading skills to the test as they planned and completed a 16 kilometre loop, beginning and finishing in Chedworth.

As part of their current Geography topic, Map Skills, Year 6 planned a Duke of Edinburgh style hike using what they had learnt in lessons and their orienteering skills.

The pupils used Digimaps, an online aerial mapping tool designed specifically for schools, coordinates

and compasses to plan their route. They took into consideration distance, contours, timing and safety.

Along the route the pupils also took part in Geocaching, an activity in which participants use a GPS and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches", at specific locations all over the world.

Year 6 Pupil, Amelia Holloway, said: "My favourite part of the trip was finding the Geocaches! The trip helped me learn how to use maps and compasses. I'm now much better than I was before."



From History Exam to Equestrian Success!

08/05/18

15-year-old Jessica Baker has been awarded 4th place in the BE100 class at the Mitsubishi Motors Cup competition just hours after sitting her History GCSE exam.



Following on from her success in the Regional Championships in September last year, Jessica and her horse Belville Clover have continued their impressive performances ranking 4th out of 91 entrants of all ages at the Mitsubishi Motors Cup competition.

The competition was held on Wednesday, 2 May at the beginning of one of the world's most famous sporting events – The Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials.

What made her achievement even more impressive was the fact she completed her History GCSE only two hours before she was scheduled to compete. Following her exam she made the hour long journey from Rendcomb to Badminton, leaving only an hour of preparation time before the competition.

German Pupils visit Rendcomb for a Week of Exploration and Celebration

04/05/18



We welcomed a number of German exchange students, giving them a taste of school life, involving them in both Junior and Senior School activities.

Year 9 and 10 pupils and their families hosted their German exchange partners for the week, guiding

them around the school and taking them on trips to a number of local attractions including Oxford, Cheltenham and Gloucester.

The week began with the German pupils reading stories to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in story time, in both German and English.

The German pupils had the chance to play cricket for the first time with coaching from Mr Thomason, Mr Summerbell and Rendcomb pupils before watching a cricket match in action.

The week was finished with a Royal Wedding tea party to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle and the birth of Prince Louis. There was a Royal Quiz and traditional British foods and drinks were served.

Head of Juniors, Mr Gavin Roberts, said: "It was great to see Junior School pupils interacting so confidently with our visitors. Our Year 6's impressed in particular as they interviewed our guests in German, a language they only started learning this year."

Musicians Launch Young Musicians Concert Series in Cheltenham

03/05/18

Senior School and Sixth Form musicians were invited to launch the Chapel Arts' Young Musicians' Concert Series in Cheltenham. Ten pupils performed in the converted Baptist chapel which is now Cheltenham's newest performing arts venue and gallery.

In front of an audience of more than 40 members of the public, pupils performed a varied programme of solo and ensemble pieces. Director of Music at Rendcomb College, Dr Edwards said: "The audience was very appreciative and the music department look forward to making further contributions to Cheltenham's performing arts scene."

Records Broken at Sports Day

26/06/18

The Senior School Sports Day took place on Saturday, 23 June with pupils collecting points for their school houses.

Parents were welcomed to Rendcomb College's sports fields as pupils from Years 7 to 10 competed



in a range of track and field events. Competitors represented one of four houses: Bannister, Edwards, Redgrave and Radcliffe.

Across the day a number of school records were broken. In the field events, Eleanor L broke the U12 girls' Javelin record with a throw of 17.65m while Mia E claimed the U15 girls' High Jump record with a height of 1.30m. Dillan S broke the U14 boys' Long Jump record with a jump of 5.30m. Dillan also claimed the U14 boys' High Jump with a height of 1.50m. Jasper R smashed the U13 boys' Discus record with a throw of 20.5m while the U12 boys' Javelin record and U12 Shot Putt records were claimed by Charlie W and Max P respectively.

On the track, Max P and Max J claimed the U12 and U13 400m records respectively.

Across the day there were a number of close contests including a photo finish in the U14 boys relay. The overall winners on the day were Bannister House.

Head of College, Rob Jones, said: "What a great day to end a fantastic sporting year. Congratulations to Bannister on their victory and a huge thank you to all the parents that attended and created such a wonderful atmosphere."

European Footballing Success for Year 7 Pupil

25/06/18

Year 7 Pupil, Jemima Lister, has recently competed in the Barcelona Girls Cup with Swindon Town Girls Centre for Football Excellence (CFFE) coming 3rd place against a host of European clubs.

11-year-old Jemima currently plays for Swindon Town Girls CFFE and Ashton Keynes U12 Youth Football Club. Earlier in the year Swindon Town Girls

CFFE had been invited to compete in the Barcelona Girls Cup, taking on some of the best girls teams from around Europe.



The tournament consisted of 2 groups of 5 teams who competed in a round robin tournament to decide the teams to go on to the knockout stages.

Swindon Town came second in their group on goal difference after winning against Catalonian team, UE Saints; Belgian Team, IK Dien; English team, St John's; and drawing against eventual tournament winners, EF Manu Lanzarote A.

Swindon Town proceeded to the Semi Finals where they lost to local team UD Viladecans. Their final game was against sister team, Swindon Town FITC, to decide 3rd and 4th place. Jemima and the team won the game on penalties and were awarded a bronze medal and 3rd place in the tournament.

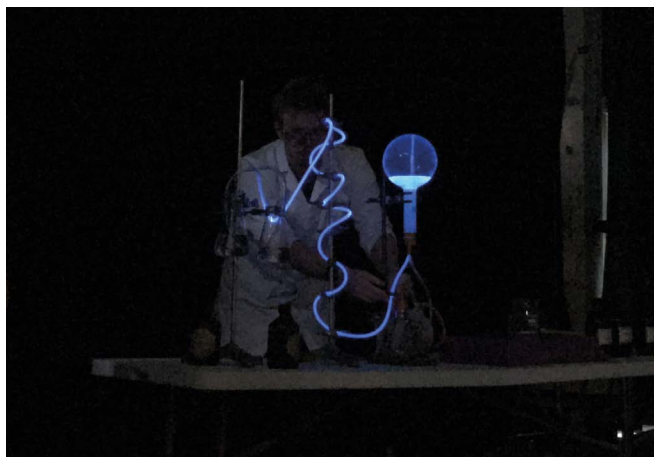
Jemima said: "It was an amazing experience. It was great to play against other girls from all over the world and I am so proud of the team for how far we got."

Off the pitch the team embraced the local culture and enjoyed the weather, spending down time on the beach and in the local swimming pool, while also cheering on their fellow Swindon Team.



Junior School Pupils Take Magical Journey into the World of Senior School

13/06/18



The Admissions Team welcomed over 60 Year 5 children and accompanying parents to a Harry Potter Tea Party where they spent the afternoon learning more about the Senior School and meeting future classmates and teachers.

The literary-themed event saw the children complete a quiz in the magical library and attend a 'potions class' with the 'potions master' before enjoying a banquet fit for any student of witchcraft and wizardry.

Children and parents were welcomed to Rendcomb College's stunning library by the librarian Ian Corkett, who was dressed as Dumbledore, for a drinks reception and quiz based on the 2001 novel, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. The library was decorated with mythical creatures, candles, and books and was buzzing with excitement.

Head of College, Rob Jones, and Head of Key Stage 3,

Rachel Fielding, welcomed the guests with speeches and gave them a brief introduction to life as a pupil at Rendcomb College Senior School.

Speaking about the event, Rob said: "What a magical way for the children and parents to end the week. It was a pleasure to meet so many future Senior School pupils and parents. The children all seem to have already made lots of friends."

The children attended a 'potions class' led by 'potions master', Matt Cox, Head of Science at Rendcomb College. They saw glowing potions, colour changing 'spells' and fireballs before working together in groups to solve the puzzle of the missing potion recipe using invisible ink.

Rendcomb Pupil Set to Star in Emmy Award Nominated Children's TV Programme

06/06/18



Nathan Seater-Messer has been cast as the leading role in Emmy award nominated children's television programme, *Sunny Day*.

13-year-old Nathan has been cast as the voice of Junior, a new character who will appear in Season 2 of the popular animated television show, which airs on British television channel Nick Jr.

Nathan Said: "When I was asked to audition I was extremely excited about the opportunity. It wasn't easy but I am incredibly happy to be a part of the show!"

The programme follows the adventure of Sunny, a hairdresser who runs her own salon. With the help of her talking dog Doodle, she solves problems around the town of Friendly Falls. The show boasts a diverse cast of animated characters in which Junior will become a regular part.

Sixth Formers are a 'Ground Force' for Good at Local Primary School

02/07/18



Sixth Form students spent a day at Stratton Church of England Primary School on Friday, 29 June, working on a 'Ground Force' project to clear and create a new outdoor learning area for the primary school's pupils.

Students in the Lower Sixth transformed an overgrown section of the school's site from unwieldy undergrowth into a new campsite area with seating, a small fire pit and path through to the pond.

Headmistress of Stratton Primary, Ceris Towler, said: "We are so thankful for all the effort put in by the pupils; they have done such an incredible job. The children cannot wait to use the area and are so excited to see their new campsite."

The project was managed by 17-year-old students Eve Harker and Tom Finch who led their team of Year 12s in designing the layout of the area and completing the various tasks throughout the day.

One group were tasked with sanding and painting the fencing at the front of the school while another group cleared the overgrown area and prepared seats and decorations.

They cut back the trees and bushes and moved large logs to uncover a huge amount of space for a campsite. Once cleared, they began outlining and

digging a path through the site to the sections where the seating would be placed.

Alice Wyndow, Deputy Head of Sixth Form at Rendcomb College, said: "I am so proud of all of the students involved. Their teamwork and dedication shone throughout the day and really showed what the Rendcomb College mind-set is about; being thoughtful about their community and ambitious in the tasks they set themselves.

"The Headmistress and I were both welling up in admiration and appreciation at all of their amazing work."

The newly-transformed area will be used by Stratton Primary for outdoor education and Forest School sessions and will be used by pupils across the school.

Rendcomb College Commended at Education Business Awards

06/07/18



The College's Music Department was commended in the School Music Award category at the Education Business Award Ceremony in London on Thursday, 5 July.

Rendcomb was nominated for the outreach work the Music Department has done over the past year, working with a number of local primary and secondary schools while offering specialist teaching to pupils.

Rendcomb earned the commendation for the Music Department's extensive outreach programme. During the past year, more than 100 children have attended each event.

Head of College, Rob Jones said: "The Music department at Rendcomb is forward-thinking, professional and gives so much back to the community. Being commended for such an award is a testament to the passion our staff have for their subject and their desire to share it with all pupils, regardless of experience or background.

"The work they have done, not only with our own pupils, but with the wider community truly demonstrates what the Rendcomb Family is all about."

Sports Award Dinner

12/07/18



On Friday, 22 June, Rendcomb held its annual Sports Award Dinner to celebrate the sporting achievements from throughout the year. The event was hosted by acclaimed sports woman, Jane Powell.

The night included speeches from sports coaches and each captain of their respective teams before prizes were awarded for Sportsman, Sportswoman and Team of the Year.

James N was awarded the Sportsman of the Year Award for captaining the Rugby team in another successful season including a best ever finish in Rendcomb's Jonny Wilkinson Cup.

The Sportswoman of the Year Award was presented to Emily S, who had stand-out seasons in both Lacrosse and Hockey.

After a tough decision, the 2018 Sports Team of the Year Award was presented to the Boys Hockey 1st XI for an outstanding season, finishing 2nd in the HGW Super 7's competition.

Mrs Karen Coups, Head of Lacrosse, said: "What a fantastic season it has been for sport at Rendcomb College. With fantastic achievements across the board, we look forward to seeing what the pupils accomplish next year both in and out of school. Congratulations to our winners and well done to everyone who has contributed to our sporting successes this year."

A Level and GCSE Results

Students picked up their A Level and GCSE results this year to news they had achieved the best results ever.

At GCSE level 51% of grades awarded were A*- A or 9 - 7 on the new system, an increase from 36% the previous year. 71% of all grades awarded were A*- B (9-6) an increase of 10% from 2017.

Deputy Head Academic, Nick Cox, said: "Over half of all grades awarded were A* or A or the equivalent grade of 7 or higher on the new 9 - 1 scale. There were outstanding results in Biology, Chemistry, History and Physics where over 65% of grades awarded were A or A*.

"This is a superb set of results for this talented Year 11 cohort. In true Rendcombian style, they were ambitious but thoughtful in supporting each other in their preparations. Our pupils have risen to the challenge of the new more demanding GCSE examinations to achieve the best set of grades seen at Rendcomb College - a remarkable achievement."

Nick continued: "We are very excited about working with this group in the Sixth Form next year and they will be joined by a number of outstanding youngsters from other schools. The newly introduced Arts Award and the C-Cubed programme await, to name just two of the curriculum enhancements that will keep pupils on their toes. We know they will flourish under the watchful eye of our dedicated staff and I look forward to seeing how far they can raise the bar on academic standards in the future."

Head of College, Rob Jones said: "Congratulations to all of our students on their results in what has been a challenging and changing landscape for them.

A Level students will be starting their next adventure with courses and destinations for students this year including Medicine at Exeter, Biochemistry

at Warwick, Music at Edinburgh, Genetics at Manchester, Film Studies at London Southbank and Computer Science at Keele.

Rob added: "We focus on the individual at Rendcomb with each pupil receiving tailored advice over the past two years to prepare them for their next steps and their future. Our team of experts have also been on hand to coach students and their families through these important, life-changing decisions.

"Rendcombians can count on one-to-one care and advice, a quality which is entrenched in our history. Being a small school, we are a close-knit family. While our Year 13s have finally flown the nest, we look forward to following their progress in the coming years."

Parents' Association Report

2017-18 saw in the newly combined Senior and Junior School Parents' Association, which has forged an even stronger bond between the schools' parent communities.

Throughout the year the Rendcomb College Parents' Association has raised funds through numerous cake sales and social activities including the ever-popular annual Curry & Quiz Night, and the Rendcomb Spring Fiesta, where parents shook off the winter blues, with the help of an exotic cocktail or two and a Mariachi Band.

The newly launched horsebox refreshment trailer was a popular destination at both Junior and Senior Sports Days, and at our final event of the year – the Junior School Summer Fete.

Funds raised have helped us to make numerous contributions to pupil enrichment via our newly launched grant request initiative, which is open to both pupils and teachers.

The following awards were made over the course of this academic year:

Refreshment Trailer - £4,000.00

The RCPA co-funded the purchase of a horsebox, which was converted into a tailored refreshment trailer for Rendcomb outdoor events.

"A huge thank you to the RCPA for your invaluable help in turning this idea into a reality. It's a fantastic

resource for any outdoor event, from helping us to keep warm and cheerful whilst supporting matches at Top Pitch in the cold winter months, to making the most of the summer sun at special events like the biennial Parent Pupil Tennis Tournament, Sports Day and the Summer Fete. We're looking forward to making great memories for us all to share." (Sarah Bell, Head of Hockey and Tennis)



Pillowman- £250.00

This grant enabled a talented group of Upper School thespians to stage a solely student-led drama production of Martin McDonagh's black comedy, "Pillowman" in March.

"I just wanted to say thanks for all your help with Pillowman. We couldn't have done it without you and the rest of the RCPA. It went amazingly on Friday and I couldn't be more pleased with how it all turned out." (Max McKeown, Student)

Piano - £2755.40



The RCPA was able to help the music department with the purchase of a fabulous digital grand piano for the Griffin Theatre.

"The RCPA's recent kind and extremely generous grant to the music department has allowed us to purchase a Yamaha Clavinova CLP 665 digital baby grand piano in a polished ebony case. The new piano has been installed in the gallery overlooking the foyer of the Griffin Theatre, and it commands wonderful views over the picturesque school grounds. The piano allows the foyer to be used as a breakout rehearsal, performance, and teaching space. This latest addition to the College's Music Department further extends the excellent facilities we have on offer and will allow us to further develop the Griffin Theatre as a focus for musical and dramatic excellence at the very heart of the school." (Dr Tom Edwards – Director of Music)

Double Bass - £170.00

The music department approached the RCPA with a request to fund the restoration of a Rendcomb legacy.

"In June 2017 we were donated several violins and a double bass from the estate of John Goodborn OR. The double bass is particularly interesting as it was made whilst John was a pupil here from a tree felled from the estate. When it arrived at Rendcomb the instrument was badly damaged and unplayable, the RCPA generously funded the complete rebuilding and restoration of the bass, known by its maker as 'Bertha', by Chris Monk of Cheltenham Violins. Taking a period of several months Chris has thoroughly restored the bass and returned it to playing condition. I would like to thank the RCPA for their generous support which has enabled us to restore this piece of Rendcomb's history, thereby allowing future generations to benefit from this kind legacy." (Dr Tom Edwards, Director of Music)

Numnahs for the Riding Team - £153.00

A request for numnahs – essential saddle pads which cushion the saddle and protect the horse's back - was happily given the green light.

"I would like to thank the RCPA for this kind donation. I have had the numnahs logged and we are now competing on the inter schools circuit with branding and now our students are recognised as coming from Rendcomb." (Karen Coups – Head of Equestrianism)

Photo Booth Hire for Y10/11 Ball - £299.00

An annual staple at the Ball, the Photo Booth is highly popular and the RCPA is happy to fund fun too.

Year 6 Leavers' Party- £450.00

The RCPA ensures that the Year 6 Leavers have a party to remember with an annual contribution to this special event.

Bushcraft Equipment - £500.00

The RCPA was delighted to fund the purchase of equipment to enhance the bushcraft area which is being created next to Forest School for use by pupils across the College. So far, a sheltered teaching area and a new fire pit has been created. Further development will include a tarped fire pit area and new seating.

"Thank you to the RCPA for funding the purchase of additional equipment for our bushcraft area which will benefit pupils across both the Senior and Junior Schools". (Jon Arnold – Year 6 Teacher)



Shooting Jackets - £895.00

The Rendcomb Shooting Team (boys and girls) has grown in reputation, with the girls' team bringing back the winners' trophy from the clay pigeon competition hosted by Harrow School last year. Both the girls and boys' teams beat Harrow, Rugby and Sherborne Schools at the Millfield competition this year, coming in 5th and 8th out of 24 respectively. They felt they needed the kit to match their success and the RCPA was happy to oblige.

"On behalf of the shooting team could I just say a big thank you to the RCPA for all the work you put in and for the funding for the shooting jackets we now have. The shooting team are really appreciative of these jackets, and we're now fully equipped to take the team to the top of the league." (Robert Sharman - Captain)



Economics Entrepreneur Scheme – Loan of £250

Funding was provided (in the form of a loan) for a "Grow Your Tenner Challenge" – where the Sixth Form ran small enterprise projects over the course of a month. When they paid the £10 back any surplus was donated to 'Lend With Care' - a charity which supports entrepreneurs in the developing world.

Some projects included making decorative bowls, importing genuine parmesan from Italy and running a fast food delivery service!

"It was a fun experience for staff and students alike and hopefully will light some entrepreneurial fires for the future. Many thanks to the RCPA for encouraging these initiatives." (Dan Britton, Head of Business and Economics)



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