

Rendcombian

2019-20

QUO LUX DUCIT







Welcome



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Mr Rob Jones, Welcome from the Head of College

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this year's Rendcombian magazine. My thanks to all the contributors and especially to Mrs Brealy and Mr Elliott-Jones in editing and producing such a great publication. When I applied for the job of Head of College back in 2014, the Governors asked me to explain what I wanted Rendcomb to look like in 2020 – I can assure you that lockdowns, remote learning and COVID did not feature in my presentation; but I can say that 'joy', 'aspiration' and a determination to keep improving definitely did!

Rendcomb is highly aspirational in its approach, we expect the pupils to work hard and progress academically but we also expect that progression in a wider sense; characters develop based on sound values and pupils respect and serve their community as they aspire to be the best they can be!

It has been quite a year and certainly not what we expected but one where imagination, resilience and teamwork from parents, pupils and staff have been in abundance in order for our Rendcombians to get the education that we all want for them.

Looking through these pages reminds me of all the wonderful things that has been achieved by individuals and the community this year. Watching the 1st XV show incredible team spirit and a refusal to be bowed, or the young girls' 1st XI winning so many of their hockey matches against older more experienced opposition was such a pleasure. This year also saw badminton and basketball fixtures with the latter experiencing one of the closest finishes in Rendcomb Sport's one hundred year history.

The arts also gave us some wonderful moments from the carol service in Cirencester, with such fine musical performances, to the incredible if other worldly 'We Will Rock You' with its young cast. All who saw the play are unlikely to ever forget the wonderful performances including the hilarious interaction between the 'Killer Queen' and her wicked henchman.



The academic calendar was busy with skills development and competitions in English, Maths, Biology, Computing, Debating, Drama and Music. The sciences provided some fabulous enrichment in the form of STEM week and some fascinating discussions with OR Doug Ellison who now works at NASA.

Not to be outdone the Modern Languages and Geography Departments ran trips locally, regionally and to foreign shores including a very successful exchange just before lockdown. We also piloted a Year 11 and Year 13 'bridging programme' that helped pupils make the jump from GCSE to A levels and A levels to university this year and, while this was implemented as a result of COVID, we will be developing something similar going forward.

Of course we were forced to move to an online set up in March but once again the determination and teamwork of all involved ensured that our pupils kept learning, continued to have structure in their lives and were also supported by their tutors.

It has been quite a year and things will continue to be a little strange for some time to come, but this magazine proves that, as in challenging times before, Rendcomb continues to thrive and the pupils have been able not only to progress but also to enjoy their education. It has been a Centenary Year to remember!





School Community

Business Support

Although there is much that could be said about the past year, the key message has been the adaptability and resourcefulness of all the Business Support teams as we came to terms with the new normal.

The early part of the year had seen the successful refurbishment works completed in both Godman and Old Rectory – that all seems a very long time ago!

The days before schools were closed in March saw our Housekeeping and Medical teams dealing with the rapidly changing situation with good humour and professionalism.

After closure, our Catering team provided meals for those in the local community who were self-isolating, whilst the Estates team got to paint and maintain those areas that are normally in constant use.

All the time the Administrative team dealt with the usual range of queries, questions and events, often in unusual ways, but enlivened with the 'Dress-Up' Wednesdays that lifted our spirits and provided some welcome light relief.

Our thanks go to all members of this committed and hard-working team for everything they have done this year.



Dress Up Wednesday was a big hit!



The catering team did a fantastic job of feeding the local community



The Estates Team (L-R Brett Leese, Jake Baldwin, Ronnie Moseleit, Ann Hardy, Gary Wood, Andy Bennett, Harry Evans & Dan Robbins)

Chapel Reflections

Since the College moved to the current time-table structure, the chapel services and assemblies have all been scheduled on one day. Tuesday has become the Rendcomb day for worship! Among other advantages, this allows us to make economic use of the very effective new heating system in St Peter's Church.



At 8.45 the Otters, Years 1 and 2 plus Reception, enjoy a story, a song and a prayer in their own area, but in the afternoon a succession of groups walk over to the parish church, Years 3 to 6 at 1.20pm, Years 11, 12 & 13 at 2pm and Years 7 to 10 at 2.35pm. Each service lasts about 20 minutes and includes two hymns, a 'Thought for the Day' and a prayer. 'Jerusalem' and 'Shine Jesus Shine' remain the favourite hymns but the repertoire expanded during this year and the singing was developing into quite a good sound before lockdown struck!

The service for each of the two senior groups concludes with a few minutes for reflection as Mr Wright plays a piece on the organ.



A lot of people have commented on how much they have missed the time in Chapel, since the COVID outbreak hit us. It's difficult to quantify but the twenty minutes, giving the opportunity to step out of normal routine and find space to reflect, in a peaceful sixteenth century building, is a valued part of the week for many.



Once again, the College community gave generously to the harvest collection. The chaplain's Skoda Octavia was very fully laden as he made two journeys to donate the tins and packets, half to the Cirencester Project for Homeless Young People (CHYP) and half to the local foodbank.

A highlight of 2019 was the evening of Remembrance Day when the College Choir sang Faure's Requiem, interspersed with appropriate bible readings and poems.



Pre-COVID the church burst into life again on Wednesday evenings when the church bells were rung as part of the College Activity programme. A number of students have become proficient ringers, notably James Gardener and Max Jones who now ring with the adult group which follows on from the students.

Staff Welcomes

We have seen a number of new staff start at Rendcomb College. In case you haven't met them all yet, this section will show you their happy smiling faces and job roles.



Hannah Thompson
Headmasters PA



Jennifer Roberts
Junior School Teacher



Elizabeth Hayes
VMT Piano



Rowan Elliott-Jones
Finance Manager



Michaela Deering
SEN Teacher



Eleanor Yates
Junior School TA



Kate Knill-Jones
School Nurse



Caroline Collett
School Nurse



Rebecca Gee
Maths Teacher & Exam
Officer



Yvette Cummings
VMT Singing



Kathleen Scarrott
Housekeeper



Kitty Garland
Housekeeper



Marian James
Computer Science
Teacher



Kate Enslin
Gap Tutor



Ronnie Moseleit
Estates Team Painter



Charlotte Harris
English Teacher



Eleanore Short
Junior School Teacher



Michael Bacon
VMT Cello



Chris Elliott-Jones
Head of Marketing

Staff Leavers

Marina & Simon Kinson



This is the house the Kinsons built.

This is the pizza that lay in the house the Kinsons built.

These are the 100 girls that ate the pizza

That lay in the house the Kinsons built.

This is Tilly and Leo that chased the 100 girls

That ate the pizza that lay in the house the Kinsons built.

This is the 3rd assistant that petted the dogs

That chased the girls that ate the pizza

That lay in the house the Kinsons built.

This is the fire alarm with the bellowing horn

That startled the assistant that petted the dogs

That chased the girls that ate the pizza

That lay in the house the Kinsons built.

This is the Estates team all prepared

That silenced the alarm with the bellowing horn

That startled the assistant that petted the dogs

That chased the girls that ate the pizza

That lay in the house the Kinsons built.

This is Mr Howorth all tattered and torn

That thanked the Estates team all prepared

That silenced the alarm with the bellowing horn

That startled the assistant that petted the dogs

That chased the girls that ate the pizza

That lay in the house the Kinsons built.

Aimee Ratapana

Staff Leavers

Mrs Michelle Lucas-Halliwell



Having spent 10 years at Rendcomb College, Michelle was an incredibly well respected member of staff. She taught ICT when she first joined the school and successfully introduced the school's first BTEC course. When she wasn't teaching, Mrs. Lucas-Halliwell could be found on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, leading treks to Everest Base Camp and Morocco. In latter years, Michelle was responsible for Safeguarding which she delivered with the same vigour and enthusiasm that she brought to all aspects of her school career. Michelle has moved on to be Director of Student Welfare at Cheltenham College.

Mr Stephen Clarke



A stalwart of the maths department, Mr Clarke retired from Rendcomb College in 2020. As a teacher, Mr. Clarke showed amazing patience and passion in a subject that is not every student's favourite. Catering to all levels, by the end of each class the students certainly left richer for his efforts and enthusiasm. Outside of the classroom Mr. Clark showed many of his other attributes, be it with a sharp Cruyff turn and displaying an eye for a through ball in the staff-student football games, through to his lovely attitude and support for students while around stable block.

Josephine Murray



Mrs Murray brought, from her original training as a journalist, adaptability, flexibility and detailed preparation. She used these skills to teach in a range of different schools in the area and has taught all three languages at Rendcomb, which is a first for us.

During her time here she showed great resourcefulness and keen enthusiasm, with a very positive outlook.

Mrs Sue Ellis



Sue Ellis became involved with Rendcomb College in the mid 1990's, following a career in education and adult and young peoples' health education.

She started off with PSHE classes then moved onto individual support for students with emotional and personal health worries. Over time this work increased, alongside working for the drug and alcohol service training other health care professionals.

Training increased to include mental health

issues and counselling skills with young people.

Sue said that she found it a privilege to support staff and students that were experiencing emotional distress and anxiety. Sue felt that although she could not always fix things, she believed that being able to talk to someone when in crisis, is a step towards getting well.

Being part of the Safeguarding team has been challenging and important for the students, medical and pastoral staff. Sue will miss driving into Rendcomb each week and listening to students share their stories. She wants to pass on her thanks to everyone at Rendcomb College for the memories.



Sister Julia Vaughan

we said goodbye to Sister Julia Vaughan as she left to start an exciting new life in Oman.

Julia held many roles at Rendcomb over the years and each of them was undertaken with endless kindness and empathy towards our pupils, and with their best interests at heart. Although as a nurse she also demonstrated the essential knack of firmness when faced with pupils exhibiting sudden illness just before a wet games session!

Julia's kindness extended well beyond our pupils and she was a frequent 'other mother' for our gap students.



Obituary

Emma Drew (Staff 2001-19)



Emma very sadly passed away after a short battle with illness on February 14, 2020. Emma was only 45 years old and had been employed at Rendcomb College as a member of the Housekeeping Team, working in the Junior School from 2001 until shortly before her sad passing. Emma could often be found with her son James quietly working the early mornings and late evenings making sure that the Junior School was ready for the next day. Emma was one of the first to volunteer for services for any functions and events at the College, always bringing her smile and can-do attitude. She will be greatly missed but not forgotten, our thoughts are with her son and her family.

The Library

Along with most other aspects of College life, until March 2020 the rhythm of the Rendcomb Library's academic year was a familiar one.



Autumn way-markers have traditionally included Inductions and Bookbuzz for Year 7 newcomers, in-class Library Catalogue refreshers for Years 8, 9 and (in their Learning to Learn

sessions) 10, and early introductions to specialist book sets for A-Level classes in subjects such as English, History, Economics and Business.

Familiar autumn "Days" were again celebrated: for National Poetry, Holocaust Memorial, Remembrance and World Books (the annual Big Book Quiz taking place in the Library for the first time); specialist activities were organised for English classes studying *Animal Farm*, *Of Mice and Men* and *An Inspector Calls*, and for Year 9 Historians supporting their period studies with historical novels about *The Suffragettes*, *The Great War*, *The Russian Revolution* and *Inter-war America*; and in mid-March came the annual visit of the Junior Schools Nursery students for their now annual afternoon activities of a lively stickers? game and some hefty book-stamping!

Eddying around these annual fixtures, themed book displays were offered weekly (for the Rugby World Cup, for example, or for Greta Thunberg and the Climate Change Movement, or for the authors that Year 7

English students had met at the Cheltenham Literature Festival), quiet reading lessons came and went, entrance test candidates strained at Library computers, and prospective students and their parents stood at the Library door - quite often wide-eyed - on their round-campus tours.



As ever, the Library advertised itself through the Headmaster's Assembly, this year by a presentation on its excellent collection of Art books, the illustrated talk followed up by a College-wide Competition (*Pictures Into Words*) for creative writing prompted by six inspiring paintings. Unusually, this year, the Library also recorded a series of audio recommendations (of novels and poems) for Valentine's Day!

All of which familiar and enjoyable activity abruptly ended on March 23rd, 2020! No sooner had the longlisted novels for this year's Carnegie Medal arrived at the College Reception (usually followed in the Library by some middle school "Speed Dating" with those books) than the COVID lockdown shut Library, College and national life as we knew it.



21st-28th November, 2019 ▪ *Reading Pictures*

But, as is often the case, closure somewhere means an opening somewhere else: while the College continued inventively online, the Library advertised books and reading through a series of Podcasts (still available on the Library page of Firefly). These weekly programmes identified online resources (particularly in the Aladdin's Cave of the Gloucestershire Libraries website) and recommended books through themed talks on lockdown topics such as: "empathy" "taking ones time" and "noticing things"?

As I write, the Library is now part of Rendcomb's Years 10-13 bubble and so faces new challenges to enthuse and service the many keen young readers in the Middle School through a "Click and Deliver" system (the Librarian now as much classroom-to-classroom salesman as traditional room curator and academic enquiries clerk).

But, again, cramp prompts creativity so the lessened footfall of this Michaelmas Term will allow a comprehensive stock-taking of resources, a long overdue re-shelving of the Library's books (to create, for instance, an eye-catching and accessible "Fiction Wall" at the Library entrance), clear new signage and the creation of a reliable Library "map". With these initiatives and alterations the Library will move forward, all the time respectful of the history, fabric and valuable acquisitions of its past.

Hopefully, when restrictions are lifted, the Rendcomb Library will be an even more attractive place for information gathering, quiet contemplation and fulfilling study.

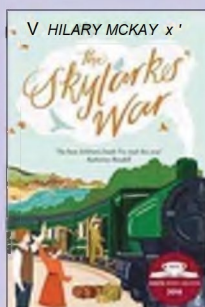
Ian Corkett



Now On Library DISPLAY

Highly Recommended New Stories

The Skylarks' War
by Hilary McKay



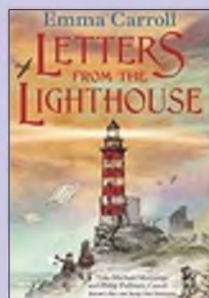
Fairy Tales
by Hilary McKay



The Time of Green Magic
by Hilary McKay



Letters from The Lighthouse
by Emma Carroll



When We were Warriors
by Emma Carroll



The Good Thieves
by Katherine Rundell



Charity Work

We were able to fit in a few charity events this year before the pandemic reduced our ability to hold them.

In October the whole school took part in the race for life, which saw an amazing turn out, and some dubious costumes, but raising over £2,200.

You can view the video here:
<https://vimeo.com/rendcombcollege/raceforlife>

We also held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, raising a fantastic £620.

Ian Corkett, the College's Librarian, who organised the staff cake sale commented that it was: "A wonderful way to get colleagues together in a common purpose for such a brilliant cause. We had our cake and ate it...and then we ate some more. ."





Rendcomb College Parents' Association

Reusable water bottles were given to all Rendcomb pupils as a gift from the Parents' Association this year.

All pupils, staff and parents are very keen to help reduce waste and maximise sustainability wherever they can.

The Eco Committee quickly identified that the use of plastic bottles in school was an area of the College which could easily be improved upon.

Water bottles which used to be issued for trips and fixtures were phased out. Rendcomb College Parents' Association then came up with the initiative to give every child at the school a reusable water bottle. This will dramatically help to reduce our single-use plastic within our school community.

Chair of the Rendcomb College Parents' Association (RCPA) Zoe Wolton said: "The RCPA is delighted to support the College's eco-initiatives in its centenary year by presenting every child in the Junior and Senior School with a vacuum insulated stainless steel water bottle."

Head of College, Rob Jones stated: "We are extremely grateful to the RCPA for their kind support of the College's Eco-initiatives. In our Centenary year, it is clear that Rendcomb is staying true to the Founders vision of a 'social, moral and intellectual education' and I am incredibly proud of our pupils who are spearheading our drive take a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach."

Eco Committee staff member, George Toms commented: "With the generous gift of the reusable water bottles for every pupil from the Parents' Association, it is great to see an initiative raised by the Eco Committee fully supported by the whole school with the tremendous support from our parents."



The Juniors with their water bottles presented by the RCPA



The Senior School were presented with their bottles in Headmaster's Assembly

Founders Day

With the country in lockdown at the time of Founders' Day, the usual celebrations were not able to take place.

Students were, however, treated to a special online appearance by Old Rendcombian, Doug Ellison, giving a valuable insight into his work at NASA, providing the mission and tasking of the cameras from both the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) and the Mars Exploration Rovers (MER), Spirit and Opportunity.

Doug, based at the Jet Propulsion Lab in California, had an early start due to the time difference, but that didn't stop him enthralling students for well over an hour and a half, and answering all of their questions.

We are hoping to have Doug back in the UK for Founder's Day 2021, or at the very least on the big screen.



A Navigation Camera mosaic taken by the rover on the 2,616th day of its mission. Parts of the rover, it's shadow, and the 18,000ft tall Mt Sharp are all visible. Photo credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech







Academic Departments

Computing



The CyberFirst Girls' Competition provides a fun but challenging environment to inspire the next generation of young women to consider a career in cyber security.



The CyberFirst Girls' Competition 2020

We had two teams this year from Rendcomb, and one of those teams made it to the semifinal, on February 8th.

They had to complete a series of complex online challenges over 9 days. They put in a huge amount of effort and time, working through their breaks, after school and at home.

Marian James and Chris McGuire are extremely proud of all of them, and it is a testament to the level of expertise our Computing teachers impart on our students.

Team name: The Rendcombians

Vittoria Muccilli

Evelyn Mathur

Ameline Poussier

Imogen Langley



The team placed 4th out of 28 teams participating in the semifinal. An absolutely fantastic result!



“NOW MORE THAN EVER, CYBER SECURITY IS CRUCIAL. WE’VE GONE ONLINE FOR EVERYTHING AND IT MEANS WE’RE LEAVING MORE DATA OUT FOR PEOPLE TO GET.”

Geography

The COVID situation significantly disrupted the Geography Department's plans for fieldwork, with the Key Stage 3 and 5 classes missing out altogether.

Fortunately, the GCSE classes did go on their fieldwork trips in September and early November.

The Year 10 GCSE classes had a very successful fieldwork data collection morning in Gloucester's city centre where they were collecting footfall, environmental quality and land usage data.

This was followed by experiencing the Gloucester Docks' regeneration area.



The Year 11 classes went to the North Somerset coast for the collection of beach data such as pebble size and changing slope gradients at Bossington Beach.

A group of Year 11s experiencing a rock armour groyne at Minehead and the resulting Terminal Groyne Syndrome.



The second day was spent at Minehead studying the area's coastal management strategies as well as at Kilve beach to study erosion features and processes.



English



Literary House Party



Cheltenham Literature Festival

It was a rather busy year for the English Department with trips to the theatre for Years 9-11, Cheltenham Literature Festival for Years 7-9, a visiting storyteller for students in J5-Year 13, the annual Big Book Quiz (with a wonderful book stall) for all students, Reading on the Stairs with staff and students to celebrate World Book Day and, of course, the annual Literary House Party for our Sixth Form Literature students.

Alongside the enrichment events, a great deal of writing, debating, analysing and critical thought has occurred throughout the year and resulted in a good deal of laughter, detective work, and screams (in the case of *The Woman in Black*).

We would also like to congratulate Emily C (Yr 11) and Will J (Yr 8) for winning entries in the Sky Arts Britannia poetry anthology *Where I Live* and Ted W (Yr 7) for his descriptive writing win.



Literary House Party



Annual Big Book Quiz



Annual Big Book Quiz



Year 8, Lindbergh Abduction

Dryad.

*You are a tree nymph,
A dryad.
Your small hand clasping a stick sword,
Your soft cheeks streaked with blackberry warpaint.*

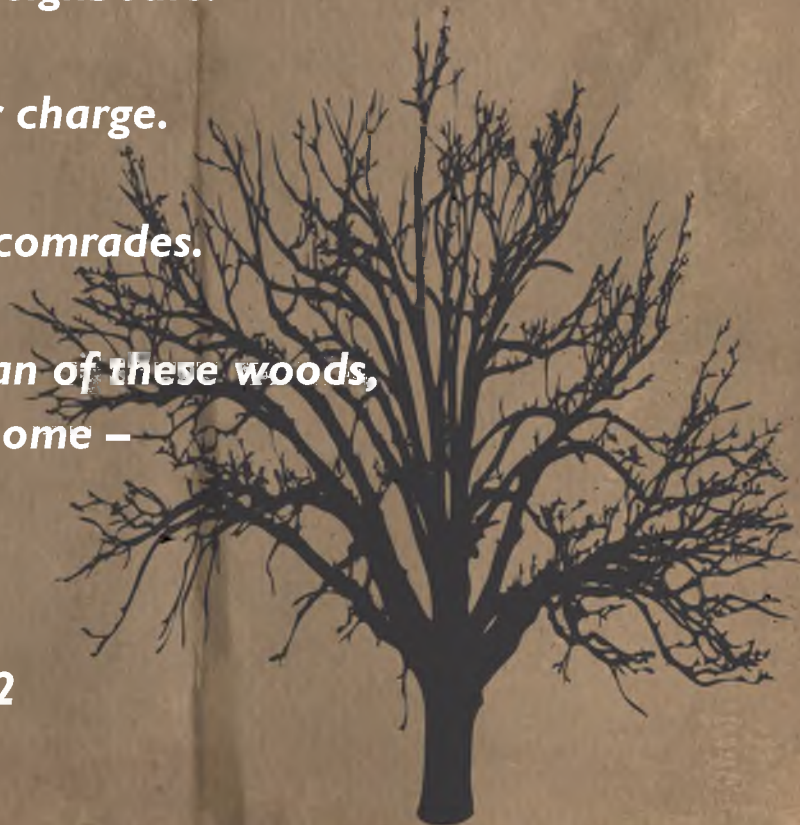
*The rain has softened the ground for you,
Silencing your footsteps;
Feet clad in colourful wellingtons.
The wind whispers her secrets,
Borne by the branches.*

*You shake hands with the trees,
For they are your elders.
You wave to the deer,
For they are your neighbours.*

*The foxes join your charge.
You are a warrior,
And they are your comrades.*

*You are the guardian of these woods,
For they are your home –
Your sanctum.
A world of other.*

By Rosie Parkes Y12



History



In October the History department took a range of Y10 and Y11 students on the Battlefields trip.

Over a jam-packed three days, we visited multiple sites in Ypres and the Somme, including; Thiepval memorial, Tyne Cot cemetery, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Lochnagar crater and Bayernwald trench system. Pupils gained a much deeper appreciation of conditions and events on the Western Front.

We attended the moving, Last Post, ceremony at the Menin Gate, where two of our students laid a wreath from Rendcomb College. Many of the stops allowed a 'hands on' experience; as students handled artefacts such as gas masks and soldiers' uniform, and walked through the trenches.



Despite the busy schedule, there was still a little time to shop for chocolates in Ypres!



Business Studies & Economics

The 2019-20 academic year was a very successful one for our budding entrepreneurs. September saw the development of two Young Enterprise businesses, Capt-ECO and Greeco-X, both of which would go on to achieve great things in the Young Enterprise Competition and the Cotswold Challenge.

Capt-ECO were a group of Year 13 pupils who came up with an idea last year, which would involve collecting plastic waste from school and, turning it into recycled 3D filament, using an extruder which they made themselves from a kit.



Greeco-X, from Year 12, developed an educational board game which helps young people understand more about the environment.



Cashing in on a growing trend for board games and a desire to do more to help the planet, the team used all recycled materials and their own design and practical skills to create the board games. They have now been approached by external business people to help them take the product to market on a larger scale, and some of the team are taking this forward.

Capt-ECO team were Oliver Clark, Sun Sun Siripoorikan, Anthony Wong, Apple Yeung, Thomas Haynes, David Sun
 Capt-ECO – winners of the Product Development (including Creativity and Innovation) Award in Young Enterprise
 Capt – ECO – winners of the Sustainability and Ethics award in Young Enterprise
 Capt – ECO – 2nd overall in the Cotswold Challenge for Innovation out of 80 entries.

Greeco-X were Jacob Matthews, Freddie Haynes, Matthew Krenik, Delilah Vincent, Millie Butler, Emma Roberts, Nathan Roberts, William Marriot, Abigail Goodwin, Tamara Acocks, Sophie Williams, Nik Ruhland, Max Geary.
 Greeco-X – Runners up of Best Video Presentation in Young Enterprise
 Greeco-X – Runners up overall meaning they placed 2nd overall in Gloucestershire for Young Enterprise
 Greeco-X – Commended in the Cotswold Challenge (top 10 out of 80 entries).



Art and Photography



Tessa Wright, GCSE



Emmaleigh Holder, GCSE



Tessa Wright, GCSE



Serena Stanley, GCSE



Josh Carr, A Level



Phoebe David-Ward, A Level



Josh Carr, A Level



Nicky Musgrave, GCSE



Tessa Wright, GCSE



Nicollo Pericoli, A Level



Rosie Howell, GCSE



Nell Hanks, GCSE



Nicky Musgrave, GCSE

Modern Languages



Rendcomb does a Spanish exchange!

Through an Old Rendcombian connection, the College established a Hispanic link with Elian's British School in La Nucía, Alicante.

At the end of February 2020, a group of 14 students were hosted by Rendcomb families in Year 10.

As well as visiting Oxford and Cirencester, the exchange students read Spanish stories with the Junior School, baked an afternoon tea and completed command tasks in the Wilderness. They also visited Stratford-Upon-Avon to see David Walliams' critically acclaimed production 'The Boy in the Dress' at the RSC.

It was an unforgettable week and therefore, a sad morning bidding farewell to the exchange. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we still have not been able to complete our return journey out to Spain but we will stay e-twinned with Elian's until a time when it is safe to do so.





We were fortunate to be able to run the German trip in February this year and to bring everyone back in good health and good spirits a few weeks before lockdown began.

The trip followed our usual format with a small number of Year 9 and 10 students spending the week in families and the larger group of Year 7 and 8 pupils staying with staff in a youth hostel near our partner school, Gymnasium Calvarienberg. As well as shadowing their partners in school and going on a number of outings in Cologne and Bonn, the exchange students had great fun getting to know Ahrweiler, with its beautiful half-timbered houses surrounded by the medieval town walls. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly taking part in the local carnival procession and making it into the local press.

The Year 7 and 8 youth hostel trip, which has been based in the area around Ahrweiler for over twenty years, was just as action-packed, with visits to the cities of Bonn, Cologne and Ahrweiler. Once again, the most popular destinations were undoubtedly the Lindt museum and factory and the Haribo superstore; however, pupils also greatly enjoyed trips to Cologne Zoo, a 20th Century German History museum, the Nürburgring, the Drachenfels cog railway, Beethoven's house and a swimming pool complex with amazing slides.

We would like to thank Mrs Fischbach and all staff at our partner school, for their continued support of this very successful trip and exchange programme and we look forward to many more trips to Germany in the future.



The EAL Department and International Events

Last year we held our annual International celebration evening in November in the Dulverton Hall. This evening gives our international students the chance to showcase food, music, traditional skills and dress from their countries. It's lots of fun (apart from the washing up at the end of the night!).

In March we held our International Stars concert. Every year we discover the hidden talents of our international students when they take to the stage in the Griffin Theatre and perform to students and teachers.

It's always an eclectic mix of acts and 2020 was no different. We had magic, singing, piano playing, flutes, Irish dancing and beat-boxing, to name a few! It was a really fun evening with lots of laughs and we can't wait for next years concert! As one audience member said: "The Stars Concert is a useful glue to bring everyone together".



Éling

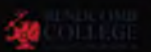
2020.03.11

International stars concert

The International stars concert was at 7.30 p.m, on 10th March 2020 in the Griffin Theatre. There were many performances in the International stars concert. When you attend this concert, you can sit wherever you want. There was piano playing, singing, dancing and magic. The performers were all from different countries and places. It was a nice concert which showed many different cultures. My favourite act was Mia's singing. It was extremely fantastic and inspiring. David's B-box was magical! Nobody knows how to make different sounds at the same time! Also, Isabella was playing piano and singing at the same time. her voice is quite beautiful.



INTERNATIONAL STAR CONCERT



DATE: 10th March 2020

VENUE: Griffin Centre

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

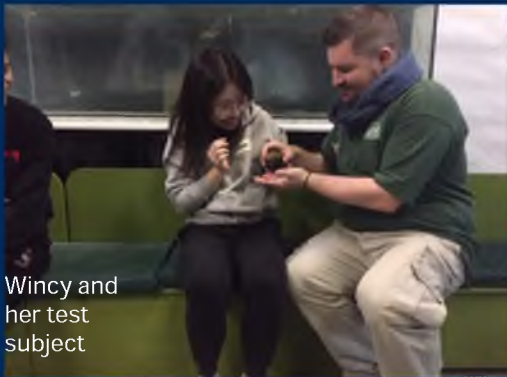


Psychology

Psychology students this year were most fortunate in being able to complete their favourite trip to Bristol Zoo just before lockdown due to the pandemic.



Students had workshops on 'Learning and Behaviour' and 'Conducting observations'



Wincy and her test subject

They picked one animal to observe closely, using the techniques they had been shown, and conducted their own detailed observation.



After lunch they presented their findings and evaluated their research. Obviously there was some time to visit other animals and enjoy the zoo.

Year 12 this year were Tamara Acocks, Mason Kennedy, Millie Butler, Wincy Lo, Vission Zhu and Delilah Vincent.



The Year 13 group were able to take some new optional units: Gender, Aggression and Schizophrenia were explored and very much enjoyed by the group, with some interesting and heated discussions.

Unfortunately, Year 13 were unable to finish their studies in the usual way, but remote learning gave us an opportunity to explore topics such as 'changing human behaviour during a pandemic' and other relevant issues.



Tamara, Delilah and Millie making observations

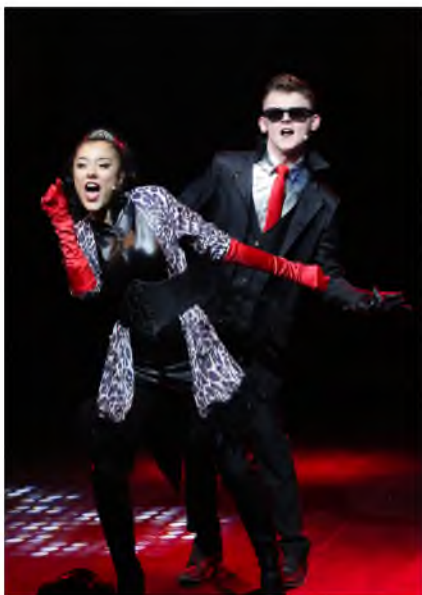
Year 13 were Trisha Barua, Phoebe David-Ward, Josh Green, Bailey Harris and Sunsun Siripoorikan.



Drama

An excellent year for Drama at Rendcomb saw pupils across the entire Senior School join together to create an amazing tribute to the talent and legacy of Queen in 'We Will Rock You'.

The opportunity to belt out lyrics and dance to twenty-two of Queen's greatest hits was the adrenaline ride of a lifetime and the cast thrived on it, performing with pride, energy and unwavering commitment.



Mia Endicott dazzled as the villainous Killer Queen, ably assisted by her sinister henchman, Bailey Harris's Khashoggi.

The Rebels fought back valiantly, led by Nathan Seatter-Messer's Galileo and Emily Finch's Scaramouche, with a truly Rocktastic rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody to finish.



Every aspect of the Griffin Theatre had its own stars: a talented Stage Management crew, led by Ellie Miles-Sayers and Emily Cannon, technicians who thrived on professional guidance as they plotted and lit the show and Backstage Club, who worked with creativity and flair costuming the actors and providing some awe inspiring props.



LAMDA also flourished, with students working towards accredited examinations in Acting, Speaking in Public and Musical Theatre whilst building communication, performance skills and confidence.



Drama Tour

The Drama Tour was filled with fun and exciting experiences! On Friday the 8th November 2019, we checked into our hostel and went straight to Shakespeare's Globe for a tour and a Lively Action workshop.

After working up an appetite, we walked along The Thames to Wildwood for a delicious evening meal, before seeing 'The Play That Goes Wrong' at the Duchess Theatre, which was hilarious!

The next day, we went for a backstage tour of The National Theatre which was filled with awe inspiring props, scenery and behind the scenes information. I loved seeing the horse puppets that were used in War Horse! We then went on a Thames River Cruise and saw the beautiful London landscape. This was followed by a trip to see a chilling performance of The Woman In Black at The Fortune Theatre.

We then headed to Covent Garden and, after a little bit of shopping, went for burgers at Byron to finish the tour.

Nathan Seatter-Messer



A puppet from Warhorse



Costume dept.



The Play That Goes Wrong



More amazing Costumes

-The Box-

Christmas. Our lounge had been smothered with Lego. My parents encouraged me to tidy-up. I needed a container. Luckily, searching beneath my bed I found an ancient brass-braced box.

I pulled the box from beneath the spider-infested bedposts. I shook the box. Nothing rattled or moved.

It appeared empty...

This box had lived in the darkest deepest corners beneath my bed. What horrors would I find if I dared to lift the lid, my imagination raced...

I took a closer look. Its patterned braces seemed, Victorian. They were as cold as ice and as dark as coal. Underneath the cobwebs and dead bluebottles were dark streams of polished wood that gave the box a greasy yet stylish look. It smelt like age. A rusty catch on the front proved that the box had been closed for a long time.

I flicked the catch; the box was open...

Fuelled by paranoia, caution oozing out of me, I took a look inside. There was nothing, literally nothing. It was like staring into a pit. I peered at it. I was sure this box had a history of its own? Shrugging my shoulders, I persuaded myself it was an ordinary box. I ran downstairs, the box in my clutches and scooped up the Lego and poured.

I didn't hear it hit the box...

I wearily put my head into the box. I saw the Lego disappear. I heard a creak of wood, the lid of the box was closing, then I heard a click, it all went black...

They'd searched everywhere. The boy's parents had spent all their money desperately searching. They sold the house...

Years later

The house was in ruins, the mystery repelled buyers. The box remained shut.

"Click" the catch opened and a pale hand reached for daylight...

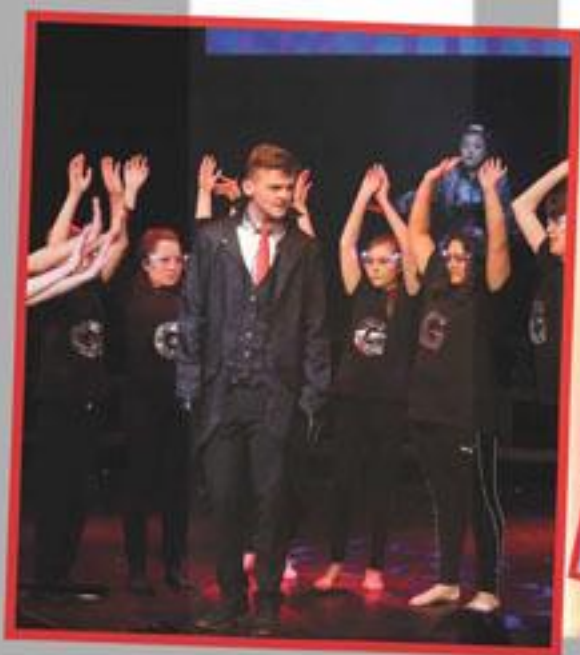
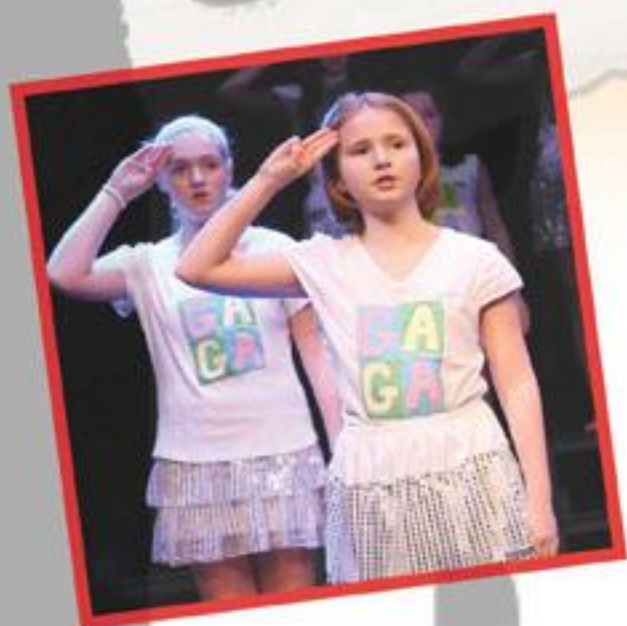
By Ted Whitaker

Age 12 (Year 7)





SCHOOLS



WILLI







Houses & Boarding

Godman House

In September 2019 we celebrated the opening of Godman House, our dedicated day and boarding house for years 7, 8 and 9.

The house was officially opened by the Chief Executive of the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA), Robin Fletcher.

After a very sporting game of table football between Mr Fletcher and Head of College, Rob Jones, a tour of the house was conducted followed by the cutting of the ribbon.

Robin commented: "It was a real pleasure to revisit Rendcomb College and see the wonderful improvements to Godman House. The new-look house is brilliant, full of great new features and bright open spaces. It's clear all the boarders love it too and are having a huge amount of fun."





Old Rectory, New Sixth Form Centre

In January of 2020, after an amazing transformation and refurbishment, The Old Rectory opened as a Sixth Form Centre, turning it into a central hub for years 12 and 13, where previously it was a boarding house for year 7-9 boys.

The new Sixth Form Centre is a key part of the development of the Sixth Form strategy, to prepare pupils for the changing needs of university and future employment.

The Sixth Form Centre provides a unique mix of environments. There are modern study spaces that encourage individual and collaborative working and there are sitting rooms, a kitchen and a games room providing students with the opportunity to relax during the working day.

There's also a boardroom which provides a space for meetings and is a base for the growing Enterprise and Careers programme with the former developing an imaginative green solution to plastic waste.





House Trips and Events

The Godman House Year 7 Manor Adventure weekend was a huge success as always. This is always one of our leavers' most memorable parts of life at Rendcomb, where friends are made for life!



A Godman House Barbecue always satisfies.



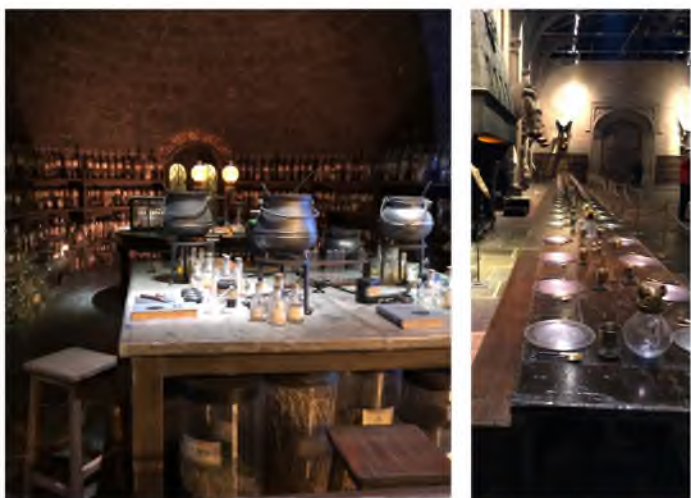
Along with the Christmas trip to Cardiff!

Stable House went to Harry Potter World on 7 March where they had a tour of the world famous studios, sets and special effects workshops, as well as having time to spend in the souvenir shop!

The Year 7 Annual Parents' Dinner Party in September provided a great opportunity for pupils to create a menu, cook the food, and then cater to the assembled parents and guardians. It was a great evening and wonderful chance for families to get to know one another.



In November the Stable House trip to London went ahead, with stop-offs in Trafalgar Square and The National Gallery, as well as time to do some shopping and general sight seeing.







Sport



The Sports Year Round-Up

What a year!

The Michaelmas Term kicked off at fast pace with the students contributing to a busy sports programme. Our Hockey, Rugby, Basketball & Badminton Clubs all enjoyed a competitive set of fixtures and the mood was buoyant throughout the season.

As well as the already mentioned sports, the Clay Shooting Team dipped their toes back into the sporting arena competing in matches against other schools and our Cross-Country Running Club gained momentum with more and more students signing up. The whole College came together to run the 5k 'Race for Life' just before half-term, it was a fantastic afternoon that was enjoyed by all. To cap it off, Cancer Research received a cheque for £2400 as result of all the donations from those entering the run, a wonderful effort by all concerned.

The Lent term also started strongly with our Girls' Lacrosse and Boys' Hockey taking over as the main sports. Again, there were fixtures a plenty with both clubs having a positive vibe. The Basketball & Badminton teams continued to flourish. The Cross-Country team ran in their first fixture and gave an extremely strong account of themselves. All seemed to be going from strength to strength, our students achieving success, gaining a positive experience and enjoying their sport.

Unfortunately, It all came crashing down with events in March thus putting a stop to a, so far, very successful year.

The Cross-Country Team were due to compete in the Nationals, the U14 Girls' Hockey Team in the South West Regional Finals and the Lacrosse Team to the National Schools Competition. Alas, these were all cancelled and then lockdown happened! No cricket, no tennis, no sports day, a huge shame.

Despite a disappointing end to the sporting year there was much to celebrate. I hope you enjoy reading the sports reports and casting your eye over the achievements of the Rendcomb College Students.

Matt Walton
Director of Sport





Basketball and Badminton

Basketball and Badminton saw a new lease of life in the college this year. Both took to the roads to various locations including, Prior Park, Cheltenham College, Dean Close, Downside and The Oratory.

A mixed bag across the board of results with what shaped up to be a progressive season.

The highlights of the season include the nail-biting thriller against Prior Park early in October. It was a long journey with a very early start for the eight whom would become legends of the mighty 'Rendcomb Ballers'. The game got off to a quick lead for Prior Park, but not to fear, a motivational quarter time talk from Mr. B and Miss R got the boys fired up. The score was 18-12 going into the second half. The third quarter saw the Rendcomb boys put in a monstrous shift to take the lead with nothing but net from Nik, Tin, Frank and Anthony!

In the final minute of play Prior Park took the lead again, but in a power move Rendcomb stole the ball and got it to captain and Most Valuable Player Anthony, who took to the air sinking a 3-point buzzer beater to seal the tie! The boys truly put blood, sweat and tears into this match!



On to Badminton, would you believe the scores against Prior Park were also a tie! We travelled to a few more local schools seeing some great wins and a few very unfortunate losses. All played well but a special mention to Francesca who took on the role as captain in her stride, organising the pairs and the rotations.

Special thanks to Mr. Walton, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Gower & Mr. Border for helping make these fixtures possible! -

We hope to be back on court when fixtures resume!

Aimee Ratapana



Rugby Union

On the surface, the 2019 Rendcomb College rugby season wasn't one for the scrapbook; the overall win ratio for the five teams was 47% and two of those five teams, the 1st XV and the U12s, didn't win a single game in the regular season.

So much for results.

There are two measurements that matter in schoolboy sport, are the players enjoying themselves and are they improving as individuals and as a team? By measuring the success of the rugby season in those terms, as we should; we can all look back on last autumn with real pride.

Let's start with enjoyment. For the first time at Rendcomb, we asked our players for weekly feedback; what were they enjoying, what weren't they enjoying, what did they feel could be done better. Over the course of the season, the average enjoyment factor was 78%; indeed, the two teams registering the highest score – 79% - were the two teams who failed to win a game.

In terms of improvement - to offer just one of many examples across the school - the 1st XV opened their season with a full deck of players at home to Kingham Hill 1st XV and lost 0-87. The same team, minus four of its leading lights who were out injured, went to Kingham Hill at the very end of the season to play their 2nd XV (Kingham Hill has four teams at U18 level, Rendcomb College has one) and shared ten tries in a game that went down to the very last play. There is no better testament to the hard work, application and teamwork of each and every member of that squad.

That team was led with distinction all season long by the wagging tail that is Alfie Chambers, ably backed up by Josh Carr, Jacob Matthews and Rory Hughes. Luke Dale-Henderson was a rock at full back, Matt Krenik gave his all - and very often more than his all - in any game where he was upright and conscious; and the U11s, stepping up into the big league, made a huge contribution: Joss Breare, Xander Clayton-Reid, Dylan

Summers, Luca Pollitt, Eddie McDonagh, Jack Liang and Rufus Handley. Rufus Handley, without question, is as good a player as you'll see anywhere at this level. He is mustard.

The U15s and the U14s were, in terms of results, our two most successful teams by far, not surprisingly, given the depth of talent in both squads. Indeed, when the likes of Jasper Rich, Caleb Timmis, Jimmy Thompson, Nikolai Houston, Arthur Cook, Alvin Zhang, Jake Agate, Ed Nichol and George Hobbs reach the VI Form and are joined there by luminaries such Henry Carr, Charlie Watkins, Wilf Matthews, Tristan Baits-Tomlin, Roo Jones, Frankie 'Doughnuts' Stinchcombe, Henry Everitt, Max Poliza and Alex Stavrou. That will be a team to rattle cages!

What also stood out in those age groups were those boys who grew out of all recognition as the season progressed; Brian Chau, Ryua Honda and Enrique Røel Cuellar in the U15s, Bertie Parkes and Archie Armstrong in the U14s. And, again on that theme, mentions for Gen Horie and Eric Piepenbrock in the U18s who started virtually from scratch yet were mainstays of the side by the season's end.

The U13s, too, are going to grow into a very special team. Tenacity and togetherness are their hallmarks and they have stand-out leaders in the likes of a Waygood, a Whyld, a Rotherford, a Roberts, a Huston, a couple of Oscars and two Stewarts. Likewise, the U12s, who were woefully short of both numbers and experience but who stuck at it through thin and thinner; special mentions here for Fred Daniels, Dean McDonagh and the irrepressible Max Stokes, who, pound for pound, always offers the best value in the college and one of the widest smiles.

The Sevens teams – annoyingly - fell foul of the Coronavirus but the U15 Touch Rugby team fought two epic tussles with St Edwards, the second of which was grandstand stuff.

Girls' Touch Rugby is coming to a pitch near you in the summer with fixtures, hopefully, in the offing.

In the wider context, the worthy Jacob Matthews was selected for the County U17 side; Joss Breare and Rufus Handley appeared, and scored, for the SSCA District side; Tristan Baits-Tomlin is part of the Worcester Warriors' Developing Player Programme and Charlie Watkins, Wilf Matthews, Oscar Wilson and Chris Waygood are on the same pathway with Gloucester. That's one heck of a roll call for a school of this size!



The Jonny Wilkinson Cup was blessed with blazing sunshine and some cracking rugby, much of it from Rendcomb College who rose to the occasion magnificently.

Gold colours this year were awarded to Alfie Chambers and Josh Carr, Silver to Joss Breare and Rufus Handley and Bronze to Henry Carr, Charlie Watkins, Tristan Baits-Tomlin, Wilf Matthews and Alex Stavrou.

Many thanks for the hard work of the coaches, referees and ground crew; no pitches anywhere were

a match for the green, green grass of Dan Robbins. A special mention too for 'Wigs' and the gang from 'The Prime Practice' whose emergency medical cover at home games was second to absolutely no one.

And thanks, finally, to all the parents who travelled near and far to support our teams and whose enthusiasm and encouragement have been a huge factor in a season that's proved a real staging post. There's a mountain of hard work to be done, not least in embedding the right cultures and behaviours, but the future of Rendcomb rugby is looking rosy.

Graham Simmons
Head of Rugby Union



Boys' Hockey Report

This has been, much like the mid-term weather, a demanding season on all the teams.

Out of the 43 fixtures played we won 12, drew 3 and lost 28. As ever, the results do not tell the whole story of the commitment and endeavour of the teams.

The teams are measured by their resilience in time of adversity, and their commitment to the school ethos, which values team spirit and collective ambition.

There were plenty of highlights throughout the season. The 1st XI did the triple over St Edward's Cheltenham, the 2nd XI had plenty of close fought games throughout the season, the U15 XI had a convincing win over Dean Close, the U14 XI had a 50% win rate through the season, and the U13 A developed a great team ethos and had plenty of talent on show.

The U13 B won against Bloxham School 5-1 for the first time in a number of years and the U13 C/D showed lots of commitment and determination on the field, helping them to develop as Hockey players.

I would personally like to thank everyone involved in the Hockey Club and the parents for coming and supporting the boys come rain or shine.

Ed Thomason Head of Boys' Hockey

Girls' Hockey Report

A busy, but fantastic term for Girls' Hockey, with many successes on and off the pitch.

The year 7 and 8 girls showed great enthusiasm with all girls contributing to fixtures which was excellent for their skill development but more importantly, for the experience.

Particularly impressive was the U12 team making it through to the West of England Hockey Tournament which was sadly postponed due to the pandemic.

The Senior Girls led by example and really were a team to look up to and aspire to be. Not only did they continuously work on improving their own Hockey but also helped with the Junior players, putting on an exciting Stick Challenge for the Year 3 – Year 6 Girls.

I would like to thank all the staff, pupils and supporters for their continued support and I look forward with great excitement for Season 2020/21.

Sarah Bell
Head of Girls' Hockey and Tennis



Lacrosse

The 2020 Lacrosse season will be remembered by everyone for many years to come! This will not be for our achievements on the field of play but for what happened away from the field.

The first thing that happened this season was that the U19 team travelled to Aldershot to take part in the National Schools Competition, but didn't pick up a stick because of flooded fields due to the horrendous weather and then picking up a stomach bug and returning back to school!

We then turned our sights onto retaining the title of National Small Schools Champions, and regional tournaments but this was also not to be due to the pandemic that has shut all our schools since the end of March. Bring on the 2021 season when we can hopefully excel again on the field of play.

We did, however, have some success on the pitch before all of this, with wins against Malvern St. James, Marlborough and Cheltenham Ladies to name but a few. We also had some fun experimenting with the new Olympic version of the game which is 6 v 6 with some excellent team work especially from the year 9's.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ellie Miles-Sayers being selected to represent the school at the U19 National Academy
- 2 players that represent the school in U19 Regional Talent Pathway Program run by England Lacrosse
- 5 players that represent the school in U15 Regional Talent Pathway and 4 players who have been selected to attend the new U13 Regional County Talent Pathway.

A very special thank you must go to the graduating Year 13 class Anna, Ella, Emily, Daisy and Phoebe for their commitment to the sport and the way in which they mentored all the younger players.

Mr Walton also needs a special mention for taking up coaching lacrosse for the first time and the work that he did with Year 8.

A big thank you to Miss Ratapana, Mr Border and Mr Coups for all their hard work during the past season.

Karen Coups
Head of Lacrosse



Clay Pigeon Shooting

The Clay Shooting Activity has always proven to be a popular choice and 2019/2020 season was no exception.

Our student's skill level and desire to improve were outstanding and it was evident that they wanted more.

The shooting team were given the opportunity to test their competitive nature with a fixture against Cheltenham College and two against Bredon School.

All three were keenly fought contests with all participants contributing to three fantastic and enjoyable afternoons of high-level shooting.

The team consisted of girls & boys from Year 9-13 and, in true Rendcomb spirit, they came together to form a formidable outfit.

A big thank you must go to Gary Wood for all his hard work in coaching the team and creating a fabulous arena in which to shoot.

Well done to all.

Mr Walton
Director of Sport



Cross Country

Cross country has been a huge success. A short sharp introduction to what we can do and compete against in the Gloucestershire schools district.

A growing culture to build on for next year; the development has been outstanding. With limited time to train and excel, we found a core number of students from year 7 and 8 to represent the college.

A big thank you to Isabelle Boyd, Willow Oldham, Arwen Stokes, Vittoria Muccilli, Darcy Cutts, William Jones, Charlton Van Staden, Fred Daniels, Oscar Wilson, Max Stoke and Oliver Church who represented the school in a fixture against a number of Gloucestershire schools at Wycliffe Severnside.

The foundations have now been set for next year and we are planning for the future. We aim to stabilise the club, to compete through year 7 to 10 with entry to suitable and testing events.

Chris Border



Athletic Performance Programme

The 2019/2020 Athletic Performance Programme was geared towards developing our Sports Scholars along with some of our Gifted and Talented Athletes.

The weekly sessions included physical activity aimed at improving sports performance, limiting injury, and progressing strength, speed and power. The physical element was delivered by our in-house strength and conditioning coach who worked closely with individuals to help them understand how to develop and condition their bodies to their needs as a sportsperson.

The programme also encouraged the athletes to look after their sporting well-being and explore the benefits of:

- The Importance of Sleep
- Nutritional Diet
- Balancing Sport/Academic/Rest
- Time Management
- Development of Mental Strength

It was evident that the Athletes enjoyed taking part in the Performance Programme and the gains made were clear to see on match days. We look forward to continuing to work with those on the programme and watching them develop into the complete athlete.

Karen Coups
Head of Athletic Development.



Rendcomb College Sports Representatives 2019/20

- **Charlie Watkins** – Gloucestershire County Cricket U14, Gloucester Rugby DPP
- **Tristan Baits Tomlin** – Worcester Rugby DPP
- **Fred Walmsley** – Gloucester Rugby DPP
- **Wilfred Matthews** – Gloucester Rugby DPP
- **Jemima Lister** – Swindon Town FC U14 football Squad, Wiltshire U14 Football Squad, South West Regional Lacrosse
- **William Pereira** – Tennis (ATP seeded player)
- **Eleanor Langley** – South West Regional Lacrosse
- **Lucinda Norris** – GB National Swimming Championships
- **Lyra Elliott-Jones** – Gloucestershire County Swimmer
- **Fred Daniels** – (Oxfordshire County Runner)
- **Charlton Van Stadden** – Tennis (ATP seeded player)
- **Amelia Jones** – South West Regional Lacrosse
- **Saba Yorke-Davies** - GB & European Water-Skiing Championships
- **Tilly Boyle** – Gloucestershire County Hockey, Regional Swimming Championships
- **Katie Boyle** – Gloucestershire County Hockey
- **Roman Bilinski** – Ginetta Series Motor Racing, Formula 4 Motor Racing
- **Kate Holloway** – Gloucestershire County Hockey, South West Regional Lacrosse
- **Issy Wood** – South West Regional Lacrosse
- **Hattie Watkins** – South West Regional Lacrosse
- **Charlotte Burge** – National Skiing
- **Emily Finch** – South West Regional Lacrosse
- **Joss Breare** – Gloucestershire County U17 Rugby Squad
- **Rufus Handley** – Gloucestershire County U17 Rugby Squad
- **Ed Nichol** – Gloucestershire County Hockey
- **Ellie Miles-Sayers** – England U19 Lacrosse Player Pathway
- **Penny Lister** – England U19 Lacrosse Player Pathway
- **Anya Pereira** – Tennis (ATP seeded player)

Sports Awards

The RCPA Cup - International Sportsman of the Year: Jack Liang

Rendcomb College Shield - Team of the Year: U14 Rugby Squad

The Hornby Award - Unsung Hero of the Sporting Year: James Gardener

The RCPA Trophy - Sportswoman of the Year: Ellie Miles-Sayers

The Thomason Trophy - Sportsman of the Year: Joss Breare

The RCPA Cup - Outstanding Contribution to Girls' Sport: Ella Lister

The Breare Cup - Outstanding Contribution to Boys' Sport: Josh Carr

Sports Colours Awards

Gold

Rugby:
Alfie Chambers
Josh Carr

Girls' Hockey:
Emily Musgrave

Lacrosse:
Ella Lister
Daisy Billington
Anna Frost

Boys' Hockey:
Teddy Thompson
Josh Carr

Basketball:
Anthony Wong
Nik Ngamjiradawong
Badminton:
Jack Qiu

Silver

Rugby:
Joss Breare
Rufus Handley

Girls' Hockey:
Ellie Miles-Sayers
Tilly Boyle
Katie Boyle

Boys' Hockey:
Johnny Peake
Joss Breare

Badminton:
Francesca Chau

Lacrosse:
Anya Pereira
Kate Holloway

Bronze

Rugby:
Tristan Baits-Tomlin
Charlie Watkins
Alex Stavrou
Henry Carr

Girls' Hockey:
Ellie Langley
Amelia Jones

Boys' Hockey:
Frankie Stinchcombe

Lacrosse:
Amelia Jones
Ellie Langley

Basketball:
Matthew Choi







Enrichment

Sixth Form Enrichment

Our Sixth Form pupils took part in a number of enrichment activities in early part of term, before lockdown occurred.

Old Rendcombian and medical student Sam returned to give a Q&A session to the MedVet Group,



and our debating team took part in the English Speaking Union Debate against Cheltenham College. It was a tough debate, but a great experience for all involved.



Our Extended Project Qualification pupils had to present on topics pertinent to their project which lead to some fascinating and well presented arguments. Miram discussed 'How and why have the depictions of the occupation of the Channel Islands changed since 1940'. Her presentation was described as "articulate and thorough", she even took a trip to Guernsey to consult island records!



Oli then took up the mantle to discuss the role of main battle tanks in the British Army, and whether there is a future for them.



And finally Alfie finished off the presentations by asking 'Whether children should be allowed to play contact sports'. A very topical presentation following the recent Rugby World Cup.



Hannah Ash, Head of Economics and Business Studies at Rendcomb College took two Sixth Form Enterprise teams to a fun and informative day at the Royal Agricultural University on Thursday, 21 October. The Rendcomb pupils spent the day learning from the expertise of Matt Draycott, a Business and Enterprise lecturer at the RAU. The day started with a session looking at the market for their businesses, using Matt's model of 'Break It, Better It', to delve deeper into their business ideas and identify the areas of weakness before making plans to solve these issues. The teams also looked at who their target market really is, helping them to narrow down before scaling up in this area.

After a lovely lunch in the RAU's Dining Hall, the sixth formers were treated to an informative and friendly tour of the campus, which left many feeling inspired and excited about opportunities after leaving school.





Pupils also took part in the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce networking event where they were given the opportunity to pitch their ideas to the assembled businesses in the room and network with representatives from numerous local businesses.



Year 12 and Year 13 Economics and Business pupils were treated to a unique industry experience at local FTSE100 company St James's Place in Cirencester. The pupils spent a day in their Headquarters in the town touring the facilities, meeting key members of staff and hearing about the functional roles within the business before having a taste of what it might be like to be a financial planner and hearing about career opportunities at the company. After hearing from various key departments such as Private Clients, Investment Management, HR, Accounting and Marketing the pupils had a chance to understand what it might be like to be a financial advisor through a board game which made them think critically about the financial needs of different people.

The day ended with some fantastic advice and information regarding careers, where we heard about apprenticeship options, internships and graduate programs. It is very clear that the transferable skills we are already developing in our young people will be crucial in differentiating themselves in highly competitive labour markets over the coming years.



Mock Election

In December 2019, pupils from across the college took part in a mock election. From campaigning to policies, town hall meetings and lobbying, candidates put forward their best cases and strategies to win over voters.

It was great exercise for pupils to get an idea of all the work that goes into a real election, and how the voting "public", in this case the Colleges staff and pupils, make their decisions based on numerous different factors.



And the winner is

Bertie Parkes - Liberal Democrats.

He was just 7 votes clear of Anna Frost for the Conservatives.

ECO Committee

The staff and students of Rendcomb College have set up a new Eco Committee in response to the growing environmental concerns and especially the 1.5 degrees centigrade limit that scientists have set if we are to minimise the impact of global warming.

The pupils and staff feel that it is in keeping with the school ethos and school motto, 'Quo Lux Ducit' (where the light leads), to set an example in this field and ensure that they are doing their part when it comes to reducing emissions and maximising sustainability.

The aim of the committee is to coordinate all the eco initiatives taking place in the school, to champion the progress they are making and for students and staff to collaborate when it comes to setting new and ambitious goals so that Rendcomb College continues to be a greener school.

Unanimously, plastic bottles were identified as an area where the College can do better and everyone on the committee lamented the unnecessary plastic created by the water bottles included in the school packed lunches taken on trips and fixtures. Therefore, there has been an initiative by the Eco Committee to phase this out after half term.

To ensure students remain hydrated throughout the day the students have been asked to come to school with a refillable water bottle, which they can fill up at various water points around College throughout the school day. Many students already do this and there will, of course, be back up measures in place to ensure that students who forget their bottle on a given day will not go thirsty. Mr George Toms, Head of Spanish and an Assistant House Parent of the Sixth Form boarding house at the College said:

"It would be great if Rendcomb College could get to a situation where participation of the scheme reaches 100%. This will really help to dramatically reduce our single-use plastic as a school community.

"The toilet cisterns have also been changed this year, with the aim to save thousands of cubic metres of water use per annum. The next focus for the Eco Committee is going to be lights. We want to encourage students and staff to turn

lights off after leaving a room. I am delighted to see so much great energy during our meetings, our pupils have loads of brilliant ideas about how we can change habits"



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Despite the challenges of this year, students did manage to undertake their expeditions in the Black Mountains for their gold award.

Incredibly, 27 students were able to complete their awards resulting in the following achievements:

12 Bronze

8 Silver

7 Gold

A brilliant achievement given the circumstances of this year.



Exam Results

In what can only be described as one of the strangest years on record for the academic delivery, examining and assessing of students, we can truly say that our pupils have been exemplary, under very challenging circumstances. Home learning was rapidly rolled out, and pupils adapted quickly to the new way of learning, as well as undertaking summer exams.

Alongside a great deal of press coverage about this year's GCSE and A-Level results, the one thing we cannot deny is the effort and hard work that Rendcomb College's pupils have put in to achieving their grades.

The following was achieved for GCSE:

9 - 7 (A*-A) 51%
9 - 6 (A*-B) 75%
9 - 4 (A*-C) 97%

On the day, Head of College, Rob Jones, said:

"All of our pupils receiving GCSE results today should be immensely proud. They have poured a huge amount of effort into their studies over the last 2 years, and more recently, done so whilst navigating a global pandemic. There was no drop off in work ethic from our students, who diligently worked on through what were some very challenging times.

"They have truly earned these grades and I am very proud of every single one of them. These results are thoroughly well deserved"

When it came to A-Levels, 94% of students achieved grades A*-C, with an incredible 60% getting A*-A. A fantastic achievement!

Rob Jones, Head of College said,

"It is fair to say that this has been a year like no other in the history of education. Our founder Noel Wills would be incredibly proud of what our students have achieved in this, our centenary year. Students have risen to the challenge and demonstrated great resilience and drive, something that we encourage them to develop at Rendcomb College, and will benefit them long into the future. I am very proud of all of them."

He continues:

"Small classes, dedicated teaching staff, and remote support have enabled us to focus on the individual and bring out the best in them. It has also meant that we can be very confident in our assessment and tracking of their progress, and this has, on the whole, been reflected in their grades."

Students have had particularly strong results in English, History, Computing and Geography, plus an incredible 100% distinction rate in BTEC Business Studies, the equivalent of an A.

Particular congratulations go to:

D Billington, achieving A*, A*, A* grades and securing her place at the University of Bristol to read Politics & Spanish

J Carr, achieving A*, A*, A securing entry to the Royal Agricultural College to read Real Estate

A Chambers achieving A*, A* A to read Natural Sciences at Durham University

J Qiu achieving A*, A, A to read Physics at the University of Manchester

S Siripoorikan achieving A*, A*, A*, A* to read Law at the University of Warwick

Other courses secured include Mathematics, Computer Science for Cyber Security, Biological Sciences and Economics plus many others.

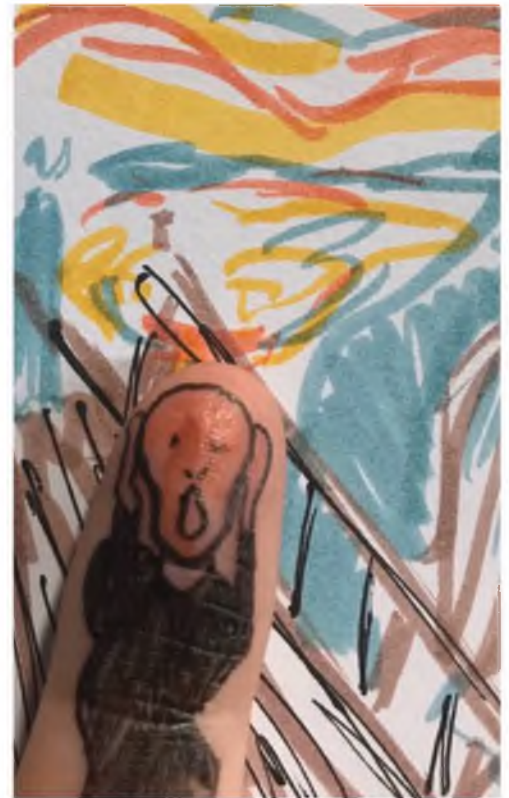
We are very proud of all of the class of 2020, and wish them the very best as they continue into the next stages of their lives.

Seniors In Lockdown

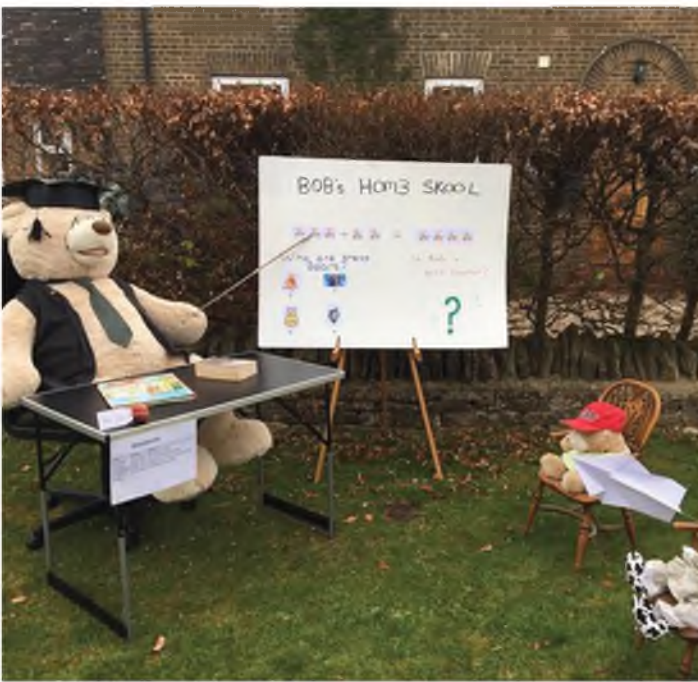
For all staff and pupils the increasing prevalence of the COVID pandemic took hold in March 2020, with the Government announcing their "Stay at Home" policy.

In true Rendcomb College spirit however, our pupils rose to the challenge, with online learning becoming the new normal. This didn't stop their creative drive however, with the Getty Museum Challenge and other innovative outlets providing plenty of opportunities for them to shine.

Here are a selection of images from our Seniors during lockdown.



Getty Museum Challenge Pieces - original paintings removed for copyright purposes, but we hope you recognise some of these iconic images!



Emily in Y12 raised money for Children in Need with Bob the bear, creating a charity calendar.



Marc Silverthorn, Head of Design & Technology and Houseparent of Park House at Rendcomb College, used the laser cutter in the DT classroom to make facial shields for local NHS key workers.

Mr Silverthorn's two young daughters helped their father with the production of the facial shields.

Shields were made available to the Abingdon District Nursing Unit, as they only had 20 masks shared between 60 nurses, the Sue Ryder Hospice in Leckhampton, Cheltenham, the Cheltenham Radiotherapy Unit and the Cheltenham ENT Department as well as Yorkleigh GP surgery in Cheltenham.

A doctor in the Accident & Emergency Department at Hereford Hospital, who is a parent of a pupil at Rendcomb College Junior School has also received face shields.







Nursery & Juniors

Gavin Roberts, Head of Junior School.

It is perhaps an unusual way to begin a review of the school year but when thinking about the academic year 2019-2020, we should probably take some time to think about what did not happen. There was no final assembly, no Founder's Day and no Easter hat parade. We did not hold a swimming gala or a sports day and there was no Junior School production. Our Yr6 pupils did not enjoy their end of year cocktail party, there were numerous school trips cancelled and sports fixtures were far fewer in number. Of course, most devastatingly of all, there was no school at all for any pupils between March 21 and June 2.



The COVID pandemic was a truly unprecedented event. Nevertheless, we were hugely proud of the efforts our pupils made to engage with remote learning and delighted with how they continued to make good academic progress and how they grew in confidence and resilience during the lockdown period. It is our aim that a Rendcomb pupil is someone who is always willing to make the most of the opportunities on offer to them and to approach a new challenge with enthusiasm and these qualities were certainly displayed by our pupils during this unique time in their lives.

No matter how well our pupils worked during the lockdown period or how impressed we were to see the many videos and photographs of what they got up to, the staff were delighted to welcome back Nursery, Reception, Yr1 and Yr6 pupils in early June and it was absolutely fantastic to be able to have all Junior School pupils back in school for the final two weeks of term. It is clear that the COVID pandemic and lockdown period was a challenging time for all involved but, what was also clear was how the Rendcomb community all pulled together and were supportive of and considerate towards each other others throughout this very difficult period.

So, what happened before schools were forced to close? Well, quite a lot!

The year saw continued growth within the Junior School with a further increase in pupil numbers. Academically, it was a successful year across the Junior School. From Nursery to Yr6, we witnessed pupils making excellent progress in all areas of the curriculum. Our Friday morning distinctions assemblies continued to be a highlight of the school week and provided the perfect platform from which to showcase the many talents of our pupils. During the course of this year, certificates or trophies were presented to pupils for their successes in a wide range of areas from diving to skiing, martial arts to gymnastics, equestrian to football and also in music and speech and drama to name just a few.

The co-curricular programme continued to go from strength to strength with many notable special days and events taking place. It is always pleasing to see new initiatives and this year has seen the introduction of a new gymnastics activity and the hugely popular STEM Club.

There was an eclectic mix of themed days and educational trips and visits with pupils enjoying experiences such as being 'evacuated' from Winchcomb, visiting the Roman Villa at Chedworth or discovering Cirencester's Air Raid Shelter. Once again we took part in the Cheltenham Literature Festival and our Yr6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their residential trip to Kilve Court Outdoor Education Centre in February. Within the school day, we saw Yr2 enjoying an Amazing Africa Day, Yr6 exploring the grounds on their Orienteering Day, all of the Otters celebrating Autumn Day and the whole Junior School taking part in Mrs Auster's Marvellous Maths Day.

A variety of external visitors also helped to bring the curriculum to life. In particular, two new events are worthy of a special mention. Firstly, all of our pupils from Yr1 –Yr6 had the opportunity to participate in a literacy session where they investigated the sound and rhythm of words and sentences with the outstanding 'The Beat Goes On' body percussion workshop. Secondly, our Yr5 and Yr6 pupils were fortunate enough to be able to participate in an afternoon of activities based around financial

management skills which was hosted by representatives of St. James's Place. Each pupil was given an imaginary £500 to invest as they saw fit and they also had opportunities to take risks in order to gain greater returns through a variety of fun games and challenges. There were of course various threats to navigate and unfortunately, a few were fooled by 'Rich Ricky' into investing in his scam portfolio. By the end of the afternoon, I was pleasing to note that we did have a majority of pupils who were 'in profit'.

The Rendcomb family continued to extend its support to the wider community and the Junior School has raised funds for and supported a number of charities in a variety of ways. We held a coffee morning for Macmillan Nurses, held a Mufti Day for Children in Need, dressed in our pyjamas for the Book Trust, collected soft toys for Help for Heroes, dressed up in our favourite team's shirt for Sport Relief and helped to raise a significant sum for our whole-school charity, the National Star College. In addition, our Harvest Festival offerings were much appreciated by Cirencester Food Bank and Cirencester Housing for Young People. It was wonderful to see how pupils being proactive in suggesting charities to support and we also held a Mufti day in aid of the fundraising efforts to support those affected by the Australian bushfire crisis after a number of pupils have suggested that we should try and do our bit to help. Many pupils will have also undertaken their own fundraising initiatives for various causes and, whilst I cannot mention them all here, we were particularly proud of Amelia in Yr6 who held her own bake sale and had her hair cut in aid of the Little Princess Trust.

Our pupils continued to enjoy success in a number of external areas which reflect the diversity and the quality of the opportunities that are on offer at Rendcomb. A good number of pupils chose to enter the BBC 500 Word story competition and we were delighted that we had one entry from Sonia in Yr2 which made it through to the second round of the competition and, as such, was recognised as one of the Top 5% of all entries nationally. Four Junior School pupils represented Rendcomb in the regional heat of the Primary Schools' Quiz Challenge competition 2020 and congratulations go to Lauren (Yr3), Kathleen (Yr4), Samuel (Yr5) and Cleodie (Yr6) who not only displayed some excellent knowledge on

the day but also worked brilliantly together as a team to achieve second place and our highest ever finish in the competition. Finally, two Junior School pupils travelled to Tetbury with Mrs Hayward and some Senior School pupils to form a small choir and take part in the filming of the Christmas episode of 'The Yorkshire Vet' - I know what you're thinking, I still have not quite worked out why they were filming 'The Yorkshire Vet' in Tetbury either!

Sport remains a key part of Rendcomb life and it was great to see that so many pupils represented the school on the sports field before the period of school closure. There was also a new sporting venture this year as, in conjunction with the Senior School, Rendcomb supported Cancer Research and hosted our own 'Race for Life' event. Parents, pupils and staff all joined together to run a 5km course around the college grounds on what proved to be a very enjoyable and successful afternoon.

Music continues to be an area of strength in the Junior School with a high percentage of pupils taking extra music lessons and even more who are taking part in musical activities such as ukulele group or Junior Rock Band. We have enjoyed a number of Teatime Concerts and musical performances throughout the year and each of these events provided our Junior School musicians with a wonderful opportunity to perform in public. It is probably fair to say that the highlight of the performance calendar was the Christmas period and when we were able to host the Junior School Carol Service in St Peter's Church and the Otters pupils were able to provide us with some great entertainment as they made their big stage debut and performed their nativity production in the Griffin Theatre.

And so, as you can see, though it was in many ways very, very different to any other year in Rendcomb's history there were still a number of similarities to be found in Junior School life. Our pupils continued to give of their best in all that they do; they continued to take advantage of the ever growing range of opportunities which are open to them and, most importantly of all, they did all of this with a smile on their face and enjoyed their time at school.

Junior Charity

Sports relief.

The event was once again supported by the Junior school where everyone, including some parents, came down to the astro pitches to participate in a challenge Mr Lawrence had set them. Mr Lawrence had decided on a giant relay race. Everyone had a super time, the total amount raised for this event was over £300.

Andy Lawrence



Children in need, November 2020

Junior Tree Planting

To mark our Centenary Year, the juniors helped out in planting 100 trees around the estate, continuing our commitment to the environment and leaving a lasting legacy of our 100 years of educating children.



Financial Education

Back in November pupils in year 5 and year 6 were treated to an afternoon of Financial Education.

David Penney of Penney Financial Partners and his wife Beverly, delivered a fun and energetic afternoon where our pupils learnt about money management through a series of game play sessions interspersed with discussion.

Topics covered included budgeting, saving, borrowing and risk and reward. Pupils started the afternoon with a bank statement with £500 and were tasked with increasing this balance over four rounds of games. Each game taught them a different for example in "Eye on the Prize" pupils could choose between two version of the game where a harder option could yield a higher reward. The winning pupils managed to almost double their balances which is a great achievement, but more than that all the pupils gained skills which will help them in the future.

Hannah Ash, Head of Economics and Business, who organised the afternoon having delivered the programme previously whilst working at St James's Place said "The Junior School programme is such a fun way to deliver financial education at a young age. The way the games work allow pupils to use maths in real world scenarios and start developing skills to make them more financially literate.



The Bank is open with Mrs Ash ready to lend



David Penney measuring a tower



Pupils working hard on their balances

Junior Art

We have some really talented artists in the Junior School. Here is just a small selection of all the wonderful pieces they have produced this year.



Cleodie, Y6



Ella, Y6



Julia, Y6



Amelia, Y6



Luke, Y6



Yvie, Y6



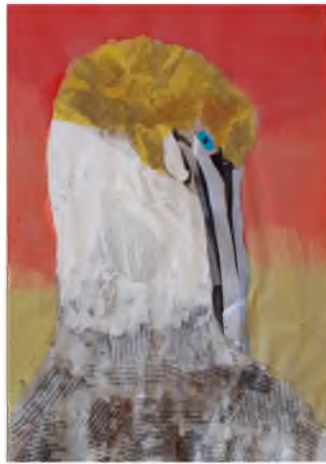
Y3 Van Gogh Starry Night display



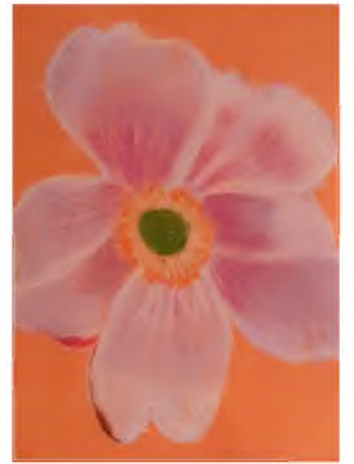
Maddie, Y6



Otilie, Y3



Yvie, Y6



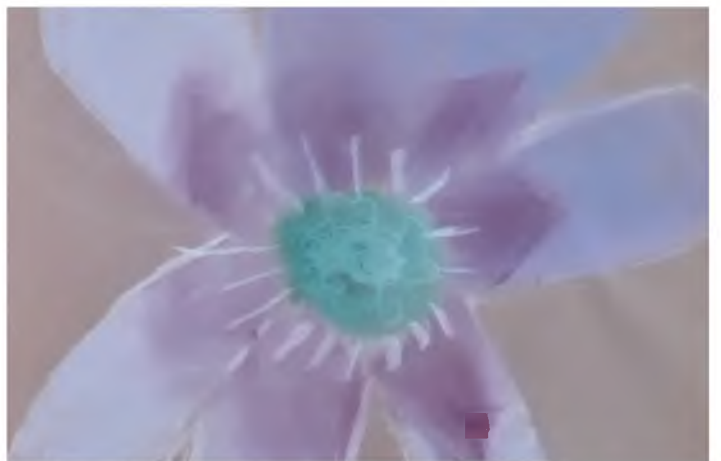
Bea, Y5



Y3 Mosaic work



Samuel, Y6



Saskia, Y6

Junior Trips

We managed to get away for a few trips this year which, as you can see, were great fun as always!

SS Great Britain

A full minibus set off down the M5 for the annual Year 6 History trip to the SS Great Britain. The party all arrived safely and in good time. The class were met by Natalie the Education officer who welcomed us to the docks. We went in the education centre and into the classroom for our Passenger Investigation session. The year group were split into groups to find out who travelled aboard the ship. All the children were playing detectives and found out a great deal from looking at various items and clothing. After a presentation from each group, we were introduced to our tour guide Brian.

We were then taken to the upper deck and shown where the live animals were kept, the steering wheel and where passengers were allowed to walk. We then went below decks and visited the cabins both 1st class and steerage, looked in the kitchens and the dining room. Finally, we went to the very bottom of the ship and looked at the enormous propeller and rudder.

After lunch, we went across the Clifton Suspension Bridge, looking across and down the Avon Gorge. After a full day, Mr L and a weary minibus of children returned to school and all agreed it had been very informative and brilliant day!



Year 4 Visit to 'We the Curious'

On Tuesday, 7 November, Year 4 spent a brilliant day at 'We the Curious' in Bristol. We thoroughly enjoyed our day out and the animation workshop was fantastic! All the children were very creative and made some super short films using Lego and computer software.

We enjoyed all of the hands-on exhibits, especially making huge bubbles, pumping water, playing with parachutes and of course, always the favourite, the big hamster wheel!

The 3D planetarium was amazing; we visited many different places within the Solar System. The children were fascinated by the whole show.

The children all agreed it was a great day out and they were a credit to the school.



Year 3 paid a visit to the [Corinium Museum](#) where they learned all about the Anglo Saxons.



Year 5 WWII Visits

As part of their topic on World War II, Year 5 went to the railway line at Winchcombe, near Cheltenham, to take part in a simulated evacuation. Dressing the part, and adorned with gas mask boxes and the odd furry companion, the children rode on the steam train, played some old games, and tried out an old hand pumped hose.

Another successful trip was to the Cirencester Air Raid Shelter, where the children were able to go down into the shelter and have a look at all the memorabilia, whilst being enthralled by stories of the daring deeds of everyday people.



World War II facts at the Cirencester Air Raid Shelter.



Kilve Court

No Junior School trip is quite so highly anticipated as the annual one to Kilve Court. Ten intrepid Year 6 pupils set off for adventure on Wednesday, 12 February. The predicted weather was meant to be terrible but they were so lucky, as they did not experience any rain whilst outside during the whole of the trip.

Once they had arrived, unpacked and had lunch, the first activity on the itinerary was climbing. Next up was rifle shooting. There were quite a few crack shots amongst Year 6 and it all got quite competitive when the challenge was to shoot all the planets on the target sheet. After supper everyone wrapped up warmly and ventured outside for a night walk without any torches. The evening culminated with a great game of zombie apocalypse in the maze, in the dark.

Friday morning (Valentine's Day) began with love hearts for all after breakfast, followed by some fun games in the maze. The maze looked very different in the daylight and was still tricky to get to the centre.

The final activity was archery, where everyone improved on their aim and technique. They played the holiday game, where depending on which colour you hit with your arrows, determined the destination, form of transport, and who would be keeping you company on your holiday. Half-term began on their return back to school.



Junior Sport

Girls' U8 & U9 Hockey

It was a busy season for our youngest hockey players, many of whom had no previous experience of the game. The girls played as an U9 squad in five friendly fixtures as well as competing in their respective year groups at the Cricklade Prep 5 a side mini Festivals.



Following some tough matches, the Festivals marked a turning point in the season for these girls. On small pitches with tiny goals, it was a good leveller and a chance to try out new positions and most importantly experience lots of match play. The U8s played 5 matches with a win over Heywood Prep, 3 draws and just one loss. The U9s had 8 matches including a win over Tockington Manor, 5 draws and 2 losses. In all, these were fantastic results against some big schools. What impressed most however was the positive attitude of the girls on both days. They tried their hardest, switched positions regularly without questioning, subbed off graciously when asked and showed super sportsmanship on and off the field – they really were TEAM performances.

The highlight of the season for me however was the girls' final friendly fixture against Berkhamstead School. This match proved in abundance that hard work pays off! Playing as a squad once more, each girl not only showed how much they had developed individually as a player, but the clinical passing also reflected

how much they had gelled as a group. No matter who was on the pitch, they linked well and worked together. Their 2-0 win was richly deserved and testament to all their efforts throughout the term. I am immensely proud of these girls who were a pleasure to work with all season.

Girls' U11 Hockey

Since half term, the U11s have played four schools; The Richard Pate School, Thorngrove, Kitebrook and Cricklade Manor.

The first match, against RPS, was our toughest game of the season, but it ensured the girls showed real perseverance and team spirit. A fun round-robin tournament against Thorngrove's A, B & C teams saw a win, draw and one narrow loss, leaving Rendcomb placed 2nd overall. This lifted spirits and an increase in confidence was evident during the next match against Kitebrook, where Rendcomb quickly proved to be the more experienced team, demonstrating quick thinking, movement and passing around the pitch. For the final match of the season we travelled to Cricklade Manor. With Rendcomb scoring 4 goals in fairly quick succession, this enabled us to rotate and shuffle positions around and for many of the girls to play in different positions on this pitch. Using the full width of the pitch has been a real focus during the season and it was brilliant to see the girls exploit the space of the pitch during this final game. With an incredible amount of short corners awarded to Rendcomb, the girls enjoyed putting their drills into practice. They ended the season with a 7-0 win. *Jemma Hill*



2020 Football Summary

All the boys this season found it a busy, tough and a big learning curve for some this season. Several of these boys were playing their first ever fixtures for the school and should be proud of their efforts and achievements.

U8/9s

The U8 & 9 squads played tremendous football matches this season. It was tough going in the opening fixtures of the season but the boys bravely battled in every match. Throughout the season Rendcomb sides were well organised and technically sound footballers. There were some success results wise, against our local rivals Hatherop Castle and the last fixture against St Edwards with a fine victory. The highlight of the season was coming runners up in Hatherop Castle's U9 football tournament.

U10/U11

Cooper Harris was selected as Captain this season and certainly lead from the front. With an inexperienced side, all Rendcomb boys dug in every match. After suffering some heavy defeats and missing personnel it was tough going. After the mid-term break and some reshuffling of the side; Rendcomb shored up their defence and made every opposing forward work very hard, to create an opportunity to score. Every boy played for each other with a great deal of determination and effort. All the boys should be commended on their contribution however great or small.

U8/9 Netball

In accordance with England Netball and like many local schools, we made the transition to Bee Netball this season. It is fair to say, like any change, this was met with a mixed response from the girls but as the season progressed, they embraced the challenge positively.

The girls' first experience was a trip away to The King's School, Gloucester. Both U8 and U9 teams quickly learnt the need to pass the ball into space and utilise all areas of the court. It was good to see both teams involving all their players and adapting well to the tactics and skills of this new format. The U9s defended particularly well and scored some excellent goals resulting in a 19-11 win. The U8s were

a little slower to grasp the quick movement needed but nonetheless gave a good account of themselves scoring 12 goals to King's 21. The U9s followed this with a trip to Cricklade Manor Prep to take part in a friendly Festival where Rendcomb improved their play as the afternoon progressed. In total they played 7 matches against teams from Cricklade Prep, The Richard Pate School, Hatherop Prep and St. Gabriel's. They ended the afternoon with 2 wins, a draw and 4 losses.

The season concluded with an afternoon of friendly matches at The Richard Pate School. The U8 and U9 teams played 6 mini matches and gained lots more experience. The U9s dominated most of their games passing the ball fluently down the court and scoring with great accuracy too. The U8s also worked hard and enjoyed the opportunity to play lots of netball.

The girls are to be congratulated on a positive first season of Bee Netball. The experience will stand them in good stead as they head into next season. Well done! *Jemma Hill*



Gymnastics

Since September the children have been working very hard on achieving their British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards. The awards start from level 8 and work their way up to level 1, getting progressively harder at each stage.

Each level has 10 skills and the children have to achieve a minimum of 7 skills to pass. Here at Rendcomb College we had a very high pass rate with all children achieving a pass rate of either 9 or 10 out of 10. Alongside this we have been working on equipment such as vault, bars, bench and foam wedge.

We also had two teams represent Rendcomb College in our annual Christmas Show.

U9 Rugby

This year, Mr Lawrence decided that it was the ideal time to start playing contact rugby for the first time with this age group. It's another first in Rendcomb College Junior School's history. With a great deal of trepidation, training commenced. The boys were both excited and a little concerned about the physicality this meant they would face in their games this term. However, after several weeks of training and encouragement all the boys were confident in playing this format.

Our opening game was against Cricklade Manor, who had already played several matches before visiting us. Along with a large number of parents in the crowd, we were all delighted to have Mr Roberts referee our match. Both sides started brightly.



Tries were exchanged and tackles were fiercely made. Cricklade Manor's experience and discipline eventually showed and they went on to narrowly defeat our boys. Despite the loss, all the boys were very upbeat and delighted they had all come through this first ever contact match unscathed.

As well as playing Kitebrook House and St Edward's without success, the highlight of the season was attending the Cricklade Manor's festival at the end of the season. Rendcomb were due to play six matches in quick succession. Rendcomb started their festival off with a well-deserved win. The boys, boosted by this, continued to battle hard for each other and managed two draws and two losses.

With a rousing final speech of the season from Mr L, the boys, completely shattered, gave it one more go against Westonbirt. They all

defended superbly and attacked strongly with purpose and determination. It was a close match but Rendcomb U9s finished their season with a great win.

I am so proud of these boys who trained so hard and work so well for each other. They are now ready for the next stage of their development at U10 level rugby.

U11 Rugby

Across the course of the term the boys have worked really hard to develop their core skills and their understanding of game play and tactical awareness. All boys in



Yr5 and Yr6 have played for the school team at some point. The Yr6 and Yr5 boys have been combined and we played the U10 version of the game.

We started off the term by playing at the Heywood Prep School rugby festival. This was a lovely way to start the season and the weather was kind to us. Across the course of the afternoon we played four matches. We won three of our matches and drew one match.

Our next fixture was against Cricklade Manor where we had to mix the two teams. We started off well and went ahead by six tries to one to win.

When we travelled to Kitebrook House, we were met by a fierce and well drilled team who could tackle well and run strongly with the ball. Our boys dug in and played with determination and passion. The final score was a draw at five tries all.

Due to poor ground conditions, the fixture

against St Edwards was unfortunately cancelled.

At the start of December we were to face Berkhamstead at home. After a cold night and frozen pitches, the pitches thawed and we were relieved that the match could go ahead. We played with heart and our boys offloaded the ball effectively and tackled well. Mauls and rucks were won and balls were ripped and passed. During the course of the game the lead went backwards and forwards between the two teams. With a final flourish, our boys scored a quick few tries in succession and won the game ten tries to seven.

This was a fantastic way to finish the season!
Great work gentlemen!

Gloucestershire Mixed Tag Tournament

This event was organised by Mr Lawrence for junior and primary state schools around Gloucestershire.

Congratulations to the boys and girls who played in this tournament without any training. Rendcomb were in pool 2 and played Stratton, Rodmarton, Fairford and St Andrews. Despite the lack of training and not having played this format since last year, all set about their tasks with a good spirit. Unfortunately, their opposition were well drilled schools. However, to their credit, they never gave up and worked as a team to the bitter end. The overall winners were Minchinhampton. Rendcomb came joint 4th. Thank you must also go to the parents who braved the cold afternoon 'up top'.



Junior Music

Junior Music continued to thrive as we entered the 2020 academic year. A good proportion of Junior School pupils were having individual instrumental lessons and so performances were always oversubscribed.

We began the year with a visit from Ollie Tunmer (Beat Goes On) who led sessions with all of the Junior School pupils combining body percussion and literacy. This was followed by our now annual visit from English Touring Opera who presented an entertaining version of the story of Laika the Space-Dog. We were joined by several local primary schools and there was lots of audience participation for the pupils to get involved with.

Our Musical Teas continued to be supported by parents and gave many pupils their first experience of playing to an audience. Other performance opportunities included the Christmas Carol Service and weekly Distinction Assemblies.

We held another successful Orchestral Day which was attended by those Junior School pupils who play an orchestral instrument, along with pupils from other primary schools around the local area.

Lockdown

This was to be a year like no other and little did we know that we would be starting the year with well-attended Musical Teas and finishing with renditions of popular tunes on glass bottles filled with water at home.

The move to remote learning in March meant that we needed to find new, innovative ways of providing performance opportunities and the Virtual Musical Tea was born. We invite you to join with us in grabbing a cup of tea and a biscuit and catching up on those performances online.



Beat Goes On



Virtual Musical Tea



Online Music Lessons

Junior Languages

To introduce our Junior school pupils to different languages early on in their education is a great opportunity for them to establish an understanding and appreciation of different cultures. We are lucky at Rendcomb to have such a great international community who are only too willing to help out.



Spanish exchange students reading to junior school pupils



Learning about German foods and how to ask for them



Learning how to say "I speak..." German, French, Spanish and Italian with the aid of a Mickey Mouse sweatshirt and labels!

Junior Orienteering Day

On Tuesday 28th January our year 6 children took part in an orienteering day. The morning started off clear, sunny and cold and the children learnt how to orientate maps by setting them to the ground. The legend was then studied to help with moving across the ground efficiently.

Year 6 then completed a star course which was set out across the grounds, much fun was had with this course, many visited the wrong point a few times, this was only to be expected and made this activity rather more fun. Two lines courses were then completed one around the school buildings and one which took the children on a tour of the golf course and wooded areas. The views in the sunshine were fantastic.

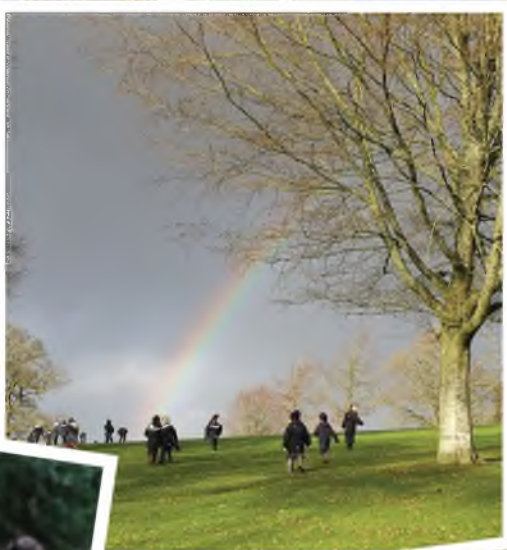
Our children should be proud of themselves as they worked hard to develop the difficult skill of navigation, and although tired at the end of the day, all stated that they had thoroughly enjoyed it.

Jon Arnold



Forest

A small selection of some of the great pictures we've taken in Forest School over the year



School



Juniors in Lockdown

Not to be outdone by the seniors, the nursery and junior school pupils were equally busy during lockdown with baking, art and even a family sports day!





Otters Nativity







RENDCOMB
COLLEGE
NURSERY • JUNIOR • SENIOR

Your adventure starts here ●●●

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