

Rendcombian

2015-16

Your adventure starts here ●●●

Front image: Year 9 Brecon Beacons trip. Sgwd Henryd waterfall



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What a year we've had!

Joining Rendcomb College has been an exciting, challenging, and fantastic new adventure for us both and we now feel firmly part of the Rendcomb Family. Thank you to all our pupils, their parents and families, and our fellow colleagues for welcoming us into the fold so warmly.

Throughout our first year as Heads, we have been continually humbled by the thoughtfulness of the children in our care, thrilled by the adventures that we have all been taken on day after day, in and out of the classroom, and amazed by the academic successes of our pupils.

This magazine presents just the tip of the iceberg of what has been a truly fantastic year. We have enjoyed a multitude of educational trips and visits, bumper exam results, sporting achievements, competition wins, concerts, plays and musicals, and everything in-between - all testament to our dedicated teaching staff, support staff and the support of our childrens' families in helping them become the best they can be.

Our Upper Sixth leavers have now entered the next phase of their lives, with most going on to higher education. We are looking forward to learning how our newest Old Rendcombians get on in life after Rendcomb. At the end of the year we also said goodbye to members of staff who have moved on to retirement, promotion or to pastures new.

We wish all our leavers the best of luck with their next adventures.

Rob Jones, Head of College

Victoria Beevers, Head of Juniors



Prefect Team 2015-16

Head Girl

Kate Major

Head Boy

Sam Tushingham

Deputy Head Girl

Courtney Doyle

Deputy Head Boy

Louis Cruzat

Prefects

Vajresh Balaji

Antonia Cohrt

Angela Dai

James Sinfield

Honor Birden

George Dimopoulos

Pascale Summers

Frankie Parshall

Raymond Wang

Tom Smith



Staff Farewells

Pamela Crisp



Assistant Director of Music
Pamela has been a key member of the music department for the past five years. A sensitive, caring teacher, who has often willingly given up her own time to help those students going through difficulties, Pam has taught across

both the Senior and Junior schools, accompanied at concerts and hymn practices, sung in numerous concerts and conducted a number of groups including Rendcomb's own all-girl 'Barberina' ensemble. Pam also started a number of charitable initiatives at Rendcomb including the now annual tradition of collecting Christmas Shoe Boxes for Africa. Pam will be much missed by staff and students.

Dom Franks, former Director of Music

Nick Hopton



It's hard to believe that Nick has only been here two years, purely because of the sheer (and varied) amount of events and activities that he has managed to squeeze in during that time. From starting the brilliant Wildwatch, to

overseeing evening duties in Lawn house, umpiring and coaching cricket teams, having a few cameo roles in various school plays, performing the role of photographer extraordinaire at sporting fixtures, providing music in Chapel for both the school and the community, organising the extremely successful Literary House Party, inviting huge literary names to speak at the College and of course being an exemplary English teacher and inspirational Head of Department.

Nick has been a wonderful addition to the Rendcomb family, both at the college and in the wider community. His endless patience, sarcastic wit and pithy comments have endeared him to everyone from young junior students, when he appeared with copious amounts of Roman snails he'd caught for their snail races, to long standing members of the village, with his addition of a donkey and some sheep to the Christmas carol concert.

Mary and I are immensely grateful for all he's done for the Department and we will hugely miss his excellent leadership and caring attitude. Someone once said

that you can always tell how happy a place is by how much laughter emanates from within it; we can absolutely say that the English Department has been a wonderful place to be under Nick's leadership.

I know I now speak on behalf of the whole College and wider community when I say a massive thank you for all he has done for us. We will all miss Nick hugely, and we wish him every success for his next adventure in both his personal life with his imminent marriage to the lovely Jo and his professional career at the hugely lucky Bedford School.

Sarah Read, English Teacher

Diana Dodd



The accolade that pupils past and present gave with a Hairspray montage song rendition shows the high esteem in which they hold Mrs Dodd. Mrs Dodd has fulfilled a large number of roles over her time at the college.

Teacher, Head of Department,

Houseparent, mentor to GAP tutors, Deputy Head and a myriad of other jobs and titles! She loved being in the classroom and putting on ever more ambitious productions. (the biggest team event in the school year). Her performance in the classroom was impressive; pupils were able to attain two grades higher than prediction data and her last two A Level pupils both gained A* grades. Never one to blow her own trumpet, she would say she stole all her best ideas from being on inspection in other schools; inspections were another area in which she excelled. She was able to chair food committees and school council, as well as being a good ear for sounding out ideas and problems. Mrs Dodd has served under four headmasters and she says that each gave her a different job. She has risen to all challenges given and will be sorely missed by students and staff. We wish her well in her retirement.

Hugh Marsden, Head of PE

Dom Franks



Dom came to Rendcomb with wide-ranging interests over the whole spectrum of Classical, Jazz and Popular music. A cool saxophonist and skilled improviser, there were times when this extended to speaking in Headmaster's Assembly only a few hours after playing the last

note at a gig in London. Burning the candle at both ends has served Dom well in his work at Rendcomb. Always friendly and approachable, he showed a very caring attitude towards the students, opening up new musical horizons for many of them and helping a number of talented Rendcomb musicians achieve their goals in Higher Education. Dom threw himself wholeheartedly into large scale productions, including two memorable musicals (Footloose and Singin' in the Rain), also Zimbe and Ahoy!, Fauré's Requiem and five carol services. He enlisted distinguished professional musicians such as John Law and Alex L'Estrange to give workshops, and took two successful and at times hilarious music tours to Venice and Granada. Dom's original approach to hymn practices in chapel is legendary and his energy for music never seems to diminish.

The VMTs at Rendcomb have appreciated Dom's friendliness and support for colleagues, involving all in decision making, performing in concerts, and socially. With a real gift for multi-tasking, he was also a good negotiator, sensitive to the department's need to defend its own corner. He made music accessible, inclusive and fun for many of the students here and there are many moments that they will always treasure. Dom has a certain 'Pied Piper' quality about him, but sadly we can't all follow him to Bristol Grammar School. Nevertheless we all wish him the very best there and want to say a big thank you for five memorable years at Rendcomb.

John Wright, Organ and Piano Teacher

Lexi Kelly



I feel incredibly lucky to have worked with Lexi over the past four years. She has been involved in many aspects of College life, but I particularly want to highlight her role in the classroom. She is an outstanding teacher – not only in my opinion, but also that of her

PGCE tutor, her colleagues, and, of course, Dulwich, who are very lucky to have her working for them. Lexi has a passion and energy for all that she does, and I am delighted she found her vocation in teaching, as countless young people will benefit from her knowledge, skills, her energetic and clear approach to teaching difficult concepts, and her ability to turn the most dull concept into an enjoyable competition and game. I have learnt a great deal from Lexi – indeed, she has changed how I think about teaching, as well as how I teach.

Lexi's ability to remain positive in the face of difficulties will be an asset as she progresses into more senior roles, something I have no doubt she has the talent and ability to do, should she wish to. Rendcomb will miss her greatly, and we are grateful for all she has done for the Science Department and the College as a whole.

Saskia O'Sullivan, former Head of Science

Jenny Kitchin



Jenny Kitchin only spent two years in the Junior School but **she quickly made a big impact.** Not only was she hugely popular in the staffroom, but she was highly regarded by the pupils she taught. Taking on the challenging task of Head of Computing in

the Junior School, the pupils engaged fully in her hands-on and up-to-date teaching methods. Not only did the pupils love her coding lessons, but she also took on the role of Head of Geography in the Junior School. This was a passion of hers and her knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject was delivered effectively to the classes she taught. Jenny also enjoyed her time on the sports field, coaching, umpiring and encouraging the girls in lessons and matches. Jenny has an incredibly funny sense of humour and was often the cause of hysterics in the staff room. She will be greatly missed by both pupils and staff and we wish her every success in her move to Chelmsford and at her new school.

Claire Hayden, Head of Girls' Games

Saskia O'Sullivan



Saskia arrived at Rendcomb in 2012 and from the start, brought into the department her infectious enthusiasm and passion for science and a real sense of fun. She set forth immediately to refurbish the labs and perfected

the designs to suit the College's and the team's needs. She inspired pupils and colleagues alike by encouraging STEM activities and promoting all the university and career opportunities that science has to offer; she supported so many pupils in pursuing these pathways.

Saskia pushed the ethos of Science being fundamental (and used any excuse to throw fire around the lab!). Every day was an adventure working with Saskia and she had absolute dedication to her



pupils and her team. She has forged an identity for science at Rendcomb and has put the department 'on the map'.

Alice Wyndow, Chemistry Teacher

Louise Louisson



Lou started at Rendcomb in September 2001 as Adrian Palmer's secretary (the Junior School's Headmaster) and Teaching Assistant to Miss Hunter (now Mrs Street) in the Reception class. Her office was a small 'box'

room located where the new Nursery dining room is now. After being in a school environment Lou decided she wanted to teach and embarked on a PGCE, after which she secured a teaching job at Cirencester Infants where she taught Year One for three years.

Lou returned to Rendcomb in 2007 to teach in Otters and along with Mrs Bleaken, Miss Hunter, Mrs McKenna, Miss Flint and Miss Langstaff became part of what was affectionately known as the 'Dream Team'. Lou left briefly on maternity leave before forming an extremely successful 'job share' partnership with Mrs Bleaken in Year One.

In recent years, Lou achieved her Forest school qualifications and has been a real asset to the Otters' Forest School as well as working parties and I have thoroughly enjoyed our after school Forest School club activities.

Lou has been a valuable member of our school, whose warm smile and bubbly personality has won the respect and admiration from colleagues, pupils and parents alike. She will be sorely missed by everyone! We wish her well as she embarks on a new adventure to establish her own Forest School business.

By Catherine Breare, Head of Key Stage 1

Matt Collins



Matt joined Rendcomb in September 2015 on a one year Vocational Apprenticeship in Sport Coaching and was quickly thrown into the deep end, running sports sessions, writing reports and travelling with teams. He has now passed his

apprenticeship and took up a place at the University of Gloucestershire in September 2016. We are all very proud of his development and contribution over

the short time he was here. For a young man, he has taken on a lot of responsibility and grown enormously over his time here. His passion and expertise in Cricket are impressive and I would certainly welcome him back on team Rendcomb in the future.

Will Mbanga, Director of Sport

James Gilchrist



James fully involved himself in school life, taking sport, where he has led two terms of Hockey along with Cricket in the Summer term, taken activities and accompanied trips. I feel like a parent watching their child grow up and leave home with James, having had

the pleasure of his company, energy and expertise on the sports front, as well as the privilege of being his mentor as he undertook his PGCE. We wish him all the best in his new role and as he's not too far away, hope we can build a new fixture list/relationship with his new school.

Will Mbanga, Director of Sport

Mel Bleaken



Mrs Mel Bleaken started at Rendcomb in September 2004 and soon established herself as an outstanding J1 class teacher and an excellent member of the Otters team. Her warmth and enthusiasm for teaching was apparent and her infectious

smile never failed to light up a room. She was a firm favourite with all the Otters children and she is highly spoken of by ex-pupils of all ages, who remember fondly their time in her class.

Mel took part in all Rendcomb life and was a valuable member of the Junior School staff. She particularly enjoyed her cookery After School Club and was a keen supporter of the Forest School.

No one will ever forget Mel dressed up as the Queen on one particular World Book Day; she certainly looked and acted the part, having a real air of a true royal!

The staff, pupils and parents certainly miss having Mrs Bleaken around but it is wonderful to see her here as a parent when she brings her son to Nursery. We wish her well in her teaching career and would love to see her return to Rendcomb one day!

Catherine Breare, Head of Key Stage 1

Christine Johnson



Attempting to sum-up Christine Johnson in just a few words is a daunting prospect, especially as during her time at Rendcomb she meant so much to so many people. Working closely with her it was always clear that Christine was utterly professional in all

she did, as well as being generous in her support for colleagues. It is unusual in schools for someone to be so well liked and respected by staff from all areas of work, and in Christine's case this was achieved by always taking an interest in others.

There were many times when her quick wit and ready smile cheered-up the day, and I shall miss the fun she brought to the office. Sadly Christine's departure from Rendcomb was forced on her by family circumstances, and as sad as it is to see her leave I know that it was the right decision for her to move on to a new phase of her life.

David Illingworth

Deputy Head Co-curricular and Staff

Annabelle Salt-Forster



Annabelle joined the Biology Department in January 2014 and it was immediately apparent that we were most fortunate to have found a dedicated Biologist (and Jura and Coco her two dogs), with genuine

empathy and understanding for the many and varied roles she was to take on. Annabelle also had some insider knowledge of Rendcomb as she had recently married Ian Forster, a former pupil and Head Boy of the College, a pupil I remember well for all the right reasons.

From the outset, Annabelle launched herself into academic, pastoral, tutoring and sporting roles and it was a delight to see how the pupils responded to her enthusiasm and ability to inspire and pass on her knowledge.

I have a large number of very fond memories of Annabelle, be it striding out in the Snowdonia mountains on the Year 13 field trip when a few months pregnant, dusting clay pigeons with both style and skill and of course, a first rate colleague in the lab, always willing to embrace new ideas and initiate exciting teaching projects.

Annabelle left for maternity leave in the Summer of 2015 with the arrival of Henry soon afterwards. I wish to thank Annabelle for all she has done for Rendcomb and wish her, Ian and Henry all the very best for the future.

James Stutchbury, former Head of Biology

Rupert Lane



Rupert served as a Governor of Rendcomb for over eight years, the last six of which as the Chair of Governors, until his retirement in August this year. During his time as Chair he oversaw the appointment of both Roland

Martin and Rob Jones as Heads of Rendcomb, and Victoria Beevers as Head of Juniors. As a former headmaster himself Rupert was able to bring the benefit of years of experience to Rendcomb; rarely did an issue come up which hadn't been dealt with by him somewhere along the way during his career, and his gentle counsel and support on many matters have been warmly welcomed by us all. Rupert's lasting impact on the school will be the Performing Arts Centre, a project he embraced and championed, and we will look forward to welcoming him back to show it off to him in due course.

Eleanor Sharman, Clerk to the Governors



Junior School Academic Review

Extended Curriculum and Educational Visits

This year has once again been a busy one with a great deal of activity taking place outside of the classroom curriculum.

The K'nex Challenge provided Year 5 pupils with an introduction to the exciting world of engineering. Pupils competed in pairs to produce a solution for a given problem using the K'nex construction kits. The winning team was chosen based on their ability to work together, solve problems, produce a working model and communicate their ideas to each other and the judge. On the day, Guy Francis and Bertie Parkes were adjudged the winners of the Rendcomb competition and they then represented the school at the Gloucestershire finals. They did not win the county competition but they enjoyed the afternoon immensely and were a credit to the school.

Rendcomb's budding authors were given the opportunity to showcase their talents by taking part

in the prestigious BBC 500 Word Story Competition. This year, over 123,000 children entered the competition and we were delighted to hear the news that 3 of the 16 Rendcomb entrants had made it past the first round. Will Jones, Bertie Parkes and Edward Nichol had their stories selected for the second round of judging. Just 4,000 entries made it through to this stage so it really was a fantastic achievement for Rendcomb to have 3 representatives included in the top 3% of all entries! Nobody was fortunate enough to make it through to the Top 50 stories which were selected for the final round of judging but Will, Bertie and Edward each received a certificate which stated how hugely impressed the judges were with the quality of their entries and we are sure they will keep on writing!

The Summer term saw an exciting new venture for Rendcomb Junior school as we held our very first 'Careers Carousel'. Mr Harris spoke to pupils about working in the financial sector, Mr Jones told them all about life as an airline pilot, Mr Parkes shared the secrets of being a chartered surveyor and Mrs Holloway – complete with small creatures! – talked about life working on a farm. The pupils thoroughly



Education
also takes
place
beyond the
classroom

enjoyed the experience of being given a small insight into the wide and varied world of work and asked some thoughtful and intelligent questions of our guests. We are very grateful to our visitors for giving up their time and we will definitely be hosting some similar events in the future.

There continues to be a wide range of educational visits taking place throughout the academic year and our pupils gain a great deal from these experiences. Last year saw visits to farms, aquariums, museums and air raid shelters to name just a few. Traditional favourites remain a key part of the calendar with Year 3 enjoying their visit to the Roman Villa at Chedworth, Year 4 making scientific discoveries at @Bristol, Year 5 completing a mini-coastal tour and also being evacuated from Winchcombe and Year 6 finding themselves all aboard the SS Great Britain and then, later in the year, hiding from ghosts at Warwick castle. Of course, the absolute highlight for our oldest pupils was their residential trip to Kilve Court where they were not only able to enjoy themselves immensely but were also able to demonstrate some of their strong characteristics. The Year 6 pupils responded to the new challenges

they faced at Kilve Court with enthusiasm and they showed great perseverance and resilience when they found things difficult. Such qualities are vitally important in today's world and they perfectly illustrate the benefits that Rendcomb's extended curriculum has to offer.



Senior School Academic Review

The academic year began purposefully on the back of another set of excellent GCSE and A Level results. It was clear that departments were keen to maintain momentum with many teachers offering additional support, clinics and workshops throughout the year. The Head directed the focus towards a Growth Mindset approach, as espoused by Carol Dweck, where intelligence is developed rather than fixed. Pupils are focused on embracing challenges, sticking at the task, learning from mistakes and seeing effort as the path to mastery.

In addition to the usual curriculum, pupils enjoyed the many (and varied) enrichment activities and trips that ranged from Language Competitions at GCHQ to Maths Olympiads. The Senior School enjoyed a very successful "Superhuman" themed Science week, while we finished the term with a focus on S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) for those in the Lower School. Not to be outdone, the English Department led on National Book Week and also organised acclaimed poet, Simon Armitage, to visit the College.

As the year wore on "Elevate Study Skills" training helped with revision strategies and Mindfulness aided those feeling exam pressure. The academic year culminated in GCSE and A Level results day. Those leaving the College averaged three As at A Level and 95% reached their chosen university option. The GCSE group saw encouraging results with the A*-A grades rising for the fourth year to over 47%.

While the year was a great success, in the spirit of Growth Mindset, there are still things to improve and we welcome Nick Cox as Deputy Head Academic from September. Mr Cox will be continuing to develop our academic provision to ensure that we meet our objective of ensuring that every pupil reaches their own potential.

A Growth Mindset view of Success



Biology Field trip



The Sixth Form went on a three day field trip to Wales at the Margam Field Studies Centre. Whilst there they learned about techniques used in classification and taxonomy and had a chance to experience the classification system by looking at biodiversity in two comparable sites. They visited Bracelet Bay where they sampled species richness as the tide receded and used their results to learn statistical techniques relevant to the A level course. With that long day under their belts, they tackled - with gusto - sampling in a different aquatic environment: the stream by the Centre. The intensity of the course, with morning, afternoon and evening sessions, ensured that they got the most out of the three days, yet everyone managed to find some down-time to relax and enjoy themselves. A great trip!

Computing Department

It's been a bumper year for Computing, with excellent results in both academic and enrichment activities. The department has gone from strength to strength with numbers growing in all subjects, our best results ever at both GCSE and A Level, and now the winners of a major national competition, as well as runners up in others. As a direct result, we have invested further in our facilities and are the proud guardians of the new Computing lab, with dedicated space for practical 3D printing and design, electronics and robotics, as well as our dedicated programming areas. The Longitude Prize has helped pay for new classroom facilities, subsidise trips to computing, science and technology events. It also funded the International Women's Day event, which saw representatives from Ericsson, a number of tech companies and a major government agency advise the young ladies of Rendcomb on careers in the tech and science sector.

This year saw our second A Level cohort with two thirds progressing to university to read for degrees in Computer Science and the remainder going straight into employment and further training following our

best ever results. This year saw the introduction of the new A Level, with pupils taking a full two year course before sitting external examinations, offering much more time for teaching and learning without the pressures of exams every year.

Our GCSE classes have continued to produce excellent results, with 91% of all students over the last two cohorts gaining A*-C grades. This year saw around half the class score 100% in at least one of their two practical assessments, reflecting the strengths of the qualification in preparing pupils for later life and making them more technically skilled



The department
has gone from strength to
strength our best results ever
at both GCSE and A Level

and hence more employable. We are in our final year of this specification, with pupils learning to create virtual computers, encrypt secret messages and program speed camera simulators being but a few of the challenges that they have faced so far.

September sees the introduction of the new GCSE specifications, with the department opting for the IGCSE specification that offers us greater scope for personal enrichment and challenge beyond the constraints of the curriculum. This provides us with the scope to run more trips to enrich and give context for learning, as well as a greater number of focus, aka 'hack' days, which will include other schools for the first time. Pupils will compete to produce a technical solution to a given problem within a tight deadline, usually with a social context, such as reducing homelessness in the West Country, building rocket-powered cars or this coming year, robot wars!

We have, and will continue to offer a wide range of enriching activities, with a different focus each term. Michaelmas sees an emphasis on creative media, with podcasting, animation and Digital Leaders. Lent sees more of a focus on game design, with Unity3D game programming, BAFTA Young Game Designer of the Year and converting retro consoles into PCs. Summer sees the big build up to the end of year hack days, with this summer's tying in with the release of the BBC MicroBit and we built rocket-powered cars that had live telemetry via embedded mini PCs. Our winner saw an average speed of over 51km/hr. Next summer we will go even further with robot boats racing down the river and doing battle. Safe to say there are no slow days in the Computing Department!

Computing and Computer Science are growing ever more popular subjects at university, seeing the largest increases of all major subjects, with excellent subsequent employment rates. The Russell group elevated A Level Computer Science's standing and it is now classed as a facilitating subject for most engineering and science-based degrees. The employment market continues to surge for people with a strong technical affinity, and so Rendcomb is well-placed to equip its pupils with skills and knowledge to help them become even more successful in the coming years.

English

Book Published



Year 9 published their very own children's book. In a cross-curricular initiative involving Art and English, the pupils completed a fun project based on Eric Carle's iconic collage creatures. Carle's work, which includes the perennially popular *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, inspired the pupils to produce their own illustrations by inking, printing, stencilling and collaging with tissue paper. The students invented charismatic creatures which were then incorporated collaboratively into lively children's stories. The results were so good that they deserved to see their work in print.

The publication has been celebrated in Independent School Parent Magazine and on the Independent School Council's blog (see <http://www.isc.co.uk/news-blog/isc-blogs/an-exciting-ambitious-and-imaginative-voyage/> to find out more about the project).

The book, which costs £5, is suitable for younger children and contains three delightful stories about a range of animal characters. £1 from each sale will go to the excellent Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity which helps to make life better for seriously ill young people across the UK. To order copies, please contact Reception.

Big Book Quiz

The Dulverton Hall was crammed with keen readers of all ages – including staff and parents – for this year's Big Book Quiz. Many were still dressed in their World Book Day costumes. A fun opportunity for teams of all ages to answer questions on all sorts of text-based trivia, the emphasis was on having a great time. There were rounds on literary bears, birthdays and connections as well as the popular Plasticine modelling round in which teams had to mould favourite book characters. Octavia, whose independent bookshop in Cirencester is a popular haunt of many Rendcomb readers, came along to take part and brought with her a sample of up-to-date books to browse or buy.

The quiz was a nail-biting and high-scoring affair, proving that the College's pupils are well-read and

culturally aware. There were prizes for everyone but the winning team consisted of pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9. They won book tokens, which were kindly donated by Octavia.



Andy Briggs

Visiting author Andy Briggs proved extremely popular with J6, Year 7 and 8 when he visited Rendcomb on 1 March, 2016. All three year groups enjoyed an inspiring presentation about what writers really do. The highly successful children's author, graphic novelist, film producer and writer of screenplays showed how collaborative, varied and exciting writing can be. He shared his strategies for success, enthusiasm for Tarzan and passion for conserving wild apes, wowing the gathered pupils for over an hour.

After a question and answer session with J5 fans, Andy Briggs ran invigorating writing workshops, during which members of Year 7 worked in writing room teams to create fabulous fiction. Bank robberies, fiendish butchers, balletic ponies and a musical version of D-Day were just some of the brilliant ideas spun into stories. Andy Briggs also spent time with J2, who had dressed up as book characters for the day and asked the author some really smart questions. Everybody involved in the various action-packed sessions clearly learnt a lot and had fun working with this charismatic and multi-talented writer.

Literary House Party 2016

This year's Literary House Party saw members of the Sixth Form heading to Dorset and Salisbury, two areas closely associated with well-known writers. The aims of this annual expedition are to broaden the participants' cultural awareness, offer reading and writing opportunities and have fun. Ten students joined staff from the English Department over the weekend of 22-24 January, 2016 on what proved to be a creative, fascinating and enjoyable trip.

Our first destination was Lyme Regis, where we walked along the blustery Cobb with the waves lurching either side of us. Here we learnt how Jane Austen set one of the most well-known passages in *Persuasion* on this stone pier and explored why Sarah, the mysterious, eponymous character of John Fowells' *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, braved all weather to gaze seawards. A stroll along the beach gave us the chance to find fossils. Clem's sizeable ammonite was a particularly exciting discovery but took some lugging back to the bus! After lunch, we set off up the cliff path, passed through the jungle-like depths of the Undercliff, and enjoyed a creative writing session overlooking Lyme.

Our accommodation for the weekend was the excellent Youth Hostel on Portland. Its homely sitting room was the perfect place to read, write and play games. Pictionary proved a challenge for those more adept with the pen than the pencil crayons, but it didn't help that George misread the word 'manatee' for 'matinee.' His team members were not impressed!

Saturday saw the group in and around Dorchester. The Dorset County Museum's Writers' Gallery was fascinating and included a great range of material

about both William Barnes and Thomas Hardy. A reconstruction of the latter's study, along with original manuscripts of his novels and poems, helped us understand this erstwhile architect who became such a prominent man of letters. We were able to handle some of Barnes' notebooks and listened to three local performers reciting his dialect poems and eclogues. Their readings were hugely entertaining and we came away feeling that Hardy's friend and mentor should be better known.

A short drive took us to the brand new visitor centre at Upper Bockhampton, Hardy's birthplace. Three National Trust guides, one of whom had recently completed a PhD on the writer, walked and talked us round the local forest that inspired the young Thomas' writing. We then had the privilege of going inside the famous cottage, even though it was closed to the public for the winter. A fantastic activity that involved looking at newspaper cuttings, planning notebooks and extracts from *The Mayor of Casterbridge* revealed how Hardy used real events to inform his novels. Our last stop of the day was the graveyard of Stinsford Church. Immortalised by Hardy as Mellstock, his heart was buried here whilst the nation claimed the greater part of him for Westminster Abbey. Mrs Read's account of how the cat that pilfered part of the heart was put down and interred alongside it astonished the students. Louis read *The Convergence of the Twain* before we moved a few graves down to pay homage to Cecil Day Lewis.

After a stroll along Chesil Beach, wave-wrenched and bleak in the twilight, we were glad to return to the warm hostel. As the majority of the group were studying *The Canterbury Tales*, Mr Hopton had set everyone the challenge of creating our own version. *The Casterbridge Tales* written by the student and



staff pilgrims were all effective, but Niamh's was voted the winner. Jared and Louis excelled at the Plasticine-modelling competition that followed.

On Sunday we headed north to Salisbury, where a guided tour of the city took in sites associated with Dorothy L. Sayers, Shakespeare, E.M. Forster and Thomas Hardy. Margaret, our guide, particularly enjoyed telling us about the life of Henry Fielding, whose bawdy books reflect his interest in wooing the local ladies! Spending the afternoon at Salisbury Cathedral meant we could explore William Golding's *The Spire* and one of the most significant texts in British history, Magna Carta, in spectacular surroundings. We had a further chance to savour the architecture and ambience of this astonishing building during a beautiful choral evensong service; a time when texts, contexts, thoughts, feelings, ideas, possibilities and memories swum amidst the musical ebb and flow.

Simon Armitage Live at Rendcomb

Ivor Novello and BAFTA award-winning poet Simon Armitage thrilled, inspired, and encouraged pupils who were studying his work ahead of their English IGCSE and A Level exams. He visited on Monday 18 January, 2016.

Simon spent the afternoon running a workshop with the students encouraging them to think creatively and take risks with language. He then gave an entertaining rendition of his poetry to a public audience.

Speaking about the workshop, Simon said: "The session was really a 'bubble' outside of the school routine. Often pupils are pressured to give the right answers but this was an opportunity for the students to follow their ideas and see where they went, to allow one notion to lead to another."

He continued: "The students were friendly and enthusiastic, no motivation was required and they just dived in and got on with it; they had confidence in sharing their own work with each other."

Talking about his experience working with the renowned poet, A Level pupil Louis Cruzat said: "Simon introduced us all to exciting new methods of drafting poetry and other kinds of writing. Above all, he encouraged us to always go back and consider our work with a critical eye in order to draw out the best possible results. The workshop was made even more rewarding by Simon's mantra of always attempting to be interesting and original with language, form and structure."



Rendcomb College's IGCSE pupils were studying Simon's poem *In Our Tenth Year* and at A Level they are studying his collection of poetry entitled *Book of Matches*. The workshop included a variety of activities including beginning a piece with the words 'the kangaroo said to me...' and encouraging the pupils' minds to wander through speed, blind and opposite-hand writing. Students also studied selfies and wrote a narcissistic poem about their faces inspired by words connected to a secret.

Simon worked with the pupils to understand how to get into the 'mind' of a poet and explore how ideas can be formed, how hidden meaning can be seen and why poems should be revisited and explored over and again.

Dozens of guests attended the public reading where Simon, an ex-probation officer and geography graduate, spoke about his path into poetry and gave an insight into his thoughts that led to the composition of his poems.

He read poems including *I Kicked a Mushroom*, *Poundland*, *Moon Country*, *Oh come all ye Faithful*, *Aviators* and his translation of the medieval poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

National Poetry Day: 8 October 2015

The theme this year was light. Among the poems written was this one, which one of the Third Form English classes composed together during a lesson. They then analysed their own work!

Light

Red light: danger! Stop! Break! Help!

Orange light: dawn-dipped tiger fur.

Yellow light: dancing on a pirate's gold.

Green light: go! An aurora's glow.

Blue light: nee-naw, seashore splash.

Indigo light: let's dive to the deep.

Violet light: late night disco age.

White light: too bright, brand new page.

Written by Year 9 for National Poetry Day 2015



The Lower Sixth students enjoyed an excellent production of the Tennessee Williams play *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Curve Theatre, Leicester on 8 November, 2015.

Year 10 and 11 Trip to *An Inspector Calls*

Here is Grace Tushingham's review of the production pupils watched in Cheltenham.

I thought that the *An Inspector Calls* play we went to see was very good. I thought that the characters were portrayed very well and the lighting and sound created more drama and helped the audience to believe what they were watching even more.

I thought the set was good and I liked the way that the people in the house were higher up than those on the floor. I think this helped the audience to see that the Birlings are of a higher class to people such as Edna who spent the whole of the play lower down. I liked the way that as the play went on more and more characters came down to the lower level as if they were being degraded by their guilt and realising their faults. The lighting throughout the play made the atmosphere build up and added tension to the play and a sense of reality. The way the lighting was dark and gloomy at the start of the play gave us a sense of what life would have been like before and during the War. When the Inspector arrives the lighting suddenly became brighter and harsher showing the audience that the happy evening may not be such a happy one after all.

I think that the characters were all played very well. They all appeared to be as you would have believed them to be in reality. Mr Birling was portrayed as a "hard-headed man of business" making long speeches, butting in and constantly talking about money and work. I think that Eric was portrayed to be a lot more childish than I thought he would be. I was expecting him to be more mature and more understanding but he kept seeming to break down and run around doing silly actions and similar things. I can understand that this may have added a more comical side to the play and have lightened the mood; however, personally I didn't really like it. I thought the similarities between Gerald and Mr Birling were a lot more obvious in this version of the play as Gerald also appeared to care a lot about business and work. Finally, I think that Mrs Birling seemed to be a lot harsher in this version than I expected her to be. She showed no emotion and seemed almost disgusted when Sheila reacted with horror at the girl's death. I thought this was good as it showed how the upper classes think a lot less of people lower in society and do not really care about them.

In this version of the play, I think the relationship between Sheila and Gerald was not really believable especially at the start when they were supposed to be celebrating their engagement. I found this very hard to believe. They never seemed to be truly in love at the start and I found it more believable when they were arguing. I think that the relationship between the Inspector and Sheila was brought out a lot in this play. There truly seemed to be a connection between them and I feel that the Inspector almost wanted to protect Sheila. The fact that she wanted to help him shame her own family made this connection all the more obvious.

In this play, Edna was a little old lady and I liked this factor of the play. Edna always seemed to be hunched over and working hard, showing that the higher classes treated all the lower classes with disrespect however old they may have been. You would expect younger people to help their elders but in this situation they are treating Edna like an object and a slave. I think the fact she was an elderly woman in this version of the play unlike the TV show helped get across the points J.B. Priestley wanted to show; about how society was different.

As the play went on, some of the characters began to deliver their lines at a faster rate as they got agitated and anxious about the unfolding events. The Inspector appeared to be the only character who continued to talk at a steady rate throughout the whole play. I think this is good as it shows the rising tension among the family. The Inspector keeping calm the whole way through shows his intimidation and also shows that he has the power. I think the music helped the play as it was one of the most memorable parts. For example, when the house collapsed, and the music became really loud and intense it showed the audience how important that moment in the play is and makes it even more thrilling and memorable.

To conclude, the play was very good and had a lot of key points I think the characters were portrayed well and the lighting, music and set made the play more powerful and helped you to believe you were there, in the room with them, hearing the story of Eva Smith for the first time.



Junior Science Room

The Junior School's science room was planned over the early part of last year's spring term and constructed over the remaining part of the term and in the Easter holidays by our Works Team.

Year 5 and 6 pupils tested it out during the summer term to highlight any areas that required improvement.

Several areas in the room have been changed and developed further and this year all pupils from Years 3 to Year 6 are using it throughout the week.

The science room has been a real benefit to the children and the school. It has allowed the children to experience more practical work and before moving on to the Senior School the children will be more used to working in a science laboratory type environment.



The science room has been a real benefit to the children and the school



Junior School Prize Winners

The following prizes were awarded in Final Assembly:

Academic and Effort Prizes

J3L

Academic – Esme Cartwright

Effort – Sayako Spencer

J4K

Academic – Jack Wilcocks

Effort – Imogen Langley

J4H

Academic – William Wolton

Effort – Amelia Holloway

J5A

Academic – Bertie Parkes

Effort – Ellie Langley

J5R

Academic – Guy Francis

Effort – Lucinda Norris

J6A

Academic – Edward Nichol

Effort – Cameron Burr

J6B

Academic – Freddy Billington

Effort – Katherine Marsden

Boys' Cross Country Cup

Toby Beckett

Girls' Cross Country Cup

Amelia Jones

The Henniker-Gotley Boys' Victor Ludorum

Henry Hiscock

The Meborn-Hubbard Girls' Victor Ludorum

Millie Roberts

Reeves Cup for Improved Reading (Otters)

Samuel Au

Roberts Family Cup (Otters Effort)

Cleodie Wills

The Westie Salver for Performing Arts (Otters)

Cooper Harris

Carden Cup for Music

Henry Hiscock

Dufosee Art Cup

Maddie Baxter

Shackel Cup for Drama

Caleb Timmis

Shark Cup for Most Promising U9 Sportsperson

Thomas Stanley/Imogen Langley

Osborne Cup for Girls' Sport

Katherine Marsden

Palmer Cup for Boys' Sport

Jimmy Thompson

The Haas Technology Cup

Owen Barker

Phelps Effort Cup

Arwen Borthwick-Hunter

Arkle Cup for All Round Improvement

Zach Kaplan

The Environment Cup

Owen Barker

Trim Happy Cup

Edward Mudge

The Kindness Cup

Sebastian Hossle

Good Example Cup

Harry Brownless

Potter Cup for Overall Contribution

Edward Nichol



Junior School Art

J4 began the year with the Tudors, making stunning large portraits in coloured pastel, looking at the work of Holbein, followed by tiny miniatures inspired by Hilliard.

J4 took part in the Senior School Science Department's International Space Station competition producing some lively entries. Tallulah was one of the winners with her imaginative 3D astronaut and Will for his colourful painting.

This year J5 have studied Perspective and have made collages of towns with overlapping buildings giving their pictures a real sense of space and distance.

They looked at the American artist Joseph Cornell and went on to make their own 3D boxes inspired by his work.

J5 worked on a water theme producing abstract paintings and collages based on the sounds and movement of water

They studied the history of Rendcomb and made beautiful observational drawings of architectural features and details of the building.

The children entered the Chinese New Year competition - Henry Carr was one of the winners for his lively picture of the Year of the Monkey.

They made illuminated letters of their initials including intricate animal designs and studies of animals by artists such as Rembrandt and Dürer.

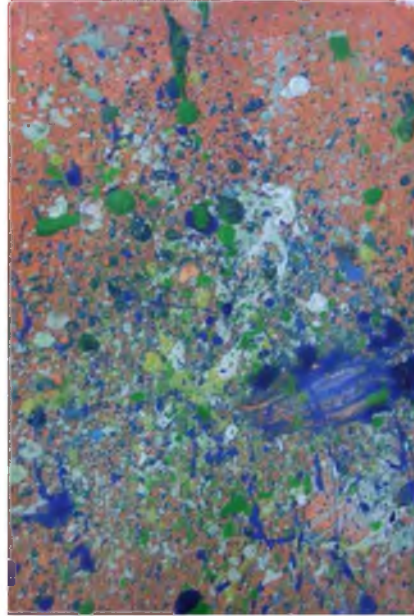
Later in the year they focused on portraits, first of each other in graded pastels, carefully looking at proportion, tone and texture with expressive use of pastel. They then made self portraits using a wide range of graded pencils enabling them to create strong tonal drawings.



Chinese New year Competition prize winners:
Zach Kaplan (J6), Henry Carr (J5), Freddie Marsden (J4)

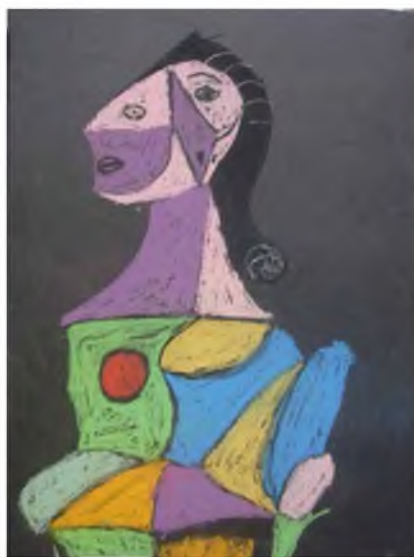
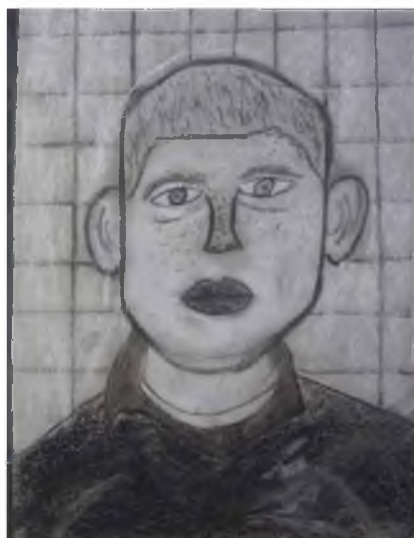






Lucinda Norris

3D Perspective box by Jessica Mackenzie inspired by the Caribbean



Senior School Art and Photography

This year has been an exciting one for the Art and Photography department. Throughout the entire academic spectrum, vision, creativity and hard work have come to the fore and, as the year draws to a close, the fruits of the students' labour have made the department in to a vibrant and inspirational showcase.

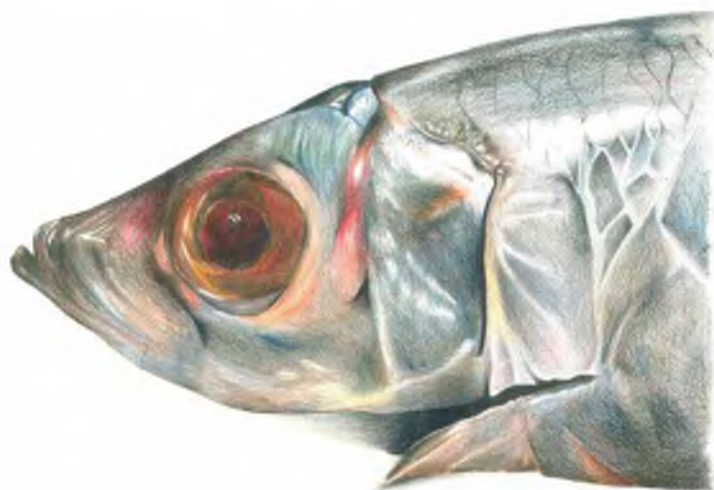
Highlights from the year have included a painting and skills workshop from the internationally respected painter David Copley and textiles workshops by three local artists. The influence of these visits and the contributions that the local and wider community have made to the Art department, have been plainly evident in the work that the students have produced and it is wonderful to see such thirst and enthusiasm among the student body.

Other highlights include the introduction of new ceramic techniques to the department following the procurement of new equipment. Clay work has been incorporated across all Key Stages and during the activities session and the interest has been overwhelming.

I am hugely proud of the work that has taken place within Key Stage 4. The GCSE unit was comprised of a coursework unit centring on natural forms and sculptures followed by a gruelling exam unit made up of self-directed work. The commitment, desire, and expression that all students demonstrated embody what art is about. The dynamic and vibrant work compiled by the outgoing Sixth Form has also transformed the gallery space in the Art department.

The future of the Art and Photography department is exciting. 2016/17 promises to bring further investment in new and exciting materials, providing further opportunities for students to hone their skills in a variety of mediums. We will continue to update and develop the department, seeking new and innovative ways (as well as staying true to the traditional) to capture students' imaginations and to bring out their creativity.

Amy Bird, Head of Art and Photography





Junior School Drama

Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

Cue the music, light the lights...it's time to raise the curtain to the *Men in Tights*

This year's Junior production was *Robin and The Sherwood Hoodies* written by Craig Hawes. It proved to be a hysterical show and a real riotous romp through the medieval mayhem of Merry England, splattered with some surprises, crazy characters, comic capers and plenty of corny jokes. The side-splitting show followed Robin Hood and his Merry Men on their action-packed adventure to defeat the dastardly Sheriff, storm Nottingham Castle, rescue Maid Marion and overthrow King John – and all without laddering their tights!

The Year 6s did an amazing job taking on all the lead roles and bringing their characters to life as well as working on their comic timing; as did the Year 5s in their understudy roles. All pupils from Years 3-6 gave 100% of themselves both during rehearsals and the actual performances. The huge grins on their faces just went to prove how much everyone enjoyed performing this wonderful musical, especially when the infamous Squisher was put to use on the Sheriff of Nottingham.

The show was full of really catchy and show-stopping songs, including *Men in Tights*! My thanks must go to Mrs Hossle, the Musical Director and all the other members of the band, both staff and pupils for providing all the wonderful live music.



As ever, it was a huge team effort to put on such a show. Thank you so much to all my colleagues who helped me backstage from costumes, prop-making, set design, make-up and crowd control. Everyone definitely deserved an 'Oswald!'

Amanda Brealy, Head of Junior Drama

Senior School Drama

Hamlet

Upon the dawn of March 2016, word was spoken of a new dramatic production in the midst of Rendcomb College: *Hamlet*. The auditions were held, the cast was cast, and rehearsals began. As the days turned

into weeks, and the weeks turned into a worryingly large amount of time leading us closer to the production date.

The production finally came and as it turned out it came off without a hitch (aside from Hamlet doing a mega-slide to catch the skull of poor Yorick, rather carelessly tossed by the grave digger). The applause rained down, our egos were overloaded, and we trotted off stage waiting for the impending doom of the post production deflation of mood. So, a huge thank you to the directors, the cast, and the crew.

Max McKeown, Year 10



One Man, Two Guv'nors



One Man, Two Guv'nors; what a play it was! A comedy of ages certainly, with a plethora of characters who, despite their differences in both class and intelligence, were close knit and fiercely protective of one another throughout the whole show. Francis Henshaw (Louis Cruzat), lovable fool and star of the show, led the rest of the cast in the right direction with well placed (and unintentional) one-liners, and some stellar examples of audience participation. Being a part of this production was absolutely amazing. Being able to portray characters that seemed two dimensional but were quite complex, in actuality, whilst being guided by the ever generous hand of Mrs Dodd couldn't have been better.

There were a number of unforgettable moments and ganders across the performances, from my vacant stares and Rachel's (Eleanor Brealy) grimacing at forgotten lines, to Stanley's (Will Witts) hideous back hair, and the Fictitious Stage Manager (Niamh Smith) unabashed confidence in quite literally hurling herself through the doors. I'd say it was a resounding success, going as far as to say it was the most engaging play I've experienced in all of my time at Rendcomb.

Jared Wason-Cooper, Year 12

Dance

Dance is offered throughout Rendcomb College and all children that took part in the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts obtained distinctions of 80% and above. A group of children had the opportunity to perform a dance piece at the Great Big British Dance Off, the only national schools dance competition in England and performed very well in the South heat at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon.

Other than festivals and competitions, children get the opportunity to present and perform their work during regular parents' watching days and are entered in bi-annual Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) international graded ballet examinations. Some children had the opportunity to perform solos and



group dance pieces at assemblies and fundraising events. Other dance forms offered at Rendcomb include musical theatre, street dance/creative dance for boys, classical Greek, folk dancing, modern dance, Contemporary dance and DDMIX fitness aerobics.

Mrs Sumé Liebenberg, Junior and Senior School Dance Teacher

Junior School Music

Just lately, I've been 'Counting Stars' and reminding myself of the many opportunities the children have had to shine, showing off their multiple intelligences and certainly developing their confidence and character on the stage. As the year began, a new Rock Band was formed with lead Singer Freddy Billington, Bas Hossle, Roo Jones, Edward Nichol, Henry Hiscock, Caleb Timmis, Guy Francis, Zach Kaplan and Max Jones. Our stars performed in many informal concerts, impressing parents with their ability to both entertain and create good music. The Senior School Rock Concert welcomed the Junior Rock Band for the first time ever as they took centre stage performing *Holiday* by Green Day. The whistles and applause from senior pupils certainly boosted their egos!

Improvisation on the theme of *Twelve Bar Blues* and sight-reading skills were perfected through the growth of Junior Orchestra and our top instrumentalists Ewen Burr, Bas Hossle, Gary Fang,

Guy Francis and Amelia Holloway joined Senior Orchestra, performing alongside seniors in the Autumn Founder's Day Concerts.

With the growth of musical lunchtime activities - Music Making Club, Piano Duet Class, Orchestra, Choir and Rock Band - came a number of successes at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. Most notable were the winners of the Duet Class, Edward Nichol and Henry Hiscock, who walked away with a sizeable trophy! Choir ventured onto the streets of Cheltenham and brought a spirit of Christmas to the general community through their hearty Carol singing, once again accompanied by the senior school choir.

Junior Choir and J6 had an amazing experience learning *Ahoy* composed by Alexander L'Estrange, and were invited to be part of a professional choir, made from senior school and the Capella Singers for a full performance in the Dulverton Hall. A visit from Alexander L'Estrange boosted everyone's technique



and confidence during a pre concert workshop. This was certainly a night of sea shanties and 'hauling rigging' to remember!

Associated Board Examinations throughout the year were most successful with three pupils gaining their Grade 3 exam in December: Henry Hiscock (piano), Edward Nichol (piano) and Bas Hossle (clarinet). A number of Distinctions and Merits were awarded throughout the grades and the highest mark achieved this year was by Edward Mudge, who gained an astonishing 138 marks on his guitar!

The final performance of the year was the light-hearted and entertaining play *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*. Our Junior Band made up with both Junior School teachers and pupils, admirably handled difficult key shifts and rhythmic changes as they accompanied the singers. With Gary Fang on violin, Bas Hossle on clarinet and Henry Hiscock playing keyboard (by memory!) they sounded most professional as they took us into the forests of Sherwood. The James Bond theme tune performed by Ewan Burr and Bas Hossle prompted the grand entrance of Robin Hood (Edward Nichol) who was 'licensed to thrill'! Solo singing was a highlight with Archie Storey, Ethan Hill, Florentyna Sztuka, and Ameila Jones. Certainly an *Adventure of a Lifetime*: the latest Coldplay song carried away by J6 and the J6 Band with lead singer Maddie Baxter, Max Jones on percussion, Zach Kaplan African drum, Caleb Timmis guitar, Harry Brownless flute, Bas Hossle clarinet, and of course Henry Hiscock delighting us with the semiquaver flourishes and sound effects on the keyboard.

Whilst I am still *Counting Stars*, all I can say is how thrilled I am by the number of children fully immersed in the musical life within Rendcomb. From the weekly performances in Distinction Assembly to the major concerts, pupils of all abilities can certainly be part of our musical stage.

Mrs Cheryl Hossle, former Head of Junior Music

Senior School Ukulele Club

This year a fresh new batch of amateur ukulele players took on the daring challenge of learning the song *Riptide*, by Vance Joy. For once the song itself was written on the ukulele originally. We were a bit slow on the pickup of the chords and strumming

pattern but we stuck at it and cracked it in the end. However our Mt Everest was 'stringing' everyone together to play in time with each other for the big day, the ukulele concert.

After we started to make rapid progress with *Riptide*, we decided to split up as smaller groups to perform a song of our choice. Three main groups were established, each one with their own song. *Dumb Ways to Die* was handed over to the more experienced group (including myself); *Stay With Me* was performed by a Year 7 group and was executed to perfection on the big day. Last but not most certainly not least, the two Year 10 girls, Ella and Charlotte, decided to go off-piste and make their own song called *Fly*. This turned out to be a very well put together piece and well performed at the concert.

In ukulele concert tradition; the staff performed as well singing a mix of *La Bamba* and *Twist 'n' Shout*. This made the crowd go wild and was a fantastic way to end off a once again brilliant concert.

Tony Pow, Year 9



Junior School Sport

As the newly appointed Head of Junior Sport, I am delighted to report the junior school have had another competitive year on the sports field. All the children from J3 to J6 have represented the school in at least one of our teams this year. The children have continued to uphold the reputation of the school, playing new and larger schools with success. All this would not have been possible without my dedicated games staff who have worked tirelessly in all weathers to encourage, challenge and praise the children on the field whether in practice or in a competitive match. Finally, I would like to thank the parents who come out in numbers whatever the weather to support not only their children but others too.

Rugby

This season saw the RFU introduce a new set of laws for junior rugby. These took a little getting used to, but everyone including the coaches worked hard to get to grips with them. The U11s had a mixed season; they have competed well at times but have sometimes been over powered by larger players. The U10s played with plenty of commitment, support and spirit, despite being without two of their key players for almost all of the season. The U9s had several close matches and worked tirelessly for each other displaying a 'never say die attitude.' Overall, we enjoyed a mixed season in terms of results but the quality of rugby played and the level of progress achieved has made it a successful one. A number of stars have been identified for the future and I am sure this will lead to a growth in confidence, enjoyment and success both on and off the field. The boys should be commended for their effort, determination and great sportsmanship shown throughout the season.

Colours were awarded to: Jimmy Thompson

Football

Overall, there have been some super individual performances by the U11s and certainly our captain and goalkeeper Caleb Timmis deserves a special mention for his heroics in goal making some magnificent saves and being so brave throwing his body on the line. A well done to those U10 players who stepped up a level to play up a year. The match of the season was the opening against King's where King's dominated the game for long periods and

were strong in taking a 4-2 lead but Rendcomb gathered themselves and fought back bravely and secured a 4 all draw; it was breath taking stuff. Both the U10 and U9 sides encountered many footballing schools. All the boys, to their credit, never gave up and there was obvious improvement from many which bodes well for the next season. No matter who has been selected, they have worked hard as a squad and have encouraged and supported each other throughout the season.

Captain and Colours: Caleb Timmis

Cricket

Once again every boy was given the opportunity to play cricket this year and experience the 20 over game format. Harry Brownless was the 1st XI Captain and led his side to many victories by example; either with his fast opening bowling or his swashbuckling batting. There was a super team spirit in the 1st XI and this was tested on many occasions throughout the season. With Harry and Caleb Timmis (wicket keeper) selected for the county (Cheltenham and South Gloucestershire District) and a core of boys who played club cricket the team were confident of achieving a result against anyone. The 2nd XI were made up of U11/U10s and were introduced to the hard ball. They enjoyed some close encounters with their opposition and thoroughly enjoyed the experience including the interval (match tea between innings). Overall, it was a successful season with super victories especially over The Richard Pate School who scored 130 for the loss of 1 wicket for Rendcomb to surpass that score (133) and win by 8 wkts. Another highlight was beating Beaudesert by 9 wkts with Jimmy Thompson scoring a magnificent 42 runs.

Our U9s had a mixed season, led by Thomas Stanley who bowled and batted consistently well throughout the season. Although the results may not have gone their way, the boys' victory over The King's School Gloucester was the most pleasing and exciting. All the boys in the Junior School should be commended for their behaviour, spirit, attitude, support and effort shown during the matches this season.

Both Oliver and Thomas Stanley were also selected for the county squad - Cheltenham and South Gloucestershire District

Colours were awarded to: Harry Brownless, Caleb Timmis and Jimmy Thompson.



Swimming Gala

Parents, teachers and children gathered around the pool for the annual swimming gala. There was again much anticipation and excitement amongst the competitors. Many races were closely contested. Notable performances came from Lucinda Norris breaking four school records and winning six medals. A special congratulations goes to Sienna Jones, who won five medals in her first gala.

Tennis

Rendcomb were invited to play in a U10 tournament amongst several larger schools around the county. The children were delighted to be representing the school. Rendcomb were put into a strong pool but overcame both Dean Close and Beaudesert to be pool winners. They were to play the hosts St Edward's and after some close matches Rendcomb reached the final against The Richard Pate School. Despite a valiant effort from all the squad and after some close games, Rendcomb were runners up.

Sports Days

The annual junior sports day was bathed in glorious weather and top pitch was a picture. All the children had turned up with plenty of enthusiasm and a great deal of determination. Many races were well contested and a lot of effort went into many individual performances.

Congratulations to Griffin house for winning the Junior House trophy.

Otters' sports day once again was well supported by family and friends. As always the traditional races - egg and spoon, sack race and sprinting - were all part of this fun and it was a most enjoyable day, the highlight being the mums and dads races.

Shooting and Horse Riding have been introduced to the Junior School this year and there has been a super up take in all of these clubs. The shooting club have been to London to compete in their first ever competition and had a great day.

Inter Schools Cross Country

With the weather on our side the 10th annual inter schools cross country was held on top pitch. It was a brand new course and despite the change 5 visiting schools were raring to go. There was lots of excitement and wonder about the course and how challenging it may be. Promptly at 2pm the first race was run - 46 Year 3 and 4 competitors charged ahead over the 1 mile course. First to cross the line was a St Edward's boy, with several of our team not far behind. The second race was for the Year 5 and 6 children. This was over a longer course and was going to be highly competitive with Pinewood fielding a strong team. And sure enough the winner was a pupil from Pinewood who took the lead in the early stages and continued to extend her lead



Well done to everyone who took part in the Swimming Gala. Lucinda Norris had a great day beating many school records. Corinium won overall.



finishing comfortably ahead of the rest of the field. A super afternoon was had by all the competitors, staff, parents and volunteers – whom without them this event could have not run so smoothly. Congratulations to Mr Arnold for once again producing a well organised event. Well done to our team who fought bravely and ran their hearts out.

Congratulations to Pinewood for winning the overall team event.

Once again this year, there has been a wide variety of sporting activities on offer to all the children in the Junior School whether it be within the curriculum or offered after school, which has been very pleasing to see. Many, many children have had the chance to represent the school from U8s in playing their very first representative match for Rendcomb to the U11s who played their final matches for the school before entering the Senior School. All these children have represented the school with pride and honour, they have played in the true spirit of sportsmanship and have been ambassadors for the school.

Once again I would like to thank all the coaching staff for their hard work and effort and the magnificent parents' support who have followed Rendcomb home and away.

I look forward to this coming year and share with you our highlights and sporting achievements again next year.

Andy Lawrence, Head of Junior Sport

U8 Girls' Sport

Hockey

Played: 2 Won: 0 Drew: 1 Lost: 1

The U8s had two matches this term. They showed themselves to be selfless players, always ensuring they worked as a team, communicating with each other well when making passes. Their focal area was to find space on the pitch and by the end of the season they were looking and moving in to far better spaces.

Netball

Played: 1 Won: 1

The U8s loved their first netball match and performed well. During lessons, we had worked a lot



on making accurate passes and moving in to space. The girls put this in to practise, winning their first ever netball match 3-0!

Rounders

Played: 1 Won: 1

After much training in order to gain an understanding of the tricky rules of the game, the U8s had their first rounders match towards the end of the season. The whole team demonstrated such enthusiasm and ran hard in order to gain as many half rounders as possible! They listened and acted upon advice and were rewarded with a win. Well done girls, you have had a very positive year which bodes well for future matches!



U9 Girls' Sport

Hockey

Played: 4 Won: 3 Drew: 1

This group of hockey enthusiasts had a wonderful season! Their continued composure, pressure towards their opponents and team work ensured an unbeaten season. The girls worked hard to spread out on the pitch and their communication between each other enabled them to make accurate passes, therefore often dominating possession throughout their games.

Netball

Played: 4 Won: 2 Lost: 2

The girls made excellent headway in the first half of term, enjoying the start of a new season. They were often seen moving the ball fluently down the court and the shooters performed well under pressure. Our defence remained strong, working hard to mark their opposition.

At the end of the season, the team travelled to Hatherop Castle for an inter-schools netball tournament, with five schools participating. The quick 10 minute matches were fast paced and despite an incredibly chilly spring afternoon, Rendcomb were joint runners up! Playing some far larger schools, the girls gained valuable experience from the tournament and brought their enthusiasm and high spirits with them!

Rounders

Played: 4 Won: 3 Lost: 1

In the first game of term, Rendcomb's very first batter scored a rounder from the first ball. This boded well for the rest of the season, helping to settle nerves and increase confidence. Rendcomb fielded intelligently during each game and always ran with determination to clinch extra half rounders whenever possible.

This was a great year of match results for this young U9 team. I am sure we will continue to see them go from strength-to-strength as they continue to focus and build upon their skills learnt over the seasons and take part in more matches as they move higher up the school.

U10 Girls' Sport

Hockey

Played: 7 Won: 4 Drew: 1 Lost: 2

The U10s enjoyed playing in a number of fixtures this term. With a slow start to the season, enduring a draw and two losses, the quality of play hugely increased after half term, with an undefeated second half to term. Playing some much larger schools, this demonstrated the progress the girls made throughout the season, working incredibly hard to play well as a team. Our forward players often moved swiftly down the wing, making strong attacks against the opposition. As well as great forward players, our defence always worked tirelessly to keep the opposition out of our defending area, keeping the goals scored against us low.

Netball

Played: 6 Won: 4 Drew: 2 Lost: 0

This spritely U10 team demonstrated great passion and a desperation to score as many goals as possible in every match they played, often resulting in high scoring games. They played some much larger schools but this never deterred them! From the earliest game, it was clear that marking their opposition was to be a key focal point. The girls



worked hard in this area and the improvements they made ensured their results were continuously positive.

Rounders

Played: 4 Won: 2 Lost: 2

The rounders season wrapped up a brilliant year of sport for the U10 team. The season started off with a bang as the girls won their first two games and the scores were high. After half term, they played far larger schools, consequently enduring tougher games with much closer end scores. The final game of the year was a nail-biter, with just half a rounder difference at the end. During lessons, the girls worked hard on improving their game play and tactics. The whole group worked wonderfully as a team, trusting each other in the various roles they played. It was great watching their confidence develop as well as their game awareness, resulting in the girls using every opportunity to sneak an extra half rounder and calling encouraging words to each other.

It was a pleasure to coach this enthusiastic team again this year and I look forward to continuing to work on their skills and match play next year, for their final year at the Junior School. Thanks as always go to the parents for their continued support from the side lines!

U11 Girls' Sport

Hockey

Played: 6 Won: 1 Lost: 5

As the season progressed, the girls tried hard to make stronger passes to each other and find space on the pitch in order to open up the game. By the end of the season they were making more accurate passes and won their first game convincingly. This team never gave up and their spirit was a joy to witness. Captain: Arwen Borthwick-Hunter.

Netball

Played: 6 Won: 1 Lost: 5

The girls were thrilled to start this season on our brand new netball courts. During this term, the girls focused on securing possession of the ball by making sensible passes. Some of the opposition spent much time in our defensive circle so our defenders ensured they made every effort to secure the rebounds. A particular highlight for this team was their win against Pinewood just before half term. Captain: Maddie Baxter.



The whole
group worked
wonderfully as a team

Rounders

Played: 3 Lost: 3

This summer term brought with it a mix of weather which meant the fourth and final match of the season was cancelled due to rain. Despite being unable to score as many rounders as their opposition, the girls enjoyed every game. They loved trying out the various fielding positions as well as working on strengthening their hits of the ball and throwing with continued accuracy and strength. I hope the girls continue to enjoy participating in sport as they move to the Senior School and wish them all the best for the future. Captain: Katherine Marsden.

Senior School Sport

Athletics and Cross Country

Grace Knapp competed in the Cardiff Welsh schools races, winning a team gold medal and individual bronze, along with selection to represent the College and County at the South West Schools cross country in February as well as winning selection for the English National Schools Cross Country Championships in March 2016. College Athletes competed in a friendly with Westonbirt School, where Eva Maslin won her high jump, and along with Kieze Francis won their respective 200m events. Eva also won her 100m event, while Holly Newman came 2nd in the 75m hurdles, Alice Balchin came 2nd in the high jump and Isobel Verey came 2nd in the 800m. At the Cheltenham College Athletics Invitation meet, Rendcomb athletes performed superbly, with Kane Lomasney taking 1st place in the long jump, 2nd places in the 800m (Frankie Parshall and Louis Szopinski) 200m (Kieze Francis) 300m (Ellie Von Wallwitz) and 4th places for George Dimopoulos (Shot putt) Alina Lisnenko (High jump) and Lucy Holland (Javelin)

Equestrian

During the 2015 Summer Holiday, Monte Swain-Granger played polo most days, practising stick and balling and also schooling his ponies. All his hard work led to a very successful summer where he played for both age group and adult teams. He played a couple of major tournaments for two teams, where they won the Daily Mail trophy and with the other team, came second in the Surtees

championships. As a result of his performances, Monte was one of eight children to be selected to play in a tournament in Richmond. He was in the tournament winning team, winning the Stagshead Trophy for Young England 2015.

Serena Stanley came 9th in her class at an Inter-School Equestrian event in September and Jessica Baker came 2nd in the 1 metre class at Hartpury in October, an excellent achievement as Jessica has never competed at this height before! The Equestrian team has competed in a few events this year, including an inaugural Rendcomb event, with good performances all round.

Golf

Joel Frost had an excellent summer, playing in a number of competitive events and getting his Handicap down to a very impressive 3.

Lacrosse

The 1st XII won the National Schools Division 3 title while our U13s took a fine 2nd place in the Welsh Schools U13 Tournament during the Lent term. It was another 'bumper harvest' of County reps in the U15 and U19 Gloucestershire Lacrosse teams for Rendcomb, which, apart from our small size, is all the more remarkable as we are a 'one term' Lacrosse school. Well done to: Frankie Parshall, Eleanor Brealy - U19A; Pascale Summers, Kate Major, Maddie Morgan, Liberty Elliot - U19B. Becky Langley - U19 Reserve. Emily Musgrave, Anna Frost - U15B. Emily Sharman - U15 Reserve. The following girls also attended the England Lacrosse talent pathway: Eleanor Brealy - National U19 Academy; Francesca Parshell, Lucy Hollands and Grace Knapp - U17 regional academy; Emily Sharman and Emily Musgrave - U15 regional academy.

Rugby

Well done to Jamie Southall on his selection and outstanding performances for the Bath U15 team - the Rendcomb U15s have benefitted from his efforts as part of a very talented group who have to date only lost one match, winning the others by 35-40 points per game. A pleasing development this year has been the number of players involved in Junior Academy/Player Development Programmes - Jamie Southall - Bath U15 team; Joe Brewer, William Nichol, Luke Dale-Henderson and Tom Breare - Gloucester U14 DPP; Henry Holloway, Lorcan Carter-Brennan,

Ben Bradley, Sam Clifford - Gloucester U15 DPP; Charlie Pugh - Bristol U15 DPP. Congratulations also to Sam Jones who played for the Stroud District Schools U16 team in their three wins against the Gloucester, Cheltenham and District and Forest of Dean and District schools U16 teams. Also pleasing from a staff development perspective has been Mr Thomason joining me on the Gloucester Rugby Junior Academy DPP coaching team based in Cirencester - I have no doubt the experience he gains there will benefit our Junior School and lower school teams in the future. Well done also to our U12 and 13 players who had a tough start to the season but developed a good skill set and improved results as the season progressed.

Hockey

Well done to Alex Dennett, Ollie Jones and Raife Hackett on their respective representative group selections and Ollie in particular on his selection for the SW Performance Centre. Congratulations also to Anya Pereira, Thea Carter-Hughes, Jemma Elwes, Kates Holloway, Penny Lister, Ellie Miles-Sayers, Roman Bilinski, Joss Breare, Harry Baker, Oliver Beckett, Tom Breare, Jo Brewer, Will Nichol, Riley Rowe, Eva Maslin, Jessica Baker, Oscar & Rafe Althorp-Gormley, Alfie Beckett, Rory Hughes, Harry Lanyon, Jonny Peake, Nicky Musgrave and Alice Balchin who have all been invited to attend the Gloucestershire Hockey Association Junior Development Centre (JDC). Both our U13A and B Girls' Hockey squads represented the College in the County round of the National Schools competition, where our 'A' squad came 5th out of 18 teams.

Dragon Boat Racing

Grace Balchin succeeded in her quest to gain a place in the boat of the U18 squad for the GB Dragon Boat Racing team who compete in the European Championships later in the year.

Swimming

Will Mangan and Alfie Beckett have had a good year in the pool, achieving PBs and County standards across a number of strokes and doing well for their respective Swimming Clubs.

Will Mbanga, Director of Sport

Forest School Through the Seasons

Our Forest School sessions take place in all weathers and are flexible in order to make the most of the learning potential that nature provides at any one time. Forest School is a wonderful place to experience the seasonal changes at first hand. Here are some of our favourite activities and achievements this year.

Autumn

Forest School is a beautiful place in the Autumn and the leaves provide us with plenty of fun activities: making leaf crowns and leaf pictures, leaf sorting and counting. The children enjoyed raking up big piles of leaves for jumping into and throwing the leaves up into the air and watching them fall. We ventured across the fields and down along the River Churn where we spotted a heron, a waterfall and lots of sheep! At Hallowe'en the Nursery children made witches' potions and the Otters made stick skeletons and broomsticks. The J3 class adopted a Forest School tree, observing it through the seasons and creating stories about their tree.

Winter

During the cold Winter months, we kept warm by the fire pit, made cosy shelters and drank hot chocolate. We put our new night motion camera to work and captured a small deer padding through our Forest School area. I wonder which animals we might be able to photograph next year? We found some interesting large fungi growing on a tree which we researched using the internet and discovered it was called 'Velvet shank'.

Spring

We always look forward to Springtime at Rendcomb when our snowdrops appear and we spend time in our pretty Bluebell clearing. The Nursery class lay amongst the primroses and admired the pretty pink blossom in the trees above. We explored different textures in Forest School and enjoyed bark rubbings. There was a lot of rainfall this year and Forest School has never been so muddy. But all the more squelchy fun and the children enjoyed mud slides and making lots of mud pies!



Summer

Summer sun arrived at last and we enjoyed playing shadow games. A team of skilled and enthusiastic parents kindly joined us for our Annual Summer Working Party which was a great success yet again. Our new storage shed was erected, shelters repaired and renewed and some new features were created such as our new entrance archway; a new base camp and fire pit; a blackboard and a log balance course. A big thank you to all. We were joined by many parents during the Nursery Teddy Bears' Picnic and the Otters' 'Bring a Grown Up' afternoon. The children enjoyed the opportunity to show their families around Forest School and take part in activities together.

We say a sad goodbye to our Forest School Leader, Mrs Louisson, who was very a popular teacher and made a huge contribution to Forest School and the Otters for over ten years at Rendcomb. Thank you Mrs Louisson, we will miss you.





Forest School
is a wonderful place to
experience the seasonal changes

International Celebration Evening

The International Celebration Evening was in the Dulverton Hall at the beginning of October and all of the international students took part. The international students prepared lots of things for the event, such as food, games and information about culture. It gave everybody a chance to learn a about the culture of each country.

Iris Chen, Year 10

You could eat national food and read some information about each country. There were ten

countries including Australia, USA, Russia, Germany, India, Japan, Spain, China, Italy and Canada. I think that the best thing was the food, it was just delicious!

Georgy Komarov, Year 8

This celebration attracted many students and teachers to take part. One of the most popular things was Chinese food. Chinese students had prepared various delicious dishes. Jayting, a Chinese pupil in Year 9, had made hot pot for visitors.

During the celebration, different countries' songs played; some of the students danced in the middle of the hall. Spanish boys wore Flamenco dresses, which attracted everyone's attention!



Chinese handwriting and an instrument called Guzheng also excited the visitors and the atmosphere was active all the time. Some interesting games were played by students and teachers.

Sissy Wang, Year 10

Senior School Trips

German Exchange

This summer marked the 10th anniversary of our German exchange with the Gymnasium Calvarienberg; Mrs Fielding and Mrs Breare were invited to a special celebration in Ahrweiler in July, where there were many pupils from Rendcomb-Calvarienberg exchanges, past and present.

55 people took part in the visit to Germany in February this year, with all Year 9 and 10 German students spending the week in families. As well as shadowing their partners in school and going on a number of outings to venues such as the Olympic Museum in Cologne, the Nürburgring and ice skating, they had great fun getting to know the town of Ahrweiler, which is similar in size and feel to Cirencester. The return visit of the exchange was an equally busy week and included trips to Oxford,

Cirencester, Bourton-on-the-Water and Warwick Castle. In Rendcomb the German students took part in lacrosse lessons, cricket lessons, scone-baking sessions and clay pigeon shooting. They also had a



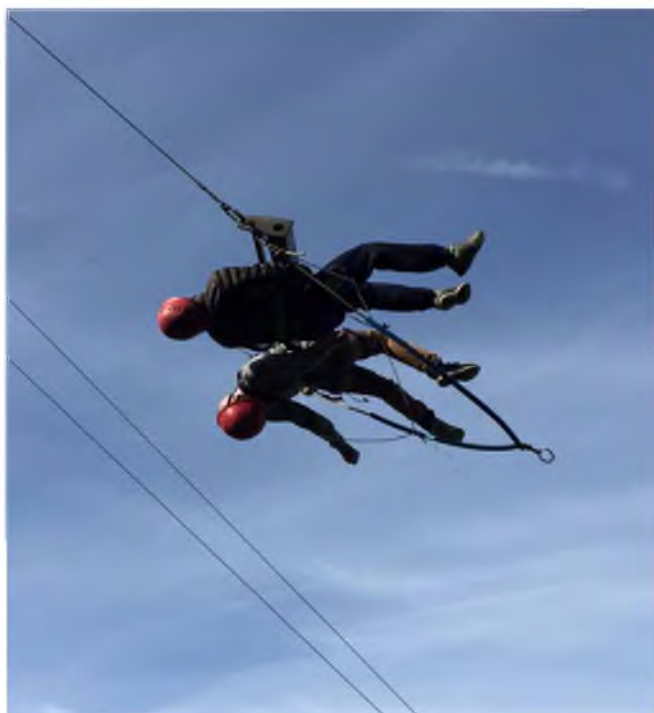
very successful visit to the Junior School, when they brought in their favourite German children's books for the J1s and J2s to see.

The Year 7 and 8 youth hostel trip, which has been based in the area around Ahrweiler for twenty years, was just as action-packed, with visits to the cities of Bonn, Cologne and Koblenz. Undoubtedly the most popular destinations were the Lindt museum and the Haribo superstore; however, pupils also greatly enjoyed trips to Cologne Zoo, crossing the Rhine on a cable car to the Deutsches Eck, and visiting Beethoven's house, a 20th Century German History museum and a swimming pool complex with amazing slides. The weather was varied – some days lovely sunshine and one day a snow storm, which resulted in some great fun on top of the Drachenfels hill, 'The best fun I've ever had, ever', as one pupil said!

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

GodRec residential PGL trip

48 Year 7-9 pupils from Old Rectory and Godman House undertook an action-packed PGL weekend at Liddington, near Swindon. Activities included such daring feats as the Giant Swing, Zip Wire, Obstacle Course and Aeroball. It wonderful to see all the pupils being adventurous and spending the weekend outdoors.



Malvern Hills Charity Run



Eight intrepid cross country runners, made up of staff and Sixth Form pupils, took on the Malvern Hills ridge from Herefordshire Beacon to Worcestershire Beacon - 9km and 400m of ascent. In the process they helped raise lots of money for their chosen charities.

Alex Brealy, Old Rectory Houseparent

Year 7 Adventure Weekend

The thirty-six Year 7 adventurers had a wonderful time bonding on their first weekend of the new academic year at the Manor Adventure Centre in Shropshire. They were challenged by the activities such as the Obstacle Course and the Confidence Course whilst they swung through the trees. Their nautical skills were also put to the test by the Raft Building exercise. They all came away tired but undaunted and with many more friends than when they arrived.



Year 9 Brecon Beacons Trip

12 of the Year 9 students responded to the call of the Beacons with two wonderful days there. The first day was spent walking up and over Pen y Fan, Cribyn and on to Fan y Big's "diving board" in glorious sunshine – a total distance of 10km and 700m of ascent! The evening was spent visiting the very impressive Sgwd

Henryd waterfall (South Wales' tallest waterfall at 27m). The next day was played out in the caves at Porth yr Ogof followed by gorge walking up the beautiful River Sychryd. A fantastically exhausting time was had by all!

Alex Brealy, Old Rectory Houseparent



The first day was spent walking up and over Pen y Fan, Cribyn and on to Fan y Big's "diving board"



News

Portrait Artist Inspires Pupils

21 October 2015

Renowned portrait artist David Cobley led a workshop for GCSE art pupils. David, famous for his portrait of Princess Anne and works displayed at the National Portrait Gallery including Ken Dodd OBE and Nobel Laureate Sir Martin Evans, talked through the challenges he faced training to become one of UK's leading portraiture artists. Students gained insight into the process of painting with a unique series of skills based workshops showing the importance of observational drawing by analysing and looking.

The workshop offered a unique opportunity for students to seek inspiration and learn new techniques ahead of their upcoming GCSE exams. The pupils also had the chance to paint a live portrait of Pippa, the headmaster's wife, who volunteered to model for the students.

Year 11 pupil Lucy Hollands took part in the workshop and said: "Having never painted a portrait before, the prospect of painting the headmaster's wife was rather daunting. However, following what was a lively demonstration from David Cobley, I couldn't have had more anticipation for what I was about to do. It was not only an honour to have such a well renowned artist come to teach and guide us in one of the most difficult and skilful artistic trades, but a lot of fun too!"



Head Boy is Top Scorer in Uni Admissions Test

26 November 2015



Sam Tushingham, aspiring doctor and Head Boy scored within the top 1 per cent in the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) which is a requirement for applying to study Medicine at top universities.

The BMAT is a compulsory admissions test for applicants to Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Biomedical Science and Dentistry courses at universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

On learning of his achievement, Sam said: "I was really happy to find out about my result, as this is another step towards my dream of becoming a Doctor and fulfilling my ambition of making a positive contribution to society."

The BMAT is an entry requirement but also gives pupils the chance to stand out from the crowd and show their potential to succeed on a demanding science-based university course. Sam scored 8.3 and 7.4 in sections 1 and 2 of the test where "very exceptional applicants will achieve BMAT scores higher than 7.0."

Girls Win £25K Longitude Explorer Prize

04 December 2015



Three pupils were announced as the winners of the national Longitude Explorer Prize in a ceremony hosted at the 2015 Teen Tech event in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East London on Tuesday, 1 December.

The Rendcomb team took home first prize with their mobile app Displaced, which uses live data on homeless people and refugees collected from postings on social media accounts. With location data and notes provided by users, the app will allow charities to better coordinate the logistics of supporting vulnerable people around the world.

The all-girl team of Grace Balchin, Emily Sharman and Eleni Dimopoulos presented their idea at the Teen Tech event to hundreds of local school pupils and judges, as well as meeting companies such as Salesforce, Bloomberg and the BBC.

In the spirit of the 18th century Longitude Prize - which set the task of determining a ship's exact location at sea - the contest focused on navigational technology. Groups of 11-16-year-olds across the country took up the challenge of using satellite location data to solve social challenges.

Of the 67 teams who entered the competition, 12 finalists were selected to present their ideas to judges and other students at Teen Tech. The judges praised the breadth of ideas and high quality of the entries.

Pupil Joins National Youth Choir

12 January 2016

Pupil Carmen Lee was selected from over 1000 applicants to join the National Youth Girls' Choir with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. She began rehearsals with the choir at a residential training course in April and has had the opportunity to perform at impressive venues including the Royal Albert Hall.

Carmen began singing at age nine at Rendcomb and sings with the school's Chamber Choir and whole-school choir as well as playing the violin in the school orchestra and string ensemble. She is currently preparing for her Grade 8 singing exam later this year.

On receiving the news, Carmen said: "I couldn't believe it. I was totally blown away, ecstatic and absolutely thrilled to be recognised by such a prestigious organisation. To be selected out of thousands of applicants was completely unbelievable."



Sports Kit Donated to Rugby Clubs in Need



Three large boxes of sports kit were donated to SOS Kit Aid for the benefit of young people in the UK and overseas. SOS Kit Aid send tonnes of old and unused sports kit to sports clubs in over 20 countries every year.

Local volunteer for SOS Kit Aid and former Bath and Plymouth and Albion rugby player Roger Elliott collected the kit from Rendcomb College.

Rendcomb College Games Coach Ed Thomason, who handed over the kit on behalf of the school said: "It's fantastic to know that our old sports kit is going to a good cause and not to landfill. I encourage all schools and clubs to do the same as it really benefits young people and teams who would otherwise not have access to suitable kit."

Since their first delivery in 2001, SOS Kit Aid has supported the development of rugby in over 20 countries and has enabled disadvantaged children to obtain the benefits that participation in team sports can deliver.

Founder of Virgin Records Gives Enrichment Talk

22 January 2016



Sixth Form students hosted Nik Powell, former chair of BAFTA's Film Committee and now Director of the National Film and Television School (NFTS) who delivered a talk as part of the school's Enrichment Programme.

Powell, who founded Virgin Records with Richard Branson in the 1970's and went on to form film companies Palace Productions and Scala Productions, talked about his career path to date and gave an insight into the film and television industry and offered advice on how to overcome adversity.

Speaking about Nik's talk and the Enrichment Programme, Sixth Form students Pascale Summers and Jacob Crozier-Davies said: "This was one of the best talks we've had. It was interesting how he advised us to pick the people we want to work with, not who we want to work for; he made us think that more things are possible. The Enrichment Programme also allows us to see things away from our normal studies and broaden our horizons."

Rendcomb College Gains IAPS Membership

27 January 2016



The Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) welcomed Rendcomb College as a member of its 650 carefully selected schools from across the world. IAPS represents world-class head teachers, who lead world-class schools which must reach a very high standard to be eligible for membership. With strict criteria on teaching a broad curriculum, maintaining excellent standards of pastoral care and keeping staff members' professional development training up to date, gaining IAPS membership is a kite mark of quality.

Head of Science Appointed to Royal Society of Chemistry Board

02 February 2016

Saskia O'Sullivan, Head of Science was appointed to the Royal Society of Chemistry's (RSC) Science, Education and Industry Board (SEIB).



One of just seventeen members, Saskia's peers on the SEIB include ten professors, eleven Fellows of the RSC and two Fellows of The Royal Society, the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

Saskia, who has teaching experience in Comprehensive, Grammar and Independent schools, said: "I represent a voice from education. It is a huge privilege and an honour for me to contribute to the invaluable work of the RSC in supporting primary and secondary education, on behalf of its 50,000+ members of academic scientists, education and industry experts from across the UK and abroad."

Pupil Pianist Picks up Two Gongs in Young Musician Competition

29 February 2016



Twelve year old Edwin Ward triumphed in the annual South Cotswolds Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition, winning the top prize for 'Best Pianist' and for coming second overall.

Winning the piano category in January, Edwin went through to compete in the final against eight others on 21 February to a packed audience of more than 200.

Edwin's performance programme comprised:

- Mozart: Piano Sonata in D major K311, 1st movement
- Bach: Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV847
- Harry Warren: September in the Rain

Lacrosse Trophy for Rendcomb Girls at National Schools Championships

01 March 2016



The Senior lacrosse team were crowned as champions in division three at the National Schools Lacrosse Championships. The competition took place at the University of Surrey Sports Park and the girls beat off the Under 19 teams from King's Canterbury, Heathfield Ascot, St Swithun's, Sedbergh, Loretto and finally Claremont to take home the trophy.

Team captain Francesca Parshall said: "To win at the championships is such a testament to the team! We didn't expect to win so it just goes to show that our training and hard work has paid off!"

Folklore Comes to Rendcomb College

Year 9 pupils worked hard to create an interactive workshop to allow J3 to experience folklore-style story telling.



Students found folklores from India and North America and transformed them in to stories that the J3s could become involved in – from creating the boughs of the trees that the deceptive chrysalis would hang from, to causing the hurricane that would fell the mighty tree.

The students delivered their tales in the beautiful surroundings of the Junior School's Forest School, and have challenged the J3s to create their own folklore interactive tales.

Where's Wally on World Book Day

The whole College celebrated World Book Day 2016 by dressing up as their favourite book character. The staff in the Junior School also had a surprise in store for their pupils as they all turned up at school in Where's Wally and Where's Wanda costumes.



Rendcomb Celebrates DofE Success at Buckingham Palace

16 May 2016



The Headmaster and Head of Duke of Edinburgh at Rendcomb, Hugh Marsden, attended a once in a lifetime Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace. At the event, Rendcomb College was presented with a special plaque from the DofE

Charity by celebrity supporter Gail Emms MBE, acknowledging the school's commitment to running the DofE and thanking it for giving young people the opportunity to transform their lives.

The DofE celebrated its Diamond Anniversary throughout 2016, having supported millions of young people in the UK and across the globe to achieve DofE Awards since it was founded in 1956. The prestigious Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace is one of many memorable events taking place to celebrate 60 years of the Charity.



Super Science Day Held for Youngsters

22 June 2016

More than 150 Year 3 to 5 pupils from local schools including Rendcomb Juniors took part in a Science Discovery Day at Rendcomb College in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry and Bristol ChemLabs.

The pupils took part in a morning of hands-on experiments across the three sciences led by

Rendcomb's Senior Science department within their 'gold standard' laboratories, followed by an exciting assembly on the different Gases in the Air led by Bristol University.

The children attempted to light a Bunsen burner with static sparks from their finger created by a Van de Graaff generator, they competed to produce a 30 second clock reaction and witnessed the dissection of a bull's eye. They also used marshmallow stick bodies to discover what would happen to Major Tim Peake's body in space if he were not protected by his space suit.



New Scholarship Launched

27 June 2016



A new 7+ Scholarship was launched for pupils joining Year 3 from September 2017. The 7+ Scholarship will be open to children who will join Year 3 from September 2017 and will be available to both current and new pupils.

Head of Juniors at Rendcomb College, Victoria Beevers said:

"We have introduced this new scholarship as a way of recognising and rewarding pupils who show promise and potential in our younger years. This is the first time the school has offered a scholarship at this level and is very much aligned with our ethos of providing an inclusive and broad-ranging education."

Victoria continued: "Recipients of the 7+ Scholarship will be expected to be role models amongst their peers and will be rewarded with a percentage reduction of school fees, in addition to the honour and responsibility that comes with being a scholar."

The 7+ Scholarship adds to Rendcomb College's current suite of awards offered in academic, art, drama, music and sport at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Oxbridge Interviews for Six Students

Six pupils were selected to attend interviews to study undergraduate degrees at Oxford or Cambridge. Jacqui Noel, Head of Sixth Form at Rendcomb College, said: "We are so proud of them; they have worked very hard to get to this point and have



supported each other on this journey as is the way with Rendcomb College students. The application process is very competitive with 18,000 applications for 3200 places at Oxford in 2014-15."

Pupil Has Hair Chopped off for Charity

28 June 2016

Emaleigh Holder in Year 7 wanted to do something to raise money for a cancer charity after the death of a family friend so decided to have her hair chopped off in aid of the Little Princess Trust.



The Little Princess Trust make real-hair wigs for children who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment. Having nearly 16 inches cut off, Emaleigh also raised £1,222 for the charity.

From Rendcomb to Rio



22-year-old Issy Bailey, who attended Rendcomb College from 2007 to 2010, made her Paralympic debut in Rio in the shooting squad after a rapid ascent through the ranks in recent years.

After the former hockey player was involved in a car accident in June 2013, she was introduced to the sport of shooting as part of her rehabilitation.

She quickly rediscovered her competitive spirit and in March 2014, just a few months after she first picked up an air pistol, she represented Great Britain for the first time at the IPC Shooting World Cup in Szczecin, Poland.

Issy said: "I've achieved so much in the last few years but to make it to Rio is just the icing on the cake.

"I am just so excited to be competing at my first Paralympic Games and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone that's supported me along the way. It's also fantastic that the British public are getting behind the team to Supercharge ParalympicsGB – I hope we can make everyone proud."

Her preparations for Rio coincide with the end of her studies at the University of Exeter, where she has been studying for an undergraduate degree in English.

Away from the range, she enjoys playing wheelchair rugby and played her first game with Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club just a year after her injury. She also enjoys playing badminton with the Devon Racqueteers and has also won her fair share of medals in that sport.

Siblings Set New Records at Sports Day



13-year-old Eva Maslin set two new records in field events by throwing an impressive 6.76 metres in the shot putt. She went on to claim her second record by jumping a staggering 1.45 metres in the high jump event setting a new record for her age group and for the whole school.

Eva's brother, 15-year-old Rowan Maslin proved his tenacity on the track by crossing the finish line in the 200 metre race at just 25.05 seconds.

Four other school records were broken during the day in the girls' 300m, discus and 4x100 metre relay.

The youngest record breaker of the day was Emily Finch in the Under 12 category who ran the 300 metre race in an impressive 55.63 seconds while Emily Sharman threw a fantastic 18.65 metres in the discus event in the Under 15 category. In the 4x100m relay, the Under 14 team from the 'Edwards' house crossed the finish line in 58.53 seconds while the Under 15 team running for the 'Radcliffe' house finished in 56.30 seconds.

Success – the Journey or the Outcome?

Olympic fever caught hold of the Headmaster of Rendcomb College, Rob Jones, who reflects on the role that success can play in a child's education.

This summer I have thoroughly enjoyed the BBC's excellent coverage of the Rio Olympic Games. I have marvelled at the successes and been fascinated by the journeys of stars like Giles Scott, Laura Trott or Max Whitlock have made to Olympic success.

At every post medal interview, the athletes talk of sacrifice; missed children's birthdays or long periods away from families, hours in the gym rather than socialising with friends, while also thanking the huge team of coaches, nutritionists or even data managers who have helped make their dreams a reality. Every success comes with enormous commitment, an endless thirst to improve and an ability to work together with other people - all things that we aspire to at Rendcomb College.

After a period where only exam results ruled, schools have, thankfully, begun to return to a more holistic approach. I have always believed that by instilling an adventurous spirit in children, they try new things and question the status quo. In this way they become adventurous learners, reflecting on what they have been told and take charge of their lives.

Unsurprisingly, this approach not only sees the development of interesting and rounded young people but also children who are successful because they are resilient, enquiring and willing to persevere at big challenges. Life is a bumpy road and, by focussing on the things needed for a successful journey, school becomes so much more than a set of results.

Our children, like our Olympians, must enjoy learning to be successful in life.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, our athletes proved themselves to be able to live and learn from those around them. We encourage our pupils to be thoughtful and mindful of others, impressing upon them that this is their community and one that they have a responsibility to maintain. We aim to rejoice in our differences, develop tolerance, where opinions vary, and cherish the "family" feel of a small boarding school.

Our pupils support one another and recognise that to enjoy success in their own interests, they need others to make up the team, orchestra or cast. As a consequence, we have pupils who not only "shine" in many areas but are also willing to be "in the background" for other activities in order to allow their friends to achieve their ambitions.

I want the children in my school to enjoy their education and to develop the character and skills that will set them up for any challenge. If we continue to focus on developing the whole person rather than preparing them for the outcome they will have the tools to be successful in school and beyond.

Leadership Workshops at Moving On Conference

30 June 2016

Lower Sixth pupils took part in a 'Moving On' conference with activities, lectures and workshops all set to prepare them for life beyond school.

One main focus was 'Leadership' where pupils looked at both theoretical and practical elements with the help of the British Army.

During the practical element of the day, pupils were tasked with finding a solution to a problem by working as a team and communicating effectively.

The tasks included: 'Off the Ground' where the pupils must build a structure that will hold their weight; 'Ravine' where they must construct a pulley system to transfer supplies; and 'Bridging' where they must move their team and kit from one area to another without touching the ground. Once they had completed the task, they were given feedback about how they performed and how to improve.



Pupils Visit Battlefields Ahead of Somme Centenary

Pupils visited the battlefields of World War One in France ahead of the Centenary of the beginning of the Battle of the Somme.



The Year 9 and 10 pupils visited a number of memorials and museums during the four day trip including those at the Vimy Ridge, the Somme and Ypres.

Speaking about the trip, Year 10 pupil Tom Finch, whose great grandfather fought at the Battle of the Somme and whose parents have served in the Armed Forces, said: "The trip was incredibly moving, especially when another pupil found their ancestor's grave. I feel privileged to have been able to visit the battlefields and understand more about the scale and magnitude of the events that took place 100 years ago."

Leader of the trip and History teacher at Rendcomb College, Marina Kinson said: "It was a poignant time to be visiting the battlefields and the trip was a reflective time for both pupils and staff. We were also lucky to be able to watch the preparations for today's commemorations during our visit to the Somme."

A Level Results: Triple A Average for Rendcomb College Pupils

18 August 2016

Pupils collected their record-breaking A Level results this year where they achieved an average of 374

UCAS points, bringing the average clutch of results per student to AAA with 95% making it into their chosen university.



The school exceeded results from previous years bringing the A* to A count up to nearly 50%.

Headmaster Rob Jones said: "I believe that much of this success comes from the close working relationship that pupils and staff can form in a small school. These pupils contribute in all areas of school life but are also hard-working and reflective learners who are well taught."

"I now look forward to following the progress of our newest alumni as they embark on undergraduate courses at their chosen universities including Oxford, Imperial, Bristol, Leeds, Exeter and Cardiff."

Statistics

- A* - A results doubled in the past two years to 46%
- 72% achieved A* - B grades
- Nearly 30% of pupils achieved straight A - A*
- 95% of pupils made it into their chosen university.

Lacrosse-the-pond for Francesca with Double Scholarship

19 August 2016

Following the success of Rendcomb's superb A Level results, school-leaver Francesca Parshall learnt that she secured both an academic and lacrosse scholarship to study in the USA.

Commencing her undergraduate degree in Political Science at Keiser University in Lakeland, Florida, Francesca said she is "so excited" by the opportunity.



Having been captain of Rendcomb College's lacrosse team in her final year, Francesca proved her proficiency in the sport when she led her team to victory in the D3 Rathbones National Schools Championship.

Keiser's women's lacrosse coach, Lauren Bennett, said: "Francesca has the ability to be a game changer, she is a true athlete and knows the game of lacrosse very well. Her speed, work ethic and game knowledge will be a huge asset to our team throughout the years."

Headmaster of Rendcomb College, Rob Jones said: "I am so pleased that Francesca's talent has been recognised in such a prestigious award. She works incredibly hard at all she does and I have no doubt that she will make a big impact at Keiser on and off the pitch."

GCSE Results: Half of Grades at Rendcomb College A* or A

25 August 2016

This year, the number of A* and A grades obtained equals nearly half of all results which continues the school's track record of improving GCSE results year on year for the last four years.

In individual subjects, 85% of pupils gained an A* or A in French while more than three quarters achieved the top grades in German. Musicians at



Rendcomb College will be particularly pleased with 90% obtaining an A* or A in their examinations. Computing students also hit the mark with 55% gaining an A* or A.

Overall, 15% of pupils achieved straight A* or A grades.

Headmaster Rob Jones said: "I am very pleased with today's results as they reflect how our focus on each individual, and their character, sees them achieve both in and out of the classroom."

"Our Sixth Form this year is set to be stronger than ever and I am looking forward to following our pupils' progress in their final two years at Rendcomb College."

Head Appointed to Advisory Committee

Headmaster Rob Jones has been appointed to the influential Society of Heads' Educational Committee.

Rob, who has led Rendcomb College through recent innovative changes, such as taking the decision to reduce fees, re-think the school's approach to homework and who is currently developing an outdoor education and leadership programme for pupils, joins the Committee which exists to advise other schools on current issues in education.

Recent topics that the Committee has advised on are the changes to A Levels and GCSEs.

Speaking about his appointment, Rob said: "I am delighted to be asked to join such an important committee and look forward to playing my part in helping the member schools.

"This committee discusses and advises on the big issues in education and I know that this opportunity will help in my leadership of Rendcomb College."

More than 120 well-established independent schools across England, Wales and overseas make up the membership of the Society of Heads and the association represents its members in all educational matters at both local and national levels.



Head of Juniors Victoria Beevers, Discusses the Importance of Children Swapping 'Screen' for 'Green' this Summer

I was talking to a parent at the end of term about the challenges of choosing books for our children to read and we were remembering our own childhood reading in the holidays: Swallows and Amazons, Famous Five, Winnie the Pooh, Stig of the Dump to name but a few of our favourites.

As I reflect on these moments of relaxation in my summers as a child, two things strike me: I was almost always outside when I was reading and all the books I loved the most were about being outside. Even classic 'school stories' (think Harry Potter) are usually about escaping from a classroom to get outside!

Why is that?

It is much to do with a sense of freedom, about not being restricted physically and about how this helps us not feel restricted emotionally or creatively. Certainly, when I do my own writing, I choose to do this in places with no walls or doors. I am fascinated that J.K. Rowling wrote her stories in an Edinburgh café; perhaps this says more about the Scottish weather than the benefits of being outdoors!



Of course, thirty or more years ago, the places where I could read outside were wide-ranging: the local park, down by the river or at the bottom of a garden. I preferred Granny's house as her garden was huge compared to ours! I can vividly remember cycling off on my own to find a comfortable position near the top of an apple tree with a book and a bar of Galaxy and wiling away hours on my own. These freedoms are not as easy to achieve anymore and as a parent I recognise that we have to find safe havens outside for our children. We have to work harder, I think, to get our children outside freedom, but that determination as worthwhile as helping them to see the delights of reading.

It seems that the advertising world is aware of the importance of outside, as TV adverts all extol the joys of an outside life - whether it is eating a yoghurt on a picnic rug in the middle of a field or driving a car on roads in beautiful parts of the world which are empty of people - though I do wonder how many families actually picnic in the middle of the countryside and how often those cars drive empty roads rather than sit in traffic jams!

Even the gaming industry have jumped on the wagon into the wild with the new Pokémon Go. On the one hand, I am delighted - anything to get children doing things outside! And yet, part of me is a little sad. Instead of searching for blackberries (aka George

and Timmy the dog) or watching the bees and other insects (aka Pooh and Piglet), making a den (aka Stig) or sailing a boat (I'd be more Amazon than Swallow though!), children are walking around searching for computer generated characters. GO CATCH and GO BATTLE are great instructions, until we see that the aim is to destroy or take for yourself. As a head teacher, my assemblies could easily have themes such as GO PLAY TOGETHER and GO UNITE but I am just not entirely sure that screen games will provide a forum for learning the qualities so important for life: caring for others, taking physical and mental risks and I have yet to be convinced of the way that personal screen games improve intelligence.....

I know my nephews and nieces - and probably my brothers and sister too - will sigh at 'old fashioned' me, but I will continue to stand for what I see as the important aspects of childhood; I know that if I offer to take my daughter's cousins into the hills and woods to play games, build dens and talk to each other, the rest of the adults will be only too happy to let them spend the day with me, even if only because they can get back to their own screens!

So, as children (and their parents!) enjoy their summer break, I encourage them to read and I encourage them to be outside and, if at all possible, to combine the two. Of course, with the Forest School curriculum and activities on offer at Rendcomb, it is a familiar experience for our children to 'escape the classroom' (ie the building) and enjoy being creative outdoors.

I have no doubt that our parents will encourage less 'screen' and more 'green' for their children during the holidays, as we do during term time.

Whether it is sunny or rainy, let's get a book and get outside!



Junior School Parents' Association Report

Over the last 12 months the RCJPA has continued the success of previous years, with much appreciated commitment from a dedicated team of committee members. The support from parents has enabled us to expand our activities even further; children, staff and parents have all benefitted from myriad events over the last twelve months.

At the forefront of our activities is the importance we place on the sense of community in the school; a wonderful benefit is the considerable sum of money we raise for the children's chosen charities as well as being able to purchase additional equipment, such as wildlife cameras, enhancing the children's learning experiences.

This year it was decided that a charity we have supported in the past and with which we have a strong relationship – National Star College – should become an annual beneficiary of our fundraising

activities. In addition, the children chose to support the Vale Wildlife Centre.

Our social fundraising activities started with the much loved Curry & Quiz Night and this was followed by a phenomenally successful Race Night. Amongst other events The Great Rendcomb Bake Off and the Summer Fête were particularly enjoyable; movie nights and Christmas parties were held for the children and we joined forces with the Senior School again to collect boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

It has been a privilege to be Chairman of the RCJPA Social Team for the last three years and I would like to thank all the staff and parents for their invaluable support and enthusiasm which made my involvement so enjoyable and without which none of our events would be possible. I wish Jason Langley every success and know that the school community will continue to support the RCJPA Social Team in all their activities.

Zoë Wolton, RCJPA Chair



Senior School Parents' Association Report

The last academic year saw the Senior School Parents' Association get fully up-to-speed, having assembled a new committee in the summer term of 2014. Attendance at our committee meetings was up significantly, we ratified our new constitution, as well as delivering a full calendar of social events. Thank you to all those who supported the RCPA and helped build that momentum.

Within the new constitution we defined our aim to create an active, united and supportive school community, which embodies the Rendcomb family school ethos, promoting collaboration and enriching and benefiting pupils, parents and staff alike by:

- Welcoming new parents to the school;
- Enhancing communications between parents and the school;
- Creating memorable and fun events that bring us closer together as a community;
- Helping parents to build friendship groups and support networks;
- Raising money for the school for the benefit of pupil enrichment;
- Acting as a sounding board for school plans;
- Providing a platform for parents and staff to raise any general issues or present ideas

A highlight of our social activities last year were the Parkland Tours, hosted by Mr Pete Cairns, who generously gave up his time to share his extensive knowledge of the rich ecology and history of the Rendcomb estate with both existing and new parents. His family connections to the estate date back to 1865, long before the school was established, and we are very fortunate to have his support for these popular events.

Last year also saw many other successful social events, including those that were jointly organised with the Junior School Parents' Association (RCJPA) - the Curry & Quiz Night and Rendcomb's inaugural Race Night, both of which proved extremely popular and helped raise funds for our individual causes and gave an opportunity for the two Parents' Associations to work together in the spirit of 'two schools – one college'. In particular, I would like to extend the thanks of the committee to Rendcomb's

commercial operations manager, Mr Mark Naylor and his team whose support is essential to the success of our events.

As a result of the subscription fees and fund raising, the RCPA was able to fund a number of key projects in support of pupil enrichment. Last year these included:

- A loan to the Art Department to help with printing costs for publishing a beautifully illustrated children's book written by Year 7 (now on sale at Waterstones);
- Contributing to some New Hymn Books for the Church;
- Fun activities for the 4th/5th Form Ball;
- Refreshments for Johnny Wilkinson cup event;
- Funding the rental of the sound system at the annual Rock Concert; and
-many more!

.....all of which contributed to an enriched experience for the senior school pupils in many different facets.

Although the plans for the coming academic year are still being formed, it is clear that the RCPA has gone from strength to strength and continues to build momentum in achieving its aims. I would like to thank all those that have contributed so far, by joining the committee itself, by showing interest in school matters and attending committee meetings, by generously giving time to help out at one of our organised events, or by just taking part – any contribution, either large or small is very much appreciated and is essential to our continued success!

Tim Roberts, RCPA Chair



Alumni Reunions and Sports Events

Hockey 19 March 2016

A bitter wind whipped across the astro as the Alumni battled with the College for the annual Men's Hockey fixture. Parents, current pupils and recent leavers were treated to a fine display of hockey from both sides however the College 1st XV thrashed the Old Rendcombians with a stunning 5-0 defeat (their first win in four years!). Undeterred, the 2nd XV took to the blustery field and the ORs won 3-1. Following the matches and obligatory team photographs, the teams gladly walked up to Main College where the now legendary match-tea was served.

It was such a well-attended game by ORs, the College and staff and even OR parents so there is great hope that this will continue.



Cricket 3 July 2016

Glorious sun greeted returning Rendcombians on Sunday when they came back to College for the annual reunion and cricket match. The damp conditions from the night before lead to an impromptu several-a-side football match whilst the cricket pitch dried out. Recent Leavers were joined by slightly older Rendcombians who all put on a convincing display of sportsmanship. The players all came down to Main College for the well-loved match lunch and they were joined by leavers from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. Reminiscences and laughter abounded over lunch with many conversations starting "Do you remember when...?" The Old Rendcombian Society made a presentation to Mrs Dodd in recognition of her leaving after many years' service to the College. The cricket match commenced in the afternoon with families joining the alumni Up Top and enjoyed a splendid tea of sandwiches and eclairs.

Development Manager, Hannah Boydell said "It has been such a fantastic day and we're delighted that so many of the alumni have come back for the day. There has been such a buzz created by the alumni both older and younger and I hope that reunions in the future are so well attended!"

Josh Thomas (2001-2013)

Josh Thomas has become a commercial pilot and qualified as First Officer with EasyJet in April 2016.



Issy Bailey (2007-2010)

Old Rendcombian Issy Bailey made her pistol shooting debut at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio as part of Paralympics GB. The former hockey player was involved in a car accident in June 2013 and was introduced to the sport of shooting as part of her rehabilitation.

Issy missed out on qualifying for the final by just five points but her sights are firmly set on Tokyo 2020.

David Mabberley (1959-1966)

In January 2016, Professor David Mabberley was made a Member in the general division of the Order of Australia (AM) as part of the Australia Day celebrations. This is equivalent to being awarded an OBE/CBE and the citation read "For significant service to horticultural science, particularly to plant taxonomy and tropical botany, as an academic, researcher and author".



Jennifer Phelps (née Watson) (1978-1980)

Mrs Jennifer Phelps was recognised in the Queen's 90th Birthday Honours list with an MBE for services to Community Engagement in Environmental Protection.

Ellie Whittles (2002-2007)

1st Class Hons. in Human Geography, Durham University

Tom Benson (2005-2012)

1st Class Hons. in English, Oxford University

Jake McKeown (2005-2012)

1st Class Hons. in Drama, Bristol University

Anna Markfort (2008-2009)

won 4th place in the 470 Class Sailing Junior World Championships, narrowly missing out by just 2 points on a podium position. Anna is now busy training for the junior European championships and will be training hard for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

D of E Gold award collected from the Palace by Holly Phelps (2001-2012) and Amy Benson (2005-2015)



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