

# School House - Lent Term 2019



WE DID IT! Pier-to-pier, 12 hours, blisters, sore feet, dislocated knees, floods and an unexpected detour round cliffs —nothing stopped us. The School House Girls were absolutely invincible and showed just what they are made of —sheer grit and determination, willing to go beyond their comfort zone and not willing to give up. 61 started, many went further than they ever dreamt they would. 33 finished in such high spirits. What is more, we raised an incredible amount of money for our three charities: PLAN international, Bone Cancer research and Eastbourne Networkx. A day to be proud of and never forget.



## £5337.25







Clockwise from above: On our way to Belle Tout; Juliette and Rosie never stopped smiling; first break at Birling Gap



Above from right: Our German Year 11s entertain Alfred over The Seven Sisters; left: heading down into Birling Gap under blue, blue skies.



It was great to see so many parents joining in part of the walk or in Mimi Helyar's Mum's case the whole thing! Thank you all for your support on the walk and collecting sponsorship.



Above clockwise from left: the beautiful Sussex cliffs; under a setting sun we kept on walking; a slight detour taking us across a beach; and Brighton in sight!



What we did not anticipate was the time it would take us to recover, the number of blisters to plaster up and the fire alarm at 3.00am that morning! Matron was amazing, bandaging up our feet the next day and making sure aching legs were seen to. She made sure we were able to get to lessons, no matter how tired we were! Thank you Matron.





Above from left: Stopping for a break; Year 12s still smiling over the Downs and far away; Bruce pulls Alfred up the hills!



Above from left: Antoinette, Morola and Summer reach Cuckmere Haven for lunch; the small flood we had to wade through after Cuckmere; staff above Seaford Head.



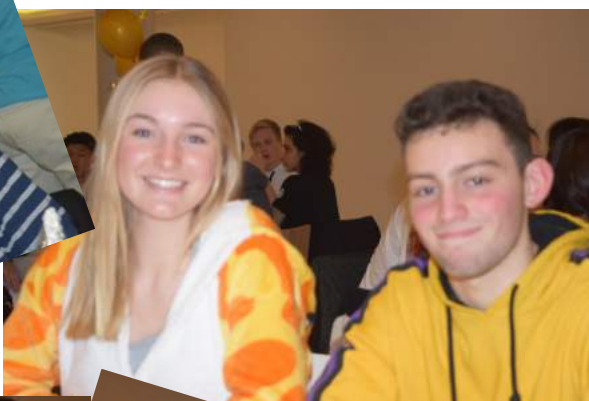
Year 9s just would not stop! Abi, Liv and Scarlett lead the way after Newhaven Fort; the welcome sign that we are not far away!



## SCHOOL HOUSE DINNER WITH WARGRAVE

For this year's house dinner we had the pleasure of the company of the boys from The 'Grave! Definitely not as deathly as it may sound! The boys from up the road took a bit of persuasion that a theme would be fun, but once every table was given their movie theme, (from *Shrek* to *Madagascar* and *Harry Potter* to *The Great Gatsby*) they really got into it and the evening was a roaring success—we all had a great time. The pictures sum the evening up, in particular the one of the two respective HsMs—one a smurf another a penguin.

Miss Simmons looking less than amused with Abbie photo-bombing! Special mention must go to Miss Gordon and Miss Ball aka Shrek and Fiona in amazing costumes—we could barely recognise them!





## OTHER CHARITY NEWS



Adding to our total raised last term in the raffle, Mimi and Lucy led a team to sell roses to raise money for a project in Eastbourne to help convert an unused bus into a shelter for the homeless in the area. They sold 300 roses and delivered them around the school with Valentines messages on Valentines Day, the day before half term. They even found time that evening, with the help of a small team of others, to bake valentines cup-cakes for the whole house to enjoy too! The whole project raised £180.





In textiles Antoinette Chastang was first in the Royal Opera House Costume Design Challenge and celebrated their efforts with a visit to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to watch Petrokiev's ballet version of *Romeo and Juliet*. Antoinette continues to excel in so many areas, fitting in studying for her Media Studies AS, whilst continuing with her three A levels and her high performance training for tennis. She really is an example of how to make the most of her time and talents.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all our U6 who have offers from their chosen universities. Special mention must go to Maho Okado who has been offered a place to study engineering at Newnham College Cambridge. Lucy Martin and Mimi Helyar have received unconditional offers and others have all had offers from universities of their choice.



**MATHS** We are very proud of our girls who took part in the **mathematics challenge**. Julie Sun and Elena Yang's exceptional performances saw them through to the Olympiad round. Both girls were awarded with the Best in Year prize in our end of term assembly —well done to them both.

**DIPLOMA MERIT** This year Lianna Yuen has been practicing for her diploma recital which she did two weeks ago. The day before the end of term she found out she has been awarded with Merit, which is an amazing achievement. She was also awarded full colours for creative arts, recognition of her leadership in this and the example she sets others in this area of College life. Well done Lianna.

## DRAMA

Highlights in the calendar this term were the two big productions with School House girls the lead in both. Harriet Morss-Davies was a superb Hedda in Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*. She had us on the edge of our seats as we watched Hedda find a way to leave the restrictions of her marriage. Lily Flint in Year 12 was a fantastic Eddie Carbone in Paul Lowden and Stuart young's production of Arthur Miller's iconic play *A View from the Bridge*. Lily commanded the stage and with her superbly mastered American accent was entirely convincing as Eddie.



## HEDDA GABLER and A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

She never tripped on a line and kept the audience transfixed—so good to see her back on stage. Well done to both girls for learning so many lines and leading the way in both chows.

We were equally transfixed by the Dance Showcase last week but I will have to send photos in next term's newsletter as there are none available at the moment. But Amy Shi, Ruth Ho, Kia Letcher, Pia Ros Velasco, Celina Liu and Mimi Blockley were all brilliant in it. Amy is the first ever pupil to do A-level Dance at the college and she performed her A-level piece which she also choreographed as well as her group K pop dance.





## YEAR 9 CEILIDH

It has become tradition for the Year 9s to spend an evening of dancing and getting to know one another at the start of the Lent Term. Never will I forget Kia Letcher leaping through the door at the end of the evening screaming "that was soooo brilliant"!



## PANCAKES!



Matron is a pancake queen! Every year on Pancake Day she rustles up almost 100 pancakes, one for every girl in the house and more, which are filled with Maple Syrup, berries and traditional lemon and sugar. They are devoured by all!



## CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER

Amy Shi and Christy Ng were at the heart of organising the Chinese New year dinner once again this year. It was a shame that not more of the girls were keen to take part in it as it is always a great event, bringing all corners of the community together to celebrate a very important date in the College Calendar. Well done Amy and her team for putting on a great event again.



## NETBALL THIS TERM

Lucy Martin has been integral to the 1st VII netball squad which has completed an impressive season winning 14 matches against some of the best teams on the circuit, plus finishing third at SISNA, and narrowly missing out on the final of the Sussex Cup. The 2nd team was made up of primarily School House girls—Eliza Houchin, Mirabelle Kelly, Louisa Gray, Lily Flint and Harriet Morss-Davies - and won six from nine. At SISNA the U16As competed hard, the U15As came fifth and the U14As, featuring Caitlin Milborne, Liv Shellard and Abi Perry, came sixth place. The U15Bs won an impressive eight from nine and the Cs, Ds and Es all winning more than half their fixtures. The U14A to D teams have won more than half their matches this season too. It has been brilliant to see so many girls thoroughly enjoying their time on the netball courts.



Izzy Skarbek, Ellie Previero and Tilly Fox were part of the very successful U15A team who won a very tight encounter against Channing School in the national plate quarter final. They were eventually 44-43 winners and this is the first time a College netball team had been in a national plate semi-final. They put everything into it but were narrowly beaten by King Edward, Southampton in the semi-final. Great work by the girls.

## HOUSE NETBALL



netball before: Adriana Garcia, Johanna Guldenberg and Cosima Holup all got on court for their first ever game of netball! Summer Reeves and Antoinette proved once again how multi-talented they are by helping their team beat a much stronger Nugent team! It was so good to see their determination to learn something quickly and not to worry about making mistakes. Fabulous School House team spirit!

We had a slight disadvantage when it came to house netball as all of our squads had been in the finishing party of the Pier-to-Pier walk only two days before, so we still had tired legs. However, this did not stop them putting up a great fight and we came third in both Junior and Senior competitions. Special mention must go to the Senior B team, half of whom had never played





## TENNIS

One team who I am perpetually in awe of is the College tennis team and we are very lucky to have many of those girls in School House. They are some of the most dedicated sports women in the College, training early in the morning before many of us have opened our eyes and throughout the week they fit in both lessons and training whenever they can. Summer Reeves, Antoinette Chastang, Cosima Holup and now Karina Matei who joined us this term, are all in the College squad, and Eliza Houchin has managed to fit in both tennis and netball. Despite it not even being the tennis season yet, they have been involved in many competitions and some of their results are as follows:

Sussex Ladies Winter club League. Champions of Division 4 and promoted for next winter. Cosima, Antoinette & Summer played in most of the matches. Special mention must go to Summer who played in all seven and won a fantastic 14 out of 14 matches. Cosima & Antoinette & Eliza were key members of the girls team that reached the national finals of the LTA Schools Senior Student Competition.

Cosima & Antoinette were also the girls in the mixed doubles team that also reached the national finals in the LTA Senior Student event and finished 3rd overall – being literally one point away from winning the whole event. I know in speaking to them afterwards how disappointing this result was. They show their competitive nature in never wanting to be beaten!



Karina Matei has joined the tennis squad this term and was part of the senior B team, along with Antoinette and Cosima, who beat Lancing last week in the first round of the National Schools Championships. The A team has direct entry to the national finals as one of the top four ranked schools in GB. The B team have further rounds next term to try and join them at the finals held in Nottingham in July.

Lastly, Cosima was part of the U15 team which won the South East regional title last October.

Sadly, Cosima has now left us to return to Germany and we will miss her a great deal. The tennis team will miss her composure in the big points, which she often held to beat her opponents.



Above left: Eliza, Cosima and Antoinette at the LTA Schools Tennis in Bolton. Above right: Summer and Antoinette with the team; Antoinette and Cosima in the mixed doubles.





## MORE SPORTS NEWS

### HOUSE SWIMMING

We had a great time at the inaugural house swimming in the new pool. The girls were brilliant and fought hard getting off to a fantastic start. Our luck changed but there was magnificent swims from Sophia Jin, Morola Oyefesobi and Harriet Morss Davies, all of whom swam their hearts out in events new to them. We also never knew what a great swimmer Emily Loong is until now! We came a gallant second in the junior competition and fourth in the seniors, bringing us in third overall.

Mimi Blockley in Year 10 was a member of the Bath Cup swimming team. They competed well and came 12th overall, out of over 150 schools competing. They narrowly missed the final by one one hundredth of a second, but loved the experience none-the-less.



### EQUESTRIAN

Liv Reeves (right) is part of the equestrian team which has got through to the National Finals once again, with Abbie Buxton having been invited to ride at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Rosie Kelly continues to ride as well, finding the time away from books and lessons; a welcome and therapeutic break, something I encourage all girls to do during the week.

**HOUSE SQUASH** To Mr Gent's horror we nearly converted Antoinette Chastang into a squash player following her appearance in the house squash competition. She loved the new game and she and Summer Reeves were very narrowly beaten into second place by Blackwater who took the cup. Lily Moore and Tilly Fox in Year 10, made up the junior girls team and were gallant in their first outing onto the squash courts. Once again, none of them had played before but took one for the team and did us very proud indeed!

**HOUSE CHESS** With the return of Mr Dennis came the return of House chess. Adriana Andreu, Audrey Hammer, Rosie Kelly and Adriana Garcia all took part and some triumphs were won— to the surprise of some. Unfortunately, we did not get through but the girls put up a great fight. I was very grateful to them for their time.





## A CAPELLA



Incredibly ably led by Lucy and Mimi, we had the biggest contingent in the A Capella competition and like swimming, where we brought in as many people as possible, we did not have auditions; just opened it up to whoever wanted to join in. So many people wanted to, in part I think due to the wonderful leadership of Lucy and Mimi who make it fun for everyone to be part of the house event. The standard was definitely higher this year and while the girls gave a superb performance, we did not get a mention in the top three! Great work though ladies—you did us all proud.



## CHOIR

Many of the girls sing in the choir. Next term will be Mimi Helyar's final term singing for us— it will be strange not to hear her sing or play

guitar in chapel and other performances and shows.

DofE Rosie Kelly and Eliza Houchin were both awarded with their DofE Silver awards—great work girls. I know many of the Year 10s have signed up this year too.





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY

We celebrated International Women's day once again in house and the College put together a super video celebrating the talent and qualities in all our girls. I would not know where to start in School House as my girls never fail to wow me—here are just two of our amazing girls who featured on the film—they represent all of us.



With the hot summer weather the blossoms in the garden have burst into bloom! Summer is on its way!

Tuesday 23 April: Boarders return at 6.00pm

Saturday 27 April: Community Weekend—BOARDERS SUMMER BALL

Saturday 4 May: Saturday Night Leave—note Monday evening return

Monday 6 May: Boarders return 6.00pm

Monday 13 May: Year 11 Study leave begins

Friday 17 May: U6 Study leave begins

Friday 24 May: Half Term Begins 5.00pm

Sunday 2 June: Boarders return 6.00pm

Saturday 29 June: Speech day and Cornflower Ball

### TED TALKS summer term

Miss Simmons and Miss Squire continue to bring a TED talk to every Wednesday at 9.00pm with chocolate biscuits and an opportunity to listen and debate—and there have been some great debates on internet safety and other hot topics. I hope that more of the girls will find 15 minutes to join us this coming term to see talks on the following subjects:

Wk 1: Why bother leaving the house?

Wk 2: Making bricks out of ashes and rubble in Gaza

Wk 3: How to have a better conversation.

Wk 4: World's toughest triathlon

Wk 5: Swimming with world's most dangerous jellyfish

Wk 6: Smash Fear; Achieve anything

Wk 7: Girls' choice

### ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter is not Easter without chocolate—thank you Miss Simmons for organizing a great hunt again.



I hope revision goes well for those approaching exams, and time is well spent with family and friends. Enjoy your Easter Holidays and we look forward to seeing you all for the start of the summer term! All the best, Laura and Family.