

POWELL HOUSE

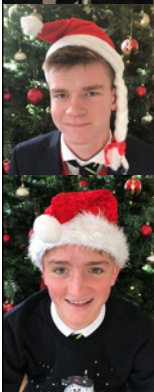
CHRISTMAS 2019



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

It has been yet another busy, productive term with plenty of work, sport, music, art and drama. Highlights included a magnificent House Concert, the Aquathlon, the Steeplechase, a magnificent victory for the seniors in House Rugby, the House Singing competition, the Y9 Jungle Book, The Crucible, Remembrance and Christmas concerts and Carol Services. As ever, I have tried to squeeze in as much as possible—but inevitably I will have missed something or someone out. If so, apologies—it is not intentional.

Emily, Nessie, Peter and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The HOUSE CONCERT

The Powell House Concert of 2019 was an excellent evening of variety and entertainment. It was great to see the Birley auditorium packed to the rafters with family and friends, enjoying performances on screen and stage.

The house band got the evening off to a stunning start, feet happily tapping in unison to a rousing "Uptown Funk". On drums, James Grout; on saxophone, Ed Gent, Jules Bass Gualbert and Harry Johnson; on lead guitar, Joe Muschialli and Sam Hamilton; on bass, Alex Davies; on piano, Luke Muschialli, on trumpet, Loic Bass Gualbert; on vocals, Ben Young. Ben, Luke, Ed, Joe and James later joined together for the a capella Acapowella, Coldplay's "Viva la Vida". Ben gave us an early Christmas treat with a splendid rendition of "Santa Claus is coming to town". Another very memorable, special solo on piano from Ed Gent, singing his own song, "Blue Waters". Spike Gleave organised the Top Floor Singers to a joyous performance of Bieber's "Mistletoe". The Y9 took on a mega-project: "Bohemian Rhapsody". We did warn them. Even Queen found it hard to perform this live. They rose to the challenge magnificently, with Sam Hamilton (guitar, lead vocals), Alex Davies (bass guitar), Alan McMahon (piano, broken finger) and Oliver "Brian" May (drums, one arm in a sling) practising hard all week. The first third was live performance, then cut to video (edited by Oliver May) of the whole year group attempting the operatic middle section, with backing vocal from Julie. Then back to live, with Sam finishing off the vocals. People pay good money for this sort of thing. The senior Powell band then returned, with Ashraf Owasil on drums, to give backing to the whole house for this year's house song entry: Earth, Wind & Fire's "September".

As ever, there were some clever sketches and videos. Fred Jensen showed just what a talented young comedian he is with a Michael MacIntyre inspired stand-up routine; Joe "Mr Tea-Bag" Muschialli entertained both the audience and Will Neal in the Ministry of Silly Walks, while being served by Harry "Mrs Two-Lumps" Johnson. Building on the Python theme, Christopher Johnson-Bird joined the Upper Sixth players (Thomas Watkins, Felix Harffey-Burkhill, Alfredo Vazquez, Ashraf Owasil and Dylan Joyce) as an angry chef in a hilarious "Dirty Fork" sketch. Thomas Watkins and the Upper Sixth put on "MasterGalley", with Ashraf hosting the toasting competition between Alfredo "Love" Vazquez and Elijah "Margerine Reduction" Andal. Spike Gleave very capably voiced-over an Ed Gent directed Lower Sixth "split or steal" competition, pitching various members of the year group against each other over sugary treats. Kane Benton led the Y11 project, a Powell version of the Apprentice with Will Neal, Eugene Jackson, Harry Johnson, Callum O'Reilly, James Grout and Kane himself competing for Lord Sugar's and Peter Miller's approval.

Putting on a concert on this scale, with such variety and quality in the middle of a busy term is a real challenge. However, it was great to see the boys working together in the weeks beforehand. The benefit of these events come not just from the experience of the final performances, but the fun enjoyed and the cooperation and proactivity learned as they plan, film and rehearse. Cross-year group cooperation and participation also remains a particular feature of the Powell Concert. The house band included at least one person from each year group, and the Acapowella represented four. They learn so much from each other through the process. The effort is always well worth it. It is a great event.

The Upper Sixth chose Embrace East Sussex as this year's house concert charity. Embrace is a group for special needs and disabled children, aiming to improve the life skills of disabled children and teenagers, specifically those with developmental disabilities such as autism. They put on clubs and activities and aim to help improve the lives of these children. The group has been incredibly beneficial to many families in the local area with children who have developmental disabilities, providing a respite for them and a small break for parents and siblings. The club is an amazing addition to these children's lives, and offers an opportunity to play and have fun in a safe and understanding environment. The charity presentation for was given with confidence, clarity and conviction by Luke Muschialli. A grand total of £437.60 was raised by the end of the show. Very many thanks to all who contributed so generously.





STEEPLECHASE

Conditions were excellent for this year's college cross-country competition. Well done to so many boys for giving it their best, and taking on the challenge with a smile. Congratulations to the Powell Sixth Form on winning the Senior A and Senior B team events with notable performances from Spike Gleave (3rd), Jacob Doherty (4th), Felix Harffey-Burkhill (9th), Billy Hipperson (14th), Luke Muschiali, Louis Loubser, Callum Corney, Ed Hebron, James Holley, Kamran Rajwani, Ali Al-Shamaa, Loic Bass Gualbert and Wali Sahebzadeh. The joint Y10 & Y11 team came a commendable third, with fine runs from Harry Johnson (13th), Elliot Wilson (14th) and Charlie Carpenter. Sam Hamilton (5th) and Alan McMahon (14th) led the Y9 team to another bronze medal. As is now traditional and in much less time than they actually ran, the House deservedly, gratefully and impressively devoured a vast amount of pizza in the Common Room after the race.





RUGBY

Powell were well represented in College rugby teams, with on average 45 boys training week-in, week-out.

Spike Gleave and Charlie Reed both played regularly 1st XV; George Callow, Billy Hipperson, Will Lowery, Giacomo Ghiro and Louis Loubser for the 2nd XV; Loic Bass Gualbert, Ali Al-Shamaa, David Li, Ed Hebron, Felix Harfey-Burkhill, Alfredo Vazquez, Callum Corney, Ed Hebron, Tom Simpkin and Wali Sahebzadeh for the 3rds. Henry Duke, Callum O'Reilly, Tom Pedley, Chris O'Hanlon, Dexter Richardson, Will Oates and Will Neal provided the core of a very competitive U16A team. Five Powell boys represented the U15As at one stage or another: Wilf Batham-Read and Charlie Carpenter, with support from Elliot Wilson, Jules Bass Gualbert and Noah James. In the U15Bs, Francesco Bongiovanni and George Lowery, with occasional but barnstorming cameos from Max Giddins. It was great to see Ollie Farrant, Dom Forward and Max Mappin enjoy life with the U15Cs. Congratulations to Wilf on his selection for the U15 Harlequins Developing Player Programme. Sam Hamilton and Tom Johnson played well for the U14As, with plenty contributing well and regularly for the U14Bs: Alan McMahon, Oliver Edmead, Oliver May, Frederick Jensen and Alex Davies. Tom Arnold, Christopher Johnson-Bird, Alex Edwards and Andreas Photiou enjoyed their time with the U14Cs.

In House Rugby, the Y9s started their campaign with a thrilling comeback against Reeves, with Alan McMahon, Sam Hamilton and Fred Jensen crossing the line to bring the score to 3-3. Christopher Johnson-Bird powered over the line against Gonville. As for Y10, all started very well with a comfortable win over Reeves. This was followed up by an excellent ding-dong game against Gonville. From 2-3 down with a minute to go, the Powell boys put in a tremendous finish, Max Giddins putting the ball down for a try right on the final whistle. The semi-final against Wargrave could have gone either way, but ended in a 2-4 loss. Well done to the boys for excellent participation, some high quality rugby, and for playing the game in exactly the right spirit.

The Senior competition combined Y11 and sixth form. The A team won all their Pool A games, beating Pennell A, Reeves B, Craig B quite comfortably and edging past a strong Wargrave A team through a Billy Hipperson try. The Powell B team comprised every other fit senior player. They started exceptionally well, defeating Wargrave B and then Gonville A with tries from Felix Harfey-Burkhill, Callum O'Reilly and Dexter Richardson. Felix picked up two more in a tense 2-2 draw against Craig A. It was enough to see them through Pool B and into the final four. The weather then intervened. With all pitches deemed unfit for rugby, the competition was moved inside to the Sports Hall. Despite natural concerns as to whether this would work, it produced a thrilling end to the competition, with Powell A coming back from 3-4 down in the final against Wargrave with just forty seconds to go to win 5-4 in front of an ecstatic Powell support. Senior House Champions, and deservedly so!





OTHER SPORT:

Aquathlon: excellent efforts by the Powell boys who were awarded second place overall. In the Senior event, Billy Hipperson (3rd) led the Powell team home, with Felix Harffey-Burkhill (5th) in hot pursuit. Excellent participation also from Thomas Watkins and Jack Stepney. In the Junior Event, commendable efforts from Will Oates (6th), Tom Pedley, Dexter Richardson and Ben Young. **Basketball:** College Captain Elijah Andal was joined by Billy Hipperson in school team. **Badminton:** Sean Wilson has been training regularly in the Sports Hall. **Boxing:** congratulations to Billy Hipperson who won the super-heavyweight division at the England National Development Championships. **Equestrian:** Callum Hynes competed in the NSEA nationals coming 12th nationally at 80cm and being placed in the 90cm and 1m competitions for both show jumping and jumping with style. **Fives:** Arno Pellet and Mikhail Konovalov represented Powell in the house competition. **Football:** Jacob Doherty, James Holley, Jack Stepney, Ollie Godfrey, Dylan Joyce, Callum Corney, Alex Richards, Kane Benton and Harry Johnson all represented the College in pre-season football fixtures. **Golf:** Henry Walters and Alexander Photiou have been training up at the Royal Eastbourne. Will Oates represented the College in matches. Congratulations to Will for being selected once again for the Sussex U16 squad. **Hockey:** Ashraf Owasil, Tom Pedley, Chris O'Hanlon enjoyed good pre-season game time and victories on the tour to Holland and Germany over half-term. **Rowing:** Luke Muschialli has trained hard in the gym and on the river. **Squash:** James Grout has played six matches for the College. **Swimming:** Thomas Watkins, Felix Harffey-Burkhill, Eugene Jackson and Tom Pedley have been in action in the school pool.

DRAMA

Powell boys were right at the very heart of this year's main College production, *The Crucible*. Hugo Verelst-Way was outstanding in the lead male role as John Proctor. He was superbly supported by Felix Harffey-Burkhill (Judge Hathorn), Ed Gent (Marshall Herrick) and Chris O'Hanlon (Thomas Putnam). The supporting cast included Sean Wilson and Ben Young, with faithful and much appreciated back stage help from Tom Pedley and Will Neal.

The Powell Year 9 Drama production of *Jungle Book* was great fun. There were super performances by all. Together, Baloo (Oliver Edmead) and Bagheera (Sam Hamilton) helped Mowgli (Oliver May) escape the clutches of King Louie (Frederick Jensen) and Shere Khan (Tom Johnson). Highlights included a tremendous fight scene, groovy dancing, and some excellent a cappella singing of the *Bare Necessities* and *I wanna be like you*. The play was expertly and energetically led by the Lower Sixth directors: Ed Gent, Tom Simpkin, Sean Wilson and Giacomo Ghio.



MUSIC

It is great to see the musicians not just making the most of the first-class facilities and teaching in the Birley Centre, but also contributing so much to College events.

We have ten boys in the Chapel Choir: Luke Muschialli, Ed Gent, Loic Bass Gualbert, Spike Gleave, James Grout, Jules Bass Gualbert, Ben Young, Oliver May, Frederick Jensen and Christopher Johnson-Bird. They rehearse twice a week and performed magnificently in whole-school events, including the Advent and Christmas Carol services. Luke, James and Ed are also with the Chamber Choir. Ed Gent was invited to sing before Dame Felicity Lott in this term's Birley masterclass.

Participation in Orchestra is just as strong: Luke Muschialli (cello); Ashraf Owasil (violin); Jules Bass Gualbert (viola); Loic Bass Gualbert (trumpet); Frederick Jensen, Louis Loubser (oboe); Spike Gleave, James Grout and Oliver May (percussion). A good number of the College's Jazz Band is Powell boys: Ed Gent, Harry Johnson, Jules Bass Gualbert (saxophone), Loic Bass Gualbert (trumpet) and James Grout (drums). The Orchestra, Jazz Band and Chamber Choir all performed brilliantly in a high quality, fun end of term Christmas Concert. Other instrumentalists include Sam Hamilton, Henry Buck, Joe Muschialli, Hugo Verelst-Way (guitar); Spike Gleave, James Grout, Max Giddins, Ben Young, Loic Bass Gualbert, Alan McMahon (piano); Alex Davies (percussion); Frederick Jensen (violin); Ashraf Owasil, Joe Muschialli, Eugene Jackson (drums). Loic Bass Gualbert had the honour of performing the *Last Post* at this year's Remembrance Day events. Accompanied by the orchestra, he performed a fine trumpet solo in Rosso's *Il Silenzio*. Sam Hamilton (singing) and Jules Bass Gualbert (saxophone) performed well in Informal Concerts. In the Live Lounge, Ed Gent sang some Green Day; Ben Young delivered a fine version of Hosier's *Take me to Church*; James Grout accompanied every act on drums. Spike Gleave, Alex Davies and Oliver May formed the Samba Boys in the Christmas Concert.

For this year's House Singing competition the boys chose Earth, Wind and Fire's *September*. Well drilled by Luke Muschialli, the boys performed with a lot of joyous positivity on the night, to very complimentary comments from the adjudicator.



CONGRATULATIONS

Headmaster's Commendations: Thomas Watkins, Felix Harffey-Burkhill, Alfredo Vazquez (for participation in a fundraising event for Freedom from Torture); Loic Bass Gualbert (for performance of the Last Post and *Il Silenzio* at Remembrance Events; Thomas Arnold (for excellent academic effort throughout the term)

Headmaster's Challenge Essay: Joe Muschialli (highly commended)

College Half Colours: Spike Gleave (rugby), Callum Hynes (equestrian), Charlie Reed (rugby), Luke Muschialli (music)

Headmaster's Oscar for Best Drama Performance and College Full Colours: Hugo Verelst-Way

House eRC academic effort prizes: (Y9) Thomas Arnold, Oliver May, Alex Davies, Christopher Johnson-Bird, Sam Hamilton, Fred Jensen, Alan McMahon; (Y10) Elliot Wilson, Francesco Bongiovanni; (Y11) Dexter Richardson, Will Neal, Joe Muschialli, James Grout, Kane Benton; (L6) Giacomo Ghiro, Billy Hipperson, Alexander Photiou, Ed Gent, Ed Hebron, Loic Bass Gualbert, Kamran Rajwani, Wali Sahebzadeh; (U6) Luke Muschialli, Jake Wheatley, Ollie Godfrey, Jacob Doherty

Champagne Moments of the Term: Frederik Jensen (stand-up routine in the House Concert), Ben Young (whenever he sings), Tom Pedley (magnificent tap pass to put Powell A back level in the house rugby final), and Felix Harffey-Burkhill's wig (Crucible)

House Table Tennis: defending champion James Grout defeated Andreas Photiou in the grand final

Powell House End of Term prizes were awarded to: (Y9) Sam Hamilton, (Y10) Jules Bass Gualbert, (Y11) Joe Muschialli, (L6) Billy Hipperson and Ed Gent, (U6) Hugo Verelst-Way

Other: Sean Wilson (read "In Flanders Fields" in the Remembrance Concert); Jack Stepney (won a fresh fruit hamper for guessing the distance a leak had travelled); Oliver Edmead (ATC); Felix Harffey-Burkhill, Spike Gleave, Thomas Watkins (models on the catwalk in Sasha Marlow's Gold Arts fashion show); Ben Young (danced with Rambert); Louis Loubser (charming the elderly at Tweed on Wednesday afternoons); Jacob Doherty (LSE national schools debate team); Alex Richards (made the absolute best use of Eastbourne Society networking events); Charlie Reed and Dylan Joyce (one-day physics trip to CERN Geneva to visit the hadron collider); Elliot Wilson (Y10 reading at the Christmas Carol Service); Charlie Reed (Cambridge interview, maths); Luke Muschialli (Cambridge interview, medicine); Jake Wheatley (three interviews for medicine)





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020:

Key Dates: Boys to return for the start of the Lent Term by 8:15am on Monday 6 January 2020. There is one exeat weekend, starting at 2:35pm on Thursday 23 January. (No school Friday 24 due to staff inset.) The half-term holiday starts at 2:35pm on Friday 14 February, with pupils returning on Monday 24 February. Term ends at 3.00pm on Friday 20 March.

Parents Meetings: The Y10 meeting is scheduled for 3:15pm Thursday 23 January. The Y11 meeting is to be held at 3:15pm Friday 14 February. The A-Level choices evening is on the same evening.

The House Dinner: This will be a joint event with Blackwater and is scheduled for the evening of Saturday 7 March.

Various Competitions: lots to gear up for, including house hockey, football, chess, a capella and debating.

The House we want to be: sociable, supportive, successful. We seek wholeheartedly the College's core values of pursuit of excellence, kindness, courtesy, integrity and participation. We want to be the best in character as well as achievement.