

Watt House Newsletter

In humanitate robur



New House logo

After a bit of tweaking, our newly designed logo looks incredibly smart on the girls' hoodies.



Getting into the spirit

Tali has not held back with the face paint and here she is truly 'yellow'.

No time to rest!

With the new timetable this Michaelmas term, everyone has been extremely busy, but the girls have thrived on it.

The house has grown again this year, but even with twenty-seven new faces and personalities, it remains calm, kindly and considerate, if perhaps a little less tidy at times. Watching the girls entering and departing the building, they are smart, focused and a credit to the College, but they also love to have fun and this is all too obvious from the squeals of laughter, thumps and bumps as they rush around the house, or practise their dance moves in their rooms. It is lovely to witness.

8

FLUTE

With Merit

Shaumya Kularajan

7

PIANO

Emily May

4

PIANO

With Merit

Mayuri Tambyrajah

4

PIANO

Sophie Stevens

House Sport

No inter-house hockey because of the weather, but we still had the Aquathlon and Steeplechase.



In the second week of term, the inter-house aquathlon took place. Sunny, but windy, we had no volunteers for the intermediate section, but five senior entrants and three of those were new this term: weren't they brave! Not only that, but Isobel Mitchell won the girls' section, which was fantastic. Isabel Stead and Katherine Linaker also did really well and were placed, and Jess Williams and Sophie Rust made the house proud with their great attitude of doing it because it was their last year here.



A few weeks later the whole school steeplechase took place up on the Downs and along the seafront. Again, we were blessed with warm, sunny weather and all the girls took part with smiles on their faces (even if they were full of trepidation inside).



In the three categories, junior, intermediate and senior, we had two individual winners in Ella Panayiotou and Anastasija Timofejeva, which was brilliant. What was even more brilliant though was the house atmosphere, as the girls all stood and supported each other as they finished and then leapt over to join in with the house photo. The post race pizzas seemed to go down well too. It was a great opportunity for the house to build some spirit early in the term and it certainly worked a treat.





Dinners

There have been a few dinners this term and they started with the Year 12 Welcome meal on the second Saturday of the term. This was a lovely evening and gave all the girls the chance to meet pupils from other houses. The theme this year was a character with the same initial as the girls' first names. We had an excellent selection, from a tomato (Tali), an Incredible (Isabel) to an Injured person (Isobel).



There was also the House dinner with Reeves. The theme for this was a fairly open-ended 'Winter Wonderland / Christmas' theme and it really was a lovely evening, organised by Melis-Rose, Ellen and Sophie. They spent hours planning the decorations and the seating plan and then on the day itself they came in at 9am and worked in the common room preparing the decorations and the individual place names attached to candy canes. They finished their preparations about half an hour before the evening started and poor Melis-Rose then sprained her ankle carrying the decorations over to the dining room! The evening was a huge success thanks to their hard work.



Charity & Service

Throughout the term, many of the girls have been involved either through the College, or independently, with charitable causes. They volunteer and give their own time willingly to help improve others' lives. Many of them do not speak of what they do, but a few snapshots are:

Ciara, Suhansa and Anastasija volunteer at The Chasley Trust each week, as does Isabel Stead, who helped organise their Christmas party. Georgia and Alexandra Lupu set up the Winter Night Shelter for the homeless in All Saints. Isobel Mitchell and Melis-Rose served at the Silver Sunday tea party which the College hosted one week. Melis-Rose, Darcey and Sophie Bullock were involved in the Glad Rags charity fashion event in aid of St. Wilfred's (over £7,000 raised). Rae designed, made and sold Christmas cards (Erin helped with some of the drawings), in aid of The Chestnut Tree children's hospice.

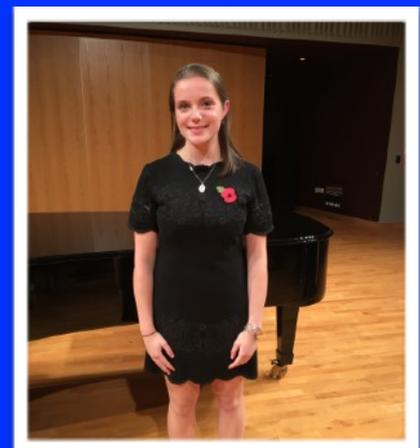
As well as this, within the house we had our annual Children in Need cake sale, which saw nearly every single girl (and possibly a parent or two) baking delicious goodies to sell to the starving masses. The sum raised was £504, which was a fabulous total. It also made a lot of hungry children very happy and all the girls who helped set out the stalls and sold their wares had real fun in the process.



SINGING EXCELLENCE

Sophie Nicholles entertained a large audience in the Birley on Thursday 7 November with her Singing Diploma recital. She really did sing beautifully with a selection of pieces that ranged from classical German and French to her wonderful rendition of 'Bring him home' from Les Miserables.

Looking so poised and with an exceptional range, it is no wonder she has been offered a choral scholarship at Oxford.



House Music

On the final day of the first half of term, the House Singing competition was held in All Saints Church. With so many girls who are incredibly busy, trying to find a time that they could all practise was impossible. Even with a few evening rehearsals, at no point, until the actual performance, were the whole house together to sing. It was therefore wonderful to hear how beautifully they did sing on the day. Megan and Sophie chose the song: 'Build me up buttercup' and sorted out the harmonies and parts. Rae then took over the conducting and was a force to be reckoned with throughout!



Everyone agreed that they sang beautifully on the evening and they really could not have been any better; no-one would have questioned the decision if the girls had won. However, singing competitions are always somewhat subjective with the judging and this year's adjudicator did not appear to be looking for the performance the girls gave, even though the harmonies were perfect and they were all smiling and clearly having a fun time throughout. School House won and they were excellent, so next year we will have to raise our levels even higher to have a chance.



Food & Fun

There was a welcome return to Wednesday Coffee Mornings, after the extension of break time. The girls have certainly enjoyed the opportunity to sit and scoff and then Hoover up the leftovers throughout the rest of the day. As the weather has deteriorated throughout the term, so these interludes, in our cosy common room, have become more precious and valued.

In the final week of term the girls had their Christmas Party. This was organised by Head of House Jess Williams, with a great deal of help from those of her prefect team who were not at interviews and also Sophie Rust. In keeping with the house ethos of making it simple, yet as much fun as possible, the girls were all split into their Family groups and they had to go around the rooms completing a variety of challenges. Everything was timed and there was a big treasure hunt at the end for chocolate Santas, which helped bring bonus points to the teams. Special mention goes here to Molly Swingler, our elite athlete, who managed to find four of the Santas! I think her competitive nature came to the fore! Jess and her team added up the scores and declared the winners and then many of the girls stayed to eat pizza and watch the classic 'Home Alone'. It really was a lovely evening of fun and it was great to see the different year groups mixing and getting on so well.





Extra-curricular Events

The girls are always so busy. Many of them do not just focus on their academic studies, but make the most of the other opportunities on offer at the College.

In terms of performance, this term has seen Verity Terry, Millie Cranston and Alice Wood rehearsing for three days with the Rambert Dance Residency. Over the course of those days, dancers from a variety of local schools come in and are coached, ready for a final performance at the end of the third day. The performance is always excellent and this year was no exception.

One Saturday, the College was fortunate to welcome Dame Felicity Lott to come and work with various pupils in a 'live masterclass' type format. She only worked with four pupils and of those, three were from Watt: Sophie Nicholles, Tianlu Wang and Millie Cranston. This was a nerve-wracking, yet amazing experience for all three and they sang absolutely beautifully; benefitting no doubt from the help they received from Dame Felicity.

There were a few Informal Concerts also this term, which is a good opportunity for individuals to practise performing in front of an audience. Katherine Linaker took the plunge this term, with her cello and she was excellent. Who doesn't love the cello?

In November, the annual Ian Gow Memorial Cup was held, which is a Public Speaking competition for Year 9s. Held in the Birley, a large number of local schools came in and competed against each other. Missy Richardson was part of the three person EBC team and she spoke extremely well, with the team eventually coming second in the competition. Well done!

In September a Pro arts drama piece was performed in the Le Brocq Studio by some of the pupils and a member of the drama department, Elise Arnold. It was a moving piece called 'Memory' and the acting really was superb throughout. Georgia Gills and Darcey Wootton were the Watt girls performing and they were both excellent; mesmerising in the way they held the audience's attention and took them on the journey until the dramatic climax.

The Year 9 drama was a real success this year and the standard was so high that most of the Year 9 parents stayed for all of the performances, rather than just watching their own child's house. Our girls performed a piece based on the women in Shakespeare's plays and they really were excellent. There are definitely some naturals on the stage within the group and some wonderful comic turns by Imogen, Ava and Sophia. All the girls played their part in making it an extremely entertaining piece, as did the Year 12 helpers: Ellen, Daisy and Melis-Rose. Well done to all of them for learning their lines and entering into the spirit of the whole event. They did not end up as the winners, but they certainly entertained everyone.

The Christmas Concert was held on the last Tuesday of term and it was a lot of fun, with excellent musicianship and singing from everyone. Tianlu, Emily and Katherine represented the house and Emily's flute group even had the the music staff dressed as elves, much to the audience's amusement.

The Crucible

This term, the school play was *The Crucible*. Not a light-hearted, fun piece like last year's *School of Rock*, this was entertainment in a completely different format and it was compelling in its intensity. The scenery and stage direction were excellent, but it was the fabulous acting that made it such a success, as there really was no place to hide on that stage. It began with Polly singing in her role as Tituba, which set the tone for the darkness to follow. Uma also played a major role as Elizabeth Proctor and she was outstanding with the simplicity of her portrayal. Others who all played their part in making it such a success were Darcey, Kiri, Millie and Alex H. The commitment required to take part in the school productions is massive, so well done to all of them, especially as they were utterly exhausted and most of them were struggling with illness. Legitimate drugs played a big part in getting them through the week!



Awards and Achievements

Watt girls dominated the Headmaster's Challenge this year, particularly in Years 10 and 12. The pupils have to write a 1,000 word book review over the summer, which they then submit for judging.

Year 10:

Winners : Polly Symes and Kiri Marshall

Runner-up : Jasmine Wright

Year 11:

Winner : Liv Reeves

Highly Commended : Emily May

Year 12:

Winner : Natasha Symes

Runner-up : Isabel Stead

Highly Commended : Tianlu Wang

Full Colours:

Art : Erin Banks

Drama : Darcey Wootton

Music : Shaumya Kularajan
Sophie Nicholles

Hockey : Beth Hawkins

Half Colours:

Drama : Uma Carey-Morgan

Textiles : Sophie Bullock
Melis-Rose Ozcan

Hockey : Emily May

Headmaster's Commendations

(These are awarded for exceptional endeavour in one specific area, or for generally outstanding contributions to the wider community.)

: Tali Grieg
Harriet Brinsmead-Maclean
Alex Hawkins
Melis-Rose Ozcan x 2
Kiri Marshall
Polly Symes
Jasmine Wright
Missy Richardson
Natasha Symes
Tianlu Wang
Isobel Mitchell
Isabel Stead
Emily May

Notable Show Hsms:

Harriet Brinsmead-Maclean (Yr 9)-	18	Millie Cranston (Year 10)	- 11
Sophia Marshall (Year 9)	- 16	Charlotte Thorley (Year 9)	- 11
Kitty Walters (Year 11)	- 16	Tali Grieg (Year 12)	- 10
Emily May (Year 11)	- 13	Polly Symes (Year 10)	- 10
Orla Maclaurin (Year 11)	- 13	Verity Terry (Year 10)	- 10
Kiri Marshall (Year 10)	- 13	Ava Talman (Year 9)	- 10
Ella Panayiotou (Year 9)	- 12	Elizabeth Walters (Year 9)	- 10
Katie Hillyer (Year 9)	- 12	Jessie Tarrant (Year 11)	- 10
Alex Hawkins (Year 11)	- 12	Kizzy Rollings (Year 11)	- 10
Otilie Grant (Year 11)	- 12	Isabel Stead (Year 12)	- 9

University Applications & Offers

At the time of writing, almost all of the Year 13s have sent off their UCAS applications and all have received at least one offer, which is excellent news. Special mention must go to Anastasija Timofejeva, who has received an almost unheard of four offers to study medicine. Also to Shaumya Kularajan (Trinity) and Rae Greenhow (St. John's) who have just had interviews at Oxford University and Sophie Nicholles (St. Catherine's) and Leila López-Morán (Emmanuel) who have just returned from interviews at Cambridge University. Fingers crossed for good news in 2020!

Finally, here are a selection of photographs of the girls in the house and around the school, as you may perhaps wonder what they get up to when they leave home in the mornings...

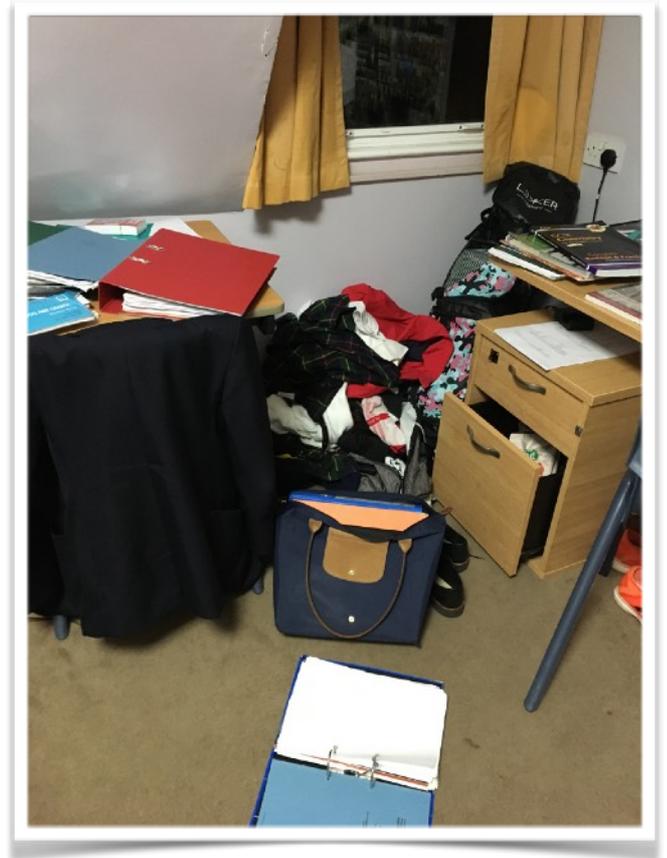
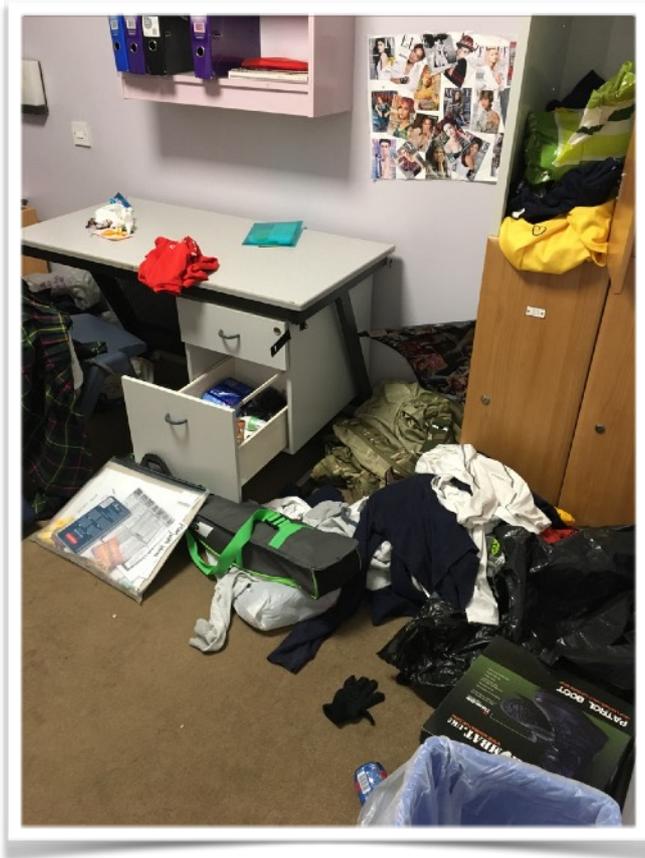




A few dates for the diary for next term:

Monday 6th January	:	Term starts
Friday 17th January	:	Year 11 Dinner
Thursday 23rd January	:	Exeat & Year 10 parents meetings
Saturday 8th February	:	House Revue - 7.30pm
Friday 14th February	:	Half term. Year 11 parents meeting and A-level info meeting
Friday 20th March	:	End of term

HAVE A VERY MESSY-MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A RAUCOUS NEW YEAR!



Ho Ho Ho!