

Watt House Newsletter

In humanitate robur



There is no education like adversity

and the Year 13s have had to face this in possibly the last few days of their school lives. The Year 11s too had to face the possibility that all of their hard work might not be properly rewarded this summer. However, how both year groups have met this challenge and shown resilience, good humour and spirit has been amazing to behold: they have supported each other through laughter, crying and singing. Will the Year 13s be back next term to enjoy the last part of their school lives properly? We do not yet know, but watching their reluctance to leave their house community was a reflection of how well the house system works in the College. Friendships made here will endure and all of the girls have made Watt a wonderful place to be this year.

Stars of the Week:



ELLEN DUTHIE-JACKSON

AVA TALMAN

LOTTIE THORLEY

NATASHA SYMES

MOLLY SWINGLER

ISABEL STEAD

KATHERINE LINAKER

SUHANSA BIYANWILA

TALI GRIEG

CLEM CLAPP

EVIE SLEEP

MIFRAH FAISAL

8

SINGING

With Distinction

Tianlu Wang

250

SHOW HSMS

Awarded to the girls this term

DIPLOMA

SINGING

With Distinction

Sophie Nicholles

Year 11 Dinner

James Bond eat your heart out



After a tough week of GCSE mock exams (back in the days when they thought they would be taking the real things this summer), the girls were able to let their hair down on the Friday night and go to the 007 themed dinner over in the Winn building. They all had a lot of fun and looked absolutely drop-dead gorgeous. Hard to believe that they are not even in Year 12 yet looking at them. They did not look quite so glamorous as they left the building as the heavens opened on them, but it would a mean hsm who would put that photo in here...

County Hockey Success

Special mention must go to Ella Panayiotou who has been selected to play for the Sussex County hockey team. This involves training most Sundays and requires her to juggle her academic work as well as her school or club sport on Saturdays. Ella's selection will surprise no-one who has watched her play over the past few years. Well done her!



Casson Society Dinner

Beauty as well as brains



Watt House has a large number of girls in the Casson (academic) Society and at the end of January they attended their annual dinner in the Winn. Although some of the girls escaped before the camera appeared, others were not quick enough. The mean photographer also snapped them looking less glamorous as they set off into the inclement weather.



House Revue

Every year I realise how lucky I am to have such talented girls in the house and this year was no exception. Thanks to their hard work, creativeness and enthusiasm (and a large dollop of talent), the evening was a wonderful success and a credit to Jess Williams and her fellow Year 13s who were the real hosts of the evening. Well done to them for injecting such a positive, cheerful atmosphere into the proceedings.







House Netball

With fixtures cancelled after half term, house matches were played one sunny Saturday. Juniors (Years 9 & 10) on Powell and Seniors in the sports hall. The girls all played really well and the Junior A team even won their first game 17-0. However, even with excellent shooting from Ava, Kayla, Lucy and Alice, overall victory eluded them. The Seniors found the competition tough, but there was enthusiasm in abundance and the games were really close. It was a fantastic turn out by the Watt girls too. Next year girls, next year...





International Dinner - yum yum!

To celebrate how many pupils and indeed staff we have in the House and College, we revived our International Dinner this year. Informality is the name of the game, so takeaways were ordered in and the focus was very much on relaxing and socialising in the house while eating delicious food. Several of the Year 12s organised the entire event, from planning the pre-dinner Treasure Hunt, asking the girls which food they wanted to eat, sorting the actual quantities to order in, laying all of the food out and (this was the best and most amazing bit), clearing it all up afterwards so that there was not even a trace of 70 girls having eaten takeaway food in the house - not even the smell. The food chosen was: Chinese, Japanese and Indian and it was devoured by all. The atmosphere in the building was so lovely. The girls do not have enough opportunities to just sit, relax and chat and who doesn't love to do that while eating delicious food too?



Coffee Mornings

Wednesday mornings are definitely more of a squeeze with 70+ girls all dashing in, desperate to discover what delicacies are on display. However, they have all realised that with two Families contributing food to the cause each week, there is always plenty there, so after the initial rush, they all sit down, relax and enjoy the scrumptious home-baked brownies, cakes, biscuits, as well as the shop bought yummys.

We were lucky to be able to hold the last Coffee Morning of the term with recent events and restrictions on food. Fortunately, a shop had been made before the 'only 2 bananas, 2 oranges etc' clampdown, although supplies were still limited. It would perhaps have been hard to justify buying the fruit which had been promised to those who had given up sugar for Lent. In fact a day later than the Sunday shop and there would have been very little there at all!

Just a reminder to all of the girls to wash their hands before tucking in and everything vanished within 20 minutes.



And then....

Suddenly everything changed in our school community. There was no inter-house a Cappella competition (although having listened to a recording of them practising, they would definitely have won!), no inter-house swimming, no Drama Showcase (that Alex Hawkins had been so heavily involved in organising), no Young Musician Vocal Finals (Sophie, Millie & Tianlu had qualified), no end of term assembly to celebrate the achievements of everyone in the College; all school trips, both home and abroad, were cancelled.

Every day the impact of the coronavirus became more of a reality for everyone here in sheltered, coastal Eastbourne: teachers and pupils were self-isolating, boarders were sent home early and then suddenly the rug was pulled out from under the feet of the Year 11s and 13s and they were told that they would not be sitting exams this summer. Even though very few people enjoy exams, the girls in Watt have worked so hard for so long that it was actually a tremendous disappointment for them not to be able to have the chance to show off their knowledge in the usual manner. It was also the uncertainty of what would happen instead. Even as I write this, there is still uncertainty, but at least a little more clarity and hopefully the girls are feeling reassured that their consistent hard work will be appropriately rewarded.

For the Year 13s though, there was the very real prospect that Thursday was their very last day at school and this was heartbreaking to witness. Every sixth form leaver should have the chance to enjoy a few weeks after exams to celebrate and enjoy everything that their school has to offer before they move on. The girls felt that they may be denied this opportunity. Their sadness reflected how much they have embraced the life at the College and it also showed what a close group of girls they are in the way they all came in on the last day, supported each other, chatted, laughed, cried and even sang together one last time. School rules were still respected, their behaviour was exemplary and they even managed to clear their rooms out beautifully and leave the house in an (almost) immaculate condition - even messy Head of House Jess (who has actually been usurped as the 'messiest girl in the house' by one Year 9 girl now).



This will not be the end for the Year 13s though and even if school does not resume at all next term, there will still be an opportunity for them all to gather together at some (safe) point in the future and for us all to say 'goodbye' properly. We will all look forward to that. They have been a wonderful Year 13 group: excellent role models to the younger years, friendly, helpful, polite and hard-working and most importantly, well-balanced, considerate and very very kind.

Their (possible) last day involved lessons - where they all continued to work hard - and a fun game of benchball in the sports hall with all the other Year 13s from other houses who had come into school. Watt had the full complement of Year 13 girls in for the day, which in itself speaks volumes about their attitude towards their time in the College.



Awards & Achievements

Honorary Drama Scholarship : Millie Cranston

Half Colours:

Netball	:	Beth Hawkins
		Jess Williams
Art	:	Olivia Wood
Music	:	Tianlu Wang
Drama	:	Melis-Rose Ozcan

Subject Commendations awarded to:

Shaumya Kularajan

Melis-Rose Ozcan

Lily Isepp

Harriet Brinsmead-Maclean

Notable Show Hsms:

Kiri Marshall (Yr 10)	: 14	Sophie Stevens (Yr 9)	: 9
Polly Symes (Yr 10)	: 13	Ava Talman (Yr 9)	: 8
Isabel Stead (Yr 12)	: 10	Jasmine Wright (Yr 10)	: 8
Missy Richardson (Yr 9)	: 9	Harriet Brinsmead-Maclean (Yr 9)	: 8
Sophia Marshall (Yr 9)	: 9	Alex Hawkins (Yr 11)	: 7
Leila Lopez Moran (Yr 13)	: 5	Tianlu Wang (Yr 12)	: 5

(It is much harder to earn Show Hsms in Years 12 & 13)

Ottile Grant (Yr 11), Clem Clapp (Yr 10), Verity Terry (Yr 10) : 6

Ella Panayiotou (Yr 9), Elizabeth Walters (Yr 9), Katie Hillyer (Yr 9) : 6

A Few other special mentions:

Textiles:

This term Year 10 and Year 12 textiles pupils entered the Royal Opera House's prestigious annual Design Challenge competition, giving them the opportunity to test and develop design skills based around Puccini's Opera: 'La Boheme'. Of the entrants, Clementine Clapp and Sophie Bullock were the finalists. Well done them!

Drama:

Year 12 drama pupils performed the set text: 'Jerusalem' in February in the College Theatre, with all of the pupils acting out this confrontational and political play. An enormous amount of work went into this and the acting was fabulous. It was both long and intense, but for those who managed to stay late to watch it, it was well worth it, as it really was excellent. Well done to Daisy Newton and Ellen Duthie-Jackson for acting so well and particularly to Melis-Rose Ozcan, who played the lead character 'Johnny Rooster' (even down to drinking raw eggs and milk live on stage) brilliantly.

Chemistry:

Well done to Isobel Mitchell and Mayuri Tambyrajah for representing the College so well in the inaugural Cambridge Chemistry Race in February. Competing mainly against Year 13s, they and the three other Eastbourne pupils did extremely well.

GCSE Mocks:

There were five top performers in the year, achieving only grades 7, 8 & 9. One of these was Kizzy Rollings. Well done to her!

Linguistics Olympiad

The UK Linguistics Olympiad was held again this year and many of our pupils entered. This is an extremely tough intellectual challenge and getting any kind of mention or award is a real achievement. Well done therefore to Katherine Linaker, Mayuri Tambyrajah and Tianlu Wang, who all attained Bronze in this.

Young Musician of the Year

Well done to Katherine Linaker for winning the Senior Duet class with Cody Chan in the instrumental finals which were held a few weeks before the end of the term.

Oxbridge

Well done Rae Greenhow, who is off to St. John's Oxford next year to read history. Well done to the other three girls though (Leila, Sophie & Shaumya) for even getting Oxbridge interviews.

Here are a few more photos from the term, just in case you wonder what your girls are doing each day





As we continue to lurch into the unknown, spending such time with our families that we have only dreamed of before, there will be even more testing times ahead. It is important for the girls to have some form of structure, particularly as the start of term approaches, as all the teachers are planning their digital lessons already. Self-discipline for everyone will be crucial if the girls are to benefit from the education that will be provided by the College.

I hope that in these holidays though, everyone will be making the most of the fine weather and long-neglected gardens may probably be starting to look very tidy already. The most important thing is for everyone to stay healthy, take some form of exercise (even though the Forestry Commission have now closed Friston Forest!), get plenty of sleep and try not to spend all day on electronic devices.

There will be more challenges ahead and we are obviously unsure when we will return to normal face-to-face schooling again, but I very much look forward to welcoming the girls back when that does happen.



And finally...

Each term I am on the look out for examples of dodgy parking by the newly qualified drivers in the house. This term exceeded all my expectations though, as Sophie mounted the curb without looking properly behind her until it was too late....



Take care and stay healthy.