

Wargrave House News

Lent Term Review



What's inside?

- The incredible efforts of the Rowathon
- Wargrave – Nugent House Dinner
- The advent of Wargrave Supper Club.

Key dates for Summer Term 2022: Please note that the whole house is expected to stay in for those events marked with an asterix

Tuesday 19th April Term begins for all boarders. House open from 9am for all those returning from long haul flights. 6pm arrival for all else. Whole house to return by 9pm.

Wednesday 20th April New Term begins for all HM Assembly, All Saints Church

Saturday 23rd April * Boarders' Ball (black tie)

30th April – 2nd May Extended exeat (Bank Holiday) starts Friday pm, return by 9pm on Monday. No college supper available on the Monday.

16th May Y11 study leave starts

20th May U6th last day of school celebration

23rd May U6th study leave starts

27th May Y9 GCSE Options Meeting (15.00-16.15) Half term begins for all else 14.35

Sunday 5th June Half term ends. Arrival in house from 4pm, all return by 9pm.

22nd June Y12 Team building and futures day/dinner

1st July Sports Day*

2nd July – Speech Day*

18th August – A Level results available from 8am

25th August – GCSE results available from 8am

Academic

Assessment and mocks have been the main theme of the term for Y11s and 13s as they gear up for public exams, whilst the rest of the school have been grinding through various GCSE and A level units.

The year 9s are starting to turn their attention to their thoughts for GCSE option choices – cue lots of considered conversations with Mr Roberts. Y9 parents, please be reminded of the GCSE options meeting on Saturday 21st May, which will give you an opportunity to talk to heads of department about what is on offer and course specifications.

Happily, the Upper Sixth are starting to have some university offers trickle in having all got their UCAS applications in on time (some by the skin of their teeth). It is excellent for them to have a material goal to set their sights on in the coming months, which are going to be pretty grueling with revision taking its toll.

Isaac Tam has been working hard on his pre-medicine application preparation course and Adrian Wong, James Zhou and Justin Bonneau Diesce have been enriching their academic diet with evening STEM classes.

Ben Hutt, Justin Bonneau-Diesce and Leander Walters have all been welcomed into the Casson Society and have been treated to some speeches and lectures to stretch their academic horizons.

Praise marks League Table 2021/2 as it stands * Leading three pupils for the house yearly competition.			
Year	1 st	2nd	3rd
9	Ian Tam (57)	Elliot Freeborough (36)	Aman Shah (33)
10	Dan Sasao (34)	Jason Mo (33)	Ed Nolan (27)
11	Ivan Wong (45)	Bob Zhao (42)	Toby Wheatley (37)
12	Justin Bonneau Diesce (26)	Adrian Wong (26)	Isaac Tam (25)
13	Miguel Santos de Quevedo Cardiel (10)	Leo Shen (8)	Marmaduke Carr (7)

* 1 point for a piece of praise, two points for a show hsm (where tied, the fewer sanction points makes the difference in placing)

There were some excellent results in the recent Y11 and Y13 mock exams, which bode well for June 2022.

Most notably:

- Sean Foster – 7.10 average
- Kachi Edet – 7.22 average
- Ivan Wong – 7.70 average
- Bob Zhao – 8.00 average
- Leo Shen – A*, A*, A

Ivan Wong earned a Headmaster's Commendation for his Gold Award in the Intermediate National Maths Challenge, a great achievement.

Ben Hutt also earned a Bronze Award in the Linguistics Olympiad which he told me was 'the hardest test he had ever done'. Well done Ben. Justin Bonneau-Diesce also secured a silver medal in the same competition. Congratulations to both.



Isaac Tam making DNA models out of play-doh in biology. Who says science isn't fun?!

Sporting Success

Whilst lots of boys continue to churn through cricket 1:1s, Quins development squad, and their own club sports, Lent term is mostly about the hockey and football pitch. Happily, the Wargravians continue to enjoy many successes here.

Notable mentions must go to the following:

Aditya Kumar (Y12), William Pollington (Y12), Jack Greig (Y11) and Luca Dumas (Y11) all of whom have become solid members of the 1st XI hockey team. Paddy Cooper has also captained the U15As to a successful season.

Ben Hutt (Y12) has a regular run out for the 1st XI football team, as does Sean Foster (Y11) and see right, an action shot of Toby Bright (Y12) playing for the 2nd XI. I am assured that it ended up in a goal!

As my history colleague Mr Gent (also Director of Tennis) reminds me, tennis never stops and is not confined to the balmy summer months on grassy courts.

Miguel Santos de Quevedo Cardiel (Y13), Maksim Drozd (Y12) and Luca Dumas (Y11) all went to the National Finals of the LTA Schools Winter Championships on Thursday 10th March playing on the indoor courts at the Sutton International Tennis Village. They all came runners up in the South East Regional tennis tournament, which is the best placing that Eastbourne College have ever achieved. I am very hopeful for house tennis given that three of the five of the winning team are Wargravians! This term also saw the 'tennis-athon' to raise money for one of the chosen school charities – Bright Ideas for Tennis. As one of the boarding houses, we had the graveyard slot in the early hours of the morning, but there was plenty of music, games and challenges to keep the boys occupied. See the photos below. Miguel was a particularly galvanising force here as Head of Boys Tennis doing a sterling job keeping spirits up in the wee hours:



The 1st XV also came runners up in the RFU national bowl. An amazing event which saw the boys play at the Saracens' Home Ground in the penultimate week of term. Those Wargravians who helped them to such heights are: Jack Greig (Y11), Aditya Kumar (Y12) and Will Hoskins (Y13). Special mention must once again go to Jack Greig whose kicking talents helped the score line throughout the tournament no end.

William James competed in the local Sussex schools cross country champs. He was doing incredibly well and looked to be coming in the top 20 from Mr Harrison's estimation until a bout of nausea interrupted his performance and scuppered his chances. Oh well, there's always next year!

See pics below.







A huge well done to Zach Howard (Y11) who did very well in the annual Bath Cup. This year was one of the most successful attendances in many years to this national relay competition with approximately 150 schools from all over the UK competing.

Zach's team went under a 4 min total time, again- first time for this- and finished in 3rd place overall.

In the afternoon's medley relays the boys made the finals again finishing in 6th place overall. Well done Zach, and incredible venue to compete at!

Will Steed, Jack Greig, Sean Foster and Zach Howard all competed in the Rosslyn Park U16s 7s tournament in the final week of the term, and Aditya Kumar represented the U18s at the same tournament.

Finally, another big congratulations to Jack Greig (pictured) whose U16 Quins team beat Bath U16 at Millfield on Saturday 20th March. He puts in hours in his week training, so I am delighted that all his hard work has paid off.





Zach, Sean, Jack and Will at Rosslyn Park

Aditya at Rosslyn Park



Wargrave House Rowathon

Without a doubt, the biggest event of the term was the Wargrave 24hr Rowathon. Thank you for sacrificing weekend plans to allow your sons to stay in for this important house bonding weekend. Although as master in charge of rowing I have been invited to do a stint before, this was obviously my first time witnessing the event in its entirety, and it was a really fantastic one, showing the house at its very best.

Although the adrenaline and the encouragement of many teenage boys keeps you going, by the time I was on my fourth stint on the erg I was reminded of why I used to actively dodge land training for the rowing squad in my Uni days. This was a hard feat when I house shared with the men's' captain, I can tell you. I can attest that 10 minutes on a rowing machine remains 10 minutes of cardiovascular hell, and I count myself a relatively fit person!

The event was really enjoyable. Even when at 3am I managed to lock myself out of my house, couldn't wake up Miss Lusty, and ended up catching a few hours kip on the sofa in my office! It is surprisingly comfortable, incidentally. We are incredibly grateful for and humbled by the amount raised, which at final count was £5620! The CEO of the charity was rather tearful when I let her know how much we had achieved and she was delighted to visit the house for a handover meeting and to talk to the boys about how far the money will go in helping the homeless in the Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings area. She came to speak to the boys in the penultimate week of term and told them about all the fantastic work that the charity do. It was a very moving experience and great to hear first-hand the impact that our 24 hours of slight discomfort can have on the lives of those who are so less fortunate than ourselves. Once again, a huge thank you for your donations and for spreading the word so widely. It is an incredible total and far surpasses any from previous years.



My particular thanks go to the senior boys for running the event. In particular, Miguel, Max Hanison, Duke Carr and David Wang who really drove the day and night forwards. It is great for the lower years to be able to see such leadership from above and to know what to emulate one day. Duke kept the energy levels high all night with some motivational tunes blasting through the speaker and his trademark 'Duke Carr Beats' on show. All were pretty exhausted by the end (see photo of Max catching 40 winks) but it showed the house at its very best – united, charming, selfless and upbeat!

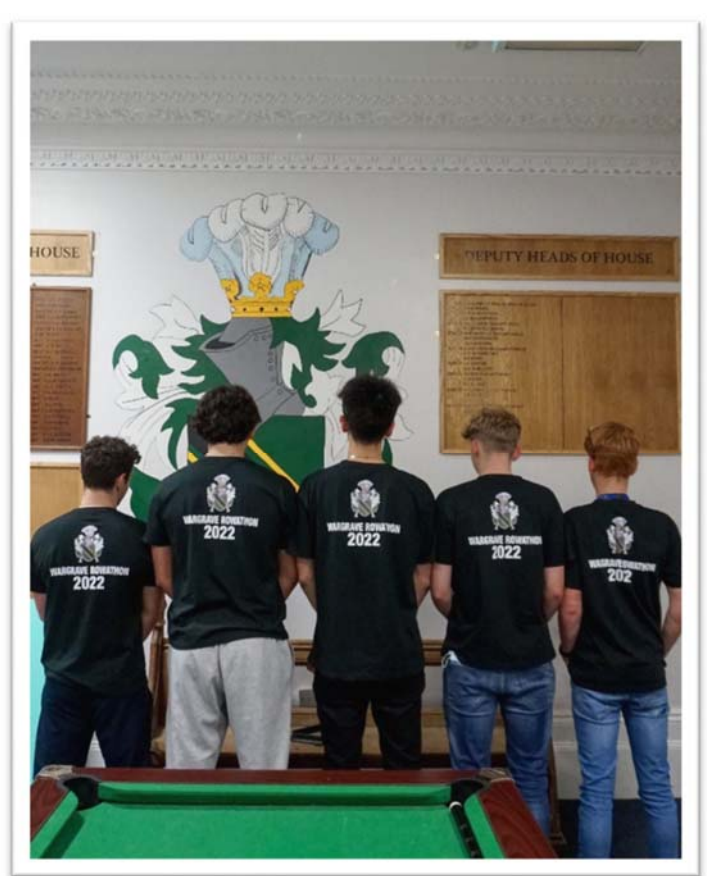
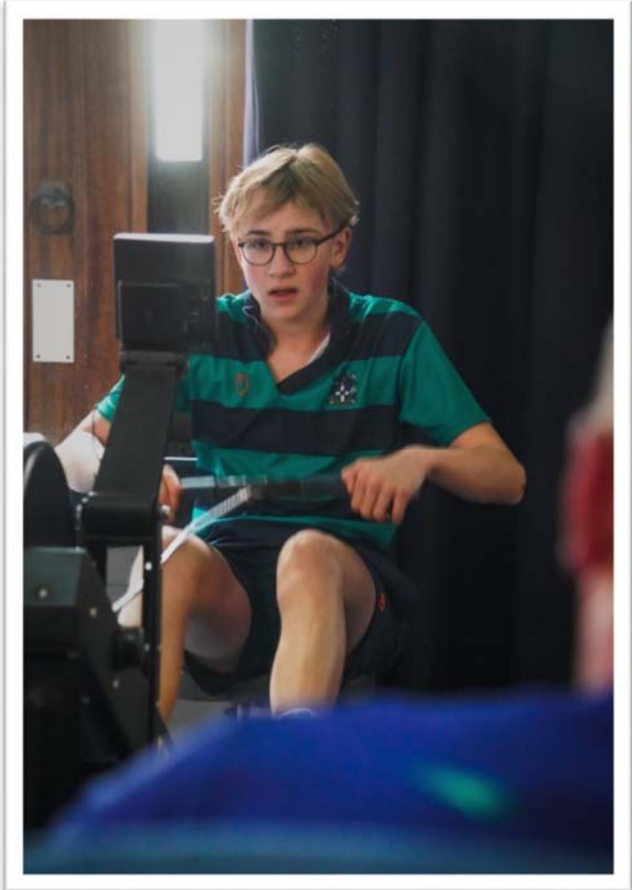


Some stats:

- Average row 2148.7m
- Total distance rowed - 309,415m which equates to 309km, so the distance from Eastbourne to The Peak District, or Eastbourne to Le Mans!
- Top rower – Miguel with 2765m (impressive after being up most of the night!)

Congratulations go to the following who rowed the furthest distance in their year group categories:

- Miguel
- Connor Gorman
- Jack Evans
- Freddie Jones
- Elliot Freeborough





Interhouse competitions

It is always great that the Lent Term brings with it plenty of other interhouse competitions on top of the usual sporting ones.

Interhouse chess converted the common room for a few weeks into a hub of chess intellect and industry. For those of you that weren't taken by Netflix's *'The Queen's Gambit'* I can confirm that chess can indeed be quite thrilling, especially when the boys challenge you to a 2 minute fast and furious sudden death match! I lost many times.

Traditionally, we always do well with this competition and this year was no exception, with the team of Max Hanison, Bob Zhao, Ivan Wong and Charlie Goffin (in varying combinations) securing a place in the semi-finals before being beaten by the eventual winners – Reeves House.



The interhouse a Cappella competition rounded off the term. Although I had high hopes for the boys after our house singing triumph last term, this competition is always a different beast. Singing with no music is always rather exposing and the four boys who put themselves forward (they were in fact dragged forwards by me!) put on a valiant effort. My thanks go to the following: Charles Wion, Jack Evans, Ian Tam, Edward Nolan, for their good pluck on the night singing 'Life could be a dream', and to Mr Laverack for rehearsing the group and getting them 'show-ready'.

Y10s did well to come second in interhouse hockey earlier in the term. A scoring mishap from Mr Hill had them thinking that they had come 1st for a few hours. They had convinced me that they were deserving of winner's pizza, and my hand was on the phone to Dominos just before the re-write came through. I'm keeping my pizza budget in reserve for the next time they excel at something, which I am sure won't be too long knowing the sporting talent that exists in this year group!

Y9s came third in the interhouse football. Thank you to Joseph Philpott for adopting the role of chief manager, visuals and strategies and all. Congratulations to them for then also coming out on top in interhouse hockey! Cue pizza budget being nibbled at!

We came second in house squash with the junior pair of Ed Nolan and Rory Staunton playing some tight games and coming second, and the senior pair of Charlie Wion and Maksim Drozd putting in a valiant effort to place third.

Senior house football also saw us pick up second place on the podium, and senior house hockey saw the boys play their way to victory in a stunning performance which saw them win every single match, comfortably.

A quick run down in table form of all the interhouse competitions is as follows:



Event	Placing
Chess	Reached Semi-finals
a Cappella	
Y9 football	3 rd
Y9 hockey	1 st
Y10 football	2 nd
Y10 hockey	2 nd
Squash	3 rd
Senior football	2 nd
Senior hockey	1 st

Wargrave Supper Club

Certainly one of the highlights for me this term has been hosting a 'crew' of Wargrave boys every week on either Wednesday or Thursday evening. The intention is as follows: A 'crew' is a randomised vertical mix of boys from Y9-13 who are encouraged to bond as a small family unit in Wargrave. The hope is that it will encourage socialisation across the year groups. Whilst this is something that Wargrave has never struggled with, sometimes teenage boys need a nudge in the right direction to get the ball rolling and to cement current relationships. The plan is that in the coming terms and months there will be more intra-house events such as basketball, football, a quiz or quick cricket, and this 'crew' will compete as a team. An ulterior motive has been to get to see the boys in a more relaxed fashion and to get to know a bit more about their various quirks, hobbies and interests. I have certainly not disappointed. The conversation has ranged from the geo-political landscape to gap years, to what each of them would cook as their 'piece de resistance'. To a man, they have been unfailingly good company. Although the odd group have needed a bit of ice-breaking with the post it note game as their starter!

Whilst Miss Lusty and I certainly don't want to see a lasagne and oreo cheesecake for a while (happily, one variation in the eight was a chicken curry), the evenings have been immensely enjoyable and we have taken a lot from them. I hope the boys have too. If you can't see your son below, I'm really sorry, I forgot to take a photo of 'Crew 2' that evening. The conversation must have been in full flow. There has also been the odd boy who has forgotten their invitation, and when one is mid flow in cooking for 10 people it can be a bit of a stretch to send a carrier pigeon to the dining hall to summon him back. We have, where possible, tried to shunt them on to the next night, but it has not always been possible.





Service

Year 12s have been busy spending the odd Saturday here and there learning how to plot a sensible route and how to pitch a tent in preparation for their Gold DofE Practice Expedition which falls right at the beginning of the summer holidays.

A fresh wave of Year 10s have been accepted onto the Silver Award. I've never seen so many litter pickers in one place in my life, but the Wargrave back yard has certainly been nicely cleaned up!



CCF continues to tick on nicely and a handful of the boys really enjoyed a range day put on for them earlier in the term. Congratulations to Raphael Ayirebi who successfully completed the Advanced Cadet Syllabus and is duly promoted to the rank of Corporal and Instructor Cadet for the RAF section. Well done, him. James Zhou has been taking very good care of the Platoon II Section III.



Monty remains incredibly well-walked by a range of Wargrave boys and I know that Mrs Webb is very grateful for the Service @ School (SAS) options that the chaps involve themselves in ranging from helping pupils from local schools with prep to beach cleans and dog walking!

Creatives and the arts

There have been some excellent informal concerts in the Birley Centre, with both Steven Zhang and Ian Tam performing on the piano and voice respectively.

Ian Tam and Jack Evans have also been regular attendees at Tuesday night Singer-Songwriter workshops, with Ian performing in the Live Lounge back in January, and Jack making his debut at one of the school café's open mic nights on Thursday 10th March raising funds for Ukrainian refugees hit by the terrible conflict recently.



Leander Walters (Y12) had his prodigious photography talent put on display with an exhibition running for a fortnight in the Birley Centre for his Gold Arts Award. Entitled 'London Archived' there were some phenomenally creative shots taken (some featured below) from his wanderings around the capital. I was lucky enough to receive a guided tour by Leander, and to hear him speak about his pieces is incredible and shows what an artistic eye he has on him. My photos of his photos really haven't done him justice.





Steven Zhang's entry for the Headmaster's photography competition was chosen as one of the 5 winning pieces by Mr Lawson and the Chairman of Governors and he receives a commendation for his work (see below). Unfortunately, Steven was isolating at the time of the awards ceremony, but the event was recorded in his absence.



Ben Hutt and James Zhou also competed in the first round of the interhouse debating competition against Reeves with the following as the focus of their debate: “You are a parent whose child is in a long-term relationship. You find out that they are cheating on their partner and have no intention of coming clean to them about it.” Motion: This house, as the parent, Would tell you child’s partner about the infidelity. Quite a tricky one, and in a busy term which saw limited time for specific training, they did not progress, but I am grateful for their grit and effort nonetheless.



Umi, Adrian, Ian and James meeting with Governor – Clare Locher at a forum to discuss international boarders’ issues.

Wargrave – Nugent House Dinner

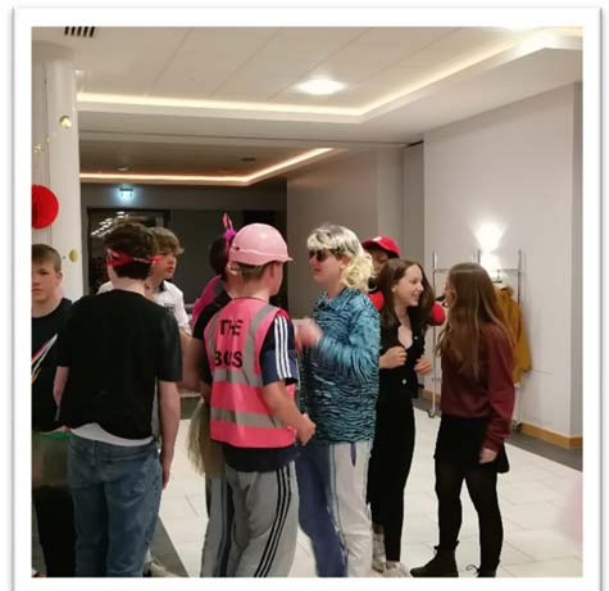
It's not every evening that you get to break bread with an astronaut, a cowboy, a scientist, a ballerina and a chalet girl, but that I did on Saturday 26th February when we had our shared house dinner with Nugent House (girls boarding).

It was an excellent evening and I was delighted that the boys really threw themselves into the theme which was 'When I grow up I want to be'. The food was excellent and the boys really revelled in the girls' good company.

The evening was topped off with some between course games and competitions – Heads of Tails, a 'Say what you see' name quiz designed by Miss Burford, and a best dressed competition.

Congratulations go to Will Coleman who was nominated best dressed for his 'Geezer' costume, much to the crowd's delight!

My thanks to Miss Burford for her help and support in organising it and for the committee of boys who helped set up the tables and decorate the hall. The Boarders' Ball next term will provide an opportunity for a more formal dinner with a more sophisticated menu and some musical entertainment. With that in mind, please can I draw your attention to the date: Saturday 23rd April which is the first weekend back. It will be black tie or lounge suits and it is a compulsory event for the whole house.



Final thought for the term

This one is always a bit of a pressure cooker, with lots of events crammed in to a very short period of time. Public exams are on the horizon for 2/5th of Wargrave, and I am conscious that stress levels will continue to rise. Whilst the right type of stress can be good as it can shunt us into more productive mindsets and more industrious ways of working, we must all caution against it tipping over into toxic and unmanageable stress. With that in mind, I do hope that you all manage to snatch some much needed rest time with your sons over the Easter break.

Linked to the above, I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you of the excellent Wellbeing Hub that Eastbourne College subscribes too. It is a resource developed by child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing experts, Teen Tips with the aim to help you understand and meet your child's needs. As I learn to 'speak teenager' better and better each day, I've also been dipping in to certain modules ranging from skin, to body image to consent. It really is an excellent resource and can give you some welcome starting points to strike up what can be quite daunting or tricky conversations with your sons.

A guide to the parent hub can be found here: [Parent-Hub-Menu.png \(1024×768\) \(teentips.co.uk\)](#)

Any enquiries can be directed to club@teentips.co.uk

Both Jenni and I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Easter holidays, and we look forward to welcoming the boys back on April 19th. For those who haven't experienced it, the summer term at Eastbourne College is something truly special. The seaside location really comes to life, College Field becomes a buzz of activity and those longer days and shorter nights are a tonic for the soul.

Have a super break.

All the best,

Tim