



BLACKWATER



LENT Term 2025

The Lent term is our shortest but most hectic term of the academic year. In January, pupils in Yr 11 sat their mock GCSE exams with a level of performance that bodes very well for the summer. During this time the house was getting used to being back in a routine and getting used to new roommates and a new sporting calendar. The girls started netball as the major sport, with fixtures against Cranleigh, Mayfield, Lancing, Christs Hospital, Benenden, Hurstpierpoint and Cranbrook. Some good wins this term saw the 1st team make it to the final of the Plate at SISNA, and the U14s team did the same in their competition. The U15s went on to win the Plate, well done to all those who took part. The house has felt a little quieter as girls have been concentrating on their studies, especially with the mocks for Year 11 and 13s. However, the injection of many house competitions has added to the noise level with netball, squash, football and basketball, and culminating in the Acapella competition at the very end of term. On 11th March all the houses came together for the first ever Giving Day, which saw the school raise money for the Blue-Sky Bursaries Appeal, thank you to all those who donated and please look ahead to see some photos from the day. We also saw some great performances from our dancers in the Dance Showcase. Our music scholars have been involved in the scholar's concert and informal concerts, as well as recitals this term. We also enjoyed the end of school Easter service with many of our girls singing in the choir. All in all, the girls powered through this shorter lent term and are hopefully now enjoying the sunshine.

Academic/Creatives and Sport achievements

Well done to all the girls below:

Melanya Freeston – for her offer from Oxford to study Law at Jesus College Oxford and **OE Nellie Yarrow-Davies** who has been offered an unconditional place to read HSPS at Downing College, Cambridge.

In drama, GCSE and A-level Drama pupils completed their scripted practical exams this term. With scenes taking place in pubs, boarding schools, living rooms, Hollywood Studios and a post-apocalyptic universe, both GCSE and A-level pupils gave incredible performances to parents and peers.

In the last round of Trinity Musical Theatre exams, I can announce that, **Annabel Lewis achieved a Grade 4 with merit** whilst **Scarlett McFarlane achieved Grade 5.**

Hannah Duke, Amelia Williams and Emily Veitch – received full colours for Netball at the Headmasters assembly.

Martha Lillicrap, Lola Woollard, Pheobe Wearne, Izzy Fogg and Saffi Lam Lok Poon - received half colours for Netball.

The Year 13 Arts Award pupils' put on a brilliant showcase on Thursday 13 March, which showed the breadth of their creativity. A premiere of three films, one by **Mary Keast-Butler**, with the evening being organised by **Georgia Hunt**.

Lola Woollard presented prizes to the winners of their Sewing Bee which all Houses took part in.

Amelia Williams showcased her intricate, beautiful textiles design

The whole evening was expertly curated by **Martha Lillicrap**.

We look forward to seeing **Layla El Jishi Cluskey's** production of *Waiting for Godot* in April.

We are pleased to report that following entries by Y12 into the Samsung 'Design for Tomorrow' competition that received 350 entries, we have had 3 pupils including **Izzy Fogg**, make it through to the next stage. They have already received a Samsung tablet each and attended a whole day seminar and workshop in London.

The music scholars went on a trip to see the world premiere of Jonathan Dove's new opera, *Uprising*, performed by Glyndebourne Community Chorus and Glyndebourne Youth Opera, of which **Sophia Sneddon** was a member.



Sporting Highlights

The girls have been training hard since they arrived back in house in January. As well as competing in House events, we have had Blackwater representation across sports for the College.

Our 1st VII netball squad reached the Sussex semi-finals which include **Hannah Duke and Pheobe Wearne**. The U16As made the final of the Sussex bowl with the U15As winning the Sussex plate for the first Sussex netball silverware beating Brighton College in the final. This included Blackwater representation from **Lucy McDonald, Scarlett McFarlane, Annie Lewis, Ella Helm, Juliette Tapner and Eloise Garton**. The U14As & 15As won more games than they conceded, and it has been superb reward for the effort in training. There has also been the continued success of the weekly adult Eastbourne Netball league.

Our equestrian team qualified again for the national finals, including **Darcy Dumas, Meg Lillicrap and Lola Woollard**; the cross-country team competed in the Sussex Champs with some going to race in the regional and national finals.

Well done to **Emma Valks** who was part of the Girls' Senior Tennis Team who won the LTA winter Schools competition in the regional finals held at Sutton Tennis Centre.

The girls' fives teams competed in the southeast regional competitions. The girls qualified brilliantly for the national finals with cup and plate singles and doubles winners and runners up in an impressive return. **Ameilia Williams** in Year 13 was part of the doubles plate winning team, **Scarlett McFarlane** achieved runner up in the main singles competition, with **Ella Helm** taking Gold. **Scarlett and Ella** also won the doubles plate. **Stuti Vasdev and Aless Kasar** in year 9 went on to the National Finals to achieve 2nd and 3rd place.

Bbelle Gorrill took part in the Biathlon, returning from the national finals with a silver medal for the girls.

Records fell for our swim team at the national 150 school Bath Cup at the Olympic Park. With the boys completing a unique double-double gold retaining two national titles and setting national records along the way. Our girls (including **Bbelle Gorrill**) also achieved an amazing haul of two silver medals. In the schools super league they secured a bronze overall and won the senior boys and inter girls. A just reward for the impressive early morning and evening sessions they complete.

Jessie Holgate, Eloise Garton and Ella Helm all continue to represent Sussex County in Hockey.

The U16 Eastbourne Hockey Club team - consisting of **Emma Valks, Eloise Garton, Scarlett McFarlane, Ella Helm, Jessie Holgate and Bbelle Gorrill** - made it to the national plate final in Nottingham. They came away from the final with a silver medal. A great achievement to make it to the national final. Well done to you all.

In Cricket - **Georgie Pedley** continues to represent the Southern Vipers EPP, this is a regional representative set-up that covers 6 counties across the South-Central area.

In netball – **Lottie Hinton, Lucy McDonald, Ella Helm, Saffi Poon and Phoebe Wearne** continue to play for clubs outside of school.





Interhouse Competitions

This term the girls have competed and showed true team spirit and loyalty in the House netball, squash, football and basketball. A busy month with some great wins for the house.

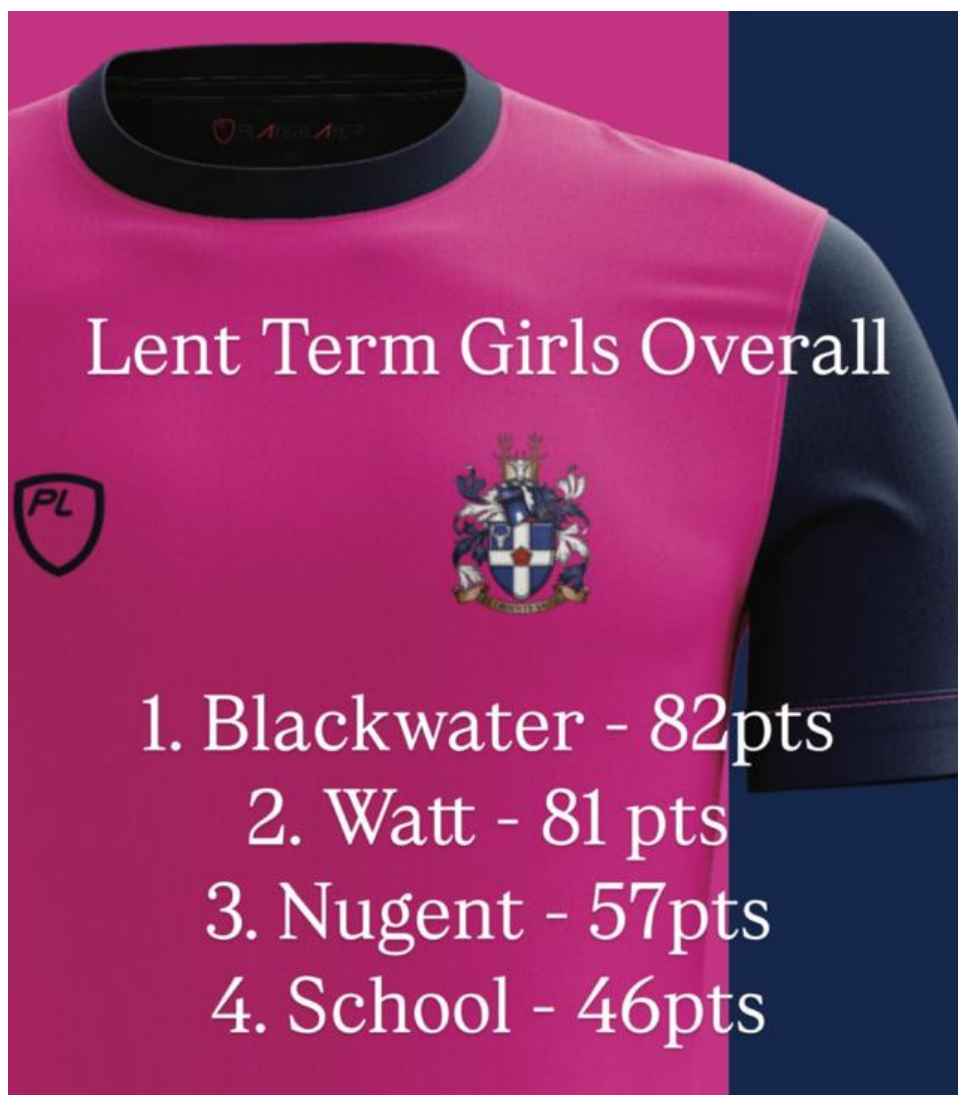
In squash Izzy Cole and Saffi Poon represented the seniors, with 2 wins from 3 for Izzy. In the Junior competition **Emma Valks and Rosie Hill** took to the courts, again winning 2 out of their 3 matches against the others houses, putting us in 2nd place overall. Well done ladies.

In football, the fiery atmosphere brought out some competitiveness amongst the girls with our Year 9 team taking 2nd place, Year 10s taking 3rd spot and our senior team placing 3rd in some extremely competitive matches on Beresford.

The Year 9 **basketball** was competitive with everyone making an appearance on the court. We placed 2nd in the Year 9 competition and 1st in the Year 10 tournament.

However, we stole the show in the Netball with wins for both junior and senior teams again!

This has meant for the 1st time in a long time we have **finished 1st overall in points for the House competition** for the Lent term. Counting the points for the Michaelmas term as well, this now puts us in a **strong place moving into the summer term. Well done to everyone who has picked up a stick, thrown a ball, swam, scored a goal or swung a racket for the house!! It all counts.**







Dance

At the end of the Lent Term many of our girls were involved in the **Dance Showcase**. Many of the girls already take A level or GCSE Dance. It was an opportunity for us all to see what they have been working on all year. It was a fantastic exhibition and we got to experience many genres of dance in one evening. Congratulations to **Izzy Holden, Millie Gebbie, Aless Kasar, Sophie Benson and Emily Veitch**.



Giving Day

On the 11th of March both St Andrews Prep and Eastbourne College came together to celebrate Giving Day. A 36-hour fundraising event for our Blue-Sky Bursaries Appeal. The day was filled with House competitions including the Tug of War, an obstacle course, mascot parade, a chant and entertainment on stalls in a bid to acquire tokens for your house. Blackwater House also created Barbie! Our House Mascot.



Tilly Lancaster and Apple Van Der Meer were our Giving Day Ambassadors for the House and drummed up support and ideas for the Taskmaster Competition, which kicked off the Lent Term Giving Day activities, as well as the idea for Barbie (as well as the creation) and our Blackwater House chant. They also organised the House into Tug of War teams and an obstacle course team. I have tried to gather as many photos as possible of the day for you to pursue below. Overall, we placed:

- **2nd in the Mascot Parade, Fanfare and stall tokens**
- **4th in the obstacle course time**
- **3rd in the Senior Tug of War**
- **1st in the Junior Tug of War**

I would like to say **Thank You** to all the ECPC support, as well as everyone who donated to the Blue-Sky Bursaries Appeal. We managed to unlock our Blackwater House Challenge with all your donations and donations from Old Blackwater House pupils.







CCF, DofE and Service Report

Twenty-eight Y12's and thirty-nine Y10's attended their first training day on Sunday 23rd in preparation for their practice, in the summer term. Many of those included girls from Blackwater House. Seventy pupils have completed the award over the last year. Twenty-two of which were golds, a massive achievement for our college and punching well above our weight. Forty-seven silvers and one bronze also completed their awards, another great success for the college. We are pleased to announce that **Harinee Satish** have been selected for the DofE Young Leaders Programme and have enrolled on it.

Members of the CSP homework clubs, mainly in our Year 12s, have been supporting pupils at local secondary schools with preparation for the maths and languages GCSEs and Literacy Club mentors have been helping younger pupils from Eastbourne Academy with reading and comprehension skills. Visitors to the Chaseley Trust have been involved in social and craft activities and physiotherapy programmes with severely disabled adults, who have also enjoyed musical performances from talented College violinists. Wednesday Club helpers have been serving up afternoon tea, bingo and quizzes to local elderly residents and a small team has helped to maintain wheelchairs for the Shopmobility service in the Beacon Centre. The Green Teams have been carrying out beach cleaning operations and a recycling service across the College campus.

A group of Year 11 and Year 12 pupils have been developing their coaching skills during cricket service. They have been creating short videos on different drills and techniques of skills for younger students to learn from while also enhancing their understanding of effective session planning.

The Army section's highlight was an overnight voluntary exercise where cadets demonstrated impressive self-sufficiency and weapons handling skills. Year 11 cadets undertook the Cadet Forces Instructional Techniques course, balancing it with GCSE pressures.

The RAF section saw cadets participate in their first Air Experience Flight at RAF Benson and receive weapons training. Year 11 cadets continued their leading cadet and Methods of Instruction courses, with several receiving awards

The CCF term closed with its splendid annual formal dinner to thank all senior cadets and adult volunteers, including our very own **Tilly Lancaster**.



Charity

During the Lent period The Charity Society held a very successful Revue, building on the good work of the Charity Lunch (and previous events) and contributing to a running total so far of about £2500, with more to come. All monies went to the chapel charity for this year – the Midlands Orphanage and Care Centre in Colenso, South Africa.

At the beginning of the Term the Prefects put together a highly successful 'Eastbourne's Got Talent' event raising £879 for Blues Sky Bursaries. We were very proud of **Izzy Holden** for entering from Blackwater house with a jazz dance.

Blackwater House has been raising money for St Wilfred's Hospice, which our U6th decided on at the beginning of term. **Mary Keast-Butler and Tilly Steed** have been the drivers to raise money for the Charity. We have raised a total of around £1000 so far, coming from a raffle at the House Revue and the selling of Candy Canes at Christmas time. Thank you for your continued support.

I would like to thank you and congratulate **Mary Keast-Butler** for her management of the Battle of the Bands event, as well as her continued support in the Jazz Band for various events around the school.



Gold Arts Award

The Year 13 Arts Award pupils' put on a brilliant showcase on Thursday 13 March, showing the breadth of their creativity. A premiere of three films by **Mary Keast-Butler**, Olly Beaton and Dexter Bell (with Jossi Pears as Director of Photography) started the evening which was organised by **Georgia Hunt. Lola Woollard**, along with Freya Parker presented prizes to the winners of their Sewing Bee which all Houses took part in. Amelia Williams showcased her intricate, beautiful textiles design and Noah Gould presented photos from his directing project. The whole evening was expertly curated **by Martha Lillicrap** with the poster and signage designed by Al McLaurin.

We look forward to seeing **Layla El Jishi Cluskey's** production of Waiting for Godot in April.



Show HsM and Praise Leader board for Lent term

Year Group	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Year 9	Stuti Vasdev	Millie Gebbie	Eva McKee
Year 10	Annie Lewis	Axelle Turnock	Lucy McDonald
Year 11	Tillie Ward	Rosie Hill	Sophie Benson
Year 12	Emily Corrigan/Phoebe Wearne	Esther Ellwood	Harinee Satish
Year 13	Melanya Freeston/Emily Veitch	Martha Lillicrap	Mary Keast-Butler



Acapella

I wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to Mrs Townsend for mentoring the girls through the Acapella competition on the penultimate day of school. The girls did a phenomenal job, and their performance was upbeat and well sung. Well done to **Axelle Turnock, Annie Lewis, Tilly Lancaster, Martha Lillicrap, Esther Ellwood, Georgia Hunt, Layla Cluskey, Poppy Ward, Neve Wolstenholme, Phina Weston** and our Head of House, **Amelia Williams**.



Year 11 treats after mocks and Year 13 Cheese and Wine evening

As well as the usual Cakey Friday, we celebrated the end of the Year 11 mocks with pizza in house, as well as a Year 13s cheese and wine celebration following their exams in February. And finally, we want to thank the Wargrave boys for delivering our Pool Table at the very end of term. A Pool competition will commence in the Summer Term!



I hope everyone is getting to enjoy the Easter break and we look forward to seeing you back in Blackwater at the beginning of the Summer Term. From Lisa, David, Tom, Harry and Bea

See you all soon Mrs Price