



# The Phoenix

// 2019–20



“You have power  
over your mind  
- not outside  
events.  
Realize this,  
and you will find  
strength.”

— Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

Contents

02	Headmaster's Foreword	27	RSC Stratford	62	PPE Supplies
04	Class of 2020	28	Munich	64	Lockdown
06	U6 appointments	29	Lyon	65	Remote co-curricular programme
07	A Level results	30	Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey	66	L3 and F3 projects
	Leaver's destinations	31	Ski trip	68	Mansion Lights up Blue
08	No Exams	32	New York	69	Latin
09	Sixth Form Summer Lectures	34	House reports	70	Creative writing competition
	Learning Sign Language	44	House Music	71	Isolation creation
10	U5 celebration dinner	46	Little Shop of Horrors	72	Hockey
11	GCSE results	48	Ahoy!	74	Rugby
12	Religious life	49	Underground movie premiere	75	Netball
14	Guest speakers		Singing in the choir	76	Girls tennis
15	Black Lives Matter	50	Band Night		Biathlon
16	Mock General Election	52	Soundworld Workshop	77	Basketball
17	Eco Prior		Music lessons in lockdown	78	Badminton
18	Duke of Edinburgh Award	53	Music exam results	79	Girls' cricket
19	CCF	54	Review of Zwolfte Nacht		Summer Games and PE
20	International	56	Visual arts	80	Academic staff list 19/20
22	Academic life – Golden	59	Design and technology	81	Staff farewells
26	HSK exams	61	Arkwright Scholar	84	Celebrations
	French Oral exams				

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**"Our students are capable of so much. They worked together, they didn't take a backward step."**



# A foreword from our Headmaster—

There really are no words to adequately describe my first year at Prior Park College. Perhaps not since the fire of 1991 has the College faced such a turbulent time. We have not been alone in that. Schools across the country, and indeed the world, have had to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Prior has, I hope, stepped up to those challenges as well as any school. We moved from being a busy and bustling community, into being a school that existed primarily in the virtual world. The quality of our online offering was first rate. The teachers at the College worked tirelessly to ensure that their students didn't miss a beat in their learning. Exciting, interesting, and challenging lessons continued to be taught throughout lockdown.

The outgoing Upper Sixth were taught until the day they would have gone on their A Level Study Leave, and after that were offered a range of lectures and seminars online. Our Upper Fifth, who would have been sitting their GCSES, continued to learn, study and progress and then began their Sixth Form studies with real enthusiasm. Every other year at

the College continued to work hard on their online schooling. Lessons were set and scheduled to allow for our students from all around the world to be part of them. Our pastoral structures worked superbly, with House Assemblies and School Assemblies continuing every week. Tutors continued to meet and support their pupils and did all they could to ensure that they were keeping on top of the demands of working from home.

The difficulties of moving to an online school were only overcome thanks to the hard work of the parents and guardians. What has become so evident in the last few months is that, for young people to work effectively from home, parental support is vital. It has never been easy, and as a father of four I can well appreciate the tensions of a family all relying upon one Wi-Fi connection. However, the good humour and patience shown by all the parents has meant that their children have managed to make the best of a very difficult situation.

It is fair to say that my first year has been one of learning. I've learned what a wonderful school Prior Park is. I've learned that love really does sit at

the very heart of everything that we do. I have learned what a strong bond of community unites us. I've learned what a splendid body of teachers we have here – fiercely committed to doing the very best for all the young people they serve. I've learned as well that our students are capable of so much.

When faced with the challenges presented to them, they worked together, they worked with their teachers, and they worked with their parents. They didn't take a backward step. Instead, they gritted their teeth and got on with continuing to learn and continuing to make progress.

We are all looking forward to getting back to school properly come September. I have every confidence that the young people at Prior will take that resilience that has characterised their work this year and that selflessness that has characterised their charitable endeavours, and will pour it all into making up for lost time. I've still got a lot to learn and the best teachers of all are our students at Prior.

**Ben Horan**





# Class of 2020—

To quote from Andy Yue's year book page, the class of 2020 are lucky to have been 'part of the most special year group' which is true in more ways than one! We are an extremely diverse group of young people who have excelled in all areas of the school.

On the music scene, the Senior Chapel Choir won the Sacred Music cup at the Mid-Somerset Festival and Big Band also came home successful with their Swing Band award. There have been many memorable performances, such as David Aspray's winning drum solo in House Music and Ruby Robert's and Jess Cogan's beautiful voices which blessed us both in House Music and in 'Little Shop of Horrors'. A special shout-out here to Max Hall's amazing contribution to the technical side of the theatre over many years. Also on the stage this year was the unforgettable 'Twelfth Night' and anyone who watched will always remember Ben Pearson in his beautiful yellow tights!

Moving onto the sports pitches, there were successes with the girls' hockey team reaching the indoor regional competition for the third year in a row, as did the boys' team, who also reached the quarter finals in their outdoor competition. The netball team this year was led by the dynamic duo of Lolo Lewis and Eve Wagstaffe and always strove for excellence, as did the boys rugby team. Furthermore, this year an impressive 27 completed our rainy but rewarding Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards!

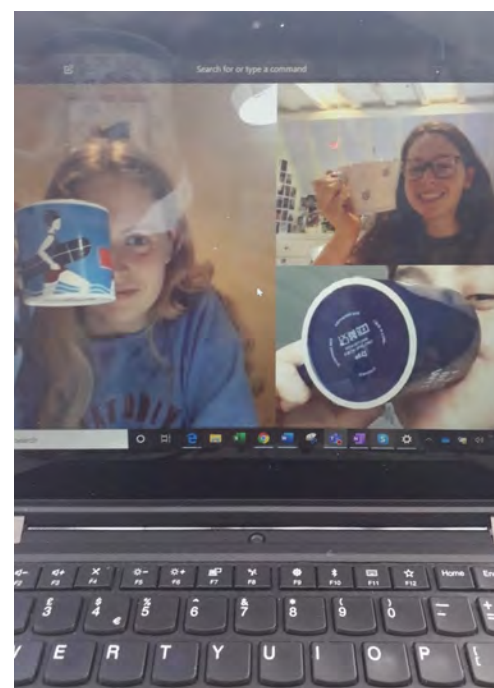
We've had a huge amount of fun over the years on some incredible trips from our very first residential at

Skern Lodge in L3 to the final New York trip in December, which really was one of the best weeks.

As a year, the class of 2020 has tried to leave our mark on Prior Park by making improvements. Eco Prior, under Barnabas Pickford, has succeeded in achieving the Bronze award for environmental change and is well on its way to achieving the Silver. In Head's Committee, we have also introduced the new year-group Committees to try and give the younger students their voice.

We want to finish this article by acknowledging the bittersweet notion that we missed out on many events, including our own A Levels! However, as a year group we are so much more than simply the 'Covid Leavers'. So please, to our year and to everyone else, when remembering us don't think about what we missed but rather celebrate what we managed to achieve in the time we had. Despite the circumstances and not because of them, we are still 'the most special year group' and one which we are proud to be a part of, good luck to all and remember, the best is yet to come.

**Hannah Lowrie and Archie Dutton**  
Heads of School





# U6 appointments—

## Heads of School

Hannah Lowrie (Arundell)  
Archie Dutton (Clifford)

## Deputy Heads

Jemima Thursz (English)  
Joe McMurtry (Burton)

## Heads of House

### Roche

Max Hall

### Burton

Charlie Mullin

### Allen

Charlie Main

### Clifford

William Prentice

## Fielding

Eve Wagstaffe

## English

Olivia Lewis

## Arundell

Isobel Wylie

## St Mary's

Annie Carruthers

## Brownlow

Jack Beeching (Roche)

## Baines

Ava Graham (Fielding)  
and Hamish Row (Clifford)

## International Students

Anna Motylova (St Mary's)

## Head of Eco Prior

Barnabas Pickford

## Head of Charities Committee

David Aspray

## Head of Liturgy Committee

Andrii Sendziuk

## Head of Social

Charlotte Millhouse

## Head of Peer Support

Ben Pearson

## Alumni Reps

Ned Clarke  
and Alexandrina Kariy

## Sports Captains

### Girls Hockey

Lolo Lewis

### Boys Hockey

Will Prentice

### Rugby

Max Couling  
and Tom Pitman

### Netball

Eve Wagstaffe  
and Lolo Lewis

# Impressive A Level results—

As if lockdown and exams being cancelled wasn't enough, the U6 had a stressful time waiting for their results only to be informed that the algorithm used to moderate grades was unfair and all A Level grades would revert to CAGs – students were informed several days after the initial results were announced and University places confirmed or sought! This shambolic Dept for Edu-

cation U-turn should not overshadow the performance of our students, who achieved outstanding results. Over 17% of grades were A\* and 44% A\*/A.

It is also pleasing to note how well our EAL students performed with four ranked in the top six students, based on grades. Prior Park's Head, Ben Horan, commented, "After the most difficult and peculiar year for our students, we

are very pleased with this set of results and are particularly delighted that most students will be able to go to their first choice university. It is important to remember that our students are not solely defined by their grades, they are so much more than that and we celebrate all our Upper 6 has achieved during their time at Prior. We wish them continued success for the future."

# Leavers' destinations—

*At the time of going to press, these are the known destinations of our A Level students. Some students will take Gap Years before deciding on their university.*

## Oxbridge

1 student reading Classics.

## Medicine

1 student.

## Russell Group Universities

28 students

## Courses include:

Geography, Mechanical Engineering, Psychology, Biomedical Science, Theology and Philosophy, Illustration, Finance, Spanish and Business, Architecture, English and Drama, Marine Biology, French and Italian, PPE.

## Other University Destinations

Swansea, Loughborough, Strathclyde, Oxford Brookes, City, Nottingham, UWE, Goldsmiths, Cardiff Met, Reading, Salford.

## Courses include:

Law, Journalism, History, Product De-

sign, Real Estate, Acting, Business Management, Chemical Engineering, Sport Rehabilitation, Psychology, Business Economics, Building Surveying, Social Anthropology.

## Other

Leeds Conservatoire (Jazz Piano)  
PWC Apprenticeship

## Overseas Universities

Arizona State University (Business)  
Georgetown University, Washington DC (Economics)



# No exams—

When I first heard that there was a chance that Prior, as all other schools in the UK, would be shut, I was convinced I would not return to Ukraine. I thought that everything would be back to normal by Easter, Coronavirus would not affect my life drastically and, consequently, there was no point in leaving the school early. Needless to say, my expectations were erroneous. On March 13, the Ukrainian government announced the shutdown of the borders and gave all the citizens who were abroad three days to get back into the country. It was nerve-racking and exhausting: I had to pack and say "Bye" to people that I had spent two years with.

Arriving home, I had to self-isolate for two weeks. Due to myself developing what was thought to be Coronavirus symptoms, I stayed in self-isolation for three and a half weeks in total. To be completely honest, the first few weeks

felt like a breath of fresh air: at that point the school had let us know that the students would not come back straight after the Easter break so I could forget about revising for a bit. Being in quarantine got humdrum and monotonous at times but I did relish being back home. I got a five week break before starting online learning. I was so thrilled about it! I gained an equal amount of knowledge as I did studying in person but there were a lot of extra perks to it. Because of the time difference, I would always wake up at 10am instead of 7am, I could study in bed and wear home clothes for the entire day!

Now that my time at Prior has come to an end, I am rather befuddled about the emotions that I feel. On one side, I am excited to start a new chapter in my life. I am pleased that I have completed my secondary education and am to get my A Levels. I am thrilled about mov-

ing to a new city and discovering new things. On the other side, I am not quite ready to accept yet that the Sixth Form is over and that I am not going to see most of my high school friends and teachers, at least for the next few years. The inability to address proper farewell words to those that played huge roles in my life at Prior makes me feel unsettled. I am convinced that, at some point, we must celebrate all the hard work we have put into studying throughout the Sixth Form.

As the past few months have proven, there is no point in predicting the future. Despite this time being outstandingly stressful and volatile, I am proud of myself and my peers at becoming more flexible and resilient, so no matter what challenges we may face in the future, I know we can overcome them.

**Andrii Sendziuk (U6 Roche)**



## Sixth Form Summer Lectures

Study leave began during lockdown so all U6 students were invited to attend a series of academic lectures put on by staff members. There was a wide variety of topics ranging from *Performance Culture in Sport and Business* with Mr and Mrs Redman, to Mr George's *Planning and Financing a Gap Year*.

I thoroughly enjoyed the ones I attended, one being Ms Young's cook-a-long, in which I learnt how to make fish cakes, onion tarts, hummus, soda bread and even sushi! I also attended Dr Blackwell's Russian history lectures in which we learned about Russia under the Tsars and the establishment of the communist state. Another lecture I attended was Mrs Hearn's *Magic in the Ancient World*, which looked at strong female characters from Greece and Rome and what a witch would have actually looked like. Mr Burt's collection of Geopolitics lectures was inspired by the book, *Prisoners of Geography* by

Tim Marshall. In his lectures, students travelled across continents discovering how Russia has expanded through history, why Latin America will never be a world power and the future tensions in the Arctic.

Another notable lecture was that of Mr Watkinson-Trim, whose title *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* brought all U6 Potterheads together. In this lecture, students discussed how Harry Potter was highly relevant in the world today, addressing moral dilemmas and complex issues. I think the most enjoyable part of the academic lectures was getting an opportunity to explore a subject that we would have otherwise not. It was extremely valuable to learn about topics that might come up in university curriculum and to have a first-hand experience of what an online lecture might look like in September.

**Nicola Dove (U6 English)**

## Learning Sign Language

Sign Language with Ms Colquhoun and her daughter proved to be a light-hearted, interesting and interactive experience. Having started teaching in the depths of lockdown in April, Indie and Ms Colquhoun proceeded to teach us greetings, the alphabet, animals, activities, foods, months and days of the week. The time soon became a fun and pleasant way to catch up and provided

a much-needed break from both the more intense lectures and the mundane activities of life in lockdown. Four sessions later, and many participants were inspired to go further to continue and start the 'pay what you can' BSL online course.

**Jemima Thursz (U6 English)**



# U5 celebration dinner— Casino Royale



## GCSE results—

Our GCSE results day looked a little different to previous years. Social distancing rules meant that no students arrived on site to receive their results, instead they received them via email. The last minute U-Turn by the Government confirmed that \*Centre Assessed Grades would be awarded to all students.

We are able to celebrate some tremendous GCSE results, scoring a 99.2% pass rate on Grades 9-4 and all students achieving a minimum of five GCSE passes. 56.5% of grades were the top marks: 9, 8 and 7.

Special mention must go to Joshua Humphriss, James Streets and Lydia Crawford, whose results included nine grade 9s, and to Max Montanaro with eight grade 9s and two grade 8s.

Headmaster, Ben Horan, commented, "It has been a difficult few months for all students but for those who were due to take exams this summer it has been an especially anxious wait. This year's GCSE cohort has been an exceptional group who have worked hard to attain these grades and we are very proud of what they have achieved."

*\*Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs)*

In May, schools were given an extensive amount of guidance as to how they should go about the process of awarding CAGs – the Ofqual guidance was 19 pages long! They are not 'teacher predicted grades' as frequently reported in the press. They are calculated using relevant data for each student in every subject, including mock exams, tests, and suitable classwork and homework. Teachers, Heads of Departments and a member of the Leadership team met to discuss each student individually. Grades were then passed on to the College's SMT for final moderation before being ratified and submitted to the exam boards.

This final moderation step made sure that the proposed grades were accurate and fair across the entire College and that grades being awarded in different subjects had comparable value.





# Religious life—

Who could have imagined last September, on that first Monday of term as our school community gathered in Chapel for our whole school Mass, how the year of 2020 would become indelibly etched into our minds?

Ash Wednesday was the last time the whole College physically gathered together for Mass in our beautiful Chapel, with Fr Joe Simmons SJ as celebrant; it truly was a blessed and moving occasion, and perhaps even more poignant given what lay ahead.

By the end of the third week of Lent we found ourselves saying sudden farewells as students departed for home

and lockdown. Planned for our final week of term were our Reconciliation services and our end of term Lenten service, but this year it was sadly not to be. Online Mass and other online services were the new way to attend church: directly into our homes. Technology has truly been a blessing in helping to keep us connected.

This year we have continued to be blessed with the support of four Jesuit priests from Campion Hall in Oxford. In addition to this we are also greatly appreciative of the support that we have been given by other priests in our Clifton diocese, who have helped us through-

out the year. In February we also welcomed Monsignor Jeremy Rigden from St Mary's Church in Bath, who kindly gave Altar Server formation to sixteen of our boarding students.

Also, this year saw a group of Baines students participate in the annual Camino Mass at St John's Church in Bath, celebrating the Year of Communion with our Camino group of Catholic schools. Baines also formed a new Chaplaincy group and next year this will continue as they move up into Brownlow, with them showing the way for our new Baines students.

At the start of December we cel-

ebrated our Alumni Mass, with many alumni returning to sing once again as part of the Chapel choir. Two weeks later we held our carol service. Both were joyous occasions; the Chapel filled with our PPC community and beautiful music.

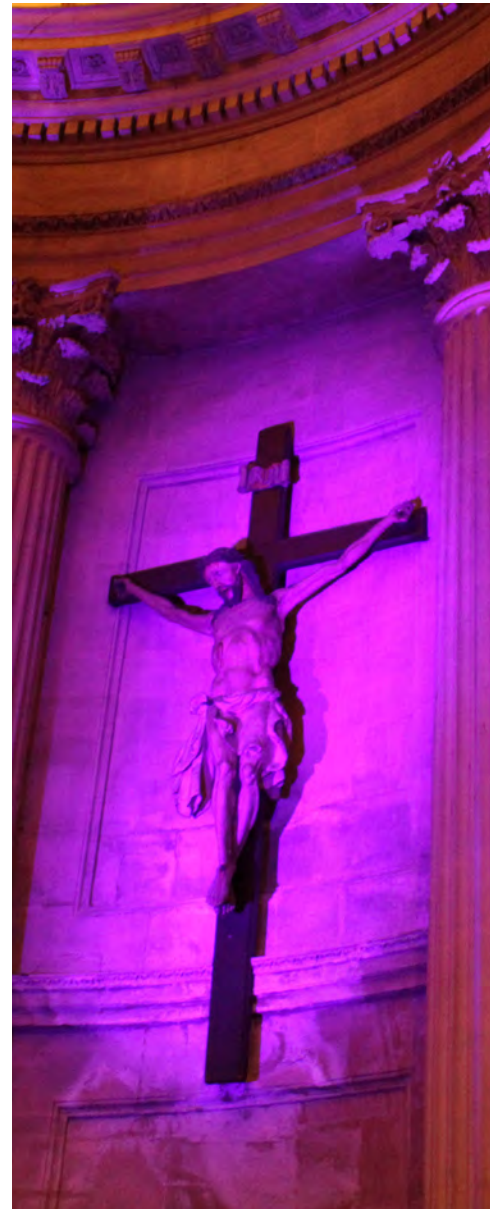
The Ascension of the Lord was our first whole school online Mass, live-streamed from Campion Hall, Oxford, by Fr Joe Simmons SJ. With the pandemic preventing us from gathering for our traditional Leavers' Mass, the college year concluded with Fr Joe celebrating a whole school Mass, live-streamed, during which many students participated in the readings, prayers and music. Many

thanks are due to our brilliant IT department, whose expertise enabled these celebrations to take place. Also, many thanks are due to our Director of Music, who throughout lockdown created many wonderful hymn movies. These have been shared with our PPC Community across the globe; enabling everyone to be in Chapel 'virtually'!

Corpus Christi was to be the day of our Confirmation Mass, when our eighteen Confirmation candidates were due to receive this sacrament. Even though their Confirmation day itself had to be put on hold, they have been keen to continue their preparation. Therefore,

each week they have continued to meet online via Microsoft Teams. It has been wonderful to witness their commitment and faith; let us keep them in our prayers. This year has also seen two of our Sixth Form boarders come forward to seek baptism; these took place in the Michaelmas and Lent term and were a wonderful testimony of faith for our community to witness.

**Theresa Gibson, Lay Chaplain**





# Guest speakers—

Each year, the College welcomes guest speakers to give talks on a wide range of subjects – here are a selection from 2019/20...

## 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz

In January, U5 students had the privilege of listening to Susan Pollack give a live testimony about her experiences surviving both Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen. The Holocaust Education Trust organised the survivor webcast as part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Susan's account of her experiences and her continuing commitment to fighting discrimination in any form was truly moving and the students were appreciative of the chance to hear her incredible story.

## Clive Lawton OBE

The Theology Department was delighted to welcome international Jewish scholar, speaker and author Clive Lawton OBE to speak to our GCSE students. Clive gave an entertaining and engaging account of the Jewish faith as a living reality. This enabled our students to ask questions about a major world religion to one of that religion's acknowledged experts. Those students who had never heard first-hand about Judaism were given a unique opportunity to learn something of great value, not just for their examinations, but also for their wider understanding as globally educated citizens of the future.

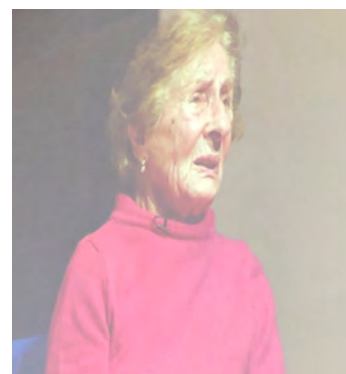
## A talk on the Amazon Synod

In February, students were invited to listen to a talk from Fr Augusto Zampini Davies, Director of Development and Faith at the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development, who informed students on the Amazon Synod that was held in Rome last October.

Fr Davies stated how the Amazon region, made up of nine countries, was 'the heart of the world'. He reiterated Pope Francis' declaration that 'we are entrusted to leave the world in a better place for our future generations.' By listening to indigenous voices and young voices, we can make change. 'The world needs prophetic voices to make collective change: Faith can provide the motivation for collective transformation.'

## Histories of the Unexpected

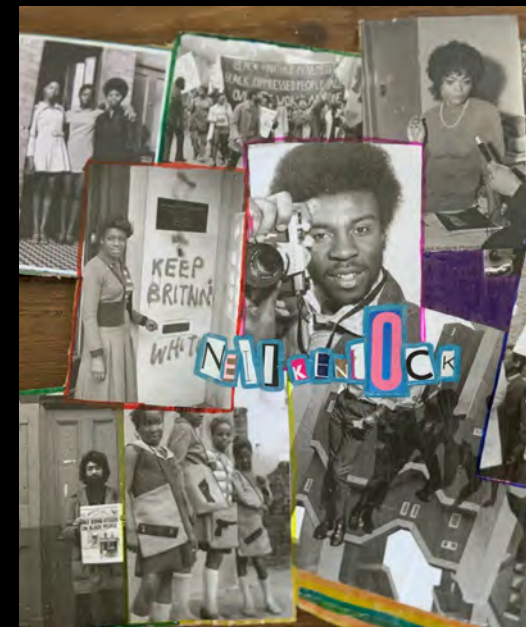
Thank you to Dr Sam Willis and Professor James Daybell for delivering their Histories of the Unexpected to some L3 and F3 students. Sam and James discussed many items, including a letter of mutiny signed by the crew of a ship who signed in a circle so that no name was at the top. Learning the history of the glove, hair, watch, perfume and signatures (to name a few) certainly offers a new way to think about the past.



# Black Lives Matter—

On 25 May, Minnesota police officers arrested George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, after a convenience store employee called 911 and told police Mr Floyd had bought cigarettes using a counterfeit \$20 bill. George Floyd died as one of the three arresting police officers knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Video footage shot by passers-by on their phones went viral and 'I can't breathe', some of the last words

uttered by Mr Floyd, became a rallying cry for BLM, leading to demonstrations across the globe. A Brownlow House Project aimed to celebrate influential black people. Bea Howells was inspired by the artist Frank Bowling; Martin Luther King mosaic by Henry Nash <https://bit.ly/2DRy8w2>; James Barnor by Lizzie Collins <https://bit.ly/2E4fdxA>.



## U5 / L6 taster lessons in French

Students debated whether there is systemic racism in the police in France and across the world. It ties in with the film topic (La Haine) in L6, which is about police brutality and racism and immigration topics in U6.







## Mock General Election—

When it became clear that the Brexit impasse could not be resolved by reasonable discussion and compromise, a general election became inevitable. Just as inevitably, when a general election was announced, the Prior Park College History and Politics Department went into action to organize and run a mock version for the students to express their opinions.

In an effort to make this vitally important election relevant to more members of the student body, a group of volunteers agreed to take part and represent the views of each of the main political parties. Five brave students and one braver teacher attended a town hall meeting in the Round Room a week before the voting began to put forward their interpretation of each party's policies and plans. In this setting, there was scope for questioning – at times very challenging questions were fired their way – and responses. Later that week, the candidates were given the chance to speak in front of the whole school at the weekly assembly to ensure that all students were suitably informed of their choices ahead of the voting week. Despite the valiant efforts of the students in delivering passionate speeches that proved quite moving to hear, turnout was disappointingly low, with only 37% of the eligible students casting their ballots throughout the last week of term.

As is often the case in a first-past-the-post system, a fracturing of one side of the spectrum allowed the other side to win on a low percentage of the overall votes. In this edition, the Conservatives, represented by a very persuasive Leo Togher, were victorious, despite only receiving 28% of the votes cast. The left-wing split saw Louis Wight's Liberal Democrats finish second, while surprise insurgent candidate Thomas Reynolds of the Workers' League of Prior Park finished a solid third.

While this result didn't match the local Bath constituency decision, it was reflective of an overall Conservative majority, returning Prime Minister Boris Johnson to power and paving the way to a clearer resolution of the Brexit question.

Mr Chris Bartlett

## Eco Prior—

2020 has already been witness to the effects of climate change - Australian bushfires, UK flooding. With confirmation that the current Siberian heatwave would be almost impossible (less than a 1 in 80,000 chance) without global warming, we know that climate change is real. People are also suffering - the growing desertification in Sub-Saharan Africa is destroying livelihoods, causing starvation and migration. We are facing a critical moment in history. How will we change as we come out of lockdown? Will we commit to reducing CO2 emission and preserving biodiversity, or are we all just itching to get back on a plane and go back to 'normal'? The issue of climate change has been widely talked about in school and beyond; more students have attended climate strikes, the recycling project run by Mr Healy has been expanded, and the committee has been expanded to include members from all year groups so the whole school is represented. Eco Prior has started the 7-step journey towards the Green Flag Award. We aim to make Prior greener and reduce the school's impact on the earth. An Environmental Review of the school was carried out, with 3 specific topic areas highlighted as room for improvement: Waste, Transport and Marine. Waste aims to reduce the school's use of landfill by increasing the amount of recycling and reducing the use of plastics in school tuck shops. Baines and Brownlow have already led the way and produced plastic-free tuck shops - hopefully, the senior houses will follow in 2021! Recycling has also been

increased around the school thanks to the Recycling Project. Mixed recycling bins are now clearly labelled in all Houses, many classrooms and key areas around the school. Transport accounts for over 20% of the UK's carbon emissions and over 50% of all students and staff drive to school daily. If reduced, a large proportion of the school's carbon footprint would decrease. A school-wide transport survey was taken, looking at how we all travel to school, and a 'car-free travel to school day' during Eco Week saw a 25% reduction in the number of cars used. This was an excellent achievement and evidence that it is possible to reduce the reliance on cars for school transport.

Marine covers the school's use of single-use plastics and it's within this area that the biggest changes have happened. Both single-use plastic water bottles in packed lunches and plastic pots used for yoghurt and jelly have been removed. This accounts for a huge reduction in single-use plastic at the school, which is a big step in the right direction.

The Bronze award has already been achieved and the committee has set the goal of achieving the Green Flag by the end of the 2020/21 school year. The U6 leaving the committee this year hope that they have sown the seeds of change throughout Prior, so that succeeding committees can make an even greater difference.

Barnabas Pickford, Head of Eco Prior





# Duke of Edinburgh Award—

I think it is fair to say that the mountains had a huge appeal in the Spring of 2020. As lockdown restrictions were put in place, students and staff both looked hopefully to the wild country regions of England. Groups had spent much of the Michaelmas and Lent terms planning expeditions – in Somerset for the Bronze groups, Dartmoor for the Silver groups and the Lake District for the Gold groups. As news reports began to show motorways backed up towards these regions with people breaking lockdown restrictions, it became increasingly likely that our expeditions would have to be postponed.

It is important to remember that the expedition is only one component of the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award. Each student who began their award this year has committed to working on a Physical activity, a Skill, and a Volunteering commitment of at least an hour a week. Students at Prior Park College donated 1,365 hours of their time to local causes in 2019-20 – a huge achievement to be celebrated. This year Prior students have helped in charity shops, walked dogs for the elderly, delivered local supplies, supported drama clubs, mentored Baines students, helped with community reading and researched Osprey migration, to name a few. Before lockdown, groups also completed rigor-

ous training in navigation principles including reading contours, planning escape routes, judging risk on the mountains and learning how to use a compass effectively in conditions of low visibility. This training also involved first aid and key survival skills including cooking in the outdoors, packing effectively and how to safely find drinkable water in the mountains. While lockdown restrictions certainly left students feeling frustrated at a delay in achieving their full Duke of Edinburgh Award, it is clear that all were ready to take on the challenge of the expedition phase. One of the key things which the award teaches participants is the need to be flexible with planning. Anything from a blister to a broken tent can disrupt plans, but a DofE student must be able to adapt and show resilience. I have been very impressed with the positive and determined approach shown by Prior students over the past year.

Many adapted their plans, finding a Volunteering activity which could be done remotely from home. We are looking ahead to ensure that all students this year are able to complete their full award, with expeditions likely to run again in a new format next Summer.

**Mr James Conlon**



## CCF—

Unity has been our mantra this academic year, collectively both Army and Navy sections training alongside one another. We have had such a busy period and are always looking for opportunities to exploit the timetable, activity slots or gaps within weekend fixtures.

Such has been the diversity of our activities during the week from our flight simulator, model aircraft flying, marksmanship training, climbing in Bristol or helping pupils achieve within the DofE field, our doors have always been open and pupils are always eagerly waiting to participate. Our competition boards change weekly, generally split evenly between both sections. Marksmanship training is always hotly contested; unfortunately this year's early finish has cost

the Navy section bragging rights.

The introduction of our Rowallan group for Baines House has notably seen success. Alternative weekly activities Army/Navy delivered by our senior cadets has been both enjoyable and fun and well received - you can already identify pupils with potential for leadership roles in later school years. Cadets have been introduced to weapon safety, drill, phonetic alphabets, outdoor learning and watermanship.

Our Navy section has competed nationally and gave a very good account of itself. Both sections continue to conduct field days and weekend activities. Our calendar of events has included a navi-

gation and expedition training weekend in Avonmouth, paintballing at Hunstrete and Go Ape, Moors Valley for a treetop adventure, shooting weekends at White-ladies Centre in Bristol and the reserve centre in Bath, with sailing at Chew Valley and Bristol Docks.

You need not look far within the college to see how much the cadet experience helps nurture; school honour boards continue to be populated with the names of pupils who have benefited from the cadet experience. Uniform is not necessarily obligatory, nor is shouting and marching. See you all soon!

**Mr Tony Jenkins**





# An international student's perspective—

I still remember the first days after I crossed the gates of Prior Park for the first time, feeling a mix of excitement, awe, worry and confusion. I am sure that many of our new international students share similar feelings. Thankfully, our school tries to make the newbies feel as welcome as possible and I was surprised how quickly everyone settled in, forming friendships almost instantly.

The cultural year kicked off with an activity to celebrate Chinese Moon Festival with lantern making in the boarding houses, organised by Mrs. Carson. This was followed by our International Speaking Competition. Choosing a compelling topic, writing a captivating text, and performing with maximum confidence, followed by answering impromptu questions from the jury on the spot is no easy task - it takes some nerve to rise to this challenge and all the participants did. This year the selection of topics was dominated by the current environmental crisis and the situation in Hong Kong. However, topics lighter on the political side certainly weren't missed. First prize in the junior category went to Wilson Tse

(L5 Allen), and in the senior category 'The Biggest Liar in Life is Your Mind' won the grand prix for Tansy Cheung (U5 St Mary's).

The inter-school round of this competition, International Student Voice, took place at Stonar school this year. Prior Park was well represented by Chanya Vasaratchanont (L6 St Mary's), Daniel Liu (L5 Allen) and Wilson Tse (L5 Allen). Wilson took home the prestigious title of the Winner of the Junior Competition for his entertaining and confident 'meta-talk' about How to Give a Speech.

November also saw the inaugural Prior Park Multicultural Event, a truly memorable evening. Decked out with the flags of the overseas members of our community, Academy Hall has never looked more colourful and vibrant! Students dressed in traditional clothing from their cultures and brought in images and symbols, as well as snacks for others to try. There was a presentation on world-changing Chinese inventions, and a quiz on fascinating facts about Slovakia, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Romania & Poland. Our

knowledge of Thailand and Vietnam was tested through a Kahoot!™. Our Russian and Ukrainian students showed us a hilarious Russian video and sang a song. Another song was sung most enthusiastically by the entire Hong Kong community. Mexico was represented through a piano piece by a Mexican composer and the evening was rounded off with some wonderful flamenco dancing. The Christmas season is always rich with more relaxed activities for the international community including trips to the markets and ice skating in Bath.

After coming back to school in January, the whole school joined our Chinese community in celebration of the Chinese New Year. All students had the opportunity to learn about their Chinese zodiac sign, find some wisdom in fortune cookies and test their speed and precision in the Chopstick Challenge. To finish it all off, the Chinese students spent an evening together enjoying each other's company and a warm, hearty meal.

**Anna Motýľová**  
Head of International Students







# Academic life—

## Golden

The alarm bells were ringing at the start of the school year – literally. I stood reciting Spandau Ballet lyrics to the assembled academic award holders at their annual tea party “Gold. Always believe in your soul. You’ve got the power to know...” but someone, somewhere on campus, had plans to upstage my poetic performance. It may have been the new Baines students cremating their first round of afternoon pre-prep toast; it may have been an over exuberant spray of Lynx by a sportsman. Whichever, the fire alarm sounded and we all trooped away to a drizzly roll call on the Mansion bank.

Perhaps I should have seen this as an omen of what was to come? For 2019/20 was the year for rude interruptions when we were really in the swing of things.

After the fire drill, our new Headmaster presented our new scholars with their gold pins. I took time to reflect upon the similarities between this precious metal and our Prior Park students.

Gold is resistant to corrosion – are Prior Park students resilient against societal pressures? Those that try to convince us that clever isn’t cool? I side with Lady Hale in my firm belief that Boris Johnson’s ‘Girly Swot’ insult is actually a badge of honour that I wear with pride – in fact, I do! It is pinned to my

staff lanyard for all to see. I wear it in the way that I hope sports colours, scholars’ badges and other positions of responsibility are worn - with pride.



Throughout the year I became increasingly convinced that our students did value their studies more than popular culture might encourage. The U6 attended voluntary lectures run by our talented staff on a wide variety of topics, the U5 came back to ‘virtual’ school and joined their new classmates from a variety of local, national and international schools in undertaking a four week course in

their new A Level subjects. Students at Prior are eager to learn and not just because there were UCAS points or an exam at the end of it all. Take for example the Psychology A Level students and their baby eggs that they had to nurture for a week. By the end of 7 days most weren’t keen to smash them. No marks in the exam but ‘living the experiment’ was great for their understanding of attachment theory and primary research. Another group who lived their subject in the ‘practical’ were our 46 Academic PE students all of whom represented The College in a variety of sports, and this year an impressive 50% of them perform on the wider sporting stage at either county, regional or national level.



The Headmaster’s academic society learned first-hand that clever is cool with the in-person lectures we were able to secure before lockdown. The Head-







master spoke about Numismatics. His whistle-stop tour of coins depicting Augustus helped us to understand the similarity between being minted on a coin and posting a selfie on social media. We were also lucky enough to welcome back Professor Julian Roberts to give us a very engaging lecture about crime and punishment in English Courts – with a real focus on sentencing. Once we went online, our academic scholars were lucky to have the chance to learn (virtually) about entrepreneurship and philanthropy by attending an interview with Governor Tony Bury by Professor Mairi Maclean from the University of Bath.

Another property of Gold is its ability to conduct electricity – Do our students conduct success? Do they allow others to perform better by building positive learning environments? As I observed lessons from September to Christmas I was made acutely aware of the ‘all in this together’ feel to learning at Prior. Peer to peer support was in every classroom and children patiently explained to their neighbour if they got stuck. U6 students listed their A Levels under their photos

in Houses so that the younger students knew which subjects they could help with during prep time.

Gold also has catalytic qualities – so do our pupils interact with others, leaving them transformed by their presence? The focus on service throughout Prior is underpinned by strong Christian values. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Fr Augusto Zampini Davies, who informed students on the Amazon Synod. He reiterated Pope Francis' declaration that 'we are entrusted to leave the world in a better place for our future generations.' This stewardship of the environment is something that our students fully subscribe to with our EcoPrior team winning the Eco-Schools Bronze Award and, over this summer, we found that we had won a Carbon Challenge Award, given for reducing our carbon footprint.

Winning Gold is what every athlete strives for and we were lucky enough to take the HATS students across the Severn Bridge to visit the Royal Mint. Over the course of the morning we considered the variety of currencies created on site, we minted our own fifty-pence

piece, discussed the science and technology of counterfeiting, the impact of decimalisation and the history of the Royal Mint itself. We then travelled on to the Black Gold exhibition at Rhondda Heritage Park. We looked at the impact of the mine on the prosperity of the local community - our guide at Rhondda had worked as a miner at that site from the age of 16 until it closed. Students also took part in a photography competition entitled 'Riches', with some excellent entries.

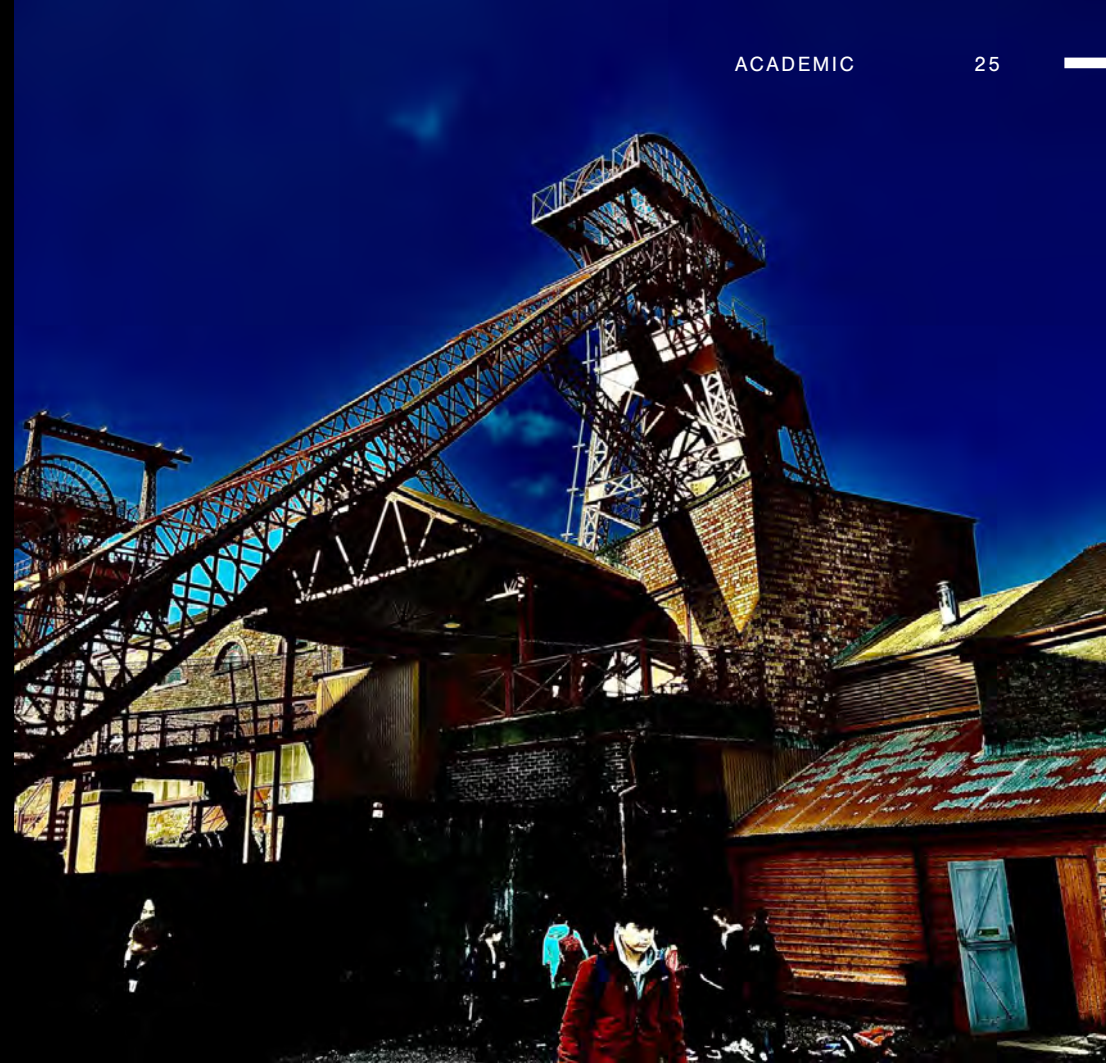
Gold is exceptionally malleable and ductile – are our students flexible enough to apply themselves to a range of challenges to debate, write, think and reason their way through classes, clubs and competitions? Our Academic Scholar's essay allowed students to respond to the title 'Wealth' in their own way with a strict word limit. Essays ranged from a story contrasting monetary wealth with less tangible forms of wealth to one that reflected on wealth through literature.

**Junior competition: Winner Alex Mould F3, Runner up Oliver Harris F4**



**Senior competition: Winner Louise Catnach U5, Runner Up Henry Allen L5  
Sixth Form competition: Winner Clemmie Mortimer L6, Runner Up Hero Murphy L6**

Students also took part in lockdown essay writing competitions. For creative writing, the theme was 'The Worm has Turned' and a History competition asked them to find a year as pivotal in another country's history as 1066 was for England. Next year's Head of School, Maya Everitt, saw her essay on the stethoscope published by Murray Edwards College, Cambridge as part of their 'She Talks Science' series. Whilst most of our competitions and Olympiads were disrupted this year, we did manage to run the Junior Maths Challenge online. Students adapted to this new way of answering the questions and whilst we won no gold's this year there were several silvers awarded to **Dilys Evans (L3), Jonathan Wyatt (L3)** and the three best in-school students **Phoebe Tombs (L3), Emily Johnson (L3) and Alex Mould (F3)**. Congrats to all who took part.



You'll notice that I've not written much about this summer's CAG results. Ofqual and HM Government were not able to tie the results to a Gold Standard this year as some may have liked but that should not detract from two excellent year groups celebrating their successes. We are incredibly proud of all of our students in the U5 and U6. Some notable mentions should go to **Harry, Timur, Tabitha and Andrii** who secured 3A\* grades (with Harry getting a fourth A Level at grade A too). In total 17 students got straight A/A\*s this year. This is not a sign of us as a school being overly generous. We always knew that they were a talented bunch and we stand by our CAG grades as a fair reflection of their talents in the context of previous years and their own baseline scores from L3, F4 and L6. Our Algorithm was much more rigorous than Ofquals, maybe they'd like some help next year? Praise too should go to Josh, James and Lydia in the U5 for their nine 9 grades at GCSE along with a tenth GCSE pass at grade 7 or above.

At Prior we need to pan for gold,

and encourage our students to shine but we know, as Prince sang, that "All that glitters aint gold". We want to avoid churning out iron pyrite or gold plate. We need to nurture our students so that pure gold runs to their core. As an economist I know that in times of uncertainty many investors put their money into gold – it is seen as a safe haven in a storm and I would like to think that our students emulate that quality too. They are worth investing in and our talented, hardworking staff have done just that over the past year, which has been pretty stormy at times. I know that we will see the return on our invested time and energy in the years to come as Prior students excel in the post lockdown classroom, exam room and in their own 18 carat futures.

**Mrs Laura Stotesbury**



## HSK exams—

My HSK 3 exam was booked months in advance and way before Coronavirus got to the UK. Whilst I was preparing for it, the school trip to China was cancelled, which was really disappointing.

As the weeks counted down it became clear that lockdown was imminent but I kept on revising and preparing. A week before the exam, the government announced that schools were going to close. I was very frustrated: after weeks of revising, it was all over! But then Mr George managed to reschedule the exam for the last Friday before schools closed.

I was quite nervous on the day but I knew that I was ready. The school was empty apart from some

staff. The exam was challenging but I felt quite confident. Three months into lockdown I found out that I had passed the exam! I was so glad that all that hard work had paid off. I'm very grateful to Mr George for preparing us, and making sure that the exam happened! 谢谢。

My recommendation to anyone who sits the HSK is to revise characters a little bit everyday, starting from early on. Then when you are confident that you know all the characters, do lots of past papers and practice questions that can be found all over the internet.

**Ben Menko (L5 Clifford)**



## French Oral Exams—

Exams were to be cancelled! I had worked hard to prepare for GCSEs, and it felt like a huge anti-climax. Being given the opportunity to sit my French Oral exam helped me cope with this turbulent time. It gave me a real focus, and whilst initially I was a little anxious, I felt grateful to be given the opportunity to sit a formal examination. My mindset swiftly changed. A new challenge! And with the help of Mr George I found new ways to revise at home. Throughout lockdown I saw

more of my family who supported and motivated me. Taking the exam gave me a sense of completion and I felt that I did my best despite the circumstances. On reflection I became more adaptable and resilient. I am grateful that Prior Park gave me this opportunity. I grew massively as a student and learnt more about myself. Isn't that what a good education is about?

**Katie Marden (U5 Arundell)**



## RSC Stratford—

In an effort to deepen their understanding of Hamlet, their required Shakespeare play, A Level English students headed to Stratford-Upon-Avon on a crisp December morning for a day-long workshop and tour of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

A couple of hours on a coach can dull even the sharpest of wits, however the fast-paced workshop with one of the company's assistant directors took place in one of the nearby rehearsal spaces and combined the artistic tradi-

tion of the RSC with a close reading of key scenes within the text. By engaging practically with language, the students were able to unlock characters developed in the play and explore some of Shakespeare's key themes.

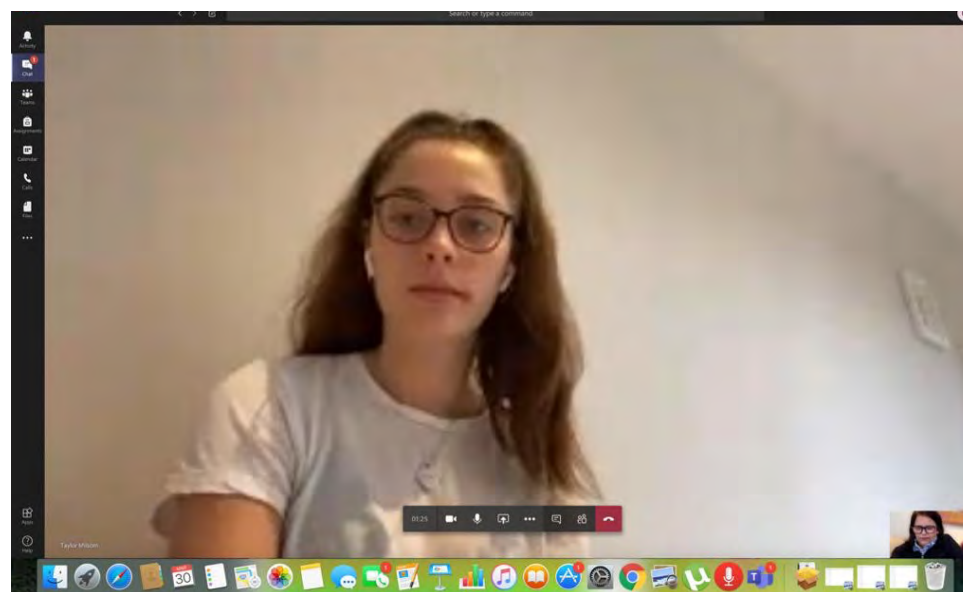
The culmination of the workshop was a condensed version of the whole play with each small group taking on the responsibility of showing the key parts of the five acts of Hamlet within a minute.

To round off a stimulating day of immersion within the world and words of

Shakespeare, the group enjoyed a Behind the Scenes Tour of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, witnessing a glimpse of the extensive preparation and logistics that go into every performance.

Leaving Stratford in the early evening darkness, the students went away with a deeper and richer understanding of one of Shakespeare's most iconic plays.

**Mr Chris Bartlett**







# Munich—

What began with a visit to Krakow in 2017 and continued with a trip to Berlin a year later reached a denouement in a tour of Bavaria as forty-nine students and five members of staff went back to discover more about the origins of the Nazi movement and Hitler's rise to power. Despite the reputation for History Department trips leaving at unholy hours of the early morning, on this occasion the departure was at a much more civilised time.

That meant a later arrival in Munich where the students were given only a moment's rest and sustenance before they were taken out on a tram ride and walking tour of some of the key sights of central Munich. The group headed a couple of hours north of Munich the following day as they visited Nuremberg to learn more about the story of

Hitler's Germany in the abandoned ruins of what had been planned as the Nazi Party's showpiece propaganda centre. The counterpoint to a morning spent in places synonymous with Nazi Party rallies during their ascent to dominance in the 1930s was a visit to the Palace of Justice, site of the 1945 Nuremberg War Crimes trial, representing the final death knell of Hitler's regime.

The atmosphere remained rather sombre on Sunday morning, when the students visited the Dachau Concentration Camp memorial. Visiting the first camp, the archetype for all the others that followed, truly brought home the full circle of Nazi persecution during their twelve years in power. To lighten the mood somewhat after an emotionally draining morning, the students had some time to unwind in the beautiful

landscape of the Munich Olympic Park, before ascending the Olympic Tower for spectacular panoramic views of the city and the Bavarian Alps beyond. A short walk later and the group were able to see the plethora of vehicles on display at BMW World. The final stop on the tour on Monday morning was the Allianz Arena, home of Bayern Munich and formerly home to lesser known but older rivals, 1860 Munich. The fog was so thick that the stadium was virtually invisible until the students were right next to it. All that remained was the journey home and time to reflect on all that had been witnessed during the long weekend and, for many students and staff, everything they had learned during their multiple History trips to Europe.

Mr Chris Bartlett



# Lyon—

Visiting a new country is great, but doing it with your friends is even better. Arriving at the airport of Saint-Exupéry is a pleasure for perfectionist's eyes, great modern architecture with excellent taste. As proved later, the whole of Lyon is an architectural masterpiece with modern and old buildings intertwined in harmony. First meeting with Gibraltar kids, usual silence, a bus ride to the hotel and a room with your friends, not a bad start!

One hour later and we are in the heart of Lyon - Place Bellecour, a big square with a statue of Le Petite Prince and a huge ferris wheel. This square became the checkpoint for most of our journeys through the city, and many of

us will probably remember Place Bellecour as our personal football pitch in the center of Lyon. After a long day, we had our dinner. At the restaurant, our teachers encouraged us to socialize with people from another school.

This decision was not widely accepted, but it soon proved to be very effective in establishing friendship between us. Every day we would see new places and learn something new about the culture of the city. My favorite of all would probably be the Vieux Lyon - the old part of the city with magnificent narrow streets and cathedrals. Cathédrale Saint-Jean-Baptiste, in front of which we would have our lunch and crêpes.

La Basilique Notre Dame de Fourvière, from which the city looked like a toy model and where every activity on the streets seemed to slow down. And of course - Les Traboules - Lyon's famous covered passageways.

At the end of each day, tired and exhausted, we would arrive at a restaurant where we enjoyed French cuisine in the company of friends, taking pictures for the regular photo competitions. The French trip to Lyon was exciting and fun, and I think it was the best seven days of this school year.

Abdulaziz Amanullayev (L5 Roche)







# Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey—

For the second year running, the History Department took the whole of Lower 3 to Wales to visit two key sites relevant to their Medieval History course and to learn more about the power of Castle and Cloister in the Middle Ages.

The sun was shining as the coach crossed over the Severn Bridge into Wales before arriving in the winding streets of Chepstow, home to one of the most impressive castles in the Principality. For the next couple of hours, the Lower 3 students explored the castle ruins, discovering key facts about the evolution of the castle from its earliest days around the time of the Norman Conquest to its later incarnation as an impressive stately home. They considered the key defensive features that helped to project power in the Medieval World as well as the strategic location overlooking a bend in the River Wye.

After lunch, a short journey up the stunning Wye Valley took the students to the haunting ruins of Tintern Abbey, once home to a group of Cistercian monks but subsequently dismantled during the Henrician Reformation. Once again, the students had time to explore the abbey ruins and consider the lives and struggles of monastic orders during an intensely religious age.

By the end of the day, the students were in a much better position to understand the competing and complementary powers of the Church and State, thereby enhancing their understanding of the nature of power and authority in the Middle Ages.

Mr Chris Bartlett

# Ski trip—

During the December 2019 holiday period, the annual school ski tour took place. A group, totalling almost 50, flew to the much favoured resort of Bormio, taking up residence at the splendid Hotel Nevada. The resort itself is a World Cup Championship host and has everything. An earlier dusting of snow ensured the team arrived to a wonderful

wintery setting, no artificial snow required for this tour! With the groups split across beginner, intermediate and advanced runs, they enjoyed five days of excellent skiing and the luxury of ample slope space. They covered many kilometres and left no snow untouched - our beginners even reached the highest point of the resort, 3,012m! Evenings were spent

relaxing, shopping in the resort and enjoying the occasional hot chocolate, crêpe, ice-cream and cake, lots of it too! The group also visited Bormio Terme Spa, to help reinvigorate tired bodies. A magical week was had by all and home in time for Christmas!

Mr Tony Jenkins







# New York—

In my opinion, the New York Trip is the best trip that Prior runs. Just before Christmas, over half of the U6 headed to New York, not suspecting quite how action-packed this trip was set to be. We arrived late at night, and after slowly clearing border control, the Prior Park U6 entered the USA and were bound for central New York. Although tiredness swept the group, there was an unparalleled feeling of excitement for the week.

The 6am alarm peeled the next morning, having been set mere hours prior. Filled with Metro Diner breakfasts of pancakes, French toast and 'Ameri-

can portions' of bacon and maple syrup, we headed Downtown and emerged into the high-rise of Manhattan. Elated and enthusiastic, everyone was stunned seeing New York in the daylight for the first time. On that day alone, we visited the 9/11 memorial, got lunch in a classic American mall, took a tour of Wall Street, rode across the Hudson River on the Staten Island Ferry (frantically photographing the Statue of Liberty!), explored Times Square, enjoyed dinner at the Revolving Restaurant and went up the Empire State Building. Due to clear weather, we could see the New

York skyline in all directions. This day was hugely busy and set the pace for the rest of the trip. The 9/11 memorial was my personal highlight of the trip and had a profound impact on me: its stillness and respect contrasting with the chaos of the city above. Beautiful memorials and exhibits commemorated the innocent victims of the attack and celebrated the valour and heroism of the emergency services. 9/11 is a turning point in world history which is often talked about, but the scale can be hard to fully appreciate for those who were not alive when the attack took place.

Each day was as packed and rewarding as the next, with the group visiting the Bethel Gospel Choir for collective worship along with a raucous basketball match between the Brooklyn Nets and the Philadelphia 76ers at the Barclays Centre. The following day we walked through Central Park to visit the Met, did a tour of Madison Square Gardens and walked over Brooklyn Bridge with stunning panoramic views of the city, followed by a production of Aladdin on Broadway. The penultimate day took us to Chelsea Market, Grand Central station, the UN HQ and the ballet. On the

final day, we went ice skating in Central Park, followed by the Museum of Modern Art before returning to the hostel ahead of our return journey. Just as we were leaving, the snow, which had been desired by many throughout the trip in the hope of seeing New York at its finest during the festive period, first began to fall, perfectly finishing up our amazing week in New York. The New York Trip is such a once-in-a-lifetime experience that no one will ever forget. My thanks go to the hugely enthusiastic and dedicated teachers who came along, who really help make the trip incredible, especially

Ms Young. The itinerary of New York, as you can clearly see, is hectic but incredible, and I unequivocally urge everyone who has the chance to go on this amazing trip – I promise you won't regret it!

**Charlie Mullin (U6 Burton)**



# Baines—

In Baines House this year, we have shown our ability to rise to any occasion with students taking on more independent learning and clearly showing their stoicism and resilience in the face of great change. As the youngest in the school, not only have our students been asked to get to grips with senior school, but also with online learning! This has been no mean feat for our parents and students but as a community we haven't only met the demands but exceeded them, showing not only our academic credentials but also fostering deep personal interests and passions.

We have had many opportunities throughout the year for fun and silliness, and lockdown has not managed to quell our sense of unity. We began the year with our Skern Lodge residential, where students made friendships and bonds that will never be broken. Our movie nights, trips and debating competitions took place as the year progressed as normal! We were also focussed on going 'plastic free' as a house and enjoyed visiting Bath's Ocean Plastic Day. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to hear from environmental scientists and provided our impetus as a House to reduce our own plastic use. Following the announcement of lockdown, online House dinners and online sports days provided us with an opportunity for laughter and light-heartedness in a time of great uncertainty and seeming chaos.

During the summer term, it had never been more important to build resilience. The stoic philosopher Viktor Frankl effectively underpinned this when he stated that 'when we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves'. Our pupils have pushed themselves to control the uncontrollable and developed effective strategies for online learning. Baines House has enjoyed three assemblies a week where our students have led discussions on everything from building hovercrafts to writing their own cookbooks or novels. The projects submitted by our students through lockdown were beautifully created and clearly demonstrated time and care.

I have never been prouder of a group of L3s in my time in the lower school and I look forward to seeing what this wildly independent and resilient group have in store for us next year.

**Mrs Izzy Burton, Acting Housemistress**



# Brownlow—

This year's Brownlow students have been absolutely remarkable. As my last group of 'Brownies' before handing over the House next year, I have been amazed at their talent, resilience and inherent sense of morality. I will not say that they have 'risen to the challenge' that lockdown gave them, because they were always going to do that. They didn't just 'meet' a set of demands but exceeded all of them with the absolute maturity and humility that I have come to expect. It is truly a great sadness that I haven't been physically able to see my 'Brownies' during the summer term, but I am convinced that the lockdown will have taken our community forward to a more progressive and streamlined mode of working for our students.

Prior to lockdown, our House was the happiest part of the school. A haven filled with our Victorian style tuck shop, subversive humour and an atmosphere of 'loyal dissent'. Laughter bounded and excellent relationships were formed between staff and students, with an exceptional tutor team leading the high expectations we have of the students. Following our 'Bath Ocean Plastics Day' we spent significant effort raising the profile of becoming a plastic free house and reducing our single

use plastics, becoming more successful than any other house in the college, being the first to have a plastic free tuck shop and banning plastic bottles and tuck from coming into school.

We spent a lot of time on unashamed foolishness, heading to see 'Shrek the Musical' and 'Movie Nights' in the theatre. We also spent a lot of time on Brownlow House Challenges where students learned the Greek alphabet, the periodic table, rapping and the cup song. This created a sense of confidence as everyone in the House took part.

During lockdown the fun continued with dinners, House assemblies and sports days, but students were also able to demonstrate their talents through our lockdown project and show their passion for various niche topics. For me, this has been the true beauty of lockdown, seeing our students become celebrated for their own independently developed talents and self-motivated efforts.

**Mrs Izzy Burton, Housemistress**





# Allen—

There was a knock on my door one Saturday afternoon in the Michaelmas term. Outside stood two middle-aged men. They explained that they were both Allen boys and were now in Bath celebrating a 40th birthday. As they walked around St Paul's, they recounted to me their memories of people and adventures.

Allen House has always been a strong supportive community, I see it every day – academically, musically, socially and on the sports field. House Music has a very special quality all its own, with the boys spending weeks vacillating over intricate dance moves while assuming the singing will come together at the last moment. The most lasting effect remains the purchase of 40 pairs of fishnet tights. If Orly had only been able to do his backflip, we remain convinced we would have won this year.

Winning House Basketball for the second year in a row is a hugely proud achievement for Allen House, but it is the manner of the victory that is as important as the prize. Allen House showed lesser houses how to win like gentlemen – with roaring passionate support from the boys and every year represented in a rotating squad that was as inclusive as it was dominant.

To reach the House Debating Final was a fantastic achievement from an underdog Allen team. The hard work and application of the team was inspiring. The final itself was in a packed Round Room and was a poignant occasion knowing that the country was about to go into lockdown. The debate subject itself, on the balance between safety and liberty, seemed especially appropriate.

House Dinner is an occasion to revel

in our identity as Allen Gentlemen and we were lucky to have this event shortly before lockdown. The speeches by Charlie Main and Michael Kihara were characterised by an unbridled passion for Allen House and the only disappointment was that technical issues got in the way of Charlie's drum-and-bass DJ finale. It was a fantastic evening.

I hope that the Allen Boys of 2019/20 will look back on their time with the same fondness that the two 40-year-old gentlemen who knocked on my door demonstrated. I would like to thank the incredible Allen tutor team, Carrie Jenkins, and all the Allen House leavers, especially the U6, for helping this great community meet every challenge in a tumultuous year.

**Mr Anthony Lovat, Housemaster**



# Arundell—

Arundell House is the newest girls' day house and opened in 2013 with just 20 girls. We are now a fully-fledged bustling place with over 65 girls, all busy enjoying school and making their own unique mark on the world.

We are very lucky to live in Kent House which is a beautiful Bath stone building tucked away in a wildflower garden, with a grotto nearby. The girls have a large lounge to relax in, prep rooms to study in and a kitchen and snug for chatter and friendship.

The girls spanning F4-U6th years have a huge wealth of talent and they are involved in all aspects of school life.

They work hard in their academic subjects and the older girls set a fine example for the younger ones. Our sister groups enable the years to mix, and the House innings and outings give everyone a chance to let their hair down. We are very proud to be the current holders of the Fisher relay title, Sports Day, and the Whole House Song trophy for the House Music competition.

Arundell girls are perhaps best known for their kindness, happy enthusiasm and humility. Many will leave school to become highfliers and all aspire to make a difference wherever their skills take them. We have leavers at present

who are doctors, engineers, actors, musicians, businesswomen, humanitarians, and lawyers, and with 30 girls in the current sixth form there will soon be many more roles to add to this list.

As Housemistress, I feel very fortunate to lead this wonderful group of girls and, with my trusted tutors, promise to care for them, challenge them and celebrate their achievements in equal measure. Our House motto is 'Respice stellas' translated to mean 'look to the stars' and we do indeed have many.

**Mrs Kate Trott, Housemistress**



# Burton—

We started the year with the official inauguration of Mr Hull as our full-time Housemaster. This year was a successful one for the House, with us winning back the House Music competition thanks to a trio of strong performances, most notably David Aspray's incredible solo on a disassembling drumkit, and our House Song, Timber, sung with undeniable Burton gusto. This led us to win both the solo competition and the overall prize.

This success was also shared on stage, with Burton students playing pivotal roles in this year's drama productions, with stellar performances from Ben Pearson as Malvolio in Twelfth Night, and Ewan Hipperson as Mushnik, and Tristan Tyser as Orin in Little Shop of Horrors.

Burton has produced 8 1st XV rugby players and 1st Team captains in hock-

ey, cricket and tennis this year alone. Burton's own Jack Webb also represented England at U16 hockey.

Since Mr Hull has taken over as Housemaster, Burton has been modernised, bringing with it many new traditions. Within the House, there is a striking sense of community and mutual respect between students and staff alike. We held a Start of Year Football social, encouraging the integration of the new F4 and allowing the reintroduced family groups to get to know each other better. We also hosted an In-House Table Tennis Tournament, this year won by James Butters, and a Pool Tournament, won in the Lent term by the aptly named Ed Poole. These competitions unite the house and with mandatory presence for all students, make for raucous support, often for the underdog. Our Christmas House outing consisted of a whole

House trip to Bristol to go bowling, followed by the cinema. This is a great event for everyone involved, with mad dashes to Krispy Kreme or Poundland to get cheap cinema snacks; even the bus journeys are one-of-a-kind!

While the House had great plans for the Summer Term, with a proposed House Concert and our hugely anticipated House Dinner, these plans were scuppered by the coronavirus outbreak. While this was hugely disappointing, especially for the U6, the House quickly adapted to the challenges it faced. Although a difficult time, the House spirit prevailed strongly throughout the school's closure, supporting all the students and allowing the U6 a strange but sincere farewell.

**Charlie Mullin, Head of House**



# Clifford—

The U6 have been an outstanding senior year and have produced some of the most memorable times in my three years as House Master of Clifford House.

From House Music and the performance of Foot Loose, to the fighting talk of our debating team, this year can only be described as having been a lot of fun. There was a bizarre game of indoor golf invented by the U6 that occasionally got in the way of Tutor time! We had outings to a top end restaurant with the U5 and to a local pub with the U6. We also had the treat of tidying up the grave yard of a local church after the winter months.

F4 have been brilliant and Mr Healy and I have enjoyed watching them learn the ropes in Clifford House. As a tutor group, they've really lived up to the house moto of "Always Ready" with their merit count climbing each day and in the way they have bonded as a group.

The L5 make Mr Fitzpatrick and I excited for the future of Clifford House. They have it all going on: sport, music, drama and hardworking students, every one.

As ever with the U5, it's been an honour for Mr Langley and I to watch them mature and develop into

a studious group of young men. They realised the importance of the U5 year and the need to knuckle down in preparation for the exams although they, too, have been robbed of their chance to shine.

As I write this, the L6 are transitioning into the U6. Mr Sackett tells me he has enjoyed this tutor group more than most and he is sure they will all be a success in the coming year.

I have mentioned all the full-time tutors in Clifford House except one, Mr Jones. Jonesy has been with Clifford since he joined Prior Park and this year he supported all the tutor groups and became fondly known as the "floater". We have also been supported by Mrs Ashby and Mrs Bond.

My time as Housemaster of Clifford has come to an end. It has been such a privilege to be the Clifford Housemaster and to watch the fine Men of Clifford progress through the years. My memories of my time here will always put a smile on my face. Semper Paratus.

**Mr Malcolm Bond, Housemaster**





# English—

In September we had our much loved tea party. Mums, dads, grannies, friends and dogs all attended on a lovely sunny afternoon and Lilla, as the youngest member of the House, cut the first slice of cake.

Preparations for House Music began and we were ready with our House song Spice Up Your Life for the competition just before half term and had a whole House slumber party with pizza the night before. We were very proud of Johanna, who won the solo section with her amazing violin piece.

Christmas came very quickly and we literally covered the House in pink tinsel while Michael Buble filled it with his dulcet tones. Our Christmas shopping trip was to Cabot Circus where the girls spent 3 hours in Primark followed by 20 minutes in Wagamama! At the very end

of the term we had our wonderful Christmas party with traditional games, including a very hard fought musical chairs, party food and a Secret Santa present from Father Christmas.

By March we were very excited about our 1920's themed House Dinner, the Fisher Road Relay, Charity Concert, and the musical Little Shop of Horrors with Bella, Libby and Maisie in leading roles and many of the other girls taking part. Sadly, on Thursday March 19th, Prior had to close. We gathered together for what was to be the last 'live' assembly to offer words of reassurance and to comfort the girls of U5 and U6 who would not sit their exams.

Although that day was extremely emotional, I knew that the girls of English House would face what was ahead with great strength and resilience. They

gave a hundred percent to their online lessons and were praised over and over again by their teachers. We gathered for our tutor times and House assemblies, the girls looked after each other and enjoyed some precious family time.

The last weeks of term were charged with emotion as our Upper Sixth prepared to leave without the usual farewell events and I announced my retirement after 10 years as Housemistress of my beloved English House. However, we went out on a high with a virtual House Dinner with 50 of us on zoom. Games, prizes, entertainment from each tutor group, farewells, a fantastic speech from Lolo, our wonderful Head of House - it was a fitting end to a year we will never forget.

**Mrs Colette Byron, Housemistress**



# Fielding—

After eleven years as Housemistress, I should have suspected that this year was not going to follow the very familiar and well-trodden path of previous years, when on the 12 September, just before our Tea Party, I was tripped up by a rogue skateboard, knocked myself out and broke my right humerus. Many thanks to Miss Duncan who very capably took the helm while I was away for a couple of weeks.

Just before Half Term, Fielding performed a brilliantly executed and choreographed rendition of Billy Joel's Uptown Girl for House Music. Sadly, we didn't win, as competition from other houses was stiff, however it is the fun of the rehearsals and the pizza innings, as well as the team spirit and camaraderie built up between year groups that really matters. Many thanks to Ava and her team for leading this.

As Christmas approached, so did the traditional Fielding outing to Cribbs Causeway for skating and shopping. This is always a fun event and really does mark the beginning of the Christmas season for us all.

The Lent term always means Debating. We have a strong tradition of excellent debaters and this year's team of Maddie Robertson (L6), Clemmie Mortimer (L6) and Victoria Corfield (F4) did not disappoint, getting as far as the semi-finals.

The Fisher Road relay vest tops were being washed and prepared for this year's competition, and invitations for the House Dinner were being designed just as lockdown was announced. The girls of Fielding House transitioned to remote learning very quickly. Tutor time, assemblies, Quizlet competitions and even cooking demonstrations went online. The girls amazed with the sheer amount of positive daybook comments

they racked up. There are so many girls here to mention but I would like to pick out Elina Dickens and Evie Rayner-Bentman for a special mention, as well as Molly Bunn. I would like to finish this report with a final tribute to the outgoing U6. What marks out this group of young women is their tenacity and resilience. Amazing progress, under sometimes difficult circumstances, has been made by each and every one of them, and I was delighted to be able to have a final gathering with them on 6 July to hand over a little memento of their time at Prior Park. Au revoir et à bientôt.

**Mrs Anne Mallon, Housemistress**





# Roche—

It has been a superb year in Roche House. With 30 new boys joining the House, we started the year with a real buzz. Some fantastic characters were added to the House group, and settled seamlessly into our start of year activities. As always, House Music is a big part of the first term, and seeing the House come together to learn a song (and dance routine) is always wonderful. Rory and Arthur in our Lower 6th were centre stage again, led by our superb Upper 6th. Seeing the boys embrace this idea, which is probably very different to anything they have done before, is such a wonderful way to get to know each other. Watching them perform in the theatre will always be a highlight of every year, and I could not be more proud of the boys.

Our charity week, now in its second year, also showed what we are about as a House, working together and giving back to our community. It was so great to see so many of the boys giving their time so willingly, with many going above and beyond. Over £350 was raised for charity, and the boys really enjoyed the work they put into their activities. This theme was carried through the year, and the house donated their tuck shop Easter Eggs to the Mental Health Unit at the RUH to help during Covid-19.

The Lent term saw our debating team, Jack, Matt and Abdulaziz take to the fore, with a series of hotly contested rounds pitting their skills against the other houses. The boys' dedication and thorough preparation, combined with their passionate and engaging debating style, saw them take the win over Allen.

In a difficult year, there have been so many highlights. The boys have grown individually and as a group. They are a remarkable group and we are excited to see what the future holds for them.

**Mr David Holmes, Housemaster**



# St Mary's—

In September, watching the wheeling of huge suitcases towards The Priory, often equal in size to their owners, I could sense that some of the girls were naturally anxious about being away from home for the first time. Equally, some girls, having found their rooms, were guiding their parents towards the exit so that they could begin at the soonest possible moment, their adventure as a boarder!

I reflect on the year in two halves. The St Mary's girls were fortunate to have their wonderful House Dinner at Christmas. The U6 who organised the dinner did an outstanding job, making it so special to all staff and students who attended; and as ever, the girls looked

stunning. St Mary's girls also worked tirelessly and with a gritty determination in the lead up to the very competitive annual event, House Music. All of the hard work paid off with the girls producing spectacular performances! Not only this, St Mary's deservedly won the Group category this year. Having spent the duration of lockdown at The Priory, I have had months to admire its beauty through the changing of the seasons. However, its true beauty is when the girls are living here and they immediately transform this beautiful building into a home. The use of Teams has been such an invaluable technological platform to maintain connection and communication with each other at this time. House assemblies have been

perfect for this and have allowed every member of the community to engage in current topics in an ever-changing world, personal reflection, health, wellbeing, social media, prayer and celebration.

Along with weekly video calls to tutees, assemblies, and tea and talk at break times, we have had impromptu baking, Tik Tok and photo competitions, and have now found new ways to continue being the close boarding community that we are. I admire every girl in St Mary's as, through this time of adversity, have remained calm, continued to shine academically, connect and be honest and true to themselves.

**Mrs Lisa Seward, Housemistress**







# House Music—

*Solo— English and Burton*

*House song— Arundell*

*Group— St Mary's*

*Overall winner— Burton*







# Little Shop of Horrors—

'Boris is shutting all theatres' were the words that greeted me as I came out of the final dress run the day before opening night and Suddenly the show was off. That final run and the subsequent two internal shows to a dwindling pupil population did show us all what a great show we had and what a journey we'd been on. It's easy to dwell on what could have been, but as we say in education, the journey is as important as the end result.

The show starts in the depths of Skid Row Downtown where the soon to be Mushnik (Ewan Hipperson) and Son's Florist shop is both run down and on the brink of closing. However, the hapless Seymour Krelborn (Oli Tometski) shows his boss and assistant Audrey (Bella Chicco) the strange and interesting plant he's been growing. Quicker than you can say Da-Doo, fortunes change - but at a price. In order to keep the plant alive, Seymour begs it to Grow For Me, which it does in exchange for...blood!

Our 'commentators' came in the form of a set of Soul Girls (Tallulah Stephens, Emma Hallum, Emma Kerrigan) and Street Girls (Libby Blain, Ruby Roberts, Maisie Wilson). Ya Never Know quite where or when they will turn up, but they always have plenty to say.

The shop, having been Closed for Renovation, now displays the newly named plant, Audrey 2 (Jess Cogan), who shouts out Feed Me, demanding more than just drops from squeezed cuts on fingers. Audrey's unpleasant dentist boyfriend, Orin, (Tristan Tyser) looks like the best available meal. So, while Audrey dreams of Somewhere That's Green, Seymour visits Orin who, high on nitrous oxide (It's Just the Gas) sees him suf-

focate in his own special mask. Let Suppertime commence.

Another aspect of our production was the set and props, and Mushnik's Shop formed a superb backdrop to our story. The stars of the set were the Audrey 2 puppets. We needed our plants to come to life and they did, with the aid of Barney and Giles Pickford.

If The Meek Shall Inherit, then more blood is required, and the man-eating, Pickford operated, Jess voiced, foul-mouthed Mean Green Mother From Outta Space, having swallowed Mushnik, Audrey and 'I'll get you from the inside' Seymour whole, is set on taking over the world.

In this 'look what you missed' review, credit must go to all the cast and chorus for their superb acting, singing and story telling, and especially to Oli and Bella who worked so incredibly hard and were a perfect fit as Seymour and Audrey - their timing of all the phones in Call Back In The Morning never ceased to amaze.

Thanks should also go to the band, to the stage and sound crew who worked tirelessly and especially to Max Hall, who oversaw all the tech, designed the lighting and pretty much ran the theatre during the production. I must also congratulate Colette Byron whose creative direction, innovative choreography, talented costume design and total lack of spatial awareness never ceases to amaze me.

**Mr Dave Sackett**

**Photography: Alison Sackett**







## Ahoy!

In late November, we staged our big annual collaboration concert with The Paragon. The Chapel was a full house of cheerful concertgoers, parents, friends and students - remember those occasions? And the stage was filled too, first by the College Orchestra, and then by the massed choirs of both Paragon and Prior Park, in a dazzling variety of colourful nautical costumes! The programme started majestically with Wagner's Mastersingers Overture, followed by the witty and charming Pavane by Morton Gould,

both directed by Mr Sackett. Two young soloists from the Paragon then followed, showing great confidence and talent: Millie Pope (violin) with 'Take 5', and Bea Pillow at the mighty organ playing two movements specially composed for the occasion by Mr Robertson, 'The Paragon Ghost' and 'Back to School'.

Finally 'Ahoy!', a cantata full of great tunes, sea shanties and medieval hits, with a sparkling folky band, the fiddle part expertly played by Johanna Zuend (L6E) and star drummer David Aspray

(U6B) with College head of IT Andy Haines on bass; the choirs were directed by both Sarah Kettley and Roland Robertson.

A happy audience poured out at the end humming the tunes and sharing their favourite moments, little knowing that the heavy curtain was about to fall on such concerts. We look forward to reuniting the massed musicians of our schools, like this, one day.

**Mr Roland Robertson**

## PPC singers perform in underground movie premiere

In September, Prior Park musicians were engaged to work in a new film by the important artist director Ben Rivers. He was seeking singers for a premiere screening of 'Subterranean Somerset'. The performance was held underground in the famous cave at Wookey Hole! The film music is by composer Christina

Vantzou, a composer and experimental filmmaker, who works with space, sound and image. Christina worked with our students, creating some exciting soundscapes for the cave environment, using advanced experimental vocal techniques.

## Singing in the choir

When I joined Prior Park College two years ago, I wasn't very familiar with the activities on offer. One of the first events at the start of the term was the Whole School Mass, where I heard the Senior Chapel Choir for the first time. As soon as the beautiful sounds began to spread from behind the altar throughout the Chapel, I thought, "I must join that choir." I am so happy I did.

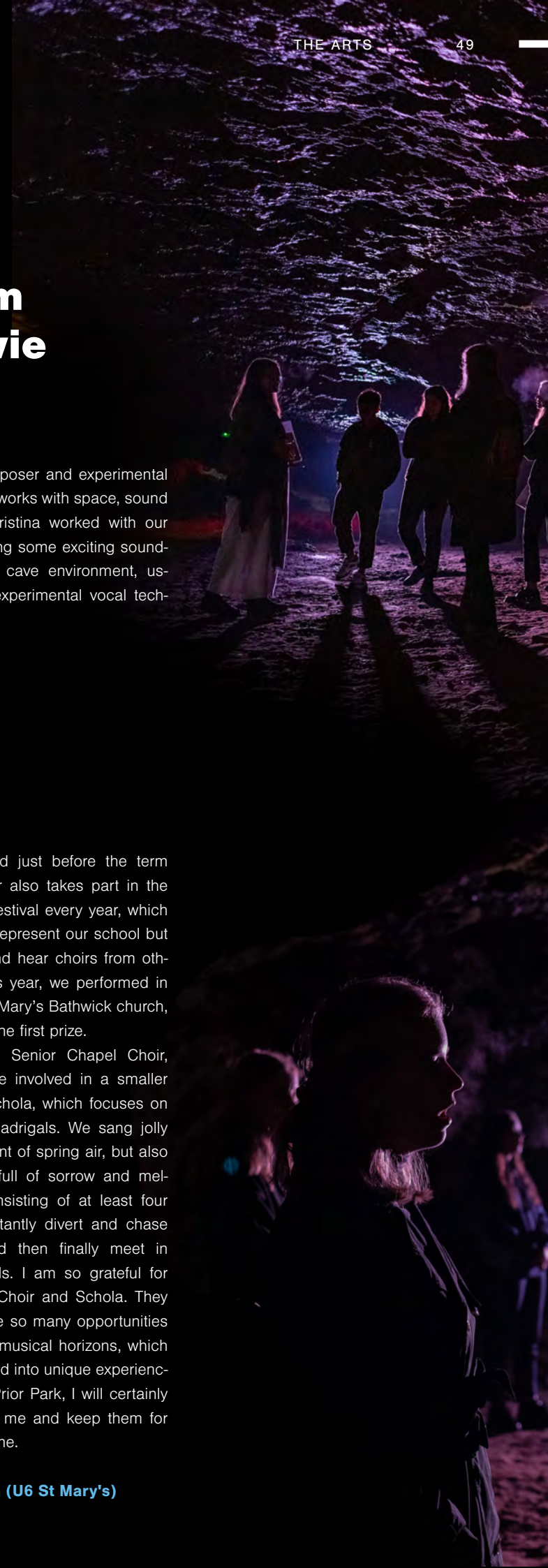
Choir was probably my favourite extra curricular activity throughout Sixth Form. It was so refreshing to have a break from all the pressures of academic life, to turn off and to simply enjoy music. The practices were short, however I was impressed at how much we got done, mostly thanks to the efforts of Mr Robertson. They were also incredibly fun.

One of the most important events for the choir is the Carol Service. It is quite a big task as we sing with only short breaks for over an hour, but it is one of the most emotional times for us as a choir. The music, readings and overall atmosphere puts everyone in the

Christmas mood just before the term ends. The choir also takes part in the Mid-Somerset festival every year, which is a chance to represent our school but also to meet and hear choirs from other schools. This year, we performed in the beautiful St Mary's Bathwick church, where we won the first prize.

Besides the Senior Chapel Choir, I also got to be involved in a smaller group called Schola, which focuses on 17th century madrigals. We sang jolly tunes reminiscent of spring air, but also fluid melodies full of sorrow and melancholy, all consisting of at least four parts that constantly divert and chase each other and then finally meet in satisfying chords. I am so grateful for Senior Chapel Choir and Schola. They have offered me so many opportunities to broaden my musical horizons, which were transformed into unique experiences. As I leave Prior Park, I will certainly take these with me and keep them for the years to come.

**Anna Motylova (U6 St Mary's)**





# Band Night—

This year's Band Night offered the opportunity for students to perform live music to a wider audience of parents, as well as peers and teachers. The support that we experience as musicians makes Band Night the perfect chance not only to perform, but to experiment musically across styles and instruments. The set list often sees a rich variety of music.

This year we enjoyed performances from a Lower 3 band who took to the stage to cover Red Hot Chilli Peppers, and a performance from an Upper 6 group who were also making their debut with the Joy Division classic 'Disorder'.

For Prior Park musicians, Band Night is a key fixture in the calendar. All our requirements to create the live sound

that we want are facilitated by a full tech rehearsal the evening before. Additionally, the live performances are mixed to create a balanced sound for the sell-out audience. We're grateful to Mr Sackett for organizing this.

**Max Montanaro (U5 Allen)**





*Imagine hearing your own compositions played by professionals! That's what our lucky 6th formers have enjoyed each March for several years now, thanks to the Bristol-based music education charity, Soundworld. This year Tallulah Stephens was one of the lucky students, and took away a quality recording of her own piece all ready for A Level submission.*

## Soundworld Workshop

Many schools take part in these workshops, opening up the opportunity to listen to other young composers. It's an all-day event, where live musicians perform your composition. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear your piece played live and then critiqued by professionals from numerous performers from the Bristol Ensemble. This is invaluable feedback when studying for external exams and it's a rare chance to hear other student performances.

This year for my free composition, I composed a modern ballet piece called, 'The Dance of the Two Turtle Doves'. This is a romantic, energetic piece with two

melodic lines feeding into each other, to create the idea of two birds gracefully dancing. Usually I have used modern software like Sibelius and Logic pro. to create and listen to my pieces, but when performed live by numerous instrumentalists, I was able to discuss each instrumental part with the musician and then joined a group discussion, where I was given suggestions and ideas on how to make my piece even better. It's a great opportunity and has been so helpful when composing my new pieces.

**Tallulah Stephens (U6, Arundell)**

## Music lessons in lockdown

Who wants lessons during lockdown? Well, Prior Park musicians! Extreme times call for extreme measures. This year the musicians and the College Music Staff rose to the challenge of lockdown in a truly impressive way, transferring their entire teaching and learning onto the internet throughout the summer term. Just a few weeks in, following a parental survey, we were able to report on the great success of this term's remote instrumental lessons, with excellent feedback from the students, parents

*The thing I like most is being really loud and disturbing everyone else at home!*

and teachers, and all-time highs in attendance. Here are some typical quotes from the survey that made us smile:

*"You get to keep up with a thing you enjoy doing during lockdown."*  
*"For the first time since he started music lessons when he was six I can listen in!"*  
*"The thing I like most is being really loud and disturbing everyone else at home!"*



# Music exam results

### Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music: Michaelmas 2019

Thalia Harward	Singing	Grade 5	Pass
Olivia Lord	Singing	Grade 5	Pass
Giles Pickford	Violin	Grade 3	Merit
Rosibella Tyser	Theory	Grade 5	Pass

### Trinity College London: Michaelmas 2019

Emma Kerrigan	Violin	Grade 7	Distinction
Ella Best	Flute	Grade 6	Pass
Barnabas Pickford	Clarinet	Grade 5	Merit
Alexanderina Kariy	Singing	Grade 5	Pass
Harry Passingham	Horn	Grade 4	Pass
Ranulf Graham	Cornet	Grade 3	Pass
Carson Hung	Drumkit	Grade 3	Merit
Anna Garland	Trombone	Grade 1	Pass

### Mid-Somerset Festival 2020

Big Band	Won the Swing Band Class
Schola Cantorum	Won the Madrigal Class
Senior Chapel Choir	Won the Sacred Music Class
Emma Hallam	Won the Music Theatre Solo 16 years and under Class
Sophia Thorpe	Second in the Music Theatre Solo 16 years and under Class



# Review of Zwolfte Nacht—

The dilemma facing any director embarking on a Shakespearean production is how to make a work that has been performed countless times across five centuries seem fresh and new. The production of Twelfth Night (or Zwolfte Nacht) that was staged at The Julian Slade Theatre did not fall into this trap. Indeed the idea of setting what is arguably Shakespeare's greatest comedy in Germany in the late 1920's is inspired.

Perhaps the most effective aspect of the production was the use of the theatre space. Seated at 'cabaret' style tables, we were surrounded by the action which took place in front of us on a raised platform and behind us on a higher dais that had been created by retracting the raked seating. In addition, the actors often came down to our level - even making use of the bar where the drinks were on sale during the interval.

Another interesting device was the inclusion of a 'running motif' involving the intermittent appearance of a priest who was increasingly ignored to the point of invisibility by other characters. Far from detracting from the main plot of the play, it served as a poignant reminder of the rejection by hedonist societies of any kind of moral code.

One of the most challenging features of the play was the 'gender blind' casting, such that the traditionally male characters of Sebastian, Sir Toby Belch, Antonio, the Captain and Feste were played by female actors.

In the end, though, the creative concept behind a production is only as good as the performers delivering it and in this respect the cast more than rose to

the challenge. Alice Hawes and Martha Parsons played siblings, Viola and Sebastian, with great poise and grace. There was a subtle synergy in their performances which may well have derived from their exchanging of roles at different performances. In addition, Ava Graham gave us a quietly vulnerable and fragile Olivia in contrast to the beautifully, boisterous absurdities of Seb Morley's Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Hannah Lowrie's Sir Toby Belch.

The most powerful moment in the play, however, came with Malvolio's reappearance at the end of the play. Dressed in a black leather coat associated with the brutal SS he pulled on an arm band bearing the Nazi insignia, simultaneously articulating his famous promise of revenge. This was a spine chilling conclusion to Ben Pearson's outstanding portrayal of Malvolio. Indeed, it was as good a characterisation as I have ever seen as he moved seamlessly from the grotesque, physical comedy of the 'yellow stockings' scene to the bitter introspection of his imprisonment. My only regret is that neither Brecht nor Shakespeare were sitting at our table to share the glorious experience with us. They would have loved it.

**Jim Graham Brown**





# Visual arts—



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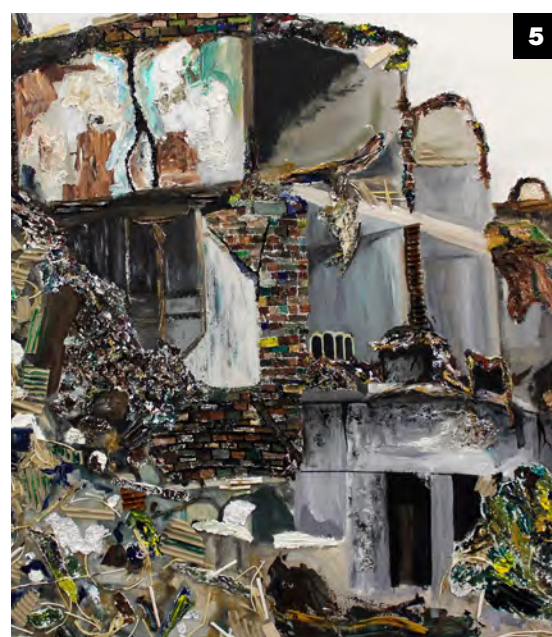
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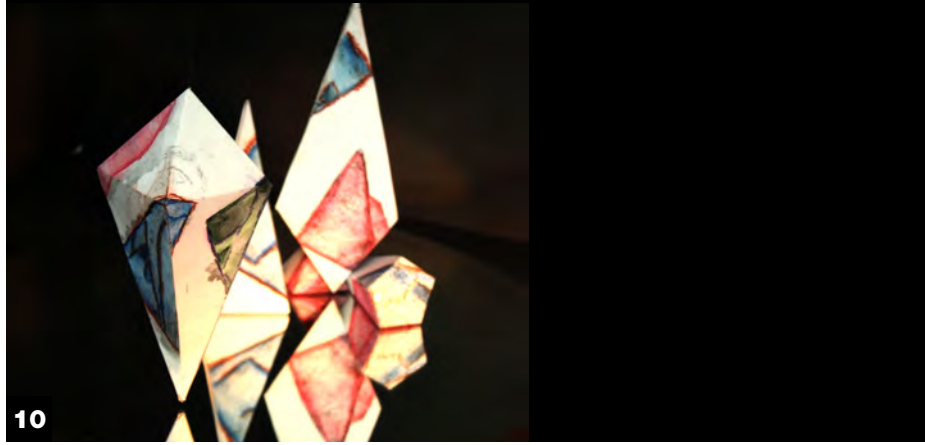


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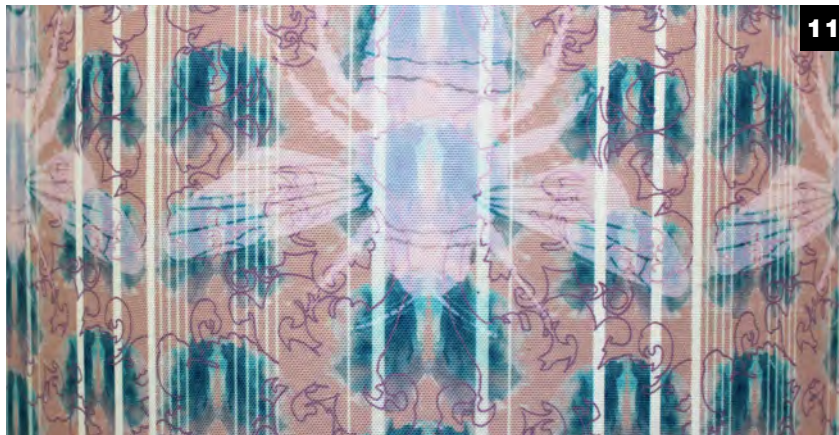




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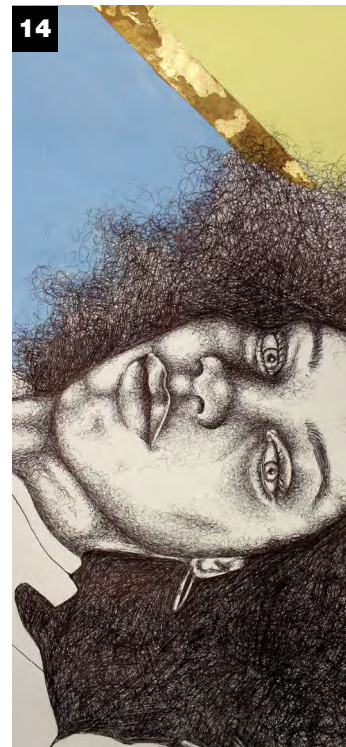
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14

1 Imogen Hurst A Level

2 Will Fletcher A Level

3 Isabella Hart A Level

4 Mikela Abategiovanni A Level

5 Miranda Li A Level

6 Finlay Gall A Level

7 Theo Phillips A Level

8 Isabella Hart A Level

9 Martha Fairbeard A Level

10 Yukun Peng GCSE

11 Libby Blaine GCSE

12 Miranda Holman A Level

13 Molly Gardener GCSE

14 Katie Marden GCSE

# Design and technology—



1



4



6



5



3



2



7





8

9



10



11



13



12

14



15



1 Tufic Haddad A Level

2 William James A Level

3 Isobel Wylie A Level

4 Tom Pitman A Level

5 Charlie Little GCSE

6 George Jennings GCSE

7 Louis Wight GCSE

8 Olivia Lewis A Level

9 Kira Tenk GCSE

10 Freddie Talbot GCSE

11 Louis Wright GCSE

12 Joseph McMurtry A Level

13 Joseph Wallace A Level

14 Dow Sivell GCSE

15 Adam Wortelhock A Level



# Arkwright Scholar—

Congratulations to Matthew Streets (L6 Roche) who is our 2020 Arkwright Scholar. To become an Arkwright Scholar you have to be recognized as one of the most talented STEM students in the UK. To become an Arkwright Scholar means you are one of the “best of the best!” From a pool of 30,000 eligible students from all over the UK and the growing number of British Overseas schools only 400 Scholarships were eventually awarded.





# PPE supplies—

## Design & technology

At the start of the UK lockdown, it quickly became apparent that there was an insufficient supply of PPE for all key workers, particularly hospital staff. The College science departments provided goggles and gloves from their stocks, and the D&T manufactured some face visors from their polypropylene stock. However, it became clear that demand was high! Whilst waiting for more polypropylene stock to be delivered, D&T made 500 single use face visors (with cardboard head bands) for the RUH. These single use visors were made with

the help of the Prior community after a plea for help with assembling the masks went out through the College Facebook pages. Kits were dropped off at 'out worker' houses and then collected a few hours later to ensure completed visors were delivered to the RUH the same day.

Once polypropylene was back in stock, the department was able to produce approximately 500 plastic framed visors per day, delivering them to local GP surgeries, health centres and care homes. Plastic based materials meant the visors could be cleaned and reused.

Demand was outstripping supply. A

funding page was set up to cover further material costs and over £25,000 was raised to ensure production continued throughout the summer term. The D&T team has manufactured and delivered over 17,000 visors to over 250 establishments and people on the frontline. Initially, they were only providing the local area of Bath and surrounding counties but, due to extra funding, they could ship visor kits across the country. As well as hospitals, they delivered to GP surgeries, Health Centres, Care Homes, Nurseries, Pharmacists, the Police and Fire Service, Schools and the UK's larg-

est chain of Veterinary Practices - IVC.

Although it was a team effort, special mentions must go to the amazing DT technicians, Mr Moore and Mr Braham who worked tirelessly to keep the project going whilst teachers delivered their remote lessons during term time. Mentions also to all of the teachers, resident staff and families who gave up their time to help produce, assemble and deliver visors to those in need. It was a real demonstration of what can be done in a crisis situation and really optimised what Prior Park College is all about.

A video showing how the visors are

made can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3fXZihA>.

## Textiles

At the beginning of April, staff and friends of the Textiles department responded to a general call to make laundry bags for NHS staff at the RUH. The first batch of 50 were made and delivered to The Forever Friends Appeal.

Shortly after, a parent of Prior got in touch requesting laundry bags for Chippenham Cottage Hospital. The Textiles team had many helpers including Mrs Buxton, Ms Underwood, Ms West, Ms

Chequer, Ms Young, Mrs Hill and the entire Bond family. Gradually, more and more requests came through and we were able to deliver laundry bags to the Gastric Ward and A&E at the RUH, scrub hats to midwives in Bristol, scrubs for Broadway Lodge in Weston-Super-Mare and laundry bags for Wellsway Dentist Surgery amongst many others.

A special thank you to The Sewing Studio in Bath who initially provided some fabric free of charge to get our project going, and then later supplied fabric at cost.



# Lockdown—

On 19 March, the College shut its doors to all students except remaining boarders and those children of key workers. This did not stop our teachers from teaching and, on Monday 23 March, Prior Park digital College opened.

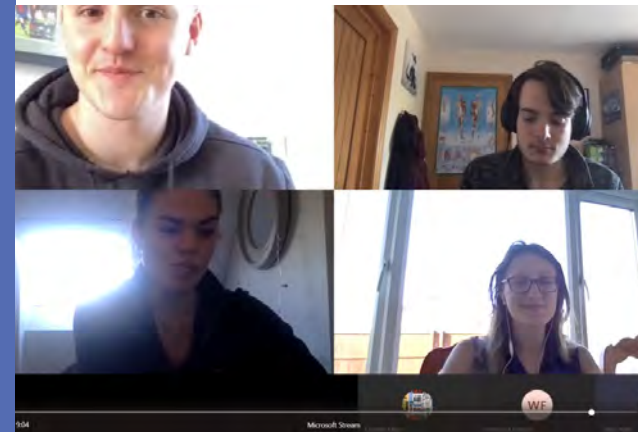
Our Remote Learning Policy enables students to continue with their studies

with a mixture of live lessons and set work, whilst also remaining a part of our school community by sharing morning House assemblies, Prior 4 Life and co-curricular activities.

The response from pupils and their parents at the end of the first week of remote learning was overwhelmingly

positive, with many saying it brought "structure, purpose and valuable interaction with teachers and peers."

A short video featuring home videos, photos and parent quotes was put together to highlight the first week of PPdC. It can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/31cuEgB>.



## Remote co-curricular programme—

Just in time for the Easter holidays, the College launched its Remote Co-Curricular Booklet to students and parents. Its aim was to inspire and challenge families to try something new with plenty of ideas for things to do alone or as a family during lockdown and beyond. The booklet provided links to many activities, cookery, outdoor, creative, skill sets, as well as film, music and book suggestions.

### Cooking

- Cook a meal from a recipe book or website for you and your family. Once you have mastered a few simple meals, try vegetarian or vegan cooking.
- Make a bowl of soup from fresh vegetables.
- Bake a cake or make some biscuits.
- Learn how to make pasta from scratch.
- Plan to cook a meal from another country. Do some research about how they would eat and any customs surrounding their meals. Can you find music to set the scene? Translate the menu into the native language of the country?

### Other

- Teach yourself to sew on a button or to repair a torn garment.
- Learn how to use IT software better. For example, Photoshop.
- Invent a new board game using parts from old board games.
- Learn how to knit a scarf.
- Learn as many new card games as you can and then teach your family the games.
- Learn the rules of a new sport to you then watch old games on YouTube.
- Learn to tie a different knot a day for a week – then test yourself and tie all 7 one after another. (Start with a Bowline – it's the



## Remote Co-Curriculum



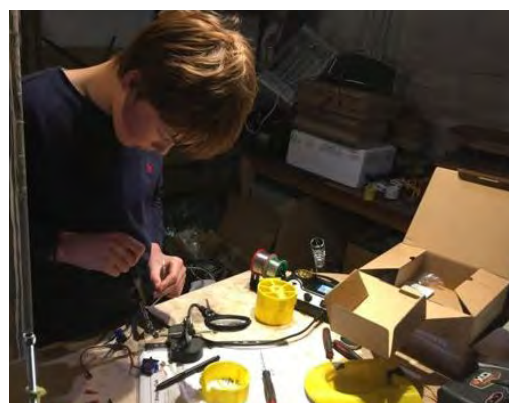
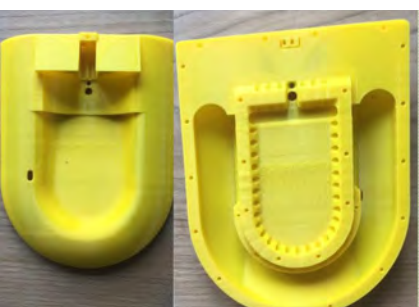
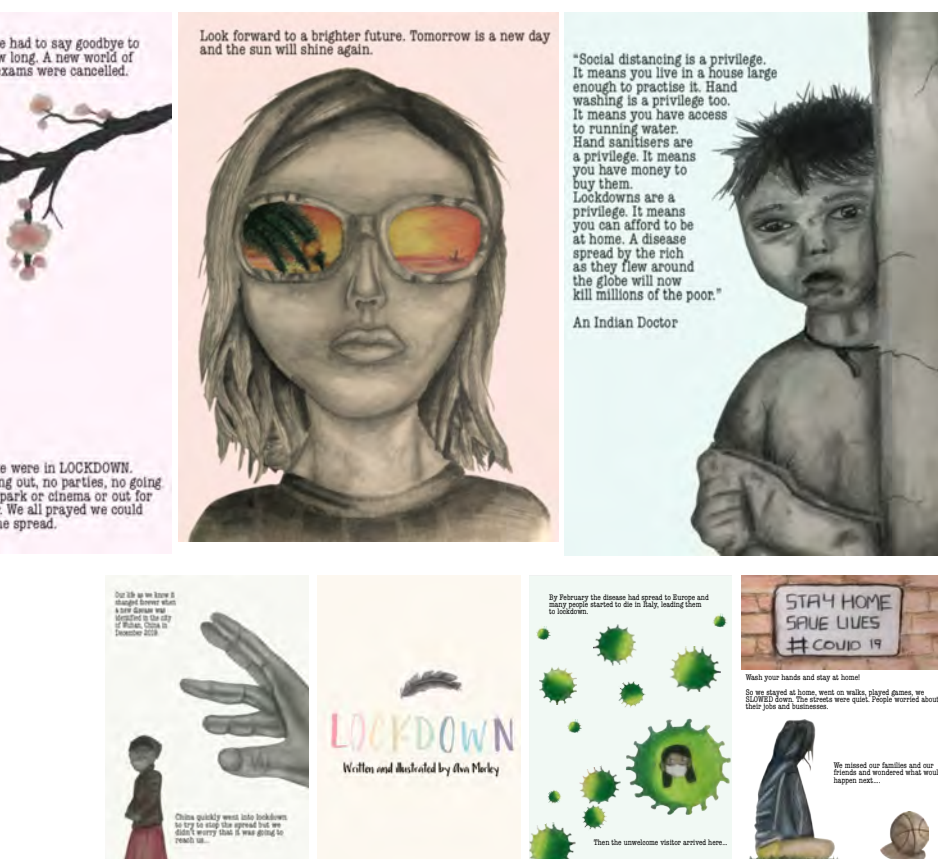


# L3 and F3 projects—

*Baines and Brownlow were set an EPG challenge during lockdown – here are a few of their incredible projects.*

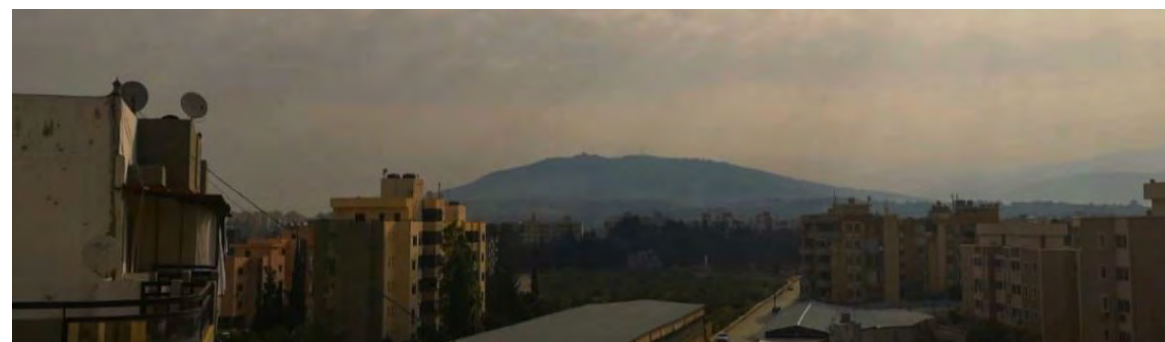
## An illustrated book

These are some pages from Ava's (L3) illustrated book.



## Portraits

Holly (L3) drew a portrait of everyone in her year group.



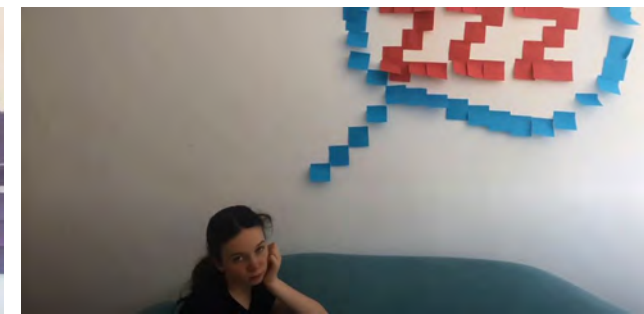
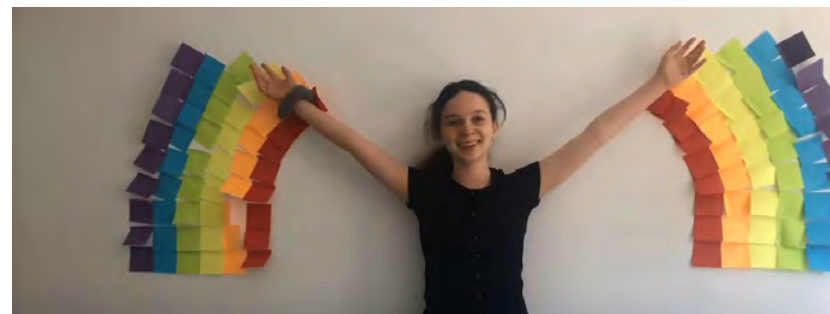
## Hovercraft Building

George (L3) has always been interested in hovercrafts so decided to try and build one!

## Post It Note Party

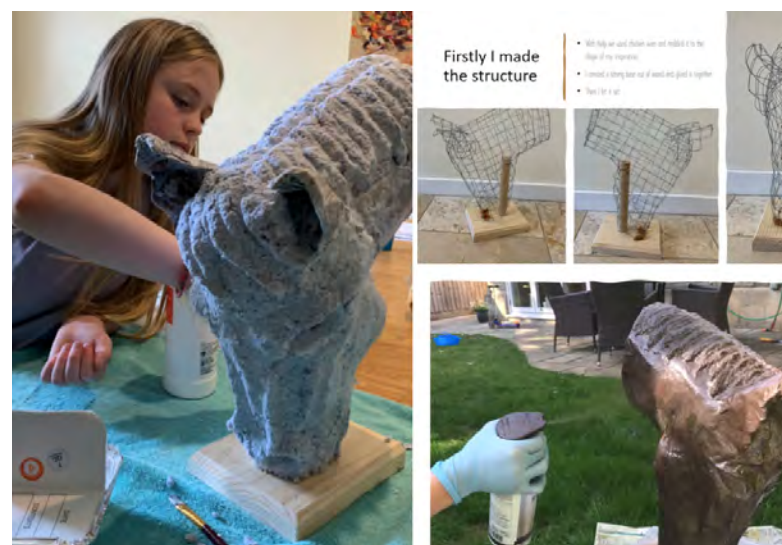
An amazing lockdown project by Hattie! Uplifting fun and such patience needed to make type of video!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zn7IOoBVthY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zn7IOoBVthY&feature=youtu.be)



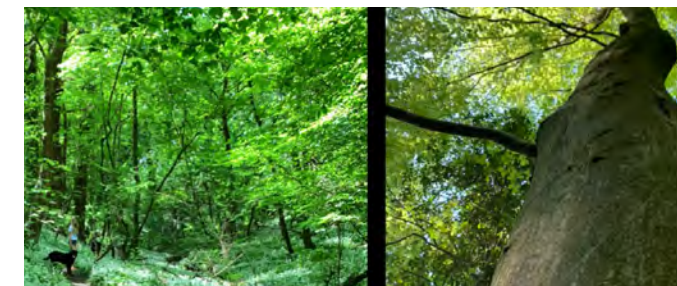
## A horse sculpture

We have some incredibly talented students! Esme in F3 decided to do a sculpture of Boris (her father's horse) for her EPQ project.



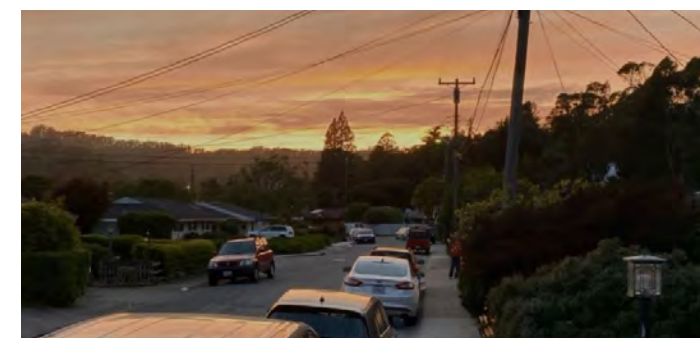
## Photography

Another superb F3 project. Excellent natural life photography and commentary from Cass!



## Worldwide photography

Caragh (F3) asked friends to take a photo of the road they live in or a picture from their front door during lockdown and was rewarded with pictures from all over the world, including Cape Town, Dublin, New York, Edinburgh, Dubai, Hanoi and Sydney.







# Mansion Lights up Blue

In April, many key buildings across the country were lit up blue in support of NHS and other key staff who continued to work hard to keep us safe during lockdown. The Mansion looked absolutely stunning!

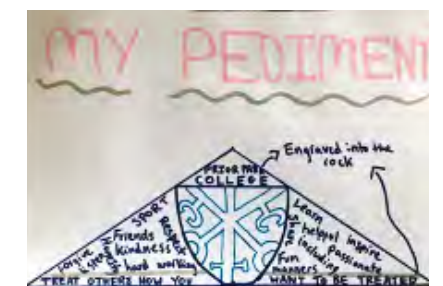
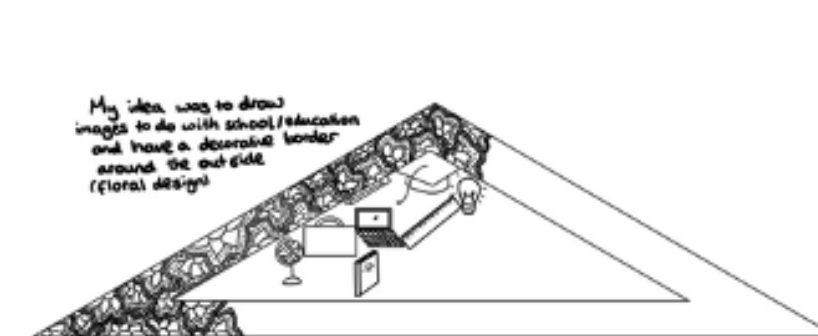
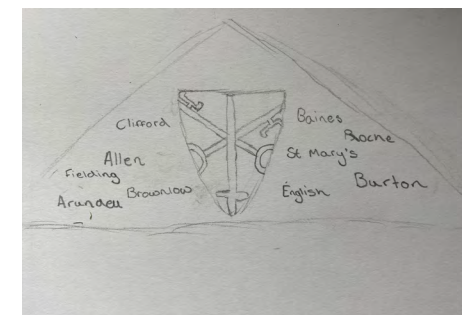
Special thanks to our maintenance team, Max Hall (U6 Roche) for his technical support and to Enlightened Lighting for providing the filter material.

# Latin

F3 Latin was given the challenge to design something to place in the Mansion pediment and explain their choice. Some fantastic and imaginative entries ranging from Minerva to fish and chips!



This pediment largely signifies Prior's pastoral life. Prior is a community so that is why I have the people. We have a lot to give, especially love to our community. I have included the co-curricular subjects, as well as a cross to signify religion in the school and things to do with nature and eco-prior (including working on computers to do our work) I also had to include the fish and chips!



**My Pediment**  
In the centre I chose the school logo. This is an important part as it shows that this pediment is unique. Surrounding this I have chosen words that describe Prior Park as well as words that we should aspire to be a Prior. On top of the logo is the name so visitors would know what this building is. Also I have written a motto that we should all follow. It is on my pediment to remind people to do this.





# Creative writing competition— The worm has turned

In March 2020, as the UK was forced into lockdown in response to a rise in Covid-19 infection rates, the College ran a creative writing competition within its remote co-curriculum program. Its theme, The Worm Has Turned, was chosen to acknowledge the vital role of key workers who continued to operate, in many cases putting their own safety at risk, to serve others. Admiration and appreciation of these, often low paid, workers became apparent during the early weeks of lockdown when on Thurs-

day evenings members of the public began opening their front doors to 'clap for key workers'. Social media and printed newspapers extolled the virtues of key workers, and this was not only reserved for NHS staff; supermarket shelf-stackers, factory workers, cleaners, delivery drivers and undertakers all played their part. People who were previously 'unseen' and rarely written about, now had the respect of the country. A global pandemic made us recognise them as respected members of the community.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded prizes:

**Bella Chicco** (U5) Winner  
**Elinor Hart** (F3) Highly Commended  
**Kaan Kanpulat** (L6) Winner  
**Alex Mould** (F3) Winner  
**Mateo Moya Chávez** (L5) Highly Commended  
**Jed Platts** (U5) Highly Commended  
**George Thompson** (U5) Highly Commended  
**Leo Togher** (U5) Highly Commended  
**Wilson Tse** (L5) Winner

# Isolation creation—

## A self-portrait in quarantine

This remarkable self-portrait was done by Chloe W whilst she was quarantined for two weeks in a hotel room on returning home. She really struggled with the two weeks alone but has this amazing painting to mark the moment.

## A reflection on isolation

Anna Motylova (U6 St Mary's) was asked to do a reflection on isolation for the Clifton Diocese website. It is a beautiful and honest account and you can listen to it via our website: <https://bit.ly/2Y0fhpf>.







# Hockey—

This summer the XXXII summer Olympics were due to be held in Tokyo, Japan. The pinnacle of their sporting lives for any athlete, the most watched sporting event with 4.4 billion viewers and the most diverse with 206 participating countries, the Olympic values beautifully summarise what is best about sport regardless of the level it is played at. Excellence – doing the best you can. Friendship – developing tolerance and understanding. Respect – for yourself, teammates, and the wider environment.

In the year that we are all experiencing together – Covid-19 pandemic, death of George Floyd and the resulting Black Lives Matter movement, on-going tensions in Hong Kong, Brexit - sport has rightfully had to take a back seat, but these Olympic values could not be more relevant and proper, even in its absence. Hockey was played before being halted, with some outstanding individual and team successes: William Prentice captained England U18's to a series win against Ireland; Jack Webb represented England U16's and scored on his de-

but; Toby Day and Charlie Milsom have been selected to play for the U13 West Panthers squad; the U15 boys qualified for the England Hockey National Finals as West Hockey Regional Champions; the U14 and U13 boys qualified for the West Hockey Regional Finals as Avon County Champions; the U18 and U16 boys and U18 girls qualified for the West Hockey Regional Indoor Finals as Avon County Champions.

However, the success I am most proud of as Head of Hockey at Prior Park is reserved for the following Upper Six students. For the duration of their time at Prior Park they have committed to represent and play hockey for the College – a combined 147 terms. The commitment to strive for excellence, the commitment to your friends, family and school and the respect shown to yourself, your teammates, coaches, and opposition is equally inspiring and humbling. So here's to...

David Aspray  
Ned Clarke  
Mac Couling

Nicola Dove  
Tom Downes  
Archie Dutton  
Tom Gage  
Finlay Gall  
Ava Graham  
Imogen Hurst  
Lolo Lewis  
Hannah Lowrie  
Charlie Main  
Joe McMurtry  
Lottie Millhouse  
Charlie Mullin  
Barney Pickford  
William Prentice  
Hamish Row  
Luke Singleton  
Jemima Thursz  
Alex Veitch  
Eve Wagstaffe  
Tom West  
Adam Wortelhock

Thank you.

**John Jackson OLY**  
**Head of Hockey**





# Rugby—

## 1st XV

For new faces to the team, it's a fast learning curve to 1st XV rugby, a faster, more physical game. But as one parent said to me after the last match of the term, "I have watched the 1st XV over two years now, through some highs and lows, and this team never gives up!" Highlights were great wins against Clayesmore and Wycliffe, where the effort and hard work was finally mirrored on the scoreboard.

Half Colours: Henry Sampson, Jack Mitchell, Frances McCabe and Tom Pittman.

Full Colours: Archie Ewen and Max Couling.

## 2nd XV

A mixed season with a very small number of boys to select from, but those who played showed great commitment and determination and always played with a smile on their faces.

## U16

A highlight was an epic final fixture against KES. We were reduced to 12 players in total against a squad of 20; three points down, the team spent the final five minutes camped on the oppo-

sition try line only for the whistle to be blown before they could cross to win. The result didn't matter – it ended the season on a high. The U16B started the season well, winning their early matches but, due to injuries throughout the senior sides and players going up, it became difficult to raise a team for further fixtures.

## U15

The U15A team had 5 wins. Matches ranged from free flowing rugby in the sun against Monkton, to a hard-fought win on a cold afternoon against Dauntsey's. The U15B team recorded some fine wins and had a good season. Several players were easily good enough to regularly play in the A team.

## U14

It has been a great season for the U14A team. If this team can keep up the work rate and focus on being the best they can be, they could be something really special. The U14B team won five and lost three – losing the last game of the season by one point!

## U13

This group kept on improving. At the Pinewood Rugby 7's tournament, they

only lost one game (to Cheltenham College, the eventual winners) and finished third out of twelve teams. A week later they beat Monkton Prep, for the first time in over 7 years! The U13B team try against QEH was one of the best ever seen at this level and it was no surprise they went on to win that game. Wins against Monkton and All Hallows soon followed, rounding off a great season.

Junior Half Colours: Joe Spilsbury, Henry Butters and Bill Clarke.

Junior Full Colours: Toby Day and Josh Wake.

## U12

Well over half of the year group have represented the U12A team this term and highlights were the emphatic victories over Monkton, QEH and KES. The best winning performance was in the final game against a strong Dean Close. The U12B band of brother's team battled through a testing season without ever losing heart or hope and have shown real progress.

**Mr Paul Hull**



# Netball—

The 1st team should be given lots of credit for the progress they have made this season. It has been a very special group of girls, they have worked so well as a team and I believe this is due to the Co-Captains Eve and Lolo. They helped build this team and have been great role models to the girls, with their excellent work ethic and fantastic team work.

## Eve has written a few words about her season—

Coming back to netball after such a successful previous season and losing four players, we had work to do. We had moments when we were so close and played good netball, as we did against Kingswood and Wellington. We also had great games: Downside, Monkton and in particular Warminster. Being the penultimate game before coronavirus stopped netball this was a good note to end on.

A netball team has seven players so it is important you all work cohesively. We are also a very loud and eccentric team and must credit Ms. Duncan for managing to contain our energy this season. It wasn't the end of season both Lolo and I had imagined but it was positive, fun and successful.

Senior Full Colours: Eve Wagstaffe and Olivia Lewis

Senior Half Colours: Jemima Thursz, Anastasia Carruthers, Nicola Dove

Our 2nds have been captained by Jemima and have really worked well as a new team with great performances against Clifton High and Colston's. Our 3rds have been very strong and recorded great wins against Downside and Wells.

Our U15s will be making the transition to Senior Netball next term and this is very exciting as the girls have an excellent attitude. Both the A and B team had great seasons with a highlight being a fight to the end to win against a strong Bruton School for Girls.

Our U14A team was our most successful team of the term. They recorded some excellent wins against King Edwards (beating them with the last shot of the game), Royal High School, and Kings College. They have huge potential as they move up to U15s next year.

Our juniors have grown from strength to strength, all the girls being involved in lots of matches and getting plenty of match experience. We put out 6 Junior teams and all the girls grew in confidence and improved throughout the term.

**Miss Kelly Duncan**

**We are a very loud and eccentric team and must credit Ms. Duncan for managing to contain our energy this season!**





# Girls tennis—

In January, the LTA (NGB) published the overall school end of 2019 tennis rankings for both boys and girls, based on a school's success in the national school competitions for yr 7/8, 9/10 and U18. We are delighted to report that for Girls' Tennis, Prior Park College was ranked the second school in the country!

In 2018 we finished 8th so this is a great progression for the school and the girls. Congratulations to the girls and to our Head of Tennis, Mrs Scollo, on a fantastic achievement.



# Biathlon—

Our Biathlon took place in October with 450 competitors from 60 state and independent schools across the South of England registered to take part. The Biathlon takes place at the University of Bath, allowing competitors to experience its elite athlete facilities. Encouraging the competitors every step and every stroke throughout the day were members of the GB Pentathlon team, Joe Choong, Charlie Follett and Jamie Cooke. Each

competitor's run and swim times are combined and the scores are automatically added to the national rankings list - the top performers qualify for both the British Modern Biathlon Championships and the British Schools' Modern Biathlon Championships. College students were amongst the medal winners:

## U19 boys

1st Matthew Cattanach

## U17 boys

1st Jack Hannah  
2nd Louis Jamal Wight

## U14 boys

1st Raul Franco-Overington  
3rd Henry Nash

## U12 girls

2nd Aggie Nash

# Basketball—

## Senior Boys Team (U18)

Played 8, Won 4, Lost 3, Drew 1

## Junior Boys Team (U16)

Played 2, Won 2

## MVP

Harry Ye, U6

## Coach's Player

Carson Hung, L5

## Young Player of the Year

Marco Chan, L5

Building on the success of the previous year's basketball exploits, the Senior Boys' team had a decent raft of fixtures to demonstrate their abilities on the court. Thanks to regular coaching sessions from Mr Holder and additional technical coaching from Mr Edwards,

the team's collective skill level and tenacity rose steadily throughout the season. After losing a number of senior players to graduation, the average age of the team was considerably younger, meaning that there were some nerves in early losses against Monkton and Marlborough College, however these experiences proved valuable in the second half of the season.

As the team started to gel and the players began to understand each other's strengths, the first win came in January against arch-rivals Rendcomb College, with whom the team had shared a 35-all draw in the first game of the season. After a tough away loss to Wells Cathedral, the team finished the season strongly with three wins against difficult opposition. The final game of the season saw a close-fought victory against Kingswood, which was a fine end to an

excellent season.

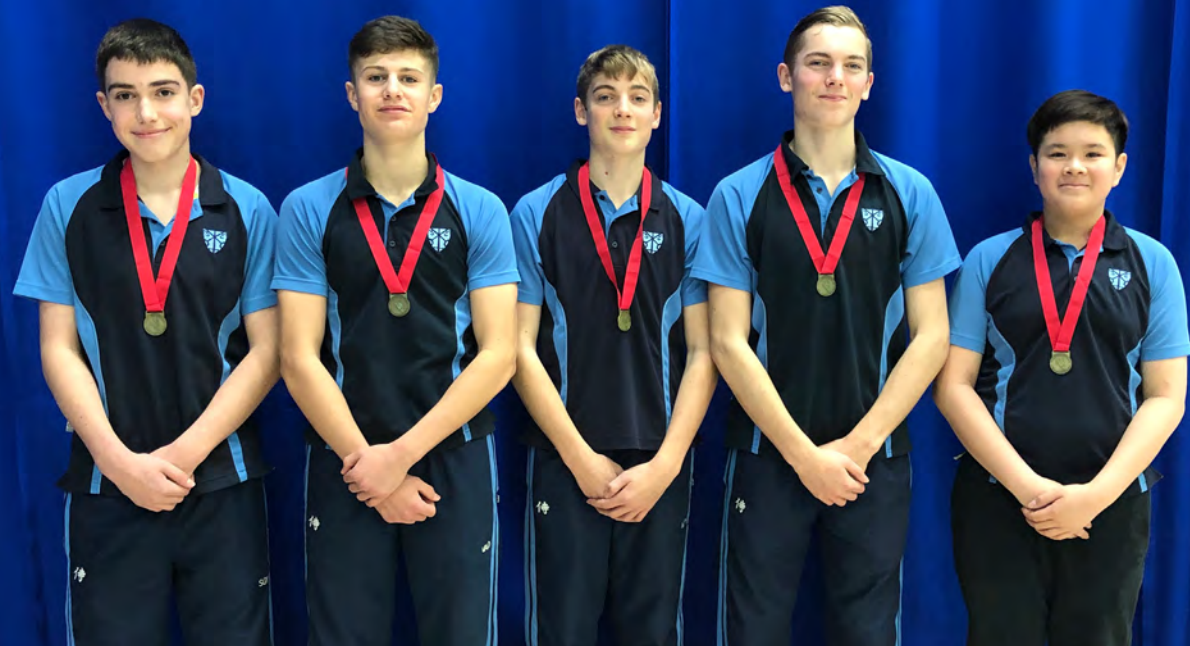
It has been a great pleasure refereeing the boys and watching their progress over the past couple of seasons. I would also like to thank the girls from St. Mary's who regularly turned out to support the team and run the scoreboard.

## Inter-House Basketball

Baines House competition – won by Pope  
Brownlow House competition – won by Newman  
Senior Boys' competition – won by Allen House  
MVP – Carson Hung, Allen House  
Senior Girls' competition – won by English House  
MVP – Nicola Dove, English House

Mr Chris Bartlett





## Badminton—

Badminton continues to grow at the school as a sport and it has been very pleasing to have witnessed the performances of the different teams throughout the season. The highlight was undoubtedly the achievements of the U16 boys' team, which made it through to the South West finals of the National Schools Championships, finishing in 3rd place overall. The team was captained

by Harvey Thompson L5, our number one seed and a very fine player indeed. He was strongly supported by his brother George Thompson U5, along with Henry Burke U5, Sam Wake, Alvin Lo and Henry Allen, all L5.

In the senior squad, Jonathan Lam captained the mixed team and the boys' team, with Gabriella Chiu captaining the girls' team. Two drawn matches against

Downside and Rendcomb were followed by a narrow defeat against Downside, before a tough fixture against Wells, who had assembled a formidable squad! Particular praise should go to Jonathan Lam, who has performed consistently well over the past few years and has won many games for the school team.

**Mr Richard Pandya**

## Girls' cricket—

The girls' U15 cricket team took part in the Lady Taverners National Schools Cricket Competition this year. They managed to qualify from the preliminary round after recording an 8 wicket win over Royal High. The county round pitted the girls against King's Taunton, who

fielded a very strong team, and Downside, who had also qualified from the preliminary round, but unfortunately, we came off second best in both matches.

Seeing the girls play was really enjoyable and they showcased lots of skill along the way. Eloise Sigournay and

Connie Osborn were our standout bowlers, whilst on the batting front, all the girls proved that they could effectively wield a willow.

**Mr Richard Pandya**

# Summer Games and PE—

Summer, the term for school tennis and cricket fixtures was cancelled; the games programme however was not! It was delivered in a completely different, remote format. Through 'Microsoft Teams' each year group had a group set up and each week the PE team would upload various activities. These activities included two focussed fitness sessions, a few sporting/fun challenges and a weekly updated PowerPoint resource, which included podcasts, sporting videos, website links, yoga, aerobic and resistance fitness sessions. The aim was that every student in the school would be able to choose an activity that would interest them and hopefully engage them to do some exercise. With weekly updates to keep things fresh, students had a variety of options. The students enjoyed making their own hurdles, paper aeroplanes for javelins

and a variety of jump and sprint events that could be adapted for indoors and outdoors. The students also completed some of the British Athletics UK daily challenges; sharing their successes with staff via video link or a photograph. It was fantastic that so many parents also became involved in the activities set for the students!

Sports Scholars were set additional work. Alongside their individual strength and conditioning programmes, they were given a weekly fitness challenge, some were extremely hard, fulfilling the description of being 'a challenge'!

The PE department also organised a 'Lockdown Inter-House Sports Day' which was targeted to L3, F3 and F4 and delivered within their PE lessons. The format was based around 10 sporting challenges to be attempted by the

students, with points for all participants. The winners were:

**L3**

Ward

**F3**

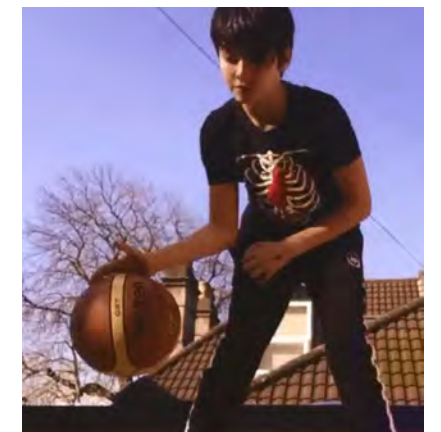
Alexander

**F4**

Allen House

The engagement was fantastic across all year groups and it just proves that we can achieve anything when we put our minds to it.

**Mr Paul Hull and Mrs Lisa Seward**





# Academic staff list 19/20—

## Senior Leadership Team

<b>Mr B Horan</b>	Headmaster
<b>Mrs J Barr</b>	Business Director
<b>Miss C Cummins</b>	Senior Deputy Head, Theology
<b>Mrs L Stotesbury</b>	Deputy Head Academic, Economics
<b>Mrs S Forshaw</b>	Deputy Head Pupil Progress, Science
<b>Mr S Cane-Hardy</b>	Deputy Head Pastoral, History

<b>Mrs K Ashby</b>	Physics and Mathematics
<b>Ms V Bailey</b>	Librarian
<b>Mr C Bartlett</b>	Head of History
<b>Dr J Blackwell</b>	History, Deputy Head of Sixth Form
<b>Mr M Blaikley</b>	Deputy Head of Mathematics, Assistant Exams Officer

<b>Mrs K Bond</b>	Co-Ordinator of Textile Design
<b>Mr M Bond</b>	Housemaster – Clifford, PE & Sport
<b>Mrs A Bonney</b>	PE
<b>Mrs C Brasher</b>	Physics
<b>Mrs L Bryant</b>	History, Head of EPQ
<b>Mr J Buckley</b>	Co-Ordinator of Photography
<b>Mr S Burt</b>	Head of Geography
<b>Mrs I Burton</b>	Housemistress – Brownlow, English
<b>Mr A Bygott</b>	PE & Games
<b>Mrs C Byron</b>	Housemistress – English, Mathematics
<b>Mrs C Carson</b>	EAL
<b>Mrs J Caunt</b>	LDP
<b>Mr K Chard</b>	Head of Chemistry, Academic Timetabler
<b>Mrs A Colquhoun</b>	Head of Sixth Form (Academic), Theology
<b>Mr J Conlon</b>	English, History
<b>Miss N Cordon</b>	Geography
<b>Ms H Cox</b>	LDP
<b>Mrs H Currie</b>	Librarian
<b>Mr S Dorey</b>	Physics, DoE, O/C Royal Navy Section CCF
<b>Miss K Duncan</b>	PE, Head of Netball
<b>Mrs J Eatwell</b>	Economics and Business
<b>Mr S Edwards</b>	Economics and Business
<b>Mr J Elliott</b>	Mathematics
<b>Miss F Evans</b>	Psychology
<b>Mr M Ewins</b>	Mathematics
<b>Mr R Faulkner</b>	Head of Creative Design Faculty
<b>Mr M Fisher</b>	Classics
<b>Mr J Fitzpatrick</b>	Business, Careers Co-ordinator, Enterprise Activities Co-Ordinator

<b>Mrs L Galache-Brown</b>	Modern Languages
<b>Mr C Gamble</b>	Head of Physics
<b>Mr J George</b>	Head of Modern Languages
<b>Mrs H Goodman</b>	Theology
<b>Ms A Gravelle</b>	Textiles
<b>Mr R Gwilliam</b>	Director of Sport

<b>Mrs Haddon</b>	LDP
<b>Mrs K Harris</b>	Co-Ordinator of PSCE, Theology
<b>Mrs S Hearn</b>	Head of Classics
<b>Mr J Healey</b>	Mathematics
<b>Mrs C Hiorns</b>	Independent Careers Advisor
<b>Mrs S Holder</b>	Design Technology
<b>Mr D Holmes</b>	Housemaster – Roche, Design Technology
<b>Mr P Hull</b>	Housemaster – Burton, Director of Rugby
<b>Mrs M Huntley</b>	English
<b>Mr J Jackson</b>	Head of Hockey
<b>Mrs J Jones</b>	Head of Mathematics
<b>Mr M Jones</b>	Head of Economics and Business
<b>Ms L Justine</b>	Modern Languages
<b>Miss R Lampard</b>	Head of Junior Science, Chemistry
<b>Mr D Langley</b>	Director of Drama
<b>Mr A Lovat</b>	Housemaster – Allen, Biology
<b>Mrs A Mallon</b>	Housemistress – Fielding, Modern Foreign Languages

<b>Mrs K Mason</b>	Head of Learning Development, SENCO
<b>Mr T Maxwell</b>	Head of Theology
<b>Dr K McGowran</b>	Head of English
<b>Mr M Minghella</b>	Head of Digital Learning and Computing
<b>Mr D Moore</b>	Design Technology
<b>Mrs M Mudie</b>	Biology, Co-ordinator Teacher training & New Staff Induction

<b>Mr R Pandya</b>	PE, Head of Cricket
<b>Mrs S Peacock</b>	Drama
<b>Ms A Pope</b>	LAMDA
<b>Miss D Prosser</b>	Music
<b>Mrs L Redman</b>	Head of Academic and Curricular PE
<b>Mr R Robertson</b>	Director of Music
<b>Mr D Sackett</b>	Assistant Director of Music
<b>Mrs C Saunders-Prouse</b>	Housemistress – Baines, English
<b>Mrs S Scollo</b>	Head of Tennis, PE
<b>Ms S Seville</b>	Head of Visual Arts
<b>Mrs L Seward</b>	Housemistress – St Mary's, PE
<b>Dr G Smith</b>	Chemistry
<b>Mr P Stroud</b>	Head of EAL
<b>Ms N Thomas</b>	LDP
<b>Mrs K Trott</b>	Housemistress – Arundell, Biology
<b>Dr R Trott</b>	Head of Science, Head of Biology
<b>Mr E Valdueza Garcia</b>	Modern Foreign Languages
<b>Miss H Walters</b>	Classics
<b>Mr A Watkinson-Trim</b>	Theology
<b>Mrs H Watson</b>	Geography
<b>Mrs E West</b>	Art & Photography, LDP
<b>Mrs R Wilson-Brown</b>	Modern Languages, Spanish Co-Ordinator
<b>Miss L Young</b>	Head of Sixth Form (Pastoral), Mathematics

# Staff farewells—



## Charlotte Cummins

Charlotte joined Prior Park in September 1999, straight after finishing her Theology degree at Oxford. Whilst at Prior, Charlotte has taken on the roles of Assistant Housemistress of St Mary's, Housemistress of St Mary's, joint Head of Sixth Form, then most latterly the Senior Deputy Head, before leaving in January 2020 to join the Congregation of Jesus, the Catholic religious order founded by Mary Ward.

As an enthusiastic Theology graduate, she readily shared her love of the subject with her pupils. Charlotte contributed widely to the liturgical and spiritual life of the school: planning Masses, retreats and Lenten services, initiating and overseeing the Sixth Form liturgy committees and the Lourdes pilgrimage groups in August, forging ties with the diocese, developing charity work such as the soup run, and helping the school chaplains. Charlotte has many personal qualities that endear her to whoever she encounters. Always positive in outlook, with a buoyant cheerfulness that leads her into getting bouts of giggles at sometimes inappropriate moments, she

has an intellectual rigour coupled with an all-embracing desire to see the best in each person. She has been devoted, loyal and hard working, embodying the idea of service that lies at the heart of the Catholic vision of education; she was always there for others and will be remembered with great affection.

## Mr Maxwell

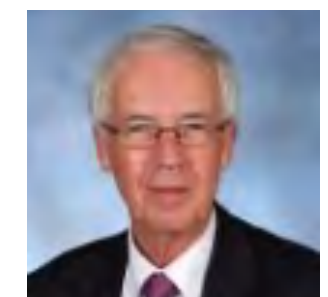


## Sue Forshaw

The College wishes a very fond farewell to Mrs Sue Forshaw after 17 years of service. Sue fulfilled a variety of roles at the College. First and foremost, she has been an outstanding teacher of Chemistry, making the subject enjoyable and accessible. Sue has been a real force on the Games pitches, with Hockey and Netball both benefitting from her calmly conveyed, yet still passionate, desire to see her charges perform to the best of their ability. Sue has also, in her time at Prior, headed up Baines House. She provided exactly the right blend of support and challenge to the newest members of our community, caring where necessary,

whilst still setting high expectations. Sue has been an integral part of the Senior Management Team at Prior Park, in her capacity as our Deputy Head (Pupil Progress). This position was uniquely suited to someone of Sue's talents, always calm, even when faced with a seemingly intractable problem. Sue would always put the interests of the young people we serve at the very heart of every decision she made. Her role straddled the pastoral, academic, and co-curricular areas of school life and gave her a, perhaps unique, insight into the way a school like Prior runs. Added to this, having Sue in the room meant that every decision taken by the Senior Management Team benefitted from her sage wisdom. Sue will be greatly missed.

## Mr Horan



## Martin Fisher

The Latin phrase 'scholæ sed vitæ discimus' means "we do not learn for school, but for life".

To all who have the honour of knowing Martin Fisher as a teacher, col-



league, blogger, webmaster and friend, know that he lives by this mantra. After 56 years of teaching, he is still as enthusiastic about his subject as ever. He is quick to advocate and champion the relevance of Latin, Greek and Classics in the modern curriculum.

It is fair to say that Martin has touched the lives of, and inspired, so many of his past and present students. He is wise and astute, quick to spot talent, even if students themselves do not recognise it, and is kind, caring and gracious. His manners and professionalism are evident to all.

Having read Classics at Corpus Christi, Oxford University, Martin graduated in 1963 and qualified as a teacher the following year.

Over the years he has taught at a number of schools. In 2004 he retired from Downside but was soon persuaded to join Prior Park to rejuvenate the Classics department and to take the lead in preparing and advising Sixth Form students wishing to apply for Oxbridge. In 2012, Martin retired from being Head of Classics but continued to work at the College, gradually decreasing the number of hours he taught.

Retirement is possibly one of the words not at the forefront of Martin's vocabulary and whilst he may not be working in a school, he will still be working on his website.

**Mrs Forshaw**



### Louise Blake

Louise Blake left Prior Park at the end of the 2018-19 academic year after 25 years of outstanding service.

As a geography teacher, Louise was dedicated to ensuring students combined a strong knowledge with a keen enthusiasm of the geographical world.

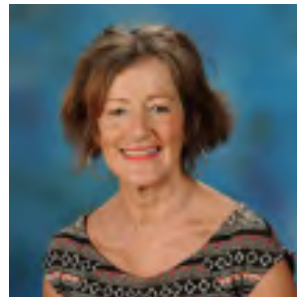
She is an excellent teacher and, along with her colleagues in the department, she achieved sustained success.

Louise combined her pedagogical skills with a love of the wider life of the College.

She has contributed so much that one can only scratch the surface of her achievements and involvement. However, a hugely successful tenure as Housemistress of Fielding must be one of them. Can it be a coincidence that so many of Louise's former Fielding students have returned to the College as teachers and are now forging their own successful Prior Park careers?

In 2016, after a number of years as an Assistant Head, Louise became Prior Park's Deputy Head Operations. It was in this role that I witnessed her meticulous organisation and planning (some might call it OCD), her huge reliance on Post-it notes and her encyclopaedic knowledge of the College and its routines. So many members of the community have benefited from her work, Louise will be greatly missed.

**Mr Cane-Hardy**



### Colette Byron

Colette joined Prior Park in 2008. She slotted into the Mathematics department with ease and threw herself into everything Prior! This enthusiasm and belief in the school quickly led to her appointment as Housemistress of English.

Colette fills the department with laughter, kindness and of course music! She regularly comes out of Mass or assembly singing and can be heard humming hymns or singing Broadway songs down the Maths corridor.

She can teach any year group and any ability. She is a conscientious teacher and I have known her to complete

all questions in a textbook just so that she is fully prepared for a lesson. She is an amazing Mathematician and teacher and I will miss her getting excited about her Log Tables or a new Maths website that she has found, one she loves is Resourceaholic!

We will all miss Colette immensely.

**Mrs Jones**



### Sean Dorey

Earlier in the year, I asked some L5 students how long they thought Mr Dorey had been at the College. One responded that it was probably "conservatively something like 50 years", another said "sometime after the Moon landings". While Mr Dorey in fact 'only' joined Prior Park in September of 2003, his exaggerated longevity in the minds of his students shows just how much a part of this institution he became.

Mr Dorey was involved in nearly every aspect of school life; his leading roles in the CCF Navy Section and with the DofE gave great fulfilment to so many of our students, and his many evenings spent camped out on the top field around a telescope with the U6 in hope of a glimpse of an astronomical body, inspired students to learn more about astronomy. Personally, I will fondly remember the arresting smell of burning popcorn coming from Chef Dorey in Lab 5 as he taught students about radioactive half-life.

Sailing is a great passion of Mr Dorey's and so we wish him fair winds, plain sailing and following seas as he changes tack and casts off toward new waters.

**Mr Gamble**



### Helena Walters

Helena joined the Classics Department as a PGCE student in September 2018. On hearing of Helena's appointment, a wise man once nodded sagely, saying, 'yes – she's a communicator.' How right he has proved to be: Helena has powerfully communicated her love of the subject and her great knowledge to our young people from day one.

She has also been a great colleague, who has thrown herself into so many aspects of life at Prior, from her excellent tutoring and work with the boarding community in St. Mary's, through to her amazing singing in Choral Society and at Band Night. We wish her every success and happiness as she moves to Haileybury.

**Mrs Hearn**



### Kate Ashby

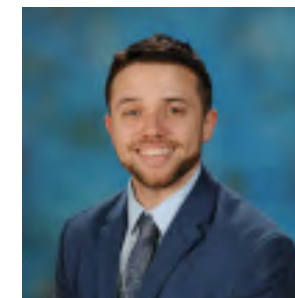
Mrs Ashby joined the Physics department at Prior Park in 2014 and was immediately a big hit; her enthusiasm, love of the subject and knack of making it understandable to literally anyone brought Physics to a whole new audience outside of the 'usual suspects'.

It would be difficult to find anyone, for example, who does not look forward to Mrs Ashby's famous teaching of radioactive decay theory – never have so many M&Ms been consumed by so few in the pursuit of science.

What we will miss most, though, is Mrs Ashby's real care for her students – whether in House, Physics or her occasional lessons in (we hate to admit) the Maths Department, Mrs Ashby went above and beyond to make sure students were successful and felt valued, important and loved.

We will miss Mrs Ashby enormously as she leaves to take up a new post at Badminton School.

**Mr Gamble**



### Jack George

Jack joined Prior Park in 2015 and while heading up the MFL department, he has introduced Mandarin with huge success, evidenced by the uptake of students and also their achievements in the newly introduced HSK exams, and raised the profile of Modern Languages within the school.

What marks Jack out is his sense of fun and his ability to bring the language to life in the classroom. You could never go past Room 14 without hearing peals of laughter or chorusing or games being played. The students learn under his tutelage without realising they are learning and become inspired and confident linguists.

Jack has also been a stalwart of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and has attended Silver expeditions for the last five years, including being involved in activity training every Tuesday. In addition, he has been a dedicated and supportive tutor within Roche and Burton House. Jack goes on to head up the Modern Languages Department at Aiglon College in Switzerland. He has been an amazing colleague and we will miss him.

**Mrs Malon**



### Abhay Bygot

Abhay joined us in September 2018 as a part time PE teacher. He arrived having previously played national league hockey and is a very accomplished cricketer. In the two years that he has been at Prior, Abhay has thrown himself into all aspects of the PE and games department alongside other areas of school life, including DofE, accompanying Baines on their Skern Lodge trip and, this year, being part of the geography department. We will miss Abhay greatly and wish him the best of luck for next year.

**Mr Gwilliam**



### Chris Bartlett

Christopher Bartlett will be a much missed colleague, manager, friend, Shatnerite and educator. He is one of the most inspirational teachers that I have had the honour of working with. Over the past four years he has developed the History department into a thriving and welcoming place and I think it's fair to say that the study of history at Prior will never be the same without a teacher like him. I hope that his new place is full of fun and happiness and that they appreciate what an excellent asset they've just acquired. I will miss him and I'd like to say thank you, Chris, for being such an inspiration to so many.

**Dr Blackwell**



# Celebrations—

**Lucy Evaline Elizabeth Blackwell**

*Born 17 December 2019*



**Tabitha Effie Wilson-Brown**

*Born 15 July 2020*



**Connie Elizabeth Jackson**

*Born 21 August 2020.*



**a lot can happen  
in a year...**





# Prior Park College

Ralph Allen Drive, Bath BA2 5AH  
Tel: +44 (0)1225 835 353  
Email: [reception@priorparkschools.com](mailto:reception@priorparkschools.com)  
**[priorparkcollege.com](http://priorparkcollege.com)**

*11-18 Day & Boarding HMC Established Co-educational Catholic Senior School*

