



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued



Autumn Term Review

- 2019 -

www.ditchampark.com

Headmaster's Welcome

ISA

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

ISA Awards 2019
Winner

One of the many highlights of the Autumn Term 2019 was winning the Independent Schools Association (ISA) National Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Performing Arts 2019, alongside achieving a winner in category and a runner up in the ISA National Art Exhibition. This is the third year in a row we have won a National Award for Art. These awards validate our focus on creativity.

Our conference on the environment, called the Hopeful Earth Conference, attracted pupils and teachers from 10 local schools as well as BBC South Today who broadcast a report on the event from School.

The introduction of Chromebooks (laptops) to all pupils in Forms 1&2 to support their digital learning has also been very well received.



Congratulations to Maddie Arnold for winning the 3D Art Award for KS4.



Helen Parrott received the ISA Award on behalf of Ditcham Park School.



A Creative School



Creativity is an increasingly valued attribute in the work place. Ditcham Park School is providing our pupils with opportunities to create, to make and to perform.

Congratulations to our artists for success at the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Regional and National Art Exhibitions. We have won 1st place awards in the National Art Exhibition three years in a row. Furthermore, Ella Ponsonby's eye-catching painting of a swimmer won the ISA competition to design the front of their sports page on their website.



Juniors

Nursery children have enjoyed lots of activities this term, particularly over the Christmas period. The children made Christmas cards, calendars, reindeer food and cakes. The term finished with a fun-filled festive party and a special music lesson with Mrs Leighton.



Junior Clubs & Activities



Children in Pre-Prep to Transition have enjoyed our Young Riders Club on Saturday mornings.



Embers Bushcraft taught pupils the fundamental skills of fire, shelter and craftwork.



Children developed their skills and love of golf with professional coach, Nick Sharratt.



Children in Reception to Middles had spooktacular fun and frolics at the FDPS Halloween Party.

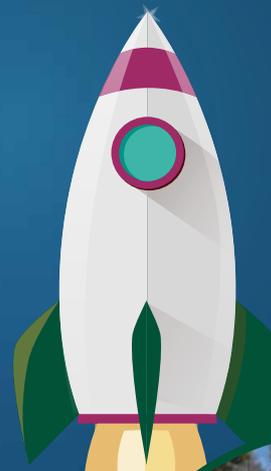
Prep linked their topic of Space with the 25th Anniversary of National Poetry Day and wrote some inspiring poems:

My Magic Rocket by Thea Johnston

In my rocket I would put treasured memories.
 In my rocket I would put the touch and sound of rain.
 My rocket is made from love.
 My rocket will travel to a new galaxy.

My Magic Rocket by Hendrik Bosch

In my rocket I would put secrets and the feeling of my dog's fur.
 My rocket is made from joy, love and friendship.
 My rocket will travel to another world and another universe.



New Year saw another incredibly successful Junior Ski trip return from Claviere, Italy.

Educational Trips



Reception discovered Yellow Brain Fungus (Witches' Butter) in our woods.



Pre-Prep visited Hayden Farm and enjoyed a tractor ride.



Prep visited Chichester Planetarium as part of their Space Explorers topic.



Transition learnt about Celtic tribes at Butser Ancient Farm.



Lowers had a dramatic Greek mythological day with the Groundlings Theatre Company.



Middles explored the Planetarium at Winchester Science Centre.



Uppers enjoyed a week at Hooke Court in Dorset.



Seniors

On 11th November last year's Form 5 pupils returned to school to receive their GCSE certificates at an Awards Evening. This celebratory event was attended by our Founder, Paddy Holmes, our Chairman of Governors, Christopher Pickett, Patrons and other members of the Governing Council.



Calshot

All pupils in Forms 1 & 2 kayaked, sailed, skied, cycled and climbed on a three-day residential trip to Calshot Activity Centre.



Battle of Hastings

Form 1 pupils armed with shields and swords re-enacted the Battle of Hastings.





Senior Disco

The 1980s theme was fully embraced at the Senior Disco!



Careers and Further Education Colleges Fair

Representatives from 11 local Sixth Form Colleges and Schools met Ditcham Park pupils from Forms 2-5 to discuss opportunities and courses post age 16.

Mock General Election

We held our own Mock General Election to inform and enthuse our pupils about politics.



Educational Trips



Our modern linguists immersed themselves in five action packed days in the mountains of the Sierra de Gredos in Spain.



Form 4 Latin had a lovely day at 'Aeque Sulis' in Bath as part of their Roman Britain topic.



Form 5 visited the Chithurst Buddhist Monastery and explored the nature of Buddhism and Meditation as part of their RE and Philosophy GCSE.



Eleven pupils from Forms 2,3 & 4 enjoyed an energetic Coasteering day at the stunning Purbeck peninsula in Dorset.



Events



Harvest Festival

School Chaplain, Reverend Will Hughes, officiated the Harvest Festival Service. Thank you to all parents who kindly donated provisions to Home Start Butser.

Hopeful Earth Conference

Ditcham Park School held its first youth-led environment conference, The Hopeful Earth. Conceived as a school-based response to the climate emergency and global species loss, the conference brought together 10 schools to listen to three key note speakers and share thoughts and ideas about the appropriate responses to our current situation.



Chair of Governors Forum

Ditcham Park School hosted the Chair of Governors Forum. The Small Hall was transformed into an elegant dining space. The catering team provided an amazing "old school dinners with a twist" menu, after a Q&A session in the South Downs Hall with a distinguished panel. Hosted by our Chair, Christopher Pickett, the evening was a fabulous opportunity to mix with Governors from other independent schools and share the challenges faced by all our schools.



Carol Service

A wonderful Carol Service at St.James' Church, Emsworth, marked the end of a successful Autumn Term.

GCSE Awards Ceremony

In November, former Form 5 pupils returned to Ditcham to celebrate their GCSE successes.



FDPS Christmas Fayre

Pupils, staff and families entered into the spirit of Christmas at the FDPS Christmas Fayre. Thank you to everyone who supported the Fayre, your efforts raised nearly £2,400 to buy items to enhance pupils' education and for extra-curricular activities.

Remembrance Service

On Armistice Day, we held our own Service of Remembrance led by our School Chaplain, Reverend Will Hughes.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)

"Our pupils are digital natives; they are a generation born into technology and its use has become second nature to them. The introduction of digital tools in the classroom will enhance and improve the learning experience for our pupils as well as facilitating excellent teaching and outcomes."

Dave Harding, Head of Computer Science and Digital Learning



Design & Technology

Form 4 GCSE D&T pupils designed a new 'Pop Vinyl' bobblehead figure and made the packaging. Pupils used our 2D Design CAD software to draw the surface development accurately and then used existing designs to inspire them.



STEM Lessons for Uppers

STEM Masterclass at Half Term

Thank you to NextGenIT for arranging for John Chinner, a STEM ambassador, self-proclaimed space geek and aerospace engineer, to bring 'Yuri' a Mars Rover into school for a day of simulated space exploration.



Science Visit to BOC

Fourteen Form 3 students were invited by BOC to visit their facility in Fawley to learn more about how gases are manufactured.



Science visit to Arctic Explorer Ship

Senior pupils visited the RRS Discovery, a Royal Research Ship operated by the Natural Environment Research Council, docked at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Southampton.



Sport

Sports Development Programme Launched

Our aim is to 'Inspire, Inform & Support' our talented sports pupils through a Sports Development Programme - this involves professional sportsmen and women visiting the school to talk about life as a professional and their pathway to the top, as well as visits to centres of sporting excellence. Our first professional Sportsman, Charlie Spawforth, visited Ditcham Park School in October and ran a series of masterclasses for pupils.



Butser Hill Challenge 2019

Well done to all our runners in the Butser Hill Challenge.

Boys' Football Success

Congratulations to the Boys U15 Football team for an unbeaten season and for the Boys U13 for winning nearly every match!



The U10 Girls' Hockey team took part in their first ever Hockey Tournament.



Girls' Football

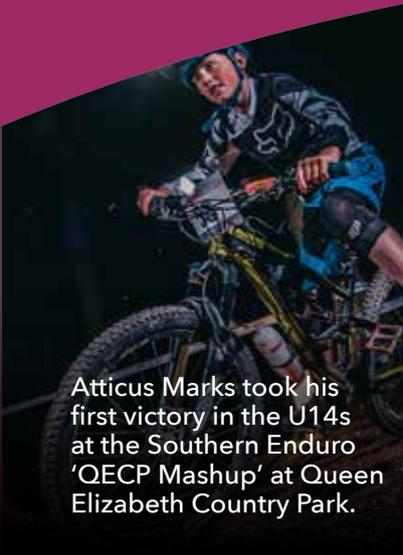


Girls' Netball



MTB Club

Individual Success



Atticus Marks took his first victory in the U14s at the Southern Enduro 'OECP Mashup' at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.



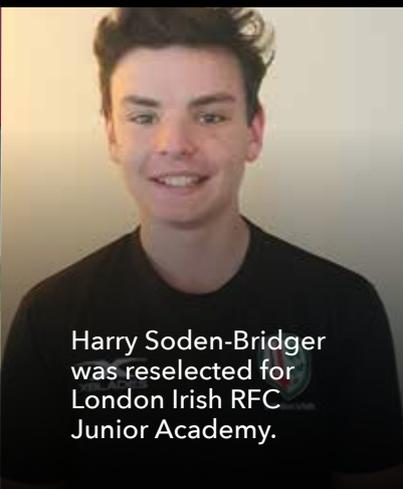
Congratulations to Seb Hopkins for being offered a seat to drive in next year's Ginetta Junior Racing Championship.



Harrison Barnard has been awarded a two year contract for Portsmouth Football Club U13 Academy.



Ava Hopper qualified for the All England Dance Competition and achieved a Distinction with Special Commendation.



Harry Soden-Bridger was reselected for London Irish RFC Junior Academy.



Umi Johnston and Hester Ellett successfully competed in the Sussex U12 team Foil Fencing Championships.



James Greenman received two awards at the Alton Cricket Club Colts Presentation for the Under 9 - Best Batsman 2019 and Player of Year 2019.



Alice Waterworth trialled successfully for The England Netball Performance Pathway and trains with the Sussex U13 Satellite Academy in Portslade.

House Events



House Singing Competition

The greatly anticipated annual House Singing Competition took place last term. After a fun filled hour, listening to renditions of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, Rocking around the Christmas Tree and Jingle Bell Rock, the judges unanimously declared Chalton the winner!



Tug of War

The four Houses battled it out to become the Tug of War Champions in a very hotly contested competition. The wet and muddy conditions did nothing to deter the enthusiasm and sheer determination of our pupils. After an exhausting hour, joint first place went to Harting and Buriton. Well done to everyone involved.



Junior Spelling Bee

The level was very high during our Annual Junior Spelling Bee. After hotly fought preliminary rounds, each House put forward three finalists. Well done to our winners, Freddie Beck, Chalton (KS1), Seren Gilraine, Harting (Lowers, KS2), Fionn Grant, Chalton (Uppers, KS2).

Duke of Edinburgh

Three fantastic Ditcham Park teams successfully completed their Silver DofE assessment in September.

Despite the hot weather (24 degrees) the teams persevered to complete three long days of walking, on the beautiful Isle of Purbeck.

The teams encountered steep hills and 'killer cattle' along the way but demonstrated excellent team work to overcome the challenges.



Our Environment

Climate Change Protest

In order to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on our local environment and the wider world, pupils from Ditcham Park School took part in the worldwide Climate Day of Action on 20th September. Pupils made signs and placards and proudly marched the streets of Petersfield in protest.



Tree Planting

In early December, a committed crew of teachers, the Estate Team, pupils and parents braved freezing temperatures to plant over 400 trees on the school's southern perimeter.



Hopeful Earth Conference

In October, Ditcham Park School held its first youth-led environment conference, The Hopeful Earth. Conceived as a school-based response to the climate emergency and global species loss, the conference brought together 10 schools and representatives from the charity, Compassion in World Farming, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Extinction Rebellion and UK Student Climate Network. Pupils made individual pledges and left the conference feeling inspired to Learn to Change.



Connecting with the Community



Macmillan Cake Sale

In October, we held a Macmillan Cake Sale to celebrate European Day of Languages. Pupils were asked to decorate their cake in a way that represented France or Spain. Talent, creativity and originality were in abundance with an Arc de Triomphe and a Spanish Dancer, just some of the delicious entries. Over £300 was raised for Macmillan.



Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday Head Girl, Sacha Fairweather and Head Boy, Zac Davidson laid a wreath on behalf of the pupils, staff and parents at the war memorial in Petersfield.



Junior Bring & Buy Sale



Petersfield Litterpick group



Cans for Christmas

Over 275 cans were taken to the Food Bank in Petersfield and were distributed to families in the Petersfield area over the Christmas period. Thank you to everyone who donated.



BBC Children in Need

