



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued



SPRING TERM REVIEW

- 2020 -

www.ditchampark.com

Headmaster's Welcome



The Spring Term 2020 was one of the most eventful in the School's history. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) visited in February to check we met Regulatory Compliance standards and to assess our educational provision. I am delighted to say the School met all regulatory standards and received a glowing endorsement of its educational provision from the team of Inspectors. A week before the end of term, the School site was closed as part of the Government's decision to lockdown the country to counter the spread of coronavirus.

This is the longest period of enforced closure in the School's history. In addition to Forms 1 & 2 who already have Chromebooks, all pupils in Forms 3, 4 & 5 were proactively issued with Chromebooks to help them learn online at home. For the final week of term all pupils received lessons remotely in their homes. Teaching and learning from home has continued into the Summer Term.

Graham Spawforth



"A fantastic effort by all involved to get the Chromebooks mobilised so quickly. I believe these will go a long way to helping our excellent staff keep the children educated in these very unprecedented times. Well done Ditcham!"

Sally Barber, Governor

Inspection Report

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) Report February 2020 states that our pupils have a very good attitude to learning, work hard and make good progress across all the required areas of learning which is strongly supported by the school's focus on STEAM. This is in line with the school's aim to prepare pupils for an increasingly technological future.

The inspectors stated that:

Pupils throughout the school show very **strong creative skills**, both using technology and in more traditional forms.

Pupil's **personal development** is excellent.

Pupils develop considerable **self-confidence**.



Pupils develop **strong communication** skills.

Pupils are **happy and positive** knowing that they are all **known and valued**.

Thank you to our happy, helpful and confident pupils who impressed the inspectors and to our parents for providing the inspectors with positive feedback via the survey and a very big thank you to the talented and hard working teaching and support staff who provide a high quality education for our pupils. The full report can be found on our website.

Juniors



Dragonflies band practice

Junior Ski Trip

New Year saw another incredibly successful Junior Ski trip return from Claviere, Italy. Snow conditions were perfect and the sun shone all week with very little wind chill.



Dragonflies celebrate Mother's Day



Young Voices at the O2

This was a big musical event which captured the imagination.



Smoothie making





Prep learn about the Great Fire of London and enjoy re-creating the fire



Pre Prep World Book Day Experience

Junior Open Desk

There was a real buzz on Open Desk afternoon when pupils proudly showed off their classroom work to their parents.



World Book Day

We had a selection of characters from Harry Potter who we photographed on our beautiful staircase which made us feel even more like Hogwarts than usual!



Educational Trips



Nursery visited Blue Reef Aquarium



Transition ready for their swimming lesson at the Taro Centre



Transition enjoyed a trip to a sculpture park



Middles visit the Mary Rose Museum



Seniors

Form 5's
Unofficial Last
Day of Term



Senior Concert

The audience was treated to a stellar evening's entertainment with the eclectic programme showcasing our very many talented pupils through solo instrument and vocal performances, our established school groups (Concert Band, Chamber Choir, Girls' Choir, Jazz Group, Brass Group) and bands and ensembles.





Battle of the Bands



GCSE Latin
Watch Life
of Brian

English Speaking Union Debate Competition

Ella Beaton, Nelly Bryan and Sacha Fairweather took part in the English Speaking Union (ESU) debating competition. Our team performed superbly and Sacha was awarded the prize for the Best Speaker of the Day's competition.



Educational Trips



Form 3 History Trip to WW1 Battlefields



Form 5 GSCE
Geography Revision
Weekend

Science Technology Engineering Arts & Maths (STEAM)

The ExoMars Project

As our visiting STEAM speaker this term, John Chinner delivered a fascinating talk to all pupils in Juniors and Seniors about the Mars Exploration project he is involved in. The ExoMars project seeks to discover whether there was ever life on Mars. As John explained, the answer to this question will be significant for our understanding of whether there is life in the universe.



Form 1 Google
Sketch Up

Virtual Reality

Transition pupils went on an expedition to explore ancient Egypt, visiting the Pyramids and having a look at how the Egyptians lived - through the use of VR.



STEAM Workshop with Scott Atkinson

Seven children from Middles and Uppers were chosen to work with Scott in an exciting STEAM workshop.



Juniors Celebrate British Science Week (BSW)

As part of BSW, Head of Science, Mrs Hoad created a series of even more exciting science lessons involving rockets! Reception and Pre-Prep pupils coloured their rocket, attached a pipette and straw and then with a big breath, blew and launched them in the Small Hall which for a time sounded like NASA HQ! Prep were very excited to look after Diego the Bearded Dragon. Transition used an array of scientific skills to hypothesis, create, design and experiment. Lower Juniors decided to prepare for a trip to Antarctica. Middles had a blast making their own rockets. Uppers were thinking about how to survive in Antarctica.



Charlie Sharpe

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a prestigious engineering award given to the highest achieving students within the United Kingdom. Our pupils have had considerable success with this Scholarship in recent years.

Tom Gorrige was awarded a Scholarship from the Arkwright Foundation in 2019. Charlie Sharpe, class of 2020, has successfully completed the first three stages of the Arkwright selection process, and is now through to the final round.

Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE)

A group of Middles and Uppers have been taking part in a STEAM challenge with the RAE themed Engineering a Better World. They investigated big questions through engineering with a hands-on approach and needed to create prototypes that were safe, eco-friendly and promoted local culture.



Sport



Sports Development Programme

A small select band of our pupils on the Sports Development Programme went to Surrey Sports Park and enjoyed a tour of the facilities. They watched a Surrey Storm Netball match and met Mikki Austin, Surrey Storm Player/Coach who led a Q&A session.



ISA National 7's

Congratulations to our U13s Rugby team for coming fifth in the Independent Schools Association (ISA) national rugby tournament.

U10 Rugby Tournament at PGS

A tough day at the office for our U10s as they battled hard in testing conditions against some very strong opposition down at the PGS Hilary ground.

North East Hants Basketball

Congratulations to our table topping Under 15 and U13 (pictured) Basketball squads!



U9 Girls Hockey faced Boundary Oak in an exciting goal fest. Both games finished with Ditcham winning in double figures.



U12/13 Girls Football on a wet and muddy afternoon against Meoncross School.



Congratulations to Ben Brooker, Mackenzie Van Laun and Xavier Ffinch-Mitchell, who play for Petersfield Rugby Club, and have all been asked to attend a selection camp with London Irish Premiership Rugby Club.



Mountain Bike Club

Individual Success

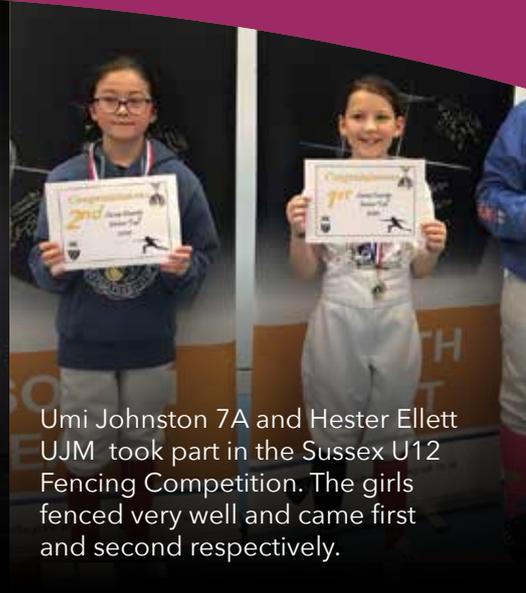
Congratulations to Rubie Carter Johnson who competed in the Twirlmania International Championships in Florida and came 4th in the Miss Twirlmania title (14-15 yrs).



Congratulations to Ava Hooper for achieving a Distinction in both her Intermediate Modern exam and Intermediate Ballet exam. Ava also qualified for the All England Dance Competition and competed with dancers from across the country achieving a Distinction with Special Commendation.



Umi Johnston 7A and Hester Ellett UJM took part in the Sussex U12 Fencing Competition. The girls fenced very well and came first and second respectively.



Congratulations to Issy Hugh and Jasmine Raimes who competed as individuals for Ditcham Park at NSEA County Show Jumping Qualifier for finals at Hartpur 2020.



Darcie Brett - debut at British Dressage.



Hester Ellett competed in the South East Regional qualifiers for the British Youth Championship. She came second and qualified for the national competition in May.



Events



Hester Ellett (Violin), George Leighton (Trombone) and Hebe Parrott (Cornet) participated in the ISA Young Musician Competition Final at Warwick Arts Centre.



Dragonflies Open Morning



Congratulations to Elliott Worrall who performed at the Portsmouth Music Festival and was awarded joint 1st in the Novice class and 2nd in the Jazz Music for Grades 1-2 class.



Congratulations to Maya Butler for winning the KS4 Beginners Class at the Chichester Festival of Music, Dance and Speech.



Well done to Stephen Powell who won an award at the Portsmouth Music Festival playing his French Horn and gaining a merit in the Novice Brass 12 Years and Under section.



Keeping Your Family Safe Online presented by Darryl Partridge from Google Digital Garage arranged by Laila Edge, parent, Friends Committee member and founder of TheNextGenIT.com.

Marie Smith, Senior Dietitian at St Richard's Hospital, gave three presentations about healthy eating and positive lifestyle. Thank you to Tess Hall, Chair of the Friends, for serving the refreshments.

House Events

Charities Week



Chalton Inter House Quiz Champions



Duke of Edinburgh

Forms 4 and 5 started their DofE Silver journey with a canoe training session at Woodmill Activity Centre.



Connecting with the Community

www.ditchampark.com

Our new website is designed to make navigation easier and has vibrant photos and a contemporary fresh feel. The Parent's Portal has letters, documents, forms, announcements and the calendar. In the Staff and Governors section find staff names to click on and send an email.



We are always delighted for our pupils to perform in the lunchtime concert at Petersfield Church.



Prebendal Senior Schools' Fair took place in the beautiful surroundings of Chichester Cathedral.



Congratulations and well done to Hattie Cobden who, on her own initiative, decided to raise money to support her friend Amelia who is ill. Hattie raised £2000 in sponsorship for Cancer Research by riding her pony bareback for 5 1/2 hours.



Thank you - very much to Matt from Petersfield RFC who came and coached 24 Ditcham girls in February.

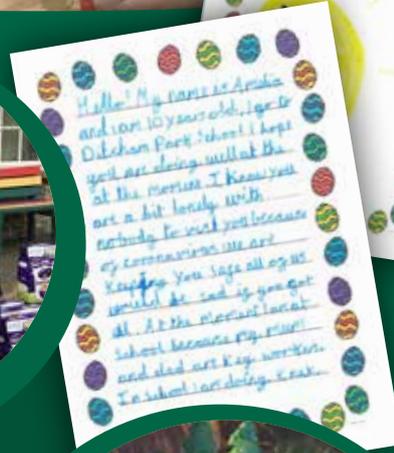
Howzat?

We were delighted to host Petersfield Cricket Club girls' pre-season training on Monday evenings.



Our wonderful Friends of Ditcham Park School worked hard to prepare a beautiful surprise Mother's Day gift created by our pupils. Thank you to the Friends Committee from all of us with particular thanks to Lorraine Groves and Tina Sprack.

The Friends were also busy this term organising film nights and ended the term in the traditional way by giving each pupil an Easter Egg.



Our Key Worker Heroes wrote and created colourful pictures for the residents in Downs House dementia care home, Petersfield who won't be having visitors because of coronavirus.



Farewells



We wish the best of luck to Mark Heffernan in his new job at St Swithun's School, he will be greatly missed by all staff, pupils and parents. During his time here at school his enthusiasm and dedication to physical education and pastoral care for pupils will not go unnoticed.



Chris Pickett, Chair of Governors, hosted a retirement gathering to honour and thank retired Governors Mary Downes and Steven Howarth, who stood down from Council last year. Chris thanked both Mary and Steven for their contributions and commitment to the school and their wise and sage advice over eight and three years respectively.



We bid farewell to Mrs Emma Overend who has worked as our After-School Supervisor, along with Anne George, for over two years.

On behalf of all our parents and the Ditcham team, we thank her for her hard work and diligence in taking care of our Senior pupils at the end of the school day.



#DitchamDelicious

At the beginning of this term our catering service returned in-house and Chef Neil and his team officially transferred to the DPS staff body. They have worked hard to develop a range of tempting, tasty and nutritious dishes for the important lunch time re-fuel. Katsu Chicken is a new favourite and the Churros with warm chocolate dipping sauce is definitely the favoured dessert!

We re-established and forged new links with a large number of local food businesses and in the dining room we installed a large screen to display the menu so children can make their choices while they queue - and share Happy Birthday wishes to those celebrating in that week!

In direct response to the survey last year we remind children they can ask to "try a spoonful" of something new and if they are extra hungry, they can ask for a larger portion.

We held our popular Theme Days starting with Chinese New Year followed by St Patrick's Day.

We welcomed parents and grandparents for a "Come Dine with Us" lunch experience. Feedback included "lovely selection of freshly prepared salads", "tasty moist salmon", "served on a hot plate", "friendly welcoming team".

If your child's taste buds are tempted please sign up for school lunches - or a week's trial - when catering resumes by emailing accounts@ditchampark.com.

Congratulations to Chef Neil and his team for achieving a 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating - again.

"Whilst both my girls are reasonable eaters they do have their preferences which are very different. However, both of them are very positive about the quality of the meals at Ditcham Park. They are extremely keen to get back to school as they love it so much, but they also miss the food!! It must be very hard to please everyone, but please let the Chef Neil know he gets so much right. The possibility to have dishes without sauce, the lovely desserts and tasty soup to mention just a few things."

Feedback from a parent