



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued



AUTUMN & SPRING TERM REVIEW

- 2020/21 -

www.ditchampark.com

Headmaster's Welcome



Due to the Coronavirus pandemic it has been a most unusual and challenging Autumn and Spring term which has involved pupils being separated into year group bubbles, observing Hands, Face, Space safety precautions and enduring a second period of home learning as part of the third national lockdown.

Despite all these challenges, there have been many achievements and much to celebrate as we can see in this newsletter which covers the 2020 Autumn term and 2021 Spring term.

I would like to thank our staff and parents for their considerable and continuous support and our pupils for their hard work.

Graham Spawforth

Graham Spawforth

Highlights



Outstanding STEAM Provision Finalist

We were delighted to be finalists in the 2020 ISA Awards within the category of Outstanding STEAM Provision.



Virtual Open Mornings

In October and February, teachers and pupils hosted two successful Virtual Open Mornings. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.



Key Worker School

We reopened our Key Worker School in January during our third national lockdown.



School Reopened

We were delighted to welcome back pupils on 8th March after a second period of home learning.

Harvest Festival

A socially distanced Harvest Festival took place in the South Downs Hall in Year Group Bubbles.



Diversity Week

This was imagined and created by the pupils themselves as they felt this was a key topic in our complex world.



Whole School Events

Sports Hall Building Project

In January, building work started to the Martin Pryce Building. This project will extend and improve our sports facilities and provide additional classrooms ready for pupils to use in September 2021.



European Day of Languages

From bakes to models, presentations to beautiful photographs and drawings, pupils impressed us with their level of creativity and imagination.



Webinars

We hosted a series of Winter Webinars on a wide range of topics including Living in Lockdown, Literacy & Writing, Supporting Emerging Readers and an Early Years Open Evening.



Remembrance Commemorations

Our entire school gathered for an outdoor Act of Remembrance on 11th November.

I wanted to say thank you for the EYFS Webinar. It was well organised, reassuring and helpful for parents. Lydia and Helen are clearly passionate about working with children and helping them develop and grow. They shared many practical ideas for developing the foundations for writing.

Guest parent who registered



Roald Dahl Story Day

In September, all pupils in Juniors enjoyed learning about this renowned writer and took part in fun activities linked to his works.

Juniors Autumn Term

Nativity

EYFS and KS1 children were able to perform 'A Bundle of Joy' for their families to enjoy watching at home. The children sang 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' using sign language.



Juniors celebrated **National Poetry Day** in October by sharing their favourite poems.



SuperStar CREST Awards

Congratulations to Junior pupils who completed their science projects and received a SuperStar Crest Award.



For World Maths Day

Juniors took part in a range of numerical challenges.



Dragonflies had a spooktacular Halloween.



Prep learnt about plants.



Reception sang Miss Polly had a Dolly.



Pre-Prep visited Marwell Zoo.



Transition enjoyed learning about Celtic life.



Lowers made Olympic torches.



Middles enjoyed an outdoor History lesson.



Uppers had fun at Fairthorne Manor.



Many thanks indeed to all the support staff at the school who are continuing to keep the school up and running during the current lockdown.

My son received his Chromebook on Monday and had a niggles-free first day yesterday; please pass on our appreciation to all involved.

Parent of a child in Juniors



Juniors Spring Term

Chromebook Investment

In response to a third lockdown, the school provided Chromebooks for pupils in Lower (Yr4) and Middle (Yr5) to maximise their home learning experience. Pupils in Upper (Yr6) to Form 5 (Yr11) already have Chromebooks.

Key Worker School and home schooling recommenced in January.



Looking back on the first weeks of home schooling I wanted to thank you for your hard work and success in going "online".

We also wanted to show our appreciation for the teachers; their professionalism and ability to adapt to delivering home learning has been outstanding.

They are a credit to the school and on behalf of our family we thank them for making it all run so smoothly for us.

Parents of children in Juniors



Junior Egg Roll Competition An egg-citing time was had by all in our traditional egg roll competition.



School Reopened

We were so pleased to welcome back our Junior pupils on 8th March.



World Book Day Junior pupils celebrated World Book Day on 4th March with the sharing of stories and costumes.



Transition baked cakes as part of a persuasive writing exercise.



Lowers worked hard in their Origami & Drawing Clubs.



Middles excelled themselves with a huge range of 'wild antics.'



Dragonflies learnt about the lifecycle of frogs.



Pre Prep enjoyed playing in our woods.



Prep made Hot Cross buns and learnt about the Easter Story.



Festival of Literature

In February, pupils enjoyed some 'visiting' authors from the Festival of Literature and produced some wonderful work.



Reception loved playing outside whatever the weather!



Uppers sang a virtual 'Happy Birthday' to 106 year old Bob Phillips.

Seniors Autumn Term

Form 5 Leadership Team Prefect badges were presented to the new Form 5 in September.

D&T Form 3 designed wooden CAM based toys.



Art Form 4 GCSE Art pupils sought inspiration at Kew Gardens for a sculpture project based on Organic Form.



Geography Form 3 enjoyed a Geography trip to the River Itchen.



Maths Pupils in Forms 3, 4 & 5 for the last academic year (2019/20) were awarded certificates for UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.



Calshot Forms 1 & 2 enjoyed two sunny action packed days cycling, kayaking, skiing and climbing.



Drama Form 5 pupils put on a virtual performance for their GCSE Drama exam.



History Form 1 bravely swung sword and axe in an attempt to win the Battle of Hastings re-enactment.



Key Worker School Some of our Senior pupils attended Key Worker School in January and February.



Seniors Spring Term



Languages Senior pupils took up the Epiphany Cooking Challenge.



Maths Our Senior Maths team hosted an Easter Maths Relay for Form 4 pupils.

Chemistry Form 5 pupils took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry, 53rd International Chemistry Olympiad 2021.



Seniors Return When Senior pupils returned to school in March we focused on their wellbeing.



Covid-19 Volunteers Sincere thanks to our amazing team of staff and volunteer testers (some photographed on duty here) for helping Senior pupils take Lateral Flow Tests when school reopened.



Geography Form 1 explored the micro climates around Ditcham as part of their Weather and Climate topic.



Life Post Covid Pupils were encouraged to think about how they would like the world to look when the pandemic is over.



Easter Senior pupils needed to crack an egg-citing code to win an Easter Egg courtesy of FDPS.

House Events



Seniors Inter-house Cross Country

134 Senior pupils completed a tricky 4.5km course which was full of steep hills and challenging terrain.



Junior House Song Challenge

Junior pupils rose to the challenge of writing their own songs.



Forms 1 - 4 took part in a hotly contested **House Spelling Bee** Final in the last week of the Spring term.



There was no stopping Juniors when they took part in the **Junior Inter-house Cross Country Challenge**.



House Christmas Card Competition Pupils in Forms 1 - 4 got creative when they designed a Christmas card for the Ditcham House Christmas Card Competition.

Music

Christmas Carol Service Due to Covid-19 restrictions we organised a virtual Carol Service performed by Form 5 which took place in St. Peter's Church, Petersfield.



Christmas Recordings

Junior pupils worked hard to produce some wonderful festive recordings for their families to enjoy watching at home.



Congratulations to Hebe Parrott (Head Girl) for making the final for the second year running in the **ISA Young Musicians Competition 2021**.

Senior Concert We were so pleased that so many pupils took the opportunity to perform in our Senior Concert - our first 'live' concert in a year!



Despite school being closed, pupils continued to practise their music.



Guitar Sessions Eight pupils in Forms 4 and 5 performed live to their year groups in place of our annual Senior Concert.

Art

Form 2 created Mood Boards for their Jungle project.



Form 5 pupils sat their Art GCSE mock exam in December.



Form 1 Ceramic Birds.

Form 4 GCSE Art Mood Board for their Organic Form theme.

Full Embroider Alice Ballard
Although this piece was used in a specific way to contrast the sculpture and bring it to life, I hope to be able to incorporate something like this into my design to make it stand out.

Lotus seedpod

Australian tree seed pod

Wall pod gallery: Alice Ballard

Alice Ballard's wall pod gallery acted as great inspiration for me while designing my sculpture. This piece really stood out to me as I found the use of layers and texture added a great level of interest to the piece. I also love the round, symmetrical shape that gives the job a feeling of satisfaction, which I tried to achieve with my design.

Elizabeth Shriver's

Urchin Lamp

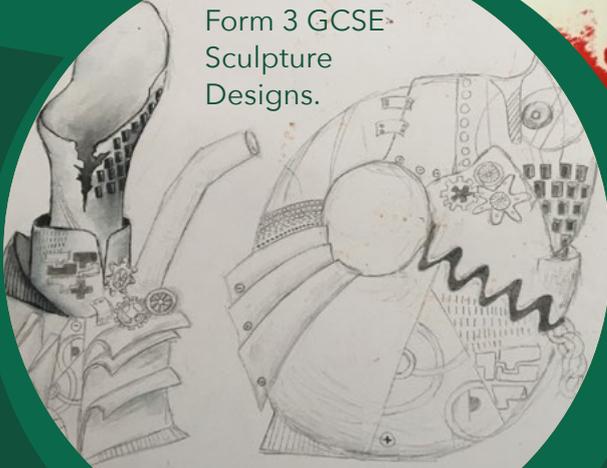
Elizabeth Shriver's Seedpods

My sculpture theme is based on seed pods and interesting, abstract shapes and colours. I chose seed pods because there are so many different varieties, shapes, textures and forms in the topic that I thought would help me expand and choose different aspects I enjoy to bring together a final piece that is unique to me.

Congratulations to Holly Mitchell (9A) and Daisy Browning (9B) for winning in their categories in the 2020 ISA Summer Sports Design Competitions.



Form 3 GCSE
Sculpture
Designs.



Form 5 pupils
received
Art Colours
for their
outstanding
work.



Uppers
Art Mask
project.



Congratulations to Thomas Robinson (MJO) for coming second in the Textiles category of the 2020 ISA National Art Competition.

Sport

Mountain
Bike Club.



The Autumn term saw the return of all our favourite sporting clubs.



Fencing Club.



Hockey Club.

Congratulations to Oscar Morgan-Harris (10A) for coming Runner Up in the category of Junior Sportsman of the Year in the East Hampshire Sports Awards 2020.



Golf Club.



Congratulations to Seb Hopkins (10A) for finishing the Ginetta motor racing season in fifth place overall and third place rookie champion.



At the start of the Spring term, the PE department set a series of weekly lockdown challenges and delivered virtual PE lessons and workouts for pupils to enjoy at home.



Stair Climb Challenge.



Sock Sorting Challenge.



Fast Feet Challenge.



Connecting with the Community

A Colourful Mufti Day raised money for eight different charities.



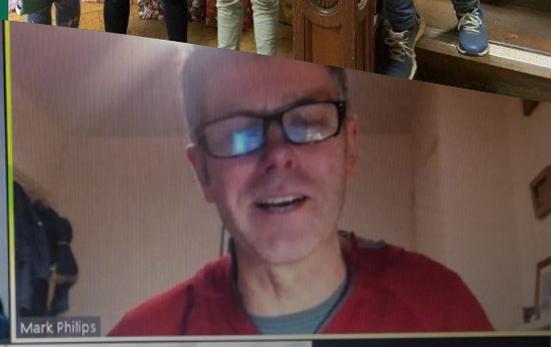
Red Nose Day Pupils raised £423 for Comic Relief charities.

Christmas Jumper Day

The whole school embraced Christmas Jumper Day and raised £356 for Save the Children in Petersfield.



Macmillan Cake Sale Pupils raised £237 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Winter Webinars

We invited our local community to join our Winter Webinars and warmly welcomed local parents to these events.

Our Environment

Youth Climate Summit

Pupils took part in a week long virtual festival of themed discussions and activities. Ditcham Park School was proud to host the Nature and Oceans day.



Jack Waterworth and Saleha Suhail Baluch completed their Bronze DofE Award.



In October, some of our Form 5 students took part in a training expedition for their Silver DofE.

Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh with a difference!

29 Form 4 students successfully completed their Bronze DofE training in October.





Catering

Our inhouse catering team continued to deliver delicious freshly prepared lunches for pupils and staff in our new dining marquee during the Autumn and Spring terms.

Whatever the season, Chef Neil and his team cooked up some delicious treats for us to enjoy including spooky Halloween cakes, festive mince pies, Valentine heart-shaped biscuits and tasty Easter desserts.



Alumni



In September 2021, it will be 45 years since Paddy Holmes founded Ditcham Park School. To mark this milestone, we are actively seeking to connect with former pupils, parents and staff.

In recent months, we have grown our Past Pupils community group on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/2215502517) and have started a DPS Alumni and Events Instagram page ([@dpsalumniandevents](https://www.instagram.com/dpsalumniandevents)).

As we look ahead to 2026 and the landmark 50th Anniversary of the School's founding, we ask you to share details of our Alumni groups to any of your family, friends, former classmates or colleagues who might be interested to reconnect with each other and the School. This will enable us to maximise our community when sharing details of our forthcoming 45th and 50th celebrations, as they are announced.

Alternatively, please ask them to reach out to our Alumni Admins below, or e-mail:

pastpupil@ditchampark.com

mandy.lowe@ditchampark.com

(Head of Admissions)

sally.barber@ditchampark.com

(Ex pupil and Former Governor of the School)

denise.allen@ditchampark.com

(Bursar)

matthew.mitas@ditchampark.com

(Head of IT)

nicky.corrigan@ditchampark.com

(School Secretary)

If you would like to get involved with this project, please do let us know!





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// *A fabulous school in a
beautiful location.* //

Parents of Pupils in Juniors

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