



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued



SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER

– 2019 –

www.ditchampark.com

Headmaster's Welcome

The Summer Term brought to an end a successful year for the School. There has been much to celebrate, not least our Creativity Week and Festival of Arts as you will see in the following pages.



Philip Hunt,
Guest of
Honour

Founder's Day & Prize Giving

Being creative was the theme for Founder's Day and Prize Giving as our Guest of Honour, former pupil and multiple BAFTA award winner, Philip Hunt, talked about his successful career in film and animation and showed us snippets from his award winning films 'Lost and Found' and 'Hey Duggee!'



Chairman and Headmaster with School's
Founder, Paddy Holmes



Creativity week & Festival of Arts



These three days of immersive creative activity were designed to encourage our pupils to develop and value their creative skills. The results were impressive.



Creativity Week, which saw 200+ pupils taken out of lessons for three days to work with talented professional artists from a range of disciplines, culminated in an exhibition of artwork and live music, dance and drama performed on an outdoor stage in our walled garden as part of our Festival of Arts.





Excellent GCSE Results

Our Form 5 students celebrate their excellent GCSE results. Nearly 40% of all grades achieved were the new 7/8/9 grades which are equivalent to the old A-A* grades. A quarter of the year group achieved at least 7 x 7-9 grades. Ella Gordon is congratulated for achieving an exceptional set of results with 8 x 9s and 2 x 8s, placing her as one of the highest performing students in the country.

Form 5 Leavers

Last day at school for Form 5





Form 5 Prom

The Form 5 Leavers Prom was a truly spectacular night with students looking resplendent in black tie and ball gowns. There were tears and laughter in equal measure as students and staff celebrated and looked back at their time together at Ditcham.





Juniors

Progress Tests

Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 progress tests reveal that pupils in Juniors are exceeding expected levels of literacy and numeracy for their ages.



Outdoor Learning Day

Children learnt how to build and light their own fires with help from Embers Bushcraft; Middles built birds' nests and everyone enjoyed watching a falconry display from FAB Falconry.



Nursery

Dragonfly children have been exploring outside, hunting for bugs, pond dipping and practising their climbing and balancing skills.

Country Dancing

Key Stage 1 and EYFS children clapped, skipped and 'do-si-do'd in the sunshine during a wonderful afternoon of country dancing.

Summer Solstice

We were lucky enough to celebrate the Summer Solstice with our first ever Druid Assembly. Frank Somers, a Senior Stonehenge Druid, led a procession of Junior pupils out on to the field to welcome the arrival of the Sun with the blowing of a horn.



Inspired by the natural world

Lowers spent several days in the New Forest enjoying its natural beauty and learning Bushcraft skills.

Fun packed days in Cobnor

Middles spent three fun packed days in Cobnor and took part in a huge range of activities including low ropes, mountain biking, aero-ball, archery, sailing, canoeing, raft-building and kayaking.

Uppers Production

Uppers performed two show-stopping nights of 'Cinderella Rockerfella' to a sell-out crowd.

Junior Concert

On 21 June, the annual Junior Concert took place in the Martin Pryce Building. Guests were treated to a tremendous display of musical talent by every pupil in Juniors.



Educational Trips



Reception enjoy a wonderful day at the Blue Reef Aquarium



Pre-Prep visit The Weald and Downland Living Museum and experience life as a Victorian child



Prep enjoy a day at the seaside on West Wittering beach



Transition enjoy the tranquillity of Meon Springs



Leadership training from the British Armed Forces

Pupils from Form 4 were given an insight into the principals of leadership when they visited the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst.

Seniors



Form 2 WW1 Model Making Competition

The quality of this year's entries to the WW1 model making competition was particularly high. Well done to all our winners.

Josh Bardoe awarded 1st place,
Harry Soden-Bridger awarded 2nd place
Jake Bailey and Atticus Marks awarded joint 3rd place.

Secretary of State for Education visits Ditcham Park School

In May, Damian Hinds, the then Secretary of State for Education joined us for a special assembly. Mr Hinds delivered an insightful speech to Senior pupils about the qualities and characteristics of good leadership and then went on to announce Form 4 leadership positions. Sacha Fairweather was appointed Head Girl, Eleanor Bryan - Deputy Head Girl, Zac Davidson - Head Boy and Ben Vass - Deputy Head Boy.



Toby Field – Winner of National Finals of Shakespeare by Heart Competition

Toby Field delivered a sensitive and powerful performance at the National Finals of the Shakespeare by Heart Competition, sponsored by the English Speaking Union (ESU). So impressed were the judges, he was declared the winner of this prestigious award.



Well done to all our pupils who entered this year's National Biology Challenge. One Ditcham Park pupil received a Gold Award, 12 were awarded Silver and 11 Bronze.

National Essay Writing Award

Tom Duddridge was runner up in the Independent Schools KS3 Essay Writing Competition.

Beth Reidy and Isabelle Bluestone won this year's Cookery Club MasterChef Challenge. Finn Lewis was close runner-up.

Form 4 enjoyed a Geography Field trip to Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Hayling Island.



Our GCSE Business Studies pupils successfully ran businesses for a day and generously contributed to this year's House Charities.

National Maths Competition success

Ditcham pupils excelled in the recent Intermediate Mathematics Challenge, run by the UK Mathematical Trust. Congratulations to all our pupils especially Jude Beaton, Alfred Muir, Joe McLarnon for receiving the 'Best in Year' award, for their respective Year groups.



End of Year Awards

Congratulations to all pupils who received an academic award or an award to recognise ability and effort in other and equally important areas of school life such as sport, music and drama.



Juniors Non-Academic Awards



Senior Non-Academic Awards



Juniors



Juniors



Form 1



Form 2



Form 3



Form 4

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)

Space Balloon Project

During Creativity Week, pupils launched a space balloon into the stratosphere, an impressive 35km above the earth's surface!



Engineering Inspiration from Dr Shini Somara

Our STEM speaker during the Summer Term was Mechanical Engineer, Dr Shini Somara. Specialising in fluid dynamics, her work has now broadened into the wider areas of technology, innovation and television. Her message to pupils was inspirational, declaring Engineering as one of the most interesting and rewarding careers.



Ditcham wins Go4SET competition

Our Form 3 STEM team won the Go4Set Engineering challenge for the second year in a row with an inventive eco hotel design. Pupils spent ten weeks working on their project alongside industry mentors from the National Oceanography Centre and completed an outstanding project report.



Arkwright Scholarship

Five pupils in Form 5 reached the final stages of the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship for Engineering. Tom Gorringe went on to be awarded a Scholarship.

STEM Success for our Primary Engineers

Edwin Cave and Elisabeth Noonan in Juniors had their Primary Engineer work exhibited by the University of Southampton.



Sport

Sports Days

Juniors and Seniors Sports Days took place in perfect conditions in June. These events were distinguished by the high standards of competition which saw five school records broken as well as high levels of participation and enjoyment.



Junior Record Breakers

Max Butler and Finney Coomber



Emily Dunkley



Athletics

30 of our Form 1 & 2 athletes represented the School at the South East Hampshire Athletics Championships. Our team did superbly against much bigger schools and finished in 4th place out of 16. Congratulations to Zac Davidson, Mackenzie Van Laun, Emily Dunkley who all represented the School at Hampshire Schools Championships. Emily Dunkley was U15 Girls 800m champion and was selected to run for Ditcham Park School and Hampshire in the English Schools National Championships.

Cricket

Our cricket teams enjoyed a great deal of success over the term and our girls enjoyed the opportunity to play 7-a-side cricket.





Cycling

23 pupils took part in the BSCA National Hill Climb Championship, once again hosted by Ditcham Park School. Ditcham pupils took home a range of medals: Johnny Stewart and Dylan Potter (U7 Boys Gold and Silver), Isla Pattinson (U9 Girls Gold), Edward Wellstood (U11 Boys Silver) and Gold team awards (U9 Girls & U11 Boys).

Congratulations to Atticus Marks for his cycling success at the QECP Day and Night Enduro.



Sailing

Two teams entered for Ditcham at the Itchenor Schools Regatta. Well done to helm Ollie Millington and crew Ben Haworth and helm Holly Mitchell with crew Oliver Osgood. Oscar Morgan-Harris also successfully competed in numerous regattas for GB and Finn Dickerson came second in the RYA Youth National Sailing Championship. In addition, Holly and Cam Mitchell competed in the RS Feva National Sailing Championships and Toby Field, represented the South of England in the Eric Twiname Championships in Tera Class achieving third place.



Fencing

Umi Johnston & Hester Ellett fenced competitively in the English Youth Championships.



Dancing

Congratulations to Maya Butler who competed in Hamburg Feis at the Gabriell School of Irish Dancing.



Karting

Sebastian Hopkins continues to excel as a young kart driver.



Swimming

Thomas Duddridge won Bronze in the 200-metre butterfly event at the Swim England South East England Regional Championship in Crawley.

Duke of Edinburgh



Form 3 & 4 pupils completed practice and assessed Duke of Edinburgh expeditions at Queen Elizabeth Country Park and in the New Forest. Form 5 also took part in a final expedition in Wales in early July. Congratulations also to former Ditcham pupils who have recently been awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at Buckingham Palace.



Cycling Club

MTB is as popular as ever with over 40 members attending regularly on Thursday after school. The trail developments (tabletop, rollers and berms) completed over Easter allow the riders to hone their bike handling skills.

Our cyclists have also enjoyed four weekend Adventure Rides on local bridleways and trails. Six of our most able riders took part in the first South Downs Epic Ride, a very hilly 27 miles from Winchester to School.

Thanks to FDPS for the generous funding of our cycle racks.



Building Development

Ditcham Dragonflies Nursery officially opened its doors on 11th June and welcomed parents, governors, patrons and former pupils to a delightful morning of face painting, bubbles, balloons and fun. So far, 18 dragonflies have enjoyed playing, exploring and learning in our very special and unique nursery.



Our Environment

Ditcham Pupils join Climate Change Protest

In June, eight pupils, accompanied by staff, travelled to Chichester to express their concerns about the climate emergency. As a result of their meeting with the leader of West Sussex County Council, the Council has launched a number of initiatives including a climate pledge and has written to the Minister of State for School Standards to ask for Climate Science to be a component of the National Curriculum. It was a wonderful example of positive, successful and responsible activism led by our pupils.



John Muir Discovery Award

Jake Bailey, Oliver Osgood, Leo Klemm and Finn Voar achieved the John Muir Award for their work and contribution to the Environment.

New Art Installation

Working with Two Circles Design, our pupils have created an attractive outdoor art installation adjacent to the Art Department.

Plastic Free Day

At the start of term, the school took part in a Plastic Free Day to highlight the perils of plastic in our oceans. Our thanks goes to The Final Straw for running a fantastic series of workshops and related activities for Junior children.

Connecting with the Community



Tea Party for Save the Children Fund, Petersfield

Members of the Ditcham Park School Senior Concert Band, Jazz Group and Chamber Choir performed at a special tea party held at the Tithe Barn for supporters and volunteers of the Petersfield branch of Save the Children to celebrate the centenary of this amazing charity.

Charities Week

Seniors took part in a successful and enjoyable Charity Week at the beginning of term. Some of the stand-out fund-raising events included: 'Sponge the Teacher', The Great Ditcham Bake Off and Cake Sale, Battle of the Bands and a Sports Challenge. The money raised went towards this year's four Senior House Charities. The total raised was an impressive £1700 which was split equally between the four charities below:

- Buriton – Sheila Whiting Charitable Trust
- Chalton – Dementia Friendly, Petersfield
- Harting – Chestnut Tree House
- Nyewood – Elizabeth Foundation



Alumni

Philip Hunt, former pupil, returned as our Guest of Honour for Founder's Day & Prize Giving.

Philip was one of the first pupils to join the School in its Foundation Year of 1976. He spent six years here where he developed a love and talent for art. He went on to study animation at the Royal College of Art which led him into a creative career which has taken him all over the world. In 2000 Philip co-founded Studio AKA, an independent animation studio based in London. In 2009 Philip produced an animated film called 'Lost and Found' which won a BAFTA (British equivalent to an Oscar) and a further 61 international awards. More recent productions such as 'Hey Duggee' have also attracted multiple BAFTAs, an EMMY and a nomination for an OSCAR. Philip is not only a hugely successful creative director of animated films he is also a highly respected director in the Film Industry.