



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued



SUMMER TERM REVIEW

- 2021 -

www.ditchampark.com

Headmaster's Welcome



I wish to congratulate our pupils for their resilience and positivity, our wonderful staff for their commitment and expertise and our parents for their support during this Summer Term. Resilience in the face of adversity and the 'environment' were very much the theme of Juniors' and Seniors' Founder's Day and Prize Giving which took place on the last day of term.

These Founder's Day and Prize Giving events provided us with an opportunity to reflect on Environment Week and to say thank you and goodbye to all staff and Governors leaving the school and in particular to Helen Parrott who leaves the School after eight years of outstanding service as Head of Juniors.

Graham Spawforth

Graham Spawforth MA (Hons) MEd
Headmaster, Ditcham Park School

Highlights



Open Morning

In May, teachers and pupils hosted our first in-person Open Morning since October 2019 welcoming a total of 58 families. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.



Sports Days

We were delighted to welcome parents to our Junior and Senior Sports Days in June. The sun shone and pupils and parents cheered the competitors.



Environment Week

In our last week of term we took part in activities which supported our local community and enjoyed the environment in which we live and learn in.



Founder's Day and Prize-Giving

We were delighted to celebrate individual and collective achievements and successes at the end of the academic year.



Whole School Events



Environment Week

At the end of term pupils spent three days learning and appreciating our environment, with the themes - Learn, Give and Share. We were very fortunate to have a huge variety of talented organisations visit the school and it was encouraging to see the whole school giving their time and enthusiasm to some great projects.



Junior Founder's Day & Prize Giving

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Paddy Holmes, Founding Headmistress of the School and Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Patron, to our Junior Founder's Day and Prize Giving Day.



Senior Founder's Day & Prize Giving

We were thrilled to welcome Trevor Beattie, CEO, South Downs National Park to our Senior Founder's Day and Prize Giving.



Lower Bushcraft Trip

Lower Juniors enjoyed two days at Meon Fisheries with Embers Bushcraft.



Middles trip to Cobnor Activities Centre

Middles took to the waves in Chichester Harbour and enjoyed new challenges on land with orienteering, archery and Aeroball.

Outdoor Learning Day

Despite the weather, pupils in Juniors spent most of the day outside exploring our wonderful grounds. They took part in a wide range of activities including forest bathing, constructing bug hotels and fairy houses, decorating rocks for the Ditcham Rock Snake and writing poetry inspired by the 'Poe-tree.'



Juniors



EYFS and Key Stage 1 Country Dancing

To celebrate the end of the school year, each year group performed an assembly in the Walled Garden. As part of this, the children put on some colourful ribbons before demonstrating a lovely country dance they had learned in class.



In May, pupils in Uppers participated in **Bikeability** training. Pupils gained practical road safety skills and developed confidence to cycle on our busy roads.



Uppers Leaving Party

Uppers enjoyed an awesome holiday themed leaving party during the last week of term.



Dragonflies

enjoyed Outdoor Learning Day by making their very own beanstalk.



Reception

Celebrated Saint George's Day with lollies on the lawn.



Green fingered **Pre-Prep** planted peas, peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes in planters donated by FDPS.



Prep went into the woods to make 3D shapes from sticks.

In **Transition's** Nature Club, children made bird feeders to encourage more birds to visit our grounds.



Lowers enjoyed a trip to Buriton.

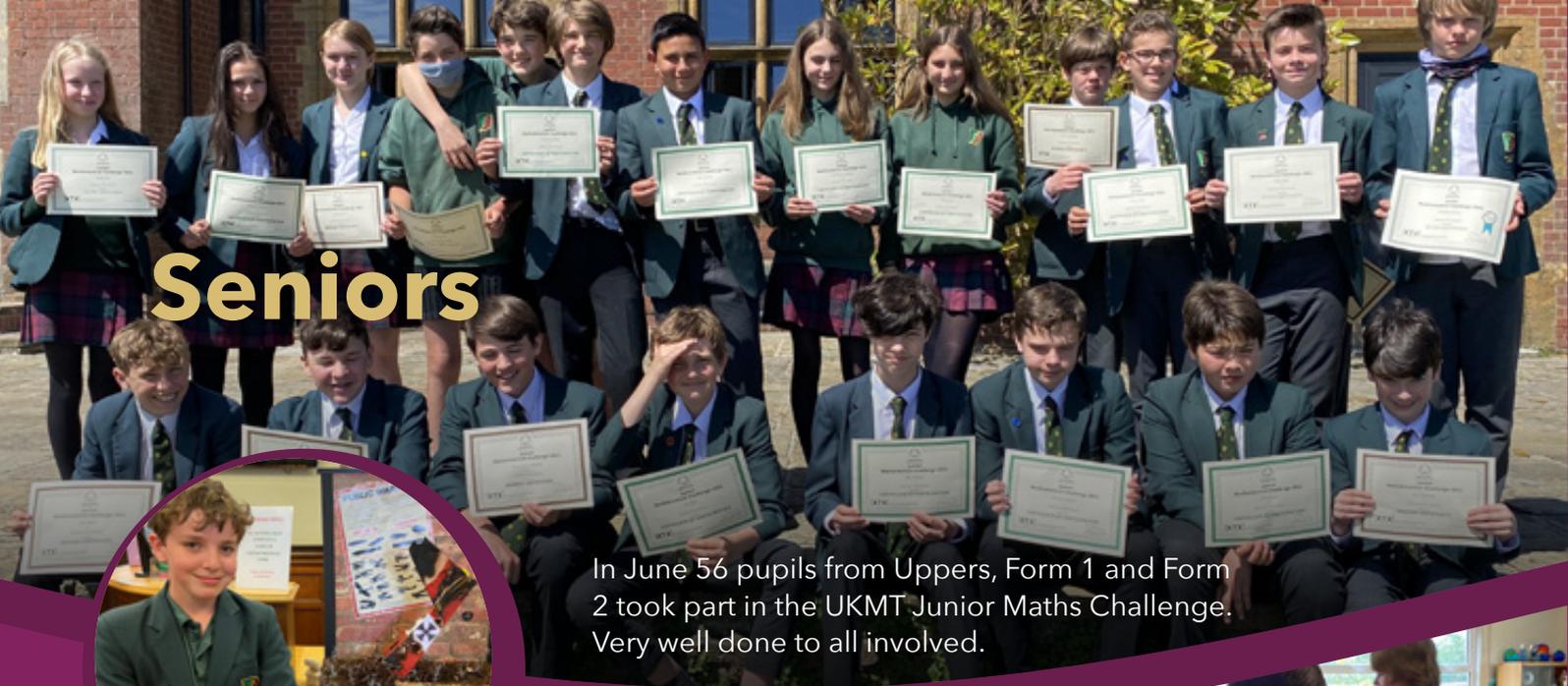


Middles designed and created colourful themed biscuits for Biscuit Day.



Uppers pupils performed the musical "The Blue Crystal" for parents to view at home.

Seniors



In June 56 pupils from Uppers, Form 1 and Form 2 took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Very well done to all involved.



History - Pupils in Form 2 took part in a WW1 Model Trench making competition. The quality of models was outstanding with Toby Baker winning first prize.

Bronze Industrial Cadets - Supported by engineers at Glaxo Smith Kline, pupils worked on a ten week project to design sustainable, environmentally friendly buildings with innovative new technologies.



The Harry Potter Studio came to Ditcham with pupils in Form 1 and Form 2 enjoying a STEAM lesson with a *difference!*



GCSE Geographers enjoyed a coastal field trip to Bracklesham Bay to compare tourists hubs along the coast.



Design & Technology - Pupils experimented with different wood joints and worked on their skills in measuring, cutting, chiselling and team work!



With glorious weather in April, Form 1 enjoyed a sunny alfresco Spanish lesson.



Form 5 GCSE Latin pupils celebrated the culmination of five years of Latin learning with a feast and Latin Pictionary!



Prom - The Class of 2021 enjoyed a glorious evening in June with students arriving in style, dressed magnificently in evening gowns and black tie. The theme of the evening was Summer Fun.

Form 4 - At the end of June, the new Senior Leadership team was announced. Each pupil received a congratulatory elbow bump from Mr Spawforth and a leadership badge along with a letter of appointment.



In May, Form 4 GCSE Drama pupils performed their Devised Pieces supported by an audience of peers and staff members. They delivered spectacular performances with original theatre entirely of their own making.





Young Voices 'Biggest Sing' – Pupils in Lower, Middle and Upper took part in The Biggest Sing & GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ attempt.

We were really thrilled to have Noni Needs from Shine Radio join us as an official adjudicator.

The **Upper Juniors' Production** was a musical called The Blue Crystal by Nick Perrin. Everyone had great fun performing and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the experience! Many thanks to Miss Rose who painted the beautiful background display, Mr Williamson who played the piano and Max Bull, UJA, on drums.



Music

Juniors Young Musician competition 2021

Well done to everyone who entered this competition which was submitted by video entry this year.

The Overall winner was Stephen Powell (Drums).



Eight Ditcham bands in Forms 1-5 took part in **The Battle of Bands** competition. The standard of performance was the best ever judged by Mr Davis. Congratulations to the band 'Two Shoes and a Pineapple' for winning this year's competition.





Photography Competition - Pupils in Upper Juniors were set the challenge of taking photographs under the headings; People, Nature and Reflections. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Form 1 Still-life ink painting and charcoal drawings.



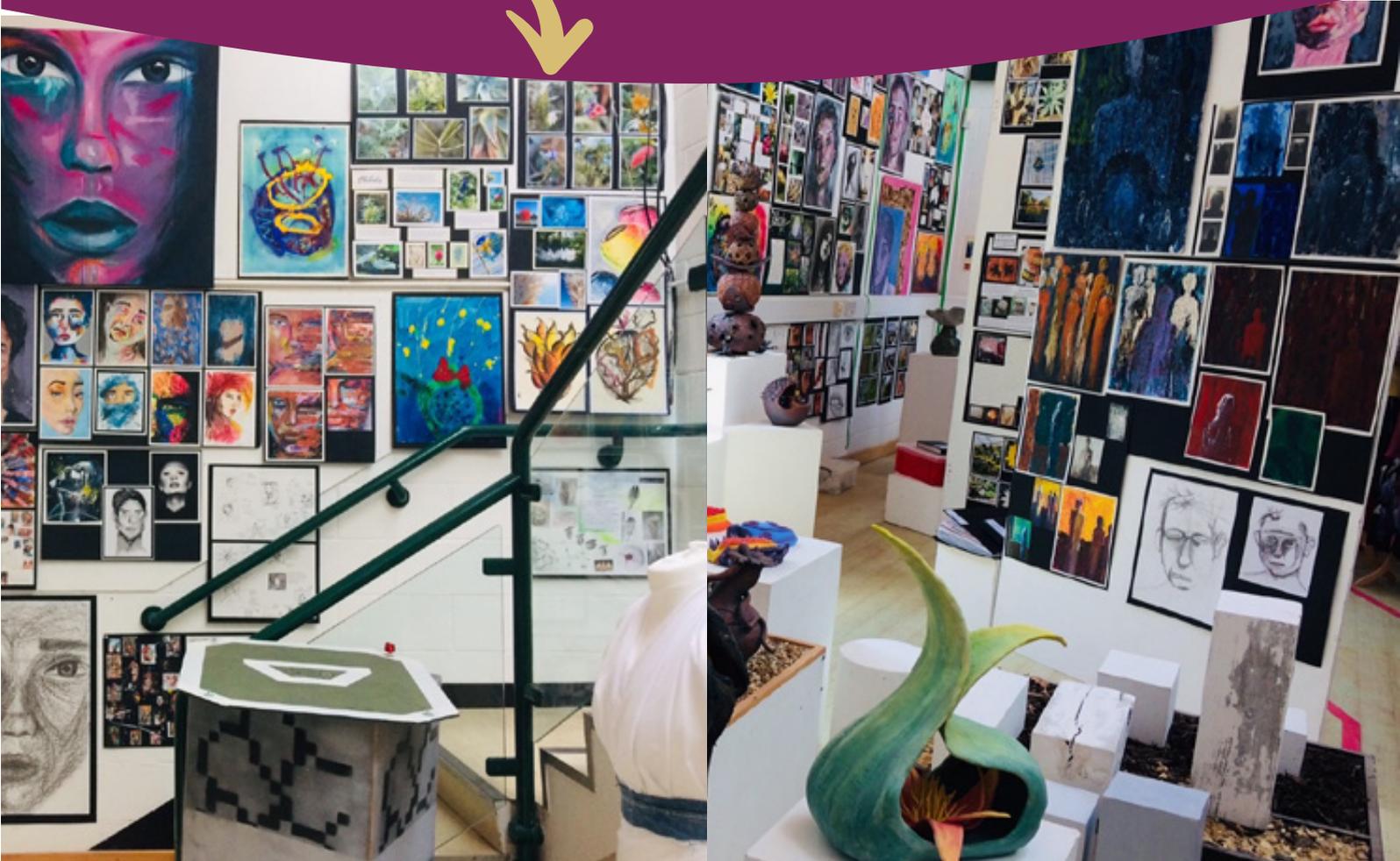
Uppers produced beautiful clay thumb pots.



Our talented Form 3 GCSE Art students took their Art exam in June.



Our GCSE Art Exhibition went on display in May. It was wonderful to see the amazing work completed by our many talented students.



Sport

The summer term saw the return of:



School Fixtures



Mountain Bike Club

Junior & Senior Sports Day





Connecting with the Community

Our Cupcake Sale raised **£400** for Alzheimer's Society.

In May, pupils took part in a series of sporting challenges to raise money for the four House Charities. Activities included a Golf Chipping Challenge, Tennis Target Competition, Netball and Basketball shooting Challenge. A grand total of **£796** was raised.



Form 5 generously donated a piece of their artwork in aid of St. Wilfrid's Hospice in a charity online auction.



Duke of Edinburgh

Eight pupils in Form 5 successfully completed their Silver DofE canoe expedition on the River Thames in June.

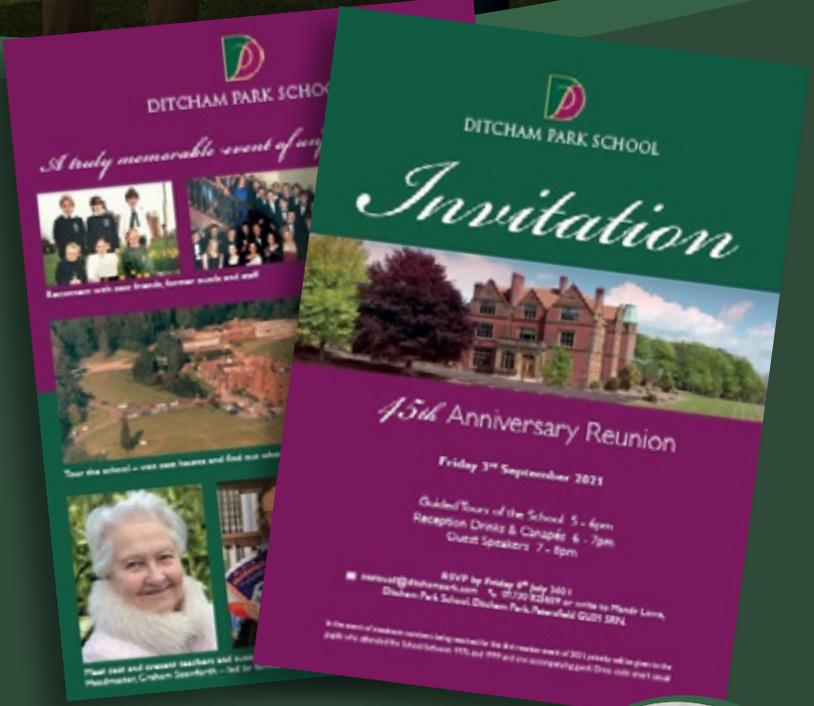




/// Many thanks for a fantastic event on Friday evening, everyone involved should be very proud of their efforts. ///

Alumni

We welcomed 140 Alumni and families, with one gentleman travelling down from Liverpool who had attended Ditcham when it was the Douai Prep Boarding School in 1958. Paddy Holmes arrived to a sea of smiling faces who were all keen to get to speak with her.



/// We felt very welcomed and my son liked it! ///





Thank you for organising such a super event. My son and I enjoyed it and it was great being shown around the school and sitting at my old desk!

Selfies, smiles, heartfelt applause and many memories were exchanged with guests receiving a goodie bag as they departed.

Thank you to our Form 5 pupils for hosting the tours, Fred Dinenage MBE, Chef Neil and his catering team for the wonderful canapés, Denise Allen and Mandy Lowe our Alumni team, our Estates team and Alex Baker, Deputy Head Boy last year for videoing the event.

Goodie bag was a sensation too and my daughter has gone to school with the cute little teddy in her pocket.

Visit: www.ditchampark.com/beyond-ditcham/alumni-contact-info

Email: alumniconnect@ditchampark.com

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)).

Building Improvements

We all watched the 489m² extension to the Martin Pryce Sports Hall develop which will provide us with a second indoor sports hall, an activities suite, more changing rooms and two new classrooms which will take full advantage of our wonderful views.

The extension will enable the South Downs Hall to be used for lunchtime and breaktime catering while retaining its use for assemblies, meetings and major school productions. Work was underway to create a new servery and to redecorate in preparation for the Autumn Term.



Helen Parrott
Head of Juniors



Peggy Field
Governor

Farewells

We said goodbye and thank you to **Helen Parrott**, Head of Juniors, for her eight years of outstanding service to the School.

Kevin Wild, French and Spanish Teacher.

Kylie Harding, part-time Science Teacher.

Mark Thomas and **Liz Jones** step down after many years teaching instrumental music to our pupils and in Liz's case conducting our choirs.

Stuart Inglis, Learning Support Department.

Governor **Peggy Field** who was appointed in March 2016.

www.ditchampark.com

 @DitchamPark

 @DitchamParkSchool

 @ditchamparkschool