



# DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

*Where every child is known and valued*



## AUTUMN TERM REVIEW

– 2021 –

[www.ditchampark.com](http://www.ditchampark.com)

# Headmaster's Welcome

Despite the continued impact of Covid-19 on our lives, pupils, staff and parents have kept going when at times we have all felt really stretched. We have enjoyed new spacious catering arrangements in the refurbished South Downs Hall; we have achieved considerable success in sport; we have appreciated some wonderful music events; we have won national

awards for Juniors and Seniors artwork; we have completed the extension to the Sports Hall, which we can look forward to using fully at the start of next term.



**Graham Spawforth**  
MA (Hons) MEd

## Highlights



It was great to see both pupils and current parents supporting the **Open Morning** held on 2 October, with a great deal of positive feedback received and new facilities described as “epic”!



**Armistice Service** - On 11th November we gathered for an outdoor, whole school Act of Remembrance.



**Christmas festivities** were the theme of December with a number of wonderful events including the Nativity, carols in the Quad, Christmas lunch and Carol Services.



**45th Anniversary**  
Our Alumni event in September was a wonderful time to reconnect, a key theme of our Autumn term this year.

# Whole School Events

Both Juniors and Seniors gave up their Sunday in September to participate in the **Butser Hill Challenge!** With former pupils and parents participating in the Seniors' challenge, it made for a great day and we were once again winners in the Seniors!



**Armistice Service** – the Act of Remembrance brought the whole school together, with outstanding contribution from our Senior pupils.





# Juniors

## Halloween Fun

Juniors dressed up in their scariest costumes, with witches, vampires, cats, grave diggers, broomsticks, Zombies, capes and fangs spotted throughout the day!

Chef Neil and his team triumphed again with a spooktacular lunch and FDPS organised treats for every pupil.

**Virgin Radio UK – Start of the Year Kit** - was a great hit with our Transition, Lower, Middle and Upper... even getting a shout out on Chris Evans' Breakfast Show on Virgin Radio.

### A Kit for the Start of the Year

- A roll of Sellotape because we all need to stick together
- A balloon, so that you can remember to fly high.
- A rubber, because we all make mistakes and mistakes are how we learn.
- A pencil, to remind you to make your mark.
- A rubber band to remind you to stretch yourself.
- A bouncy ball, to remind you to play hard and work hard.
- A book mark because reading is a doorway to adventure and knowledge.
- A packet of starmix, because you are a star—remember to SHINE



## Roald Dahl Day 13 September

Juniors joined in with celebrations looking at many characters and stories created by this much loved author and Chef Neil and his team created a treat feast with five hidden golden tickets under the lunch trays!



We extended a huge warm welcome to Pippa Probert, who joined us in September as Head of Juniors.



**Dragonflies** looking after babies in preparation for many becoming big brothers and sisters



### Reception

Reception had a fun packed trip to Wylds Farm to pick out some wonderful Christmas Trees to take back to school and decorate.



**Pre-Prep** had an animal packed adventure to Marwell Zoo



**Transition** enjoyed a trip to Butser Ancient Farm

**Prep** have been super digital footprint detectives!



**Loweres** joined a live workshop with Michael Rosen for National Poetry day.



**Middles** explored all things space and environment at Winchester Science Centre



**Uppers** spent time learning about increased responsibilities and how to carry out Senior leadership roles, including writing a CV.



# Seniors

Forms 1&2 had non-stop wet and dry fun on their two night residential trip to **Calshot Activity Centre** which included skiing, watersports, climbing and much more!





**Form 1** bravely swung sword and axe in an attempt to win the **Battle of Hastings re-enactment** – with the Normans ending up victorious!

**Careers and FE information Evening** was held at the beginning of the term, with great opportunities to speak with many local 6th form schools and colleges.



Latin took a trip to **Fishbourne Palace**

**Mental Health assembly** – our pupil leadership team gave a series of Junior and Senior assemblies on wellbeing and mental health, also launching their Mental Health tool-kit screensaver, declared “brilliant” by @YoungMinds charity.



# Music

## Lunch time concert - 5 October

17 of our musicians performed a short lunchtime concert at St Peter's Church in Petersfield; it was wonderful for the audience to hear live music again after a very long period and a confident and smooth performance was held, something to be very proud of!

## Guitar Concert 16 November

Another enjoyable evening was had for our Senior pupils, with 19 musicians.

All performers are deserving of special mentions with a wonderfully varied programme from John Williams and Norton to Guns N' Roses, Rage against the Machine, Jimi Hendrix and our very own Two Shoes and a Pineapple!



# Art



Form 4 started their year long sculpture project journey by collecting information at **Wisley Gardens**.

An 'arboretum' of gorgeous paintings and photographs were created and taken – watch this space for the work to blossom from this particular trip!



## ISA competition and winners

On 5 October Mrs Metcalfe travelled up to Norton Arts Centre in Maidenhead to showcase Ditcham pupils' wonderful artwork at the ISA Art competition.

With strong competition from all other competing schools, we had winning entries in KS3 (Bella D), KS4 (Josh B) and KS2 group sculptures (UJM), with highly commended entries from KS4 (Iona B), KS4 (Abi S) and KS3 (Edith H).

The finals were held in November with two winners – Josh B KS3 Individual 3D Art and Bella D KS4 Individual 3D Art.

## KS2 Group 3D Art

Last years Uppers' class were also Highly Commended and their piece can be seen on display in reception.





# Sport

The Autumn term has been packed full of sporting fun, including:

Sports tour to Gloucester





Mountain  
Bike Club



Tennis After  
School Club

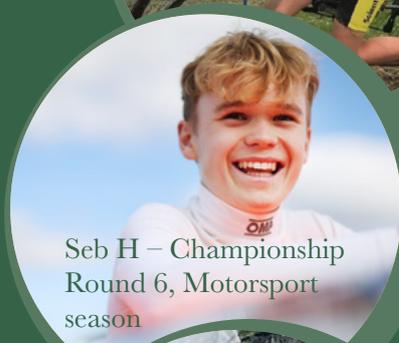


Hattie C – Horse of the Year Trials

Holly M (left) – RYA British Junior Training Squad selection

Isla P – Cycle Cross

Matilda D – South regional gymnastics



Seb H – Championship Round 6, Motorsport season

# Sport Individual achievements

We have seen some fantastic individual achievements from our sports enthusiasts this term, including:



Scarlett W-J – South Regional Gymnastics Competition



Rubie E-J – British Baton Twirling National Championship



Alice W – Surrey Storm Netball U17



## Great South Run

Well done to Isla S 7B, who came second in her age group, 9-12 years (2.5km) in the Great South Run and her twin sister, Rose S 7A who came 9th.



Alfie H MJP, got a medal for cricket because his team came 3rd in a tournament at the MCC cricket academy at Lords.

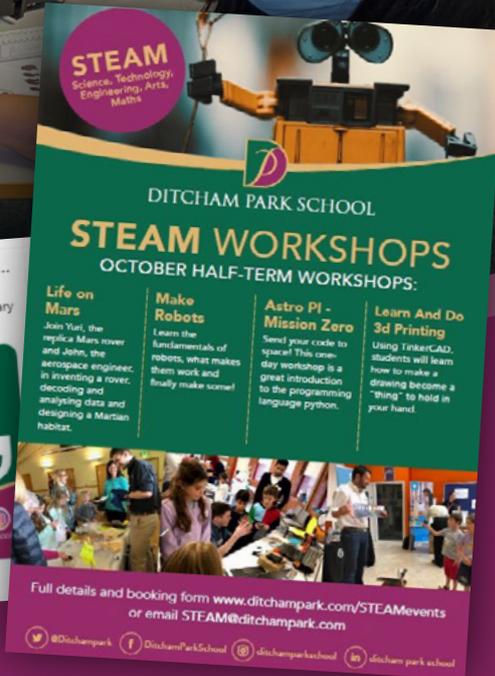
He also helped his team win the cricket quiz!

He said was a really fun day and they enjoyed a tour of the museum and the stadium!

# Connecting with the Community

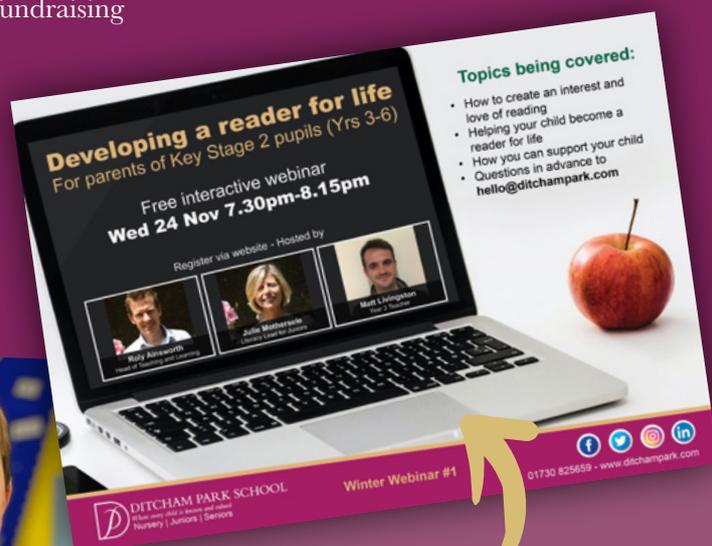
We have had a full term of events including workshops, webinars, charity days and more....

STEAM workshops



Austyn, Arthur, Esme B-P Penny for the Guy fundraising

Non uniform days have also raised £1,742.15 for various charities



We welcomed local families who joined our series of Literacy webinars



# Alumni

This autumn term saw the **45th Anniversary** of the foundation of Ditcham Park School in 1976. our alumni reunion attracted 140 former pupils and staff back to the school including Paddy Holmes our Founding Headmistress, who was interviewed by Fred Dinenage MBE. A fabulous event with wonderful memories shared.



## Upcoming events for 2022



## From the Archives

We loved a recent find in our archives and thought we ought to share this wonderful drawing by 1983 pupil "D Barrett" as featured on the cover of "The Ditcham Park Gazette". A pupil's perspective of the School's location "up on the hill"

Visit: [www.ditchampark.com/beyond-ditcham/alumni-contact-info](http://www.ditchampark.com/beyond-ditcham/alumni-contact-info)

Email: [alumniconnect@ditchampark.com](mailto:alumniconnect@ditchampark.com)

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

# Welcomes



**Francesca Ward**  
Receptionist /  
Secretary



**Louise Small**  
PE Teacher,  
joining us in  
Spring



**Caroline Baynes**  
Governor, joining us  
in Spring

# Farewells



**Nicky Corrigan**  
Receptionist /Secretary



**Heather Batten**  
PE Teacher

[www.ditchampark.com](http://www.ditchampark.com)

 @DitchamPark

 @DitchamParkSchool

 @ditchamparkschool