Issue No 51

ParkLife

THE NEWSLETTER OF SEAFORD COLLEGE

INSIDE

All the news from the Prep School

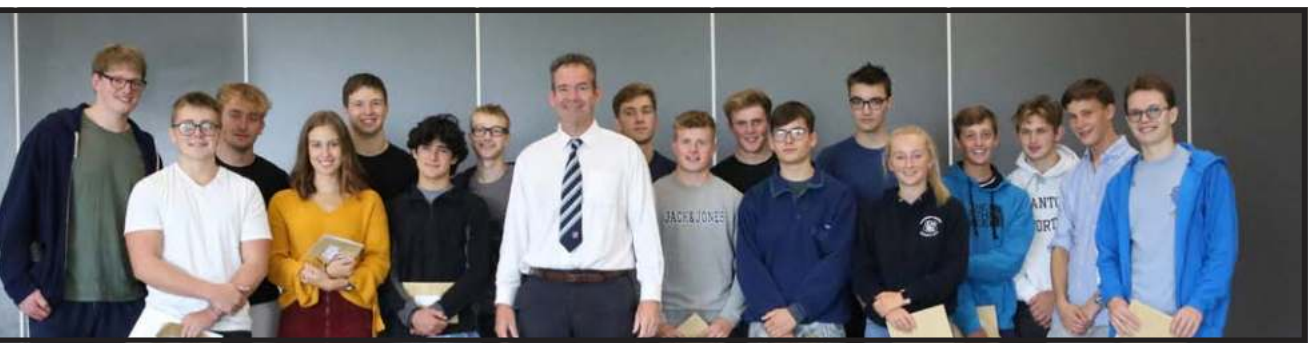
Best ever results!

Headmaster John Green's Academic Strategy for Seaford is paying dividends as Seaford achieved its best ever GCSE and A Level results.

With record numbers of students heading for Russell Group and 1st Choice Universities, Seaford also saw record numbers achieve the top new grade 9 score in their GCSEs.

John Green said: "I'm immensely proud of what all of our students have achieved. We've consistently seen improvements each year and it's great to see our best ever results for both GCSE and A Level."

A Levels



PROUD OF THEM ALL: Headmaster John Green celebrates with students after their A Level results.

THIS is the first cohort to come through to A Level from Year 9, when John Green took up his role as Headmaster five years ago. John's focus on Academic Seaford, his restructuring of the school and the increased focus on ambition for all pupils has had the desired impact.

He explains Seaford's approach. "Seaford's ethos is personal bests for every child and we have various strategies to achieve this. We carefully advise Seaford students when they come into Year 12 on the best pathway for them.

"This could be an academic pathway of purely A Levels, a vocational pathway with BTECs or a combination of the two.

"We want our students to get their personal bests and whichever pathway they have followed we have seen our best ever results. Seaford is proud to offer A Levels and BTECs, and has a variety of different students in our community.

"Our Head Boy and Head Girl are perfect examples of different types of students achieving their personal bests on our different pathways; both are very smart in different ways.

"Nico Caines achieved two Distinction*s in BTEC Business Studies and Sport and a B in Geography. He's an accomplished sportsman, playing a key role in Seaford's rugby teams and winner of the Bill Cuthbertson 'Cubby Cup' at Seaford's Annual Sports Awards. He aspires to work in agriculture and is heading to Harper Adams to study Agriculture.

"Our Head Girl Holly Gyles achieved A* in PE and two As in Biology and Business Studies, and is heading to University of Birmingham to read Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences.

Holly is also an accomplished sportswoman and fulfilled a big role with her commitment as Head Girl in her final year."

> It was about achieving your best. Seaford was a pretty great experience.
>
> **Yvali Koch**

> The teachers here are great. They have taken me from someone who struggled and wasn't confident to where I am now. It's a safe atmosphere – it makes you feel like you are important and that translates into the academic side.
>
> **James Thompson**

WELL DONE: James Thompson celebrates his results with Head of History James Gisby.

> I am so proud of what we have achieved through teamwork with students, staff and parents. My academic strategy and culture of ambition is firmly embedded at all levels. The academic momentum and all-round ambition has seen success across every quartile; we have the best results across the board, from the academically gifted through to those that find the exam process a challenge.
>
> **Headmaster John Green**

WE DID IT: GCSE students celebrate with Headmaster John Green.

GCSEs

SEAFORD'S superb GCSE results have led to Seaford welcoming a record number of returning students and a record number of new entrants to the Sixth Form this term

Despite this year's superb academic achievements, Seaford has maintained its core ethos and these results were achieved in a non-pressurised environment where students have also excelled in extra-curricular pursuits alongside their studies.

Headmaster John Green said: "Most importantly these results have been achieved with a smile on our students' faces, in a happy and supportive community."

GOOD JOB: Director of Sport Liam Doubler congratulates Rupert Blackwell on his results.

> Sport is important; at the end of the day you can finish your lessons and go and run around. Exercising throughout my exams was great – it helped me to sleep better.
>
> **Isaac Mitchinson**

> Boarding at Seaford really helped me. It's not that you have to work, it's that you want to work as everyone else is. The pastoral support is amazing. Mr Follows was there to help at any time. It helped me to not feel alone.
>
> **Caelan Stanton**

> Before coming to Seaford I wasn't very good at exams so to get these grades is just amazing.
>
> **Amelia Farley**

WOW: Fliss Hitchcock shares her exam results with her mum.

Bedazzled by Beauty and the Beast

THE Prep School put on an amazing performance of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. With two performances in the Johnson Centre, parents, friends and staff were wowed by the amazing costumes and set.

Everyone involved worked so hard – there was a tough rehearsal schedule – and they all performed brilliantly. It was great to see that the hair and make-up and the stagehands were all Prep School children – a real team effort!

As always, many staff helped in various ways with this production but in particular Mr Weaver and the director, Dr Askew – a huge thank you to them.

MUSIC could be heard across Lavington Park once again as Seafordstock cranked up the volume.

This year's rock and pop concert, where students get to showcase their musical talents was, as always, a night to remember. With the sun shining, the marquee outside Mansion House had morphed into a fantastic stage, and the hill outside Mansion House was packed with students, teachers and parents.

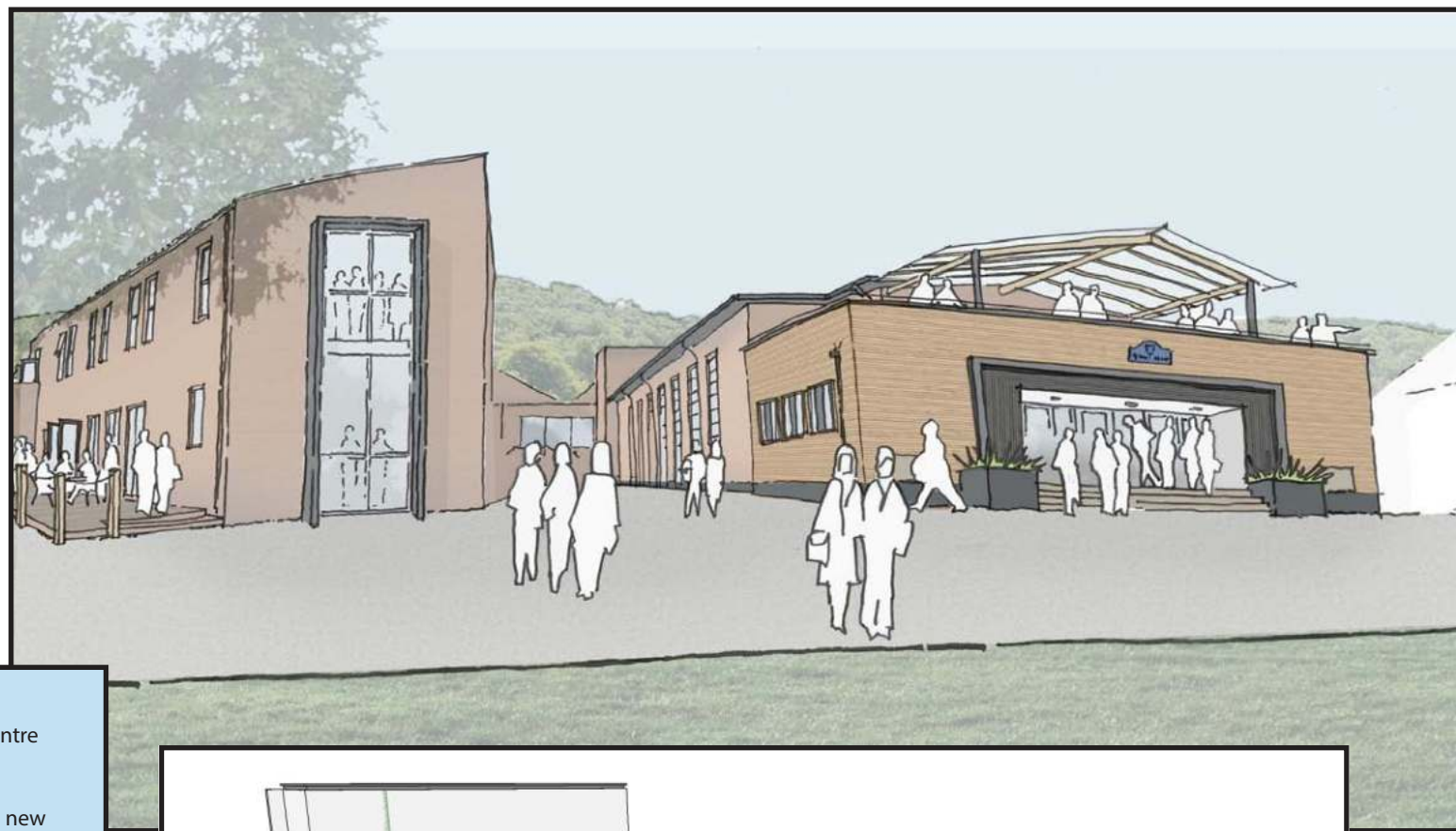
There were performers from right across Seaford – from the Prep School, Senior School and the Sixth Form.

Alice Merton's song *No Roots* was sung brilliantly by Year 9 and the Junior Choir belted out American Author's *Best Day of My Life*. There was even a rendition of *Sweet Caroline* by Mr Green.

The Seafordstock festival was set up several years ago and continues to be a wonderful way to cap off the year at the school by celebrating the many, many talented students here. A great night was had by all.

Development news

Fantastic revamps set up key sites for the future



SOME exciting new developments are underway at Seaford as part of the Assembly Hall and Hollington Centre refurbishment plans.

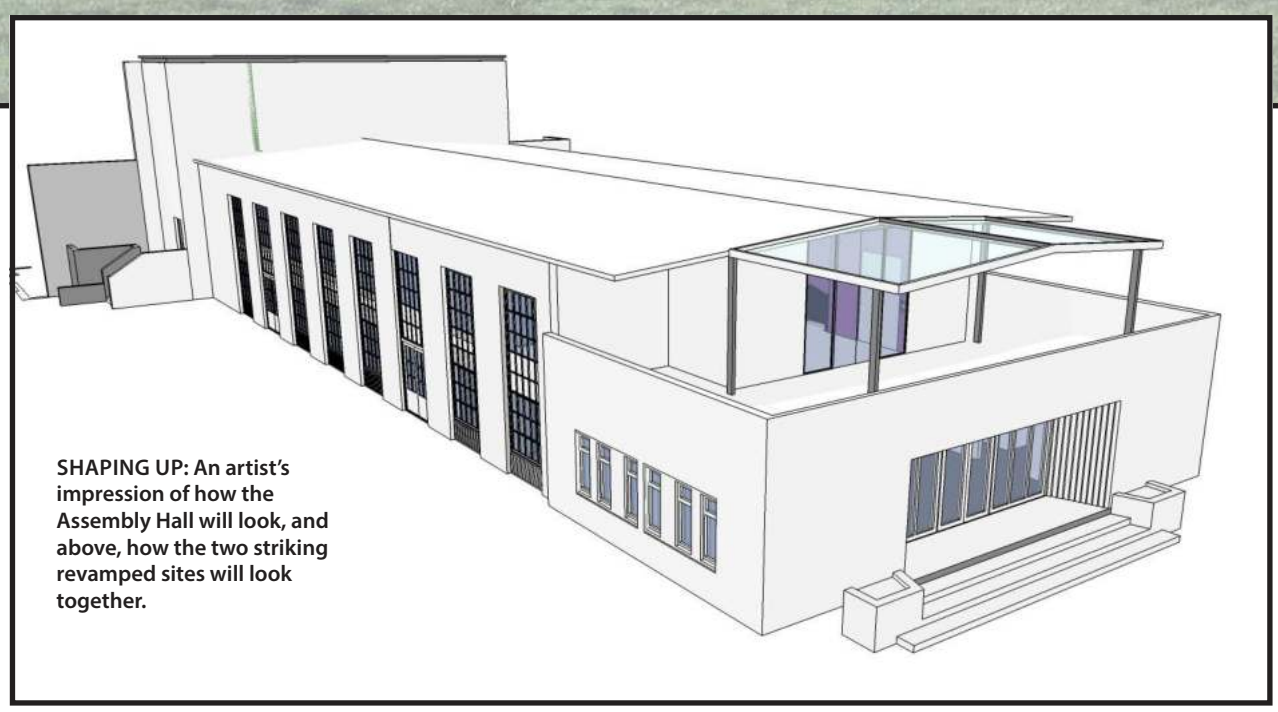
The Old Assembly Hall is being reconfigured and refurbished to provide six new flexible classrooms, two new seminar rooms, a brand new state-of-the-art library, study, office areas, external landscaping and a contemporary new glazed gallery providing superb views of Lavington Park and beyond.

New-look Sixth Form Centre

The Hollington Centre, Seaford's Sixth Form Centre, is being reconfigured and refurbished to create a brand new Year 11 Common Room, dedicated tuck shop, bag drop areas and new Sixth Form Centre that includes social and study spaces.

There will also be a new large Sixth Form dedicated study room with expanded new sports showers/changing facilities and a Seaford Café Bar delivering a coffee shop environment for students and weekend hospitality.

Phase one is already underway with a new mezzanine floor being inserted into the 'old' Assembly Hall and the addition of a new glazed gallery. It is also incorporating the creation of a new library, provision of new study spaces and two new seminar rooms.



SHAPING UP: An artist's impression of how the Assembly Hall will look, and above, how the two striking revamped sites will look together.

Journey honours Seaford's fallen

A GROUP of ten Seaford College staff, parents and former pupils cycled across northern France and Belgium visiting the graves of Old Seafordians who had died in the First World War.

The journey was in support of Help for Heroes and a fitting way to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War.

A total of 270 kilometres were covered by bike and minibus over the weekend, taking in 11 cemeteries.

A small cross bearing the school crest was left behind at each grave in a small ceremony, with a reading of the school prayer.

Whether it was the 35,000 soldiers commemorated at Tyne Cot or the few hundred at Tranchett de Mecknes, the graveyards and memorials were always beautifully maintained and provided deeply moving experiences. The visit to the Menin Gate coincided with Belgian's European Day and the special Last Post service reflected the depth of feeling of those involved.

Poignant visit

The cycle ride replaced the annual Seaford to Seaford bike ride as a way of marking the lives and sacrifices made, with the visit to J G Savage – the son of Seaford College's founder – perhaps being the most memorable.

Although this was the biggest event of the term in support of Help for Heroes, a series of other fundraising events took place during the summer.

Headmaster John Green thanked Matthew Pitteway for organising the event, saying: "Well done to everyone involved and thank you for your tremendous efforts on what was undoubtedly a very special experience."

Love Lunch, love to chat

RESIDENTS at a group of care homes in West Sussex were invited to a Love Lunch afternoon, organised by Seaford students as part of their community programme.

Residents from Elizabeth House, Croft Meadow, Forest View, Rotherlea and Elmcroft care homes were greeted by smiling students who helped them to their table to enjoy a two-course lunch, which was punctuated with plenty of chatter and laughter.

Regular visitors

Seaford students are regular visitors to Shaw healthcare homes in West Sussex and participate in various activities with the residents.

Kim Harris, operations manager for Shaw, said: "We always encourage inter-generational activities within and outside of our care homes and try to bridge the gap between generations.

"The residents look forward to the students visiting and it also makes them feel involved with the local community. I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of this wonderful event which our residents have enjoyed immensely."

> It's helped broaden my horizons and has taught me to think differently.
> **Naomi Busari**

Student Naomi Busari said: "This is my third year of involvement with these community events and I have really enjoyed chatting to the residents about their different experiences.

"They give great advice and it's lovely to help the community and the older generation. It's also helped broaden my horizons and has taught me to think differently. I spoke to a lady who used to be a student at Seaford and it was fun to hear what it was like when she was here."

Fellow student Catrina McNair added: "The opportunity of being able to talk with residents has made me realise how much easier life is now, compared to when they were young."

Academic news

Team's imagination and language skills win the day

SIX Year 10 pupils took part in a Languages and Science Day at King Edward's school in Witley . . . and came away the winners!

The team of three girls and three boys had to use their science, design and language skills to come up with an idea for a space hotel under the watchful eye of members of the RAF and leaders from international businesses.

Once they had budgeted and designed their idea, they then had to market and present it in their target language of Spanish.

The students also enjoyed a taster course in Russian before the winners were announced. Despite stiff opposition from ten other local schools, Seaford took the first prize, winning a tour of the RAF's satellite control base in Guildford to see first-hand how cutting edge technology is making a difference in the world.

1 BIG DAY OUT

STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK

WHYKE ESTATE

HAYLING ISLAND

WHYKE ESTATE

THIS year saw Seaford's fifth annual community action day and it was the biggest ever, with unparalleled numbers of students and staff going into the local community to help a variety of environmental and social causes.

Headmaster John Green, who created the initiative, said: "The main idea is to make a positive difference to the surrounding community. Our students are extremely fortunate to study and live in such a beautiful part of the country – it is only right that they put something back."

At Hayling Island Donkey Sanctuary Seaford students and staff were raking and smoothing out a path especially for winter to make it easier to walk down the farm; it'll also enable visitors to walk further into the farm. Seaford students used reclaimed concrete from old building works. One proud student said: "I love helping animals and it's great to help out the community."

Year 9 did a fabulous job at Staunton Country Park. They worked hard all day and really made a huge difference to the landscape. Betsy Vernon said: "The day was so productive, with all the pupils clearing, cutting down and picking up unwanted brambles that encroach on the woodland floor. The afternoon was spent picking up litter. I am so proud of what they did and thank you to the conservation rangers at Staunton Park. The Big Day Out made a big difference for the community."

Students took residents from Shaw care homes out for lunch, and they also spent time at the care homes doing gardening and repairing fences. The students enjoyed interacting with the residents and spending time with them.

Elsewhere, students undertook the very important task of beach cleaning, trying to get rid of as much plastic as possible. Amazingly they managed to fill four to five sacks with it!

Clive Thorpe, Community Action Day Organiser, said: "What is great to see is that the bigger it gets, the more successful it gets. The more we go out, the more the centres want us back and I think that is a great big tick for what the Big Day Out is all about."

572 students

34 different activities

32 different venues

Across **3** counties

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY: Lal Reed, centre, with from left, her husband Brian, her niece Katie, Mary (Katie's mum) and Jane (Lal's daughter).

School rallies to support Katie after lung transplant

A COUPLE of years ago, Seaford took part in a charity walk in order to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

The charity is close to everyone's hearts at Seaford as teaching assistant Mrs Lal Reed has a niece, Katie, who has cystic fibrosis.

Since then, something rather incredible has happened – earlier this year Katie underwent a lung transplant! Although she was incredibly poorly before the transplant, with the care of the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals she has received new lungs and is making absolutely fantastic progress.

Big thank you

As a way of thanking the hospitals, Seaford held another charity walk, this time raising money for the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity and, in particular, the Harefield Transplant Appeal. An incredible £682.81 was raised and Mrs Reed, Katie and her family passed on a great big thank you to all those children who took part.

Although Katie wasn't able to take part in the walk herself, as she had only just come home from hospital, she met everyone half way and thanked them for their participation and good wishes.

Over the summer Katie has been working on her fitness and has gone from strength to strength. She and Mrs Reed have been going for walks and riding their bikes, going further each time.

Mrs Reed said: "We, the family, are so proud of her and her achievements since her transplant."

Prep School News

They're all fired up for Greenpower races

DRIVING AMBITION: Gus Ford made sure driver Harry Teasel always got off to a flying start.

SEAFORD College hosted the annual Greenpower Goblins event as part of the Greenpower series.

Teams of youngsters came together to compete in Goblin series electric racing cars. Our team was made up of seven students from Years 2 to 6 – Alex Ford, Harry Teasel, Eva Doubler, Tolly Harte, Jago Lomas, Gus Ford and Joseff Doubler – and they were racing two of our cars.

The pupils attend the after school club which involves them working on the cars and, when weather allows, they practise driving the cars.

The day consisted of three main events – a timed slalom course, drag racing and the sprint. The latter consisted of knock-out heats and whilst one of our cars didn't make it to the next round, Harry Teasel in Year 6 made it all the way to the finals! Despite being in the outside lane in the line-up for the final race, Harry made an amazing start and reached the first corner before the other two cars; he then managed to hold that position for the rest of the race – leading to Seaford winning the sprint event.

A special well done should also go to Gus Ford in Year 4 who had the important job of doing the push starts for Harry in both the semi-finals and finals of the sprint, which he did superbly.

A very big well done to the whole team, who all worked really well together throughout the day.

High achievers in the water

THE Seaford Prep School swimming team competed at the London Aquatics Centre in the IAPS National Finals and came away with their helds held high.

It was a fantastic achievement to make the national finals and the children had trained really hard, both as a team at Seaford College and outside with their local swimming clubs.

The atmosphere was extraordinary, a fantastic experience for the youngsters, and they achieved some astonishing results – coming away ranked 7th out of 76 schools in the country!

Our girls and boys achieved top ten placings in the medley and freestyle relays, and there were some great results in the individual races, with all our swimmers setting new personal bests! A huge well done to the team.

IAPS RESULTS
Girls Under 12
Medley Relay, 7th; Freestyle Relay, 8th
Boys Under 12:
Medley Relay, 6th; Freestyle Relay, 6th

Individuals:
Finlay Jackson: 50m breaststroke, 4th
James Potts: 50m backstroke, 6th
Jeremy Lee: 50m freestyle, 15th
Ella Jackson: 25m butterfly,15th
Lottie Bolton: 50m breaststroke, 15th

Riders more than hold their own

COMPETITION at the Alton School inter-team showjumping event proved to be very hot, with the winning teams riding extremely speedy rounds.

Seaford concentrated on clear rounds instead of speed this time, with good results and rosettes for all.

Congratulations to Honey-Bea Hogan who was 3rd in the 65cm and also to the team of Lorna Leatherdale-Edwards, Nia Burkinshaw, Emmy Burkinshaw and Kristian Fairston who were 6th in the 70cm. Lauren Goldsmith joined the team for the 80cm and they were unlucky to roll a couple of poles, although all riders rode very well.

Both Emmy (70cm) and Lauren (80cm) won the prestigious Headmaster's Award for the most stylish rounds.

A WIZARD WEEK

THE Prep School was a little less Seaford and a little more Hogwarts for a week as students took part in a wide variety of Harry Potter-themed activities. The children (and the teachers!) had a fabulous time.

In art, the children were asked to paint and decorate stones on the theme of Harry Potter. Their artistic talents were showcased as they painted Harrys, Hedwigs and Snitches!

Cooking up fun

Even cooking lessons for the week were given a Harry twist, with the children taught how to make their very own Snitches, the most important ball in a game of Quidditch! They delighted in making nice round rice crispy balls before rolling them in edible gold glitter and adding a pair of wings. It was hard to tell if they had more fun making them or eating them!

The boys and girls ventured into the woods as part of Forest School, with the task of foraging for the right pieces of wood and branches to make their very own broomsticks.

Everyone put great effort into their costumes. Not everyone went for Harry and Hermione. One boy crafted a costume as a Snitch, complete with golden wings. Even Hedwig, Harry's owl, made an appearance!

The children even got to cast their own 'spells' in science. There were looks of awe and wonder as they watched experiments unfold in front of them.

It was certainly a week our Prep School will never forget.

Pupils dip into a murky world

Year 5 went to Botany Bay for field studies. The focus was on animal life cycles, so they were especially looking at larvae in the pond.

Our athletic pedigree shines once again

SPORTS Day was a record-breaking event for our Prep School. Well done to everyone who took part, it was a great day and a real show of effort, commitment and team spirit.

. . . and the results:

- Ball throw – Hamish Harrison
- High jump – Hamish Harrison
- Long jump – Archie Williams
- 800m – Hamish Harrison
- 200m – Hamish Harrison
- 100m – Hermione Clague
- 100m – Lucas Risager Pink
- Relay – Springfield
- High jump – Emily Freud
- 200m – Charlie Burchell
- 100m – Dominic Doyle
- Long jump – Hamish Williams
- Discus – Finlay Reeks
- Relay – Norwood
- Shot put – Archie Thomas
- 200m – Isabella Hope
- 200m – Matthew Blacklock
- Relay – Norwood

Everyone's bursting with family pride

THIS year's Grandparents' Day, an event held annually in the Prep School, had the biggest attendance ever.

Many thanks to Mrs McCullough who organised the event so marvellously.

Grandparents were given the opportunity to see the school in action and had a guided tour by their grandchildren, taking in their work which they always show so proudly.

Tea was served at the end and it was a fabulous afternoon – full of smiles and proud grandparents. This fixture in the Prep School calendar has become a real favourite with both the younger and the older generation!

Grandparents this year were excited to see some of the developments that had taken place at Seaford and had many good things to say about the school.

Sport

Chance to relive all the year's sporting glory

SPORTING ELITE: Seaford's award winners, from the left, Nico Caines, Izzy Porter, Charlie Norton and Cally Nugent.

SEAFORD held their Annual Sports Awards Dinner to celebrate the achievements and successes of those pupils who have represented the college in our major sports. Just over 100 pupils and staff were present on the evening.

Sports kits were abandoned in favour of more elegant attire for the evening which kicked off with welcome drinks.

Once seated, guests discovered a sporting quiz on their table, with questions to answer as they ate. Later in the evening the games intensified, with each table taking it in turns to bounce a tennis ball into a bucket – much harder than it looked! Despite the array of sporting talent on display, most missed entirely!

Reliving achievements

Guests were able to watch a photo montage playing throughout the night showcasing the past year, and there was also a montage video showcasing footage of matches throughout the year.

Speeches were given by Liam Doubler, Director of Sport and Co-Curricular, as well as Seaford's Head Girl, Holly Gyles, and Head Boy, Nico Caines who recapped on the sporting year, going through all the teams' achievements.

Then came the bit everyone was waiting for – the awards, presented by Headmaster John Green.

What is always striking at Seaford's awards dinners is how humble our sports men and women are. All our winners were shocked to have won and didn't want to sing their own praises, seeing themselves as simply part of a team.

Cally Nugent, winner of Services to Seaford Sport, said: "I was really shocked. I did not think I'd get that."

It was a superb evening and highlighted the direction of Seaford Sport. The past year has been another impressive one, with more pupils representing Seaford Sport and more achievement at all levels.

All staff have been exceptional, providing detailed feedback to pupils and always going above and beyond to improve their players as both individuals and as a team.

Roll of honour

Sportswoman of the Year
Izzy Porter
Sportsman of the Year
Charlie Norton
Services to Seaford Sport
Cally Nugent
The **Bill Cuthbertson 'Cubby Cup'**
Nico Caines

Students dive in and learn

OLD Seafordians Piers Plowman and Harry Leleu came back to Seaford to carry out a Triathlon Experience Day.

Students were delighted to meet the pair and pick up new skills about open water swimming.

LIVING THE DREAM

Seaford and especially Chris Adams have been great with me.

ELLIOT BROWN

Year 13's Elliot Brown has made his debut for the England Physical Disability (PD) Lions cricket team. His is a story of following your dreams and, as we say at Seaford, 'reaching for the heights'.

ELLIOT, who has cerebral palsy, started playing cricket at Seaford in Year 4. He is now the Seaford 2nd team captain and describes the past year as "really good, we only lost one game!"

Alongside playing at Seaford, Elliot also plays for Steyning Cricket Club and has done for a number of years.

He is grateful for their support and the fact that they have always been good with him and his disability. In 2015 Elliot was picked to play for Sussex Cricket Club's disability team, and after three years he joined Middlesex's disability team before he was selected to play for the England PD Lions.

Chris Adams, Head of Seaford Cricket, says he was, "absolutely delighted for Elliot. I know how much it means to him and will mean to him over the coming years to be part of that squad".

Grabbed the opportunity

It was Chris who made Elliot the second team captain. "It's a meaty role," he says. "He has taken it, grabbed it with both hands and sprinted off into the distance with it."

The respect that Chris has for Elliot and his passion and determination is mutual. Elliot credits Chris and Seaford for their support.

"Seaford and especially Chris Adams have been great with me. Being captain has been great, I get to learn how to lead a group – always a useful tool to have," said Elliot.

Since opening its doors in 1884, Seaford College has consistently lived by the motto of 'Ad Alta!' encouraging students to 'reach for the heights'; the school is proud of how students have always flourished to the best of their ability both inside and outside the classroom. And this is clearly the case with Elliot. His aspirations for the future are to "play for England and win a World Cup".

Chris Adams summarises it nicely: "Elliot has had amazing support from an amazing family and it is our role to continue that support. If their dreams are high, we have an obligation to make sure that we assist them in everything to make sure that they have that opportunity."

RIDING HIGH: In the 85cm National Class were, from left, Lorna Leatherdale-Edwards, Rufus Uloth, Jessie Schute and Olivia Macdonald.

Riders give their all

SEAFORD had three teams competing at the NSEA National Eventers' Challenge National Championships at three different levels as well as a team taking part in the Elite Show Jumping class.

The weekend began with the Mini Derby National Championships at 70cm for children aged under 14. Seaford's team comprised Emily Cook, Lauren Goldsmith and Lorna Leatherdale-Edwards from the Prep School. In the warm up class they were placed 15th, 16th and 19th out of 75 riders and in the team class they came 8th.

Great experience

For the 85cm National Class the next day, Seaford's team comprised riders from the Prep and Senior School – Olivia Macdonald, Lorna Leatherdale-Edwards, Rufus Uloth and Jessie Schute riding her sister's pony and standing in for Grace Bolton. They were unlucky to roll a couple of poles and finish unplaced but it was a great experience.

On the final day, the senior riders turned out for the National 95cm Eventers' Challenge class. The team comprised Flora James, Jessie Schute, Evie Marchant and Olivia Macdonald, who jumped the Hickstead Elite 1.00m class as a warm-up, coming 5th. They then went on to come a fantastic 4th in the National Championships which was an amazing achievement.

All the action from Sports Day. Photos: Emily Holden

What a great season!

SEAFORD enjoyed a very good season of athletics this year. The athletes' success demonstrated Seaford's strength as an athletic school, particularly in the inter-boys Year 10 and 11, where they won all inter-boys age group matches.

The school's girls are also showing their strength, in particular Year 9, where there are some really good athletes.

This was demonstrated at the Sussex Schools County Finals at the start of June where Seaford did very well as a school, winning 10 medals overall. Jon Thompson, Head of Seaford Athletics, said: "It's a tough competition and we had a good day with some really good performances."

Rupert Blackwell won gold in the inter-boys' javelin and broke the school record in doing so. He said he was "especially happy as the record was set over 50 years ago". Rupert threw 50.3m, with the previous record being about 48.5m. He praised his sports coaches at Seaford for the training and support they give him.

Ollie Beach won gold in the junior boys' discus, Johnny Murray-Jones (Year 9) took silver in the junior boys' triple jump and Joseph Spiby (Year 11) won silver in the discus.

Olivia McDonald won silver in the 3000m. Jon was full of praise for her performance. "It was a great run for her. She's a tremendous athlete".

Some of these athletes then went on to represent Sussex in the Inter County Championships. Jon was anticipating it to be a great experience for the athletes with some very strong counties competing.

Another record was broken at the Diamond League at Hurst with Ollie Beach winning the discus with a huge throw of 41.78m.

Sports Day

Lavington Park was basking in the sunshine for the senior Sports Day this year. The house flags were flying and everyone came ready to do their best and have fun. It was lovely to be able to welcome so many parents and friends who came to cheer on the students.

THE ELEMENTS CONSPIRE AGAINST INTREPID SAILORS

LIGHT winds proved to be the undoing of Seaford College Sailing Club's attempt to sail around the Isle of Wight in the annual summer challenge.

Samantha Evans, Head of Sailing, said: "It was the toughest Round the Island Race I have ever competed in and we had everything stacked against us not finishing in our small boat."

The pupils battled through 14 hours of non-stop racing with focus and concentration, showing great resilience in tough conditions.

Despite the low wind, the team finally made it around into the Solent but then the light sea breeze died. Despite the crew's best efforts, sunset came and then the 10pm cut off time, leaving them no option but to retire just 1.5 nautical miles from the finishing line.

"With these conditions, to be so close to the finish line was a real achievement and we were proud of ourselves for that. The pupils had demonstrated incredible camaraderie and determination," said Samantha.

SHIPSHAPE: Seaford's sailors training in the Solent before the race.