

# ParkLife

INSIDE



All the news from the Prep School



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEAFORD COLLEGE

## Achieving your best is the Seaford way

### Headmaster reflects on his three years at the helm

In the three years since taking up the position of Headmaster, John Green has really made his mark at Seaford. He spoke to us about his favourite teacher growing up, the importance of extracurricular activities, and exciting new developments at Seaford College.

#### What makes Seaford unique?

Seaford's aim is very simple: to enable each pupil to achieve their personal bests, both inside and outside the classroom. We want to nurture individuality and an acceptance of others' strengths and weaknesses; to develop initiative; an enquiring mind, and a hunger for life.

#### How pleased are you with the academic performance of Seaford's pupils?

I believe Seaford is in a very vibrant and happy place, and most importantly our children's education is going well. Seaford bucked the national trend in the decline of A\* GCSE grades last year, and also increased our impressive A\*-C pass rate to 82%. At A level, we had the highest percentage of pupils ever to gain entry into their first-choice university.

#### How important are extracurricular activities to a pupil's development?

I want everyone at Seaford to be part of a team, but that doesn't necessarily have to be a sports team – it could be a debating team, a choir, a rock band or some other school group. We are very lucky to have exceptional facilities, and offer a vast range of sports and activities. Many pupils discover a passion for a new activity at Seaford and others go on to a professional career in their chosen sport.

Competing in an extracurricular activity, and particularly with sport, the idea of sportsmanship

kicks in right from the very start. It teaches you about meeting people, greeting people, being gracious in defeat, thinking "How can I improve?" These are important life skills for the future.

#### Who was your own favourite teacher at school and why?

John Davies – Biology, PE and rugby coach. John was an outstanding rugby coach who always went the extra mile to run extra sessions both from an academic and rugby coaching perspective. He had such rapport and respect with all pupils. You always wanted to do your best for him.

#### What developments at Seaford are you most excited by right now?

With the development of the swimming pool cover now complete, our attention is focused on Seaford's new Sports and Performing Arts Centre, which is on course for completion in the summer. We're also excited about our new school uniform. Feedback from the parental focus group and the Student Council has been really positive, and we'll be sharing more information about implementing it over the upcoming months.

#### You've achieved so much in three years, how do you relax?

Spending time with my lovely wife and three children, reading, and attending various concerts. I also attempt to play golf on our magnificent golf course here at Seaford.



“ I believe Seaford is in a very vibrant and happy place ”

### Exciting times ahead

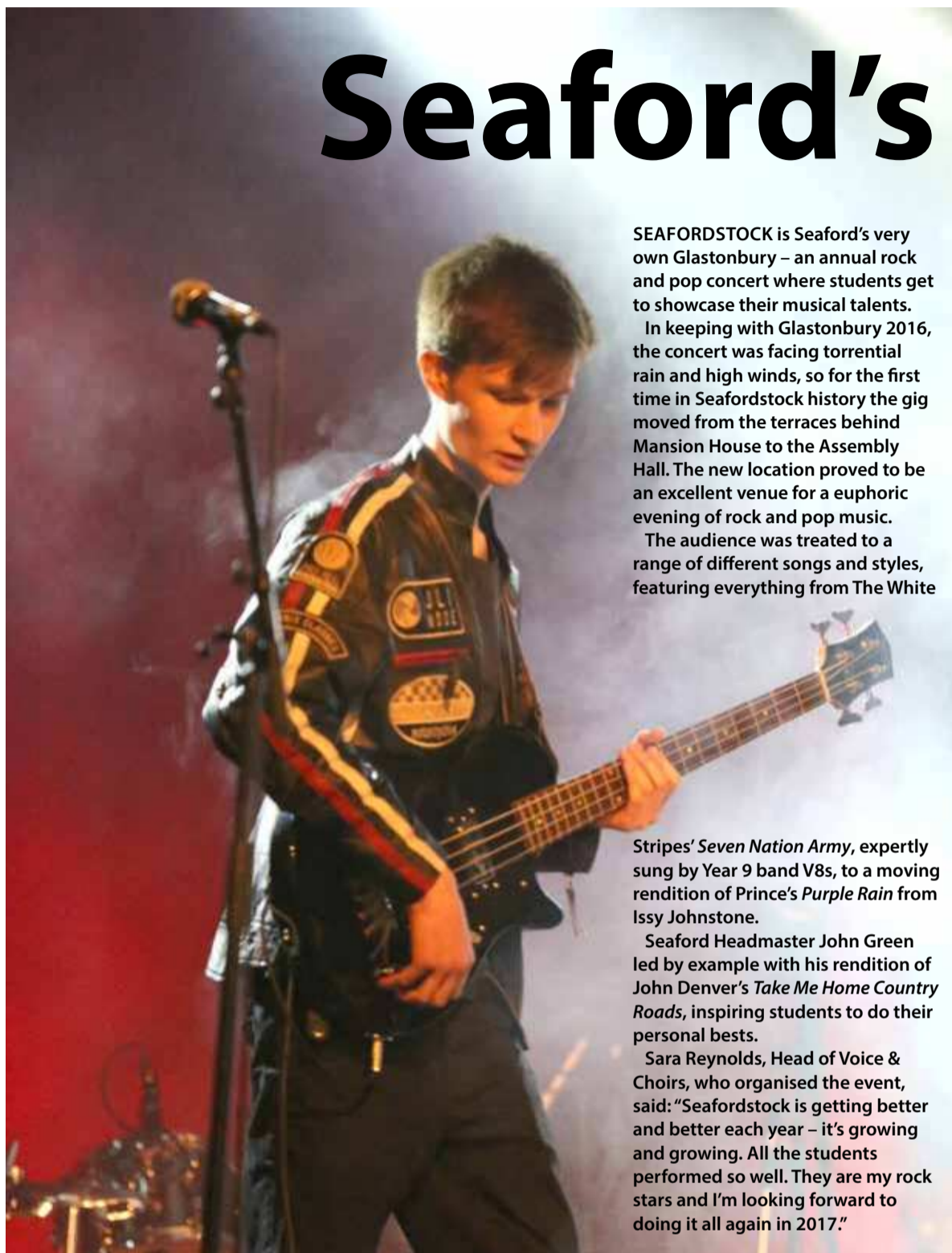


The wonderful new sports and arts facilities are taking shape; there's been really positive feedback about the new uniform; and the covered pool is going down a storm.



## Performing Arts

# Seaford's smokin'



SEAFORDSTOCK is Seaford's very own Glastonbury – an annual rock and pop concert where students get to showcase their musical talents.

In keeping with Glastonbury 2016, the concert was facing torrential rain and high winds, so for the first time in Seafordstock history the gig moved from the terraces behind Mansion House to the Assembly Hall. The new location proved to be an excellent venue for a euphoric evening of rock and pop music.

The audience was treated to a range of different songs and styles, featuring everything from The White

Stripes' *Seven Nation Army*, expertly sung by Year 9 band V8s, to a moving rendition of Prince's *Purple Rain* from Issy Johnstone.

Seaford Headmaster John Green led by example with his rendition of John Denver's *Take Me Home Country Roads*, inspiring students to do their personal bests.

Sara Reynolds, Head of Voice & Choirs, who organised the event, said: "Seafordstock is getting better and better each year – it's growing and growing. All the students performed so well. They are my rock stars and I'm looking forward to doing it all again in 2017."



## Fresh talent tackle the Bard



SEAFORD'S production of *Twelfth Night* was described by Headmaster John Green as "simply sensational".

The production was set in a 1920s country house, taking inspiration from *Downton Abbey*. "Well done to Dr Askev for putting together such a fine performance. I was very pleased to see so many new faces in the cast who have not appeared in a school play before – well done all!"

Seaford has plenty of performing arts events to look forward to in 2017, including *The Pirates of Penzance*, a rollicking tale of piratical shenanigans, and our first *Night at the Opera*.



“ I was very pleased to see so many new faces in the cast ”



## Academic Enrichment



WELL READ: Year 9 winners of the reading challenge

## Challenge opens a new chapter for many

PUPILS were set a tough reading challenge over Christmas which involved a variety of reading-related tasks – from reading a book that was made into a film, to taking a selfie with your favourite book, to reading a graphic novel.

John Doy, Seaford's Director of Academic Performance, said: "I have been very impressed with the extra commitment and effort put in by the students who completed the challenge."

"Many students have said that it has opened their minds to reading new genres and investigating new authors. It's great to see the impact the challenges are having and encouraging students to enjoy reading for pleasure. Reading is the number one thing you can do to improve your understanding of subjects and prepare you for exams. It's also a great way to shine a little bit of light into your life and of course it should be for fun as well."

Johnny Murray Jones was the overall winner, and was glad he took on the challenge.

"At first I didn't really think that I would do it, but then I thought I'd

give it a go and see what happens. I'm not usually a big reader, but after this it's inspired me to read more. I'm usually on my iPad quite a bit, so I was reading more instead of doing that."

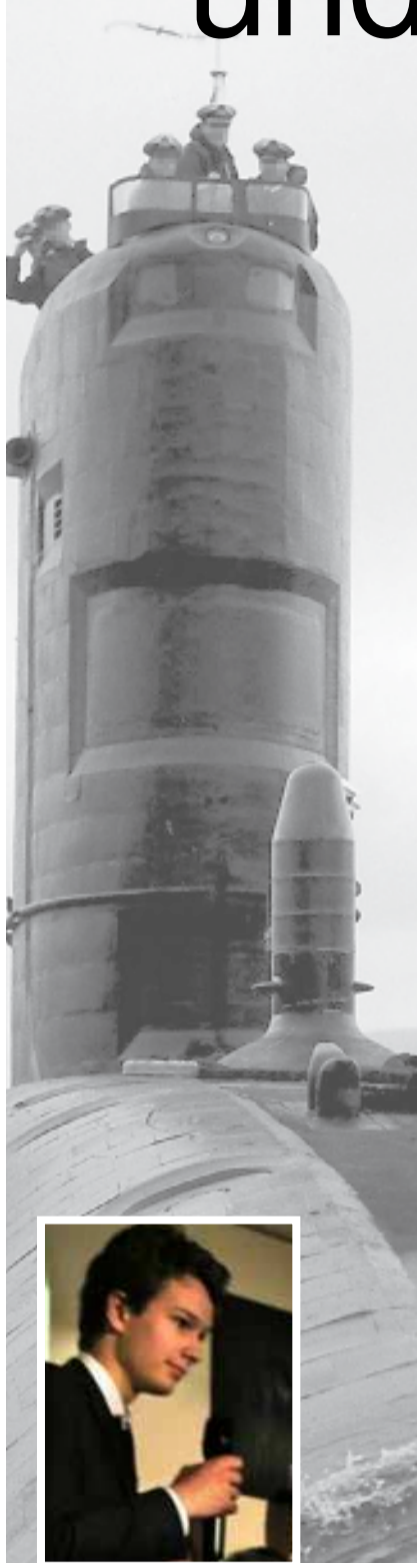
Rafe Nisbet, in Year 8, was the Prep School winner, and he looks forward to taking part in future reading challenges. He was full of praise for his teachers. "Mrs Doy is really inspiring, she gets you very motivated and really brings subjects to life for me."

### Biography challenge

Finn Dowdall, in Year 9, was a runner-up, and commended for his enthusiasm. One of the categories was to read a biography of someone you don't like, and see if reading it changes your mind about the person. So he took on the daunting challenge of reading Sir Alex Ferguson's biography over the Christmas break. "I learnt that he had struggled with different players and that he was very successful in his career."

Finn is looking forward to the new library opening at Seaford.

# Mysteries of the undersea world



SEAFORD College hosted its annual History Society talk and dinner, with guest speakers Lord Hennessy and Dr James Jinks, authors of a much-lauded history of the Royal Navy Submarine Service – *The Silent Deep*.

The authors have recently been awarded the Mountbatten Maritime Award and the Duke of Westminster Medal for Military Literature for the book and gave a fascinating presentation about the history of the submarine service.

### Probing questions

Seaford students Tom Hennessy (no relation) and William Morris raised some fascinating points with two very searching questions.

Tom had clearly done his homework. "I read Lord Hennessy's previous book, *The Secret State*. The book featured a Whitehall document – a simulated invasion of the Baltics by Russia – and his view on whether or not he would use nuclear force to stop Russian aggression. I asked him whether he would condone the use of nuclear weapons. He responded that he would use them solely as a deterrent."

William asked about the safety measures aboard nuclear vessels, and both questions provoked well-considered and detailed responses from the panel.

William really enjoyed the evening. "I knew vaguely about the cold war and how the balance of power shifted after the Soviet Union dissolved, but the things they didn't want you to know at

the time were a real eye-opener."

The talk was followed by a book signing and dinner. The aim of the evening was to inspire future historians with influential speakers who are experts in their fields.

John Doy, Seaford's Director of Academic Performance, said: "We all left feeling privileged to have glimpsed for a moment the secretive and compelling world of *The Silent Deep*. Many of Seaford's Gifted and Talented students and the students on the Academic Enrichment programme attended the talk and dinner, and they enjoyed hearing Lord Hennessy and Dr Jinks share their experience and expertise."

### Lots of support

Both Tom and William are part of the Gifted and Talented programme, and definitely believe that being part of it has helped them.

William said: "It's mainly the advice I get from the programme that helps me. How it's good to be almost unhealthily obsessed with a subject to succeed with Oxford and Cambridge applications."

Tom has also found the programme to be very helpful. "I started my EPQ (extended project qualification) very early, and have been getting lots of support from Miss Le Barth. I'm about to enter an essay competition for Cambridge which I found out about because of the Gifted and Talented programme."

The talk and dinner was supported by the Petworth Festival Literary Weekend.



DEEP DISCUSSION: Lord Hennessy and Dr James Jinks, left, talk about their compelling book on the Royal Navy Submarine Service. Below, Gifted and Talented students Elina Libman, Eliza Tsvang and Marie Matejkova enjoy the dinner. Above left, William Morris puts a question to the panel.



INSPIRATION: At the Gifted and Talented conference Sue Mordecai shares her thoughts on how to stretch the most able students

## How the most able students can help everyone to reach new heights

RECENT research into school improvement has suggested that focusing on the most able learners can positively raise achievement for all students.

That's one of the reasons why Seaford hosted its very first Gifted and Talented conference, bringing local schools together at Seaford to look at challenging the more able learner.

The inspirational Sue Mordecai, who has taught in primary and secondary schools, and is currently a trustee and former chair of the National Association for Able Children in

Education (NACE), was the perfect speaker on this subject. She explained that there is no single way to define high ability. In fact, definitions range from the "conservative", focused on IQ tests and high intelligence, to the "inclusive", which focuses more on problem solving and creativity.

Sue shared some of the personal characteristics of highly able learners with the audience. They include: being curious, and constantly asking questions; having a willingness to embrace ambiguity, paradox,

and uncertainty; recognising and appreciating the interconnectedness of things, and a passion or fascination for a particular subject. On top of this, highly able learners are very persistent and determined, and can be perfectionists.

Possessing knowledge alone was not the most important factor for success. It's what students do with knowledge that counts. Sue encouraged teachers to "ask unusual questions to prompt unusual answers and give students the chance to show exceptional qualities". What happens if I drop an ant? Do ideas have to be

right to be valuable? Who is more corrupt – the person who gives bribes or takes bribes?

Headmaster John Green said: "The recent conference by Sue was inspirational and identified how to positively stretch our most able students both inside and outside of the classrooms."

"The strength of the Seaford community is that all our pupils have the self-esteem to make the most of the vast opportunities and provisions on offer – indeed our pupils succeed because they believe they can."



CCF

# Nostalgic return for the class of '46

SEAFORD College welcomed back the class of 1946, the first cohort at Seaford's current site at Lavington Park near Petworth, to its annual Remembrance Service.

The cohort moved from Seaford's original site, in Seaford East Sussex, to Lavington Park due to the war. John Dawes, School Captain from 1949, organised the 70th reunion: "I have so many fond memories of Seaford. At particularly hectic points in my life I have sat back and reflected on the wonderful experiences we had at the school."

More than 1,700 people attended the Remembrance Service, the biggest ever turnout. Headmaster John Green was full of praise for the day. "I would like to congratulate Contingent Commander, Maj A. Plewes RM, School Staff Instructor (SSI) M Gough and Lt W. Baxter RM for the recent Remembrance Sunday Service. All members of the CCF did the school proud – and I am delighted that this vital part of the school continues to go from strength to strength."



**WELCOME BACK:** Headmaster John Green greets two special guests from the class of 1946. Below, Head Boy Jonathan Lance and Head Girl Isabel Anderson address those attending the Remembrance Service.



## CADETS IN A SPIN AFTER A TRIP IN A CHINOOK



A GROUP of Year 10 pupils from the RAF section of Seaford College's CCF spent an enjoyable day at RAF Odiham, home to the most distinctive of helicopters – the Chinook.

The cadets had a guided tour around a Chinook, learning about the aircraft's history and how it operates, each taking a turn to sit in the pilot's seat.

The students then listened to an informative talk in the

armoury about the vast array of weapons used by the RAF.

"Lastly came the highlight of the day – a flight in a Chinook," said Augusta Pitteway, CCF Pilot Officer. "We were all kitted out with helmets and climbed on board for a half-hour flight."

"The cadets all had a fantastic time and we look forward to making this an annual visit."

## Chance to fine tune those skills

CADETS from all three services took part in a field-training exercise to learn the necessary weapons, fieldcraft and patrolling skills needed to gain the full benefits of the annual camp.

It was an ideal opportunity to give the school's cadet NCOs a chance to develop not only their personal skills but also their leadership abilities by receiving command appointments throughout the weekend.

The first day saw the cadets being given weapons training and instruction on how to eat and live effectively in the field. They then occupied and prepared a defensive position for the evening, with each cadet experiencing the joy that is sentry duty.

After sunset, the cadets received



a demonstration in light and noise discipline, as well as learning how to move quietly at night. In the morning the cadets moved out, ensuring no trace of their occupation was left behind. After more weapons training there was the chance to learn patrolling skills such as obstacle crossing and setting up all-round defence.

The weekend was organised and run by the SSI, Sgt Gough, with the assistance of 2Lt Baxter RM and 2Lt

Gisby. All the staff agreed that the cadets had performed admirably throughout the two days.

Sgt Gough said: "All the Year 10 cadets were enthusiastic and exceeded my expectations, while the cadet NCOs demonstrated good leadership skills in all the command appointments given to them. I would especially like to mark out Cadet LCpl George Bridgeman, who was a fantastic example to all the junior cadets."

## Community

# Our Big

AN unprecedented number of students and staff from Seaford surged into the local community to help a variety of environmental and social causes.

More than 500 students and staff took part in Seaford's fourth annual community action day, known as the *Big Day Out*, at more than 40 locations in Sussex and Hampshire.

Headmaster John Green, who created the initiative, said: "The main idea is to make a positive difference to the surrounding community. Due to the success of our annual action day, Wednesday afternoons are now blocked out in the timetable for weekly community events."

Students and staff assisted with a range of social projects, including visiting the Aldingbourne Country Centre, a trust dedicated to helping those with learning disabilities reach their potential and enjoy life.



Among the projects were ground clearance at Coultershaw Beam Pump, pictured above; planting at Tuppenny Barn; cleaning the former kitchens at Stansted House; and giving the dogs a lot of exercise and love at Clymping Animal Sanctuary.



Volunteers from Seaford College and the Hyde Group gave a helping hand to residents on the Whyke Estate in Chichester – cleaning windows, washing cars, clearing gardens and picking up litter. One resident said: "There are lots of people in need on the estate and projects like this can help them keep on top of things. I just want to say thank you to Hyde and Seaford College for their help."

“ The pupils have been an invaluable help over the past few years ”

Kim Doherty,  
Treasure Box Nursery



## Academic Performance

# Students embrace school life and deliver results

### GCSE

SEAFORD College students bucked the national trend in the decline in A\* grades and celebrated achieving their best-ever A\* GCSE results last year, leading to a record number of pupils heading into the Sixth Form.

Headmaster John Green said: "I'm very pleased with the progress and academic strategy we have put in place, enabling all our students to achieve excellent results."

There must be something in the water at Graffham as four top-scoring Seaford College GCSE students live in the village. Josef Amin achieved 11A\*s, William Morris gained 8A\*s and 2As, Holly Gyles netted 5A\*s, 2As and a B and George Limpus notched up 2A\*s, 6As and a B.

Tom Hennessy achieved 7A\*s and 3As, Christopher Burrough achieved 4A\*, 4As and 2Bs, Jonathan Davies gained 5A\*s, 2As and a B, Zachary Hodson gained 2A\*s and 7As, Oscar Quigley gained an A\* and 9As and Archie

Gammon achieved 2A\*s, 7As and a B.

Holly Gyles, who joined Seaford in Year 7, said: "I don't think academic achievement necessarily comes naturally to me. I worked really hard. I knew what I wanted to achieve and put in the work, although I definitely maintained a balance in my life. I'm part of the hockey first team, netball second team and rounders first team."

Mrs Morris was full of praise for Seaford College after her son William achieved such success: "It's a beautiful school, has a lovely feel about it. I was impressed when I first came to look around, the children seemed so happy here. We looked at other schools as well but we didn't like their attitude towards academic students. I know my son and I know what kind of environment he would thrive in. Seaford is an environment he can push himself in, rather than always being pushed."

### A LEVEL

AS well as last year's sixth formers achieving an increased number of A\* grade A levels – despite an undoubted national increase in academic rigour – the highest percentage of students in the College's recent history achieved their first-choice university places.

From 90% A\*-B grades in Business Studies, and 80% A\*-B in English Literature, pupils achieved great success across a wide variety of subjects, showing that they are rising to the challenge and fulfilling their academic

potential, on top of their other notable successes achieved in fields including music, drama and sport.

Headmaster John Green said: "Our pupils are increasingly ambitious in all aspects of their education and we are immensely proud of all aspects of their achievements across our diverse curriculum. We have a reputation as a successful school in Sussex, which is down to the hard work and dedication of students, staff and supportive parents."

## FAMILY FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE SEAFORD ETHOS

JOSEPH Hill was full of praise for the pastoral team after achieving three A\*s, two As and two Bs in his GCSEs.

"I joined halfway through Year 10. I'm a day pupil as I live about five minutes away. I think the pastoral team are great. At other schools it always felt as if you were getting on a train and if you fell off you were just left behind, whereas here that isn't the case."

His parents were equally impressed. Mr Hill said: "The biggest difference at Seaford is that they always try to get the best out of the individual. Seaford is unique in terms



of the pastoral support here. There was a lot of care and it was very individual. Other schools say they'll do that but it's just a tickbox exercise. They really care here."

Mrs Hill added: "We're so impressed with the school that we've moved his little brother over into the Prep School here. All the other pupils are very accepting. They aren't just competing with each other here; they congratulate each other as well."

Joseph is currently doing Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths A levels.

## Oliver's work impresses The Guardian

YEAR 13 pupil Oliver Shone had his IGCSE English Language writing coursework published in *The Guardian* last year. Pauline White, his English teacher, said: "He wrote this piece for me when he was in Year 11. It's about his brother, Sebbie, who has Down's Syndrome. It's a fantastic achievement!"

Here's a small extract from the piece, which can be found online at [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com):

“ It is hard to judge 'normal' in this world. There is talk of testing for Down's Syndrome, selective abortion and eradicating this condition. While I understand that no disability is ideal, I think it would be desperately sad to lose these precious children and adults who bring so much light into their families' lives.

Gone would be my crazy brother who talks of pizzas, trains and skiing all in the same sentence; gone would be the adoration that he feels for me and

gone would be that wonderful dancing and tuneless singing.

We often find ourselves laughing round the table at funny remarks and comments of his; he has always had the ability to generate laughter. His sense of humour is infectious; there have been many times that he has diffused a tense situation with his comical asides. It is hard to take life too seriously when Sebbie lifts up his jumper and tells me to "Put your belly away!" His sense of timing is impeccable. ”

# Day Out

Seaford pupils also visited local schools – Oakwood in Chichester, Conifers in Easebourne, and St Peter's in Shoreham – to lead activities with pupils. St Peter's Headmistress Kate Crees said: "This is the second year St Peter's has taken part in the day and once again the pupils here really enjoyed interacting with the Seaford students."

Diana Strange, Seaford's Director of Care and Welfare, took students to Duncton to clear, clean and paint Duncton's recreation ground and bus shelters.

Community Co-ordinator Clive Thorpe, who organised the day, said: "It's really important that our students realise just how lucky they are. It's great for them to get out and see that people are not as fortunate as themselves and it is good for them to discover skills they didn't know they had."



Two separate groups of pupils spent the day in Graffham. One cleaned the war memorial and park benches, while another cleared a blocked ditch, drain and culvert, as pictured, with assistance from parish councillor Sarah Lydiard-Wilson, who was delighted with the results.



Students undertook the very important task of beach clearing. At the end of the day Georgie Hegarty, Seaford's Head of Netball, said: "The beaches are officially clean at East Wittering, Bracklesham Bay and Selsey!"



Students and Headmaster John Green helped to clean out a storeroom at the Chichester-based homeless charity Stonepillow. Houseparent Matthew Pitteway was also helping and he now plans to take a group of boarders each week to support the charity on an ongoing basis. He said: "There is so much we can do to help them. We unpacked donations, checked the food was in date and then put a clear best-before label on them before putting them away. The students are keen to go back and help."

## Fundraisers' cash for invaluable hospice

HOUSE Prefects from Seaford College presented a cheque for £560 to St Barnabas Hospice in Worthing.

St Barnabas was Walled Garden West Boarding House's Charity of the Term before Christmas, and the money was raised through a number of fundraising activities including a fancy dress walk and a Reindeer run.

During the visit, the Prefects were given a tour of the facilities at St Barnabas, which can provide hospice care for up to 40 adults at a time in the West Sussex area. It costs more than £6 million a year to run the hospice which has provided palliative care to over 30,000 patients since it opened in 1973.



## School trips

### Insight into racing life

PUPILS from the Seaford equestrian team enjoyed a visit to local flat racing trainer Amanda Perrett's stables at Coombelands, Pulborough.

Seaford's Equestrian Team Manager, Lucy Sanders, said: "Amanda shares part of her stables with two-time winning Grand National jockey Leighton Aspell and we talked to him about what it was like to ride in this



famous and unique race.

"Leighton, who won on Pineau de Re in 2014 and Many Clouds in 2015, said that it was great fun on a good jumper but completely terrifying on a bad one! A really big thank you to them all for making us so welcome, and for a lovely and interesting morning."

## Sharing knowledge with our European partners

ERASMUS+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. Many of the initiatives are based on opportunities for students and recent graduates, but funding is also available to help teachers, lecturers and non-academic staff develop their skills in schools, universities, colleges and adult education environments around Europe – through job shadowing, teaching and training activities.

### Raising the profile

After two years of trying, Seaford College secured a grant of more than €60,000 from the British Council which, over the next two years, will allow teachers from a variety of departments to spend one or two weeks in Santander in Spain or Rouen in France.

The project aims to raise the profile of modern foreign languages (MFL) and attainment within Seaford College, to increase the confidence of teachers from all departments regarding MFL, to increase pupil aspirations, and to create more cross-curricular links through languages.

Last year the first Seaford College teachers went to Santander and



SHARING EXPERIENCES: Seaford teachers Helene Martin and Yvonne Clark with colleagues in Santander

Rouen. During their time away they went on language courses tailored to their needs, visited local schools with the aim of forging long-term links with them, went on cultural visits, and had the opportunity to meet teachers from other British schools to discuss their projects and share experiences.

"This is an invaluable opportunity for our school," said MFL teacher Helene Martin, who is overseeing the project. "Everyone has come back full of enthusiasm and ready to organise projects and activities that will

benefit everyone at Seaford College."

Several activities are planned and others are already taking place. For example, some pupils have taken videos of Seaford and sent them to our partner school in Santander, which will reciprocate. It is hoped these links will develop into potential exchanges and it is planned to involve local primary schools as well over the next academic year. With more teachers going on visits during the next few months, the amount of activities linked to Erasmus projects will gradually increase.

## The Wight place for a rewarding day in the saddle



THIS group of seven cyclists from Seaford College completed the annual Round The Island bike ride on the Isle of Wight.

Starting from Ryde, the 100km route sticks as much as possible to back roads. In the morning they were blessed with good weather and, despite a couple of wrong turns leaving Ryde, made good progress.

Houseparent Matthew Pitteway, who organised the day, said: "The climb at Blackgang Chine, just outside Ventnor, proved the most demanding of the day, especially as by this stage the weather had changed and the rain was coming down. However from the top of Blackgang Chine we were rewarded with a long steady decent. A pitstop in Ventnor provided the motivation to power on through to the finish.

"Arriving back in Ryde in time for the 4.45pm ferry, although tired, we were all incredibly proud of our achievement."

### PEAK FITNESS

A TEAM of eight walkers from Seaford College went to Yorkshire to complete the Three Peaks Challenge, which involves scaling the peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough in the Pennines in under 12 hours.

Houseparent Matthew Pitteway, who organised the expedition, said: "The weather was appalling but I'm delighted to say we completed the challenge in 11 hours and 48 minutes."

They battled rain and strong winds on their climb up Pen-y-Ghent before the 10-mile slog to Ribbleshead Viaduct to climb Wharfedale, the highest summit of the day. Despite the wind the climb up Ingleborough proved to be the easiest summit for them.

## Beanie is a rising equestrian star

SEAFORD has a rising equestrian star in Beanie Bradley. As well as being talent spotted and selected for the HPA Junior Polo Academy, she won both the 90cm and 1.00m show jumping classes at the Intermediate & Open County Qualifiers on her new pony Erik, and qualified twice for the National Championships.

The standard was incredibly high and not only was Beanie the top rider in West Sussex but also the top rider from Surrey, East Sussex and Greater London, beating pupils aged 18 and under from many prestigious schools.

Beanie rode with great skill and a calm head to jump the fastest clear round from 100 riders in the 90cm height section and then repeated the performance in the 1.00m, proving her consistency and causing much celebration from the Seaford supporters.



TOP RIDER: Beanie Bradley

● Another Prep School pupil doing well in the equestrian programme is Emily Cook, who won several rosettes at the St Gabriel's show jumping event. Her demeanour led to remarks about what a great credit she was to the school.



JUMPING CLEAR: Beanie Bradley in action

## Generous gifts on their way to deserving children



KIND-hearted Seaford pupils, parents and staff filled 111 shoeboxes in the annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign run by Samaritan's Purse. The shoeboxes were sent on their way to children all over the world with the help of pupils from Years 2, 3 and 4 who loaded the beautifully wrapped gift boxes into the van.

# Prep School News



## Audiences sing the praises of young Annie cast

THE heartwarming musical *Annie* was brought to life by Seaford College Prep School in rousing performances over two nights in the College Assembly Hall.

The young cast did a great job of tackling the show's hit songs such as *Tomorrow, It's the*

*Hard Knock Life* and *You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile*. The story revolves around orphan Annie and her eventual adoption by 'Daddy' Warbucks, based on the 1930s American cartoon strip by Harold Gray.

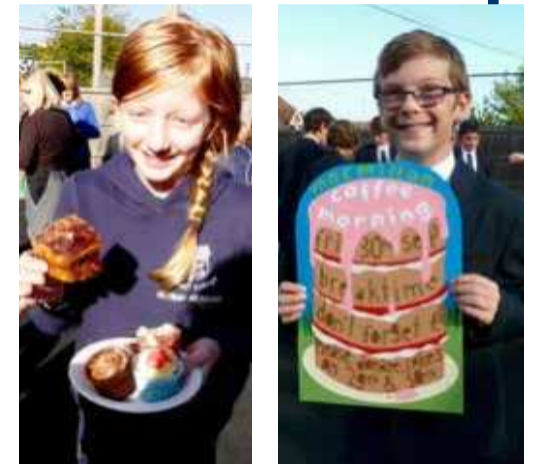
Director Dr Jane Askew said: "The show was

a lot of fun to work on. The children were very committed to learning their songs and their lines, and really enjoyed the dance routines. We had lots of warm and congratulatory feedback from the audiences, so the cast can be very proud of their achievements."

## Nature's way

NATURE came alive for children in Years 2 to 5 who enjoyed two special environment days. They spent a day in the Seaford College woods taking part in leaf printing, shelter building and basket weaving. Another day was spent at Botany Bay, an area of national significance featuring pure chalk water ponds, based on our own school site. The children learned about this beautiful area and activities included sketching, pond dipping and mini-beast hunting.

## Baking rakes in cash



SEAFORD Prep School raised an astonishing £606 through the donation and sale of cakes and baked goodies at a Macmillan Coffee Morning. The sun shone at break time, tummies were filled and throughout the day the Prep School managed to raise this incredible amount for charity.

## Pipped for finals

THE Prep School just missed out on reaching the national Greenpower Formula Goblin finals after a qualifying event at Dunsfold Aerodrome (the Top Gear filming site).

It was particularly impressive the way the electric car team worked so well together. Well done to Edward Gordon-Thompson, Thomas Twist and Sam Brown, along with the senior school pupils working with them.

## Doing us proud

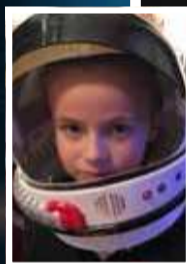
TWO teams from the Prep School – comprising Year 7s and Year 8s – took part in the annual Kids' Lit Quiz.

Twenty eight teams took part in the quiz. There were ten rounds altogether, with the many varied questions ranging from 'Which battle was fought 100 years ago in France?' to 'What colour are the pigs in Angry Birds?'. Both teams did very well.

PUPILS from Years 2 to 5 had a blast at the Tim Peake Exhibition in Chichester. This small but brilliant interactive exhibition is currently on display at the Novium Museum.

The children were guided around the audio visual displays and even had the chance to dress up in real spacesuits. In just one morning they learnt a huge amount about the significance of the International Space Station and listened intently to Tim Peake's message that the future holds many possibilities. The children and staff would like to thank Mr Venables-Kyrke, Chair of Governors, for kindly funding this trip.

## Tim Peake's exploits are captivating



## CASTLE'S PAST COMES TO LIFE FOR YOUNGSTERS

YEARS 2 and 3 had a great day out at Arundel Castle learning all about its history. They dressed up and found out about the different people who would have lived in the castle over the years.



## Bean to the library?

THANKS to the Friends of Seaford Prep School the library now has some very colourful and comfortable beanbags. They were bought with money raised at the Christmas Fair and are pictured here being tested out by this term's librarians. If you'd like to join the Friends of Seaford Prep School, just get in touch!



## Sport

# What a year ahead for our talented teams

SEAFORD sports teams have been doing well right across the board. Seaford Diamonds netball team is now well into its second successful season. After winning the Chichester netball league last year, the Diamonds moved up a level and entered the bigger Worthing league where they are currently top of Division 2. Indeed, Seaford netball continues to flourish.

In rugby there is strength in depth right across the age ranges, from our successful and much-improved Prep School teams to our Senior 1st XV. We have some very talented players throughout the teams, and the Under 15s have progressed to the Plate semi-finals of the Natwest Schools Cup.

Our U16 boys' indoor hockey team also deserve a special mention after qualifying for the prestigious national competition, beating Hurst 4-1 to reach this impressive stage of the competition. Our 1st XI hockey team also qualified for the national competition.

## EMMA RELISHES HER SILVER MEDAL WITH ENGLAND

EMMA Teague, Seaford's Head of Games, was part of the England team that reached the final of the European Masters Hockey Championship.

Staged at the twin venues of Old Loughtonians in Chigwell and Lee Valley at the Olympic Park, Emma and her team beat Ireland 3-1 in the semi-finals. Despite losing 5-3 to the Netherlands in the final, Emma, right, was delighted to be a silver medallist, saying: "It was a great experience, especially having the opportunity to play at the Olympic Park."



# There's plenty of inspiration behind Olivia's great run

Year 10's Olivia McDonald is Seaford's most successful long distance runner. Last year, in her first year at Seaford, she won the Sussex Schools Junior Cross Country title and this year has already been a busy one for her. She has enjoyed a podium finish in several major races, including coming third in the British Athletics Cross Challenge race in Cardiff. Olivia spoke to us about running, and her big aspirations for the future.

### When did you first get into running?

When I was in Year 3 I started doing cross country, and loved it. I usually run 3k at school and with my running club I often run 4k. I run both track and cross country, but I prefer running cross country.

### Tell us about your recent success

I competed at Sussex Schools and came 2nd, out of 100. That's qualified me to run for Sussex in the English Schools competition in March. If I come in the top eight there, I'll get to run for England the following week. I get a bit nervous before running, but also really excited to get started before a race. On top of doing cross country and track, I'm thinking about the steeplechase. I haven't run it before but a friend enjoys it.

### Who inspires you?

My dad, who used to be an athlete at a high level in Australia. Peter Bourke, a family friend who was Commonwealth Games 800 metres champion, also inspires me. The Australian, Genevieve LaCaze, is also my inspiration; she competes in the steeplechase which is something I'd like to do.

### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

My long term aim is to become an Olympian. I'd love to run the 5000m and follow in Mo Farah's footsteps. I'd also like to follow in the footsteps of Genevieve LaCaze in the steeplechase.

### How do you like to relax in your spare time?

I see friends and I like riding. I also look after my horse. I do watch TV but I'm generally out and about being active.

### What would be your top tip for other pupils hoping to follow your path?

If you really want to do more, find a club and tell the coach what you want to achieve. If you expect to win but you don't, brush yourself off and keep going. Don't be hard on yourself. You learn from every race, whether you win or lose.

## Sir Gareth is still entertaining rugby fans

RUGBY legend Sir Gareth Edwards was the star attraction at Seaford's Annual Sports Dinner.

The dinner was to raise money for a tour of Australia and New Zealand by Seaford's rugby and netball teams who have been busy fundraising for the trip.

Capped at 19 and Wales' youngest captain at 20 years, seven months, the scrum-half turned 21 on his first Lions tour, to South Africa in 1968. By 1971,

Edwards was well into his record run of 53 Wales caps in a row and played a pivotal role in the Lions' first series victory in New Zealand.

Sir Gareth reminisced about his career playing for Cardiff and Wales, and his entertaining stories had guests roaring with laughter.

TOAST TO A LEGEND: John and Siân Green with dinner guest Sir Gareth Edwards



## Our Olympic heroes

IT is not often that we see an Old Seafordian competing at the Olympics. But three Old Seafordians – Christopher Ruhr, and Tom and Mats Grambusch – all played for the German hockey team at Rio 2016. And, if that wasn't enough, Germany went on to take the bronze medal. They won the bronze medal match against the Netherlands on penalties, with Mats scoring in the shoot-out.



The senior team of Flora James, Evie Marchant, Lucinda Humphries and Olivia MacDonald came 6th out of 30 schools at the Coombelands Eventers' Challenge. Above are Olivia, Evie and Flora.

## Riders ensure programme has a fantastic future

SINCE the equestrian programme was first introduced at Seaford just over a year ago it has gone from strength to strength, leading to some fantastic successes in the past few months.

Riders from the Seaford equestrian team competed in six National Schools Equestrian Association competitions, with good results across the board and much experience gained.



Lucinda Humphries came 2nd in the 1.00m Farlington Eventer's Challenge, qualifying for the National Championships at Hickstead.

## Joint festival scores a winner

SEAFORD College recently hosted their inaugural joint Rugby 7s and netball festival. Sixteen schools entered the Rugby 7s, with Bedford winning the Seaford Cup after beating Haileybury in the final, and New Hall winning the netball tournament.

Head of Rugby at Seaford College, Ed Bowden, said: "It was a fantastic tournament with a very high standard of rugby played throughout the day."

Georgie Hegarty, Head of Netball, was equally delighted. "This was our first Sunday tournament at Seaford College and the level of competition was very high. The fact that some of the schools brought both their rugby and netball teams really added to the spirit of the day and hopefully the tournament will get bigger and bigger every year."

Seaford's Josef Amin really enjoyed his day of rugby. "We have beautiful facilities here at Seaford College and it is a great

place to play your rugby. It has been a fantastic day."

Antony Cook, Director of Sport at Seaford College, felt the event was the start of something that will only get bigger for the school in years to come. "It was a delight to welcome so many schools from all over the country to our facilities and to provide a really competitive environment for both boys and girls," he said.

"We will hopefully learn from the event in the hope that we can grow the day into a really large national event over the coming years.

"To see so many pupils participate in school sport on a Sunday was a real highlight and it just shows the commitment from all the schools and the staff to allow their pupils to fully embrace both tournaments, particularly as many probably had fixtures on Saturday as well."



## A day to savour for our athletes

LAST year, Seaford's athletes enjoyed their most successful day in more than a decade at the Sussex Schools Track & Field Championship, winning 17 medals. Two school records were also broken.

Jon Thompson, Head of Boys' Athletics at Seaford, said: "Sussex is a big county and we are a relatively small school, so to

win this amount of medals – better than Eastbourne's, Brighton's and Hurst's hauls – is a remarkable accomplishment."

Seaford picked up three gold medals in total – our Sussex county champions are Caelan Stanton in the shot, Rupert Blackwell in the javelin and Ashley Goodwin in the 200m.