



Downe House



Our Year
2019–2020

Our year

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Downe House

Introducing our Head Seniors, Tosin Adepoju and Poppy Scales

Tosin said, "I often ask myself, who I would have picked to be Head or Deputy Head Senior if I hadn't been given the role and Poppy's name is one that always comes to mind. Since working with her on the Junior Phoenix Society Council in Upper Fifth, I have known Poppy to be someone who is always positive, innovative and one of the funniest people I've ever met. She is extremely versatile, whether she is singing in choir, acting on stage or making everyone laugh with her hilarious presentations in assemblies. That is one of the many reasons why I am very lucky and ecstatic to be working with her for the next academic year as Head and Deputy Head Senior.

"I have every confidence that Poppy will be able to tackle her new responsibilities with ease as she has all the characteristics that a Deputy Head Senior needs. Poppy is a very compassionate person who relates well to others and always knows how to put a smile on everyone's face. I am looking forward to making lots of speeches for assemblies with her as she is definitely the funniest one out of the two of us."

Tosin describing Poppy in just three words

genuine, intelligent and multi-talented



Tosin



Poppy

Poppy said, "Tosin is compassionate and has an excellent sense of humour. We first met on a teambuilding activity when she joined Downe House in the Upper Fourth; I remember listening to her during a mock *Dragon's Den* as she pitched an idea to our entire year with confidence, spirit and plenty of wit. It was through public speaking that I got to know her better, as we were both on the Junior Phoenix Society Council. Her calm manner and excellent leadership skills made the experience so enjoyable for me and it is always a treat to hear her deliver a speech.

"Her hardworking nature is matched by her boundless energy and aptitude for teamwork on the lacrosse pitch. Tosin also thrives in more independent activities as she memorably showed during her House Dance solo, inspiring everyone with her energy, infectious vitality and excellent moves! To say her range of skills is impressive would be an understatement; whether she is presenting an assembly, playing lacrosse, dancing or being a good friend, she is sure to do it to the absolute highest of standards and it is an honour and a privilege to work with her over the next year."

Poppy describing Tosin in just three words

kind, hardworking, charismatic

No-one could have predicted at the start of the academic year 2019/20 just what lay ahead! It has been a year when the world has had to face many challenges, the impact of a global pandemic, the impact of years of environmental neglect and the impact of years of tolerance of inequality and prejudice. It has been important to all of us at Downe House to ensure that we respond positively to these challenges and reflect on how we can create long-lasting and meaningful change within our community and outside it.



Headmistress's Introduction

Our Digital Strategy has underpinned many of the successes this year. Its aim has been to ensure that technology is used to enhance teaching and learning and never as a gimmick. Last year, the School was recognised for the second time as a Microsoft Showcase School and it boasted the highest number of Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIEE)-trained teachers in the UK. This recognition from Microsoft indicates how effectively technology is used to deliver the girls' education. The fact that the School was able to move so seamlessly to remote learning for the Summer term when schools were closed due to the pandemic, was in no small part due to the skills that girls and staff had. Whether they were used to deliver teaching, sport, Drama or Music (our virtual Choir was the envy of many!), the results were impressive. There can be no substitute for direct face-to-face human contact and interaction, and we have missed that greatly, but we have learnt much about how technology can be used to excellent effect.

Our Environmental Committee, largely student-led, has affected real change with the School gaining both the Bronze and Silver Eco-Schools Awards as a result of their strategy. Our Student Council and House Councils have been contributing actively to our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy. Celebrating diversity and ensuring equality for all in our school community, regardless of race, sexual orientation, disability or religious belief is the aim. Our work is not complete, but I could not be more proud of the commitment being shown by all members of our community to achieve our goals.

What has defined 2019/20 is therefore neither the technology, nor the pandemic, but the strong sense of community that has shown that whatever the circumstances, members of Downe House come together to support each other with a respect for individuality, real tenacity and a great unity of purpose. I am extremely grateful to Sue Lister and the Foundation Office team for putting this record of a very special year together. Once you have read the articles and reports of everything that our outstanding girls have achieved, I hope that you, like me, will feel full of hope for the future.

Mrs Emma McKendrick, Headmistress



House Life



WILLIS

It seems a long time ago since Happy Day when we heard the news that our A Level exams were cancelled, spending an unexpected last night at Downe House and driving out of the School gates without knowing when we would return. Emotions ran high for us all, but although this end to our school days was not what we envisioned, the support and dedication of our teachers and housestaff has made things so much easier. We are also grateful to Arah Elombi and Mathilde Hughes for being exceptional leaders in their positions as Head and Deputy Seniors, as well as all the Seniors who have worked so hard throughout the year. Due to this collective effort we have so many lovely memories of our final year to look back on, and hopefully we will be able to say goodbye to Downe House properly and honour our time here by celebrating in a few months' time.

In the meantime, we can recognise all the achievements of the Upper Sixth, including the many charity initiatives that girls have organised independently. Willis has continued to support our House charity, the Prostate Cancer Research Centre, by raising awareness in Chapel services and singing carols in the Murray Centre at the end of the Michaelmas term. In addition, Motolani Oladitan raised over £1000 through a bake sale for the Dreams of Hope Foundation, and Arella Szlapak organised a virtual Mufti day in aid of Kangemi Church School

Kindergarten in Kenya. The charity work did not stop during lockdown; Sasha Percy-Davis sewed original designs onto hoodies and sold them with 100% of the profits going to the NHS, and Emily Barber helped her local area by preparing meals and delivering them to vulnerable members of the community. This all goes to show that Willis girls are determined to make a difference, and this resolve will no doubt continue beyond Downe House.

We were also kept busy with various music and drama events throughout the Upper Sixth. The Michaelmas Concert was a rousing success, and the Music Showcase, despite the change of venue from St John's Church to Downe House, provided an emotional final concert for the Upper Sixth musicians. The inventive original production of *Girl-X*, which followed the narrative of the highs and lows of the lives of teenage girls, took place in December and proved to be incredibly popular, as well as *The Hunger Games* Dance Showcase. The talent of the members of the newly created DH Dance Academy and Company were displayed in this showstopping production, and it will be exciting to see what these groups produce in the future. In addition, the Willis girls with positions of responsibility have presented and led the School with entertaining assemblies.

The girls also engaged in many social events, such as reels with boys' schools as part of the Caledonian Society, a dinner party with Winchester College and other socials with Radley. Subject-related

activities were also very much appreciated, with a highlight being the English Literature trip to see a talk by Margaret Atwood; and the girls who took the Leiths Certificate in Food and Wine all passed with flying colours. Downe House is putting an increasing emphasis on mindfulness and wellbeing, and this was reflected in the various activities organised by the housestaff so that the girls could take a relaxing break away from studying - treat nights, sleep and skin week, university cooking tutorials and the wellbeing box (which includes the popular massage chair) to name a few.

Although our final term at Downe House was cut short, there was a fantastic enrichment programme with both teachers and external speakers getting involved to share their knowledge about everything from European literature to self defence, to undertaking a Mini MBA and much more. Much of this has been very useful in preparing us for our chosen university courses which we are looking forward to starting in September, even though things may be slightly different than we expected. One certainty is that we will never forget our time in Willis, the amazing friends and memories we made during our time here and the kindness and support of our housestaff. We have loved leading the School in our final year and we will continue to make the School proud with all our future endeavours.

Madison James, UVI and Literary Senior





YORK

When starting the Sixth Form in September, none of us could ever have imagined how the year would play out, not least because of the unforeseen circumstances of COVID-19. Though we were scarcely at School for two terms, so much happened. Preparations for House Drama set the year off in September, and the virtual Founder's Fortnight closed it - I think it is fair to say life in York is never boring!

"House Drama showcased the incredible talent across the five Houses and was a perfect opportunity for the Lower Sixth to show their leadership skills." *Clementine McNair Scott, Head of Drama*

House Music was another event that united the Upper School Houses with the Lower Sixth.

"It was a huge success with all the House conductors creating brilliant performances in a wide variety of genres, on many different instruments." *Alexandra Hamilton, Head of Music*

In November, the Remembrance Service was led by York. For this Service, the York House Council took the lead with Sasha, Ellie, Morgan and Lizzy at the forefront. The Service was beautifully done; handmade poppies adorned the Chapel and readings, prayers and music solos accompanied the event. It really was a very positive and uplifting commemorative service. Soon enough January came around, bringing with it the ARTiculation competition. "The event was so successful as it gave students a chance to practice writing and presentation skills and extend their knowledge beyond the A Level curriculum." *Florence Hack, Textiles and Product Design student*

Throughout the Lent term, Caledonian Society remained one of the most popular activities. Our weekly Friday evening practices stood us in good stead, with hugely enjoyable reels taking place at Downe House, Eton, Radley and Harrow. The Lower Sixth year was rounded off with the Higher Education Applications Day which allowed us to get to grips with writing our Personal Statements and filling out our UCAS applications. All very exciting! I know I speak for the whole Lower Sixth when I say we are very much looking forward to all the new opportunities another year in York will bring.

Chloe Holbrook, LVI Head of York





AGN

It is safe to say this has been the most extraordinary and unexpected year that we have experienced as a House, and for Downe as a whole. In September, we first welcomed the lovely new Upper Fourth girls into our House, and journeyed to the deepest woods of Beaulieu on a bonding trip that proved very enjoyable - although the wildlife may not have enjoyed the high-pitch screaming from girls shooting at each other with laser guns!

House Drama invaded everybody's schedules for the hectic five-week run up. All the hard work paid off as our original prequel of the classic *WALL-E* film won several awards including best direction and script. We were also very proud of Yaashna Shourie and Taizya Adedeji (both LV), who achieved individual prizes, for most promising young performer and outstanding performance in AGN respectively. It was certainly one of the more impactful productions AGN has created, as our community believe that the ongoing neglect of our environment is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and one that we are trying our best to prevent.

In a classic build up to (almost) everyone's favourite holiday, the tradition of Secret Santa re-emerged, which never fails to put the House in a festive spirit, and we enjoyed a lovely Christmas trip to Oxford and Blenheim Palace, to see a stunning Alice in Wonderland-inspired exhibit. Despite a bit of drizzle and a slightly delayed coach, we absolutely adored the experience; it is indeed a universal truth that taking 50 teenage girls shopping is never a bad idea. However, there was a twinge of sadness at the end of the term as we said goodbye to our lovely Miss Cartmell, who was an essential part of the House and took care of some of us for two incredible years. We miss her and her dogs very much, but we were lucky enough to be blessed with Mrs Mears-Smith and her very cute daughter, Alice!

In the Lent term, the hugely successful 'Matron's Menu' was introduced, which gave House



families the opportunity to spend the evening in Mrs Mears-Smith's kitchen producing everything from cakes and soup to omelettes with our lovely Mrs Joice and Mrs Bowyer. For House Music we continued our theme of the preservation of nature and we sang 'Earth Song' by Michael Jackson in an energetic rendition with sombre undertones. It was a great success and although we sadly missed out on winning any awards this year, we did manage to snag best programme!

The very first Dance Showcase was a huge success. Our Dance Department held auditions and created a Dance Academy and Company for the aspiring and extremely talented dancers in our School. We are proud to say AGN was represented by many girls in the stunning performance of *The Hunger Games*.

Despite also being the day of the announcement that School was closing, Happy Day lived up to its name and brought a smile to everyone's faces with the theme of superheroes and villains! The Upper Sixth were evil villains, leaving everyone else to dress up as the iconic saviour of their choice, or an 'interpretation' of it. As always, there was a wide range and variety of costumes, some very impressive and inventive. We had Jesus's (roughly 12 of them) disciples, a female Travis Scott and just about every group of fictional heroes in history. With everything going on in the world at the time, it was an opportunity to relax, from eating sweets to watching the annual Dining Room flash mob (very well-choreographed, might we add). If we could have picked a day to celebrate as a community one last time before the lockdown, that most definitely would have been it.

The shocking news came for the Upper Fifth that the seemingly life-defining exams we had been working towards for three years would not be taking place. Many of us received the notification as breaking news on our phones and it was quite hard to process but thankfully, our worries were quickly calmed by the fast-thinking staff who were extremely supportive. It was remarkable to see the speed and efficiency with which the entire school transitioned to remote learning and virtual contact. We enjoyed everything from vodcasts, cookery sessions over Zoom and Virtual Sports Day (making your own obstacle course is preferable to running 1500m in most people's opinions). We are incredibly grateful, not only for the facilities that have enabled our education to be mostly unaffected, but for our dedicated teachers and all the staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure each of the 559 girls received the support we needed.

Some of the AGN highlights have been breaktime Zoom calls (pets included), the online Prefect interviews and writing short stories within our House families, based on *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. However, as much fun as online communication might be, we can't wait to see each other for a big reunion when the time is right - particularly those of us who will be moving into Sixth Form come September. AGN has been our amazing home for an action-packed three years and we will miss it so very much (unless we come back and haunt you as Seniors of course).

**Rosie Montague and
Gwyneth Choi, UV**



AGS

In the Michaelmas term we welcomed the new Upper Fourth girls who rose admirably to the challenge of settling into House. The year kicked off with the brilliant House Drama production of *Annie*, which was directed by Clementine McNair Scott and Antonia Holloway. All the hard work put in by the talented cast and House Drama team paid off as we won the prize for Artistic Endeavour. We can't wait for next year's production! We had a successful term, with exciting House trips to the RDA, the Crocodiles of the World Centre and the Remembrance Service at St Mark's Church in Cold Ash. Our week nights were equally as enjoyable, with book club, current affairs club and cookery. AGS was victorious in the House Science competition, with the team of Alice Pernthaller, Cheuk Wah Sara Lee and Tacita Rhys Williams. Before we knew it, Secret Santa had arrived. Always a highlight of the term, this year was no different with copious amounts of secret letter writing and detective work. All was revealed at the AGS Christmas Party where we dressed up as all things Christmas related. After a spectacular Carol Service, it was time for the holidays.

The Lent term began with another highly anticipated event, House Music. The theme was 'Save The Planet' and we sang *Mr Blue Sky* led by Wan Hei (Victoria) Cho. Special praise must go to Melissa Rosie Hulse for her incredible solo for which she won runner up and the vocal ensemble who won their category. Well done to everyone for their hard work.

Later in the term, the Drama Department put on the wonderful production of *Daisy Pulls it Off*. Congratulations to all the AGS girls who were involved, particularly our very own Emilia Finney who played the lead role of Daisy.

This year also saw the introduction of two new initiatives in House. Firstly, green dots were awarded to girls who displayed any of the key characteristics of a Downe House girl. The girls who had the most dots at the end of term were invited off-site for a meal with Mrs Mac and Miss Donaldson to celebrate their contribution. Secondly, Saturday Breakfasts took place for those who had participated considerably in the weekly House clubs.



These were kindly made by the housestaff and were such a treat to end a busy week.

Although the Summer term has been rather different to the one we had in mind, the AGS community were no less enthusiastic and we have enjoyed a whole host of virtual activities. We continued with our breaktimes and House clubs, which moved to Zoom. The Kahoot quizzes have been a hit, and a great way to interact with the rest of the House. Everyone adjusted very well to virtual school life and we would like to commend them for embracing it.

Finally, we would like to thank Emma Bracken, Clementine Pemberton and Annie Le Grice for their extraordinary work as Heads of AGS. We are sad to see them go but are happy to welcome our new Heads, Hope Thistlethwayte, Florence Hack and Jemima Harrison. We look forward to seeing everyone in September. This has been an exceptional and enjoyable year in AGS.

Alice Pernthaller and Ceara Bastin, UV





AISHOLT HOUSE

What an incredible journey this last year has been for everyone in Aisholt. Our first House outing was to Bristol and our new Upper Fourth girls joined in the fun activities, as the girls were teamed into groups of four across the year groups. The competition was fierce as the Upper Fifth girls cheered on the Lower Fifth and Upper Fourth. It was a memorable day of comradery, water fun and group activities. As a result of the year changing so abruptly, I still owe the winning team, Zaynah Folawiyo, Cléo Dutertre-Delaunay Juliette Bale and Emilia Methven a special dinner out, which I can't wait to have.

We ended the Michaelmas term with House Drama. Poppy Scales wrote a perceptive and very thought-provoking sequel to George Orwell's *1984*, called *1985* which brought us the win! Everyone was very excited, and it is safe to say that all the Aisholt girls enjoyed celebrating our win! The Lower Sixth team worked phenomenally hard and produced a show which all the girls felt so proud to be involved in. House Drama will always be a big feature of the girls' time here, and it is wonderful to see how supportive the girls are of each other, and the great fun they have as part of the Aisholt family.

In the run-up to the Christmas holidays, the House was full of festive spirit. Our tree was magnificent, and the girls decorated it beautifully. The girls were spoiled with the advent calendar filled with homemade fudge, kindly made by Mrs Rodgers. Each dorm was allocated an evening to sit and savour this delicious treat. Lauren Akinluyi worked her magic and made the most beautiful wreath for our front door, the Secret Santa was a huge



success and the girls enjoyed a trip to Blenheim Palace to see the light display, which was mesmerising and concluded with the Disney-themed movie projected onto the side of the Palace. At the end of term, our House outing was to Bath, where everyone enjoyed the Christmas market.

House Music was another incredible event which gave the Lower School girls the opportunity to integrate with the Upper School and Sixth Form. Amelie Furse led the girls in singing a memorable rendition of Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World' and we were thrilled to celebrate Cheuk Yu (Queen) Wong's solo win. House Dance was another much-anticipated and very enjoyable event, together with the very first Dance Showcase in 2020. The girls auditioned for the Dance Academy and Company, and Aisholt girls performed in a phenomenally dramatic rendition of *The Hunger Games*. Unfortunately, we had to postpone House Dance and House Gym due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The girls and staff alike eagerly await the return of these events as soon as it is possible.

Mrs Rigby introduced a 'Treat with Rigby', which is awarded to girls who show consistent hard work in House for the duration of half a term - the treat being a wonderful dinner with Mrs Rigby. The baking evenings run by Mrs Rodgers continue to be the most sought-after weekly

activity - who doesn't want to bake a scrumptious treat with Mrs Rodgers?

The girls dressed up as superheroes and villains for Happy Day. The Jolly Roger flag was flying on Mrs McKendrick's balcony and we counted ourselves as fortunate to have enjoyed this day, as it turned out to be the last community get-together before lockdown.

Our Upper Fifth girls had the most unimaginable news when they learnt that they would not sit their GCSE exams, which they had worked so hard for. Nevertheless, the girls showed true Downe House resilience as teaching and learning moved online. The Upper Fifth girls led the House through virtual activities, breaks, events and many other challenges. We could not have been prouder. The Lower Fifth and Upper Fourth girls also rose to the occasion and were brilliant in everything that they did. Over the lockdown period, we enjoyed Zoom calls across time zones, introducing ourselves to our Aisholt Pups, making Trump cards, baking, virtual Sports Day, obstacle courses, making videos and many more activities to keep the girls engaged and keep in contact with our Aisholt families during the lockdown period. I have been proud of the Aisholt team and all the girls who have shown resilience, compassion and spirit over this extraordinary year.

Mrs Kimberly Masters,
Housemistress (Aisholt)





HOLCOMBE

This has been a remarkable year, and certainly like no other I can remember at Downe House. Although we were disappointed that the Lent term came to a premature end, it was incredible to see the Holcombe spirit shine through in the months of online learning. The resilience, compassion and creativity shown by the girls has been exceptional!

This year, Holcombe has continued to perform well in inter-House events and there have also been many individuals who have excelled in Music, Drama and Sport. Although Holcombe's creative story of the Hatter's past, adapted from Alice in Wonderland, did not achieve the top prize in House Drama, there were some memorable performances from Tilly Gibbens, Celine Ibori, Lyla Elichaooff and Margot Ridley. However, Holcombe did maintain their title as House Music champions this year, in the face of tough competition from AGS and Tedworth. The talents of the Holcombe Singers, a skilfully arranged and performed ensemble piece, and a rousing group number helped to secure the victory! Continuing the musical success theme, Olivia McClintock has recently been offered a place at the Royal College of Music's Junior Department which she will take up in September. We are also very proud that Honor Neville and Lauren Raeburn-Ward have been awarded Sports Scholarships for next year.

However, one of the achievements I am most proud of this year was the fundraising effort of Lower Fifth pupil, Angelina Morton-Cutt back in February. Through a wonderful film night and merchandise sale, Angelina raised a total of £2,391.46 for the ArchAngel MLD Trust. Angelina was ably assisted by her cousin, Amelia, and Lower Fifth girls in Holcombe.

In addition to the House competitions and charity work, the Holcombe girls have continued to get involved in a whole host of activities and events including House suppers, theatre trips, pamper evenings and socials. The Lower Fifth black tie social with Winchester was



especially popular this year and there are high hopes that it will be possible to hold an event like this again soon. Undoubtedly, one of the most important events in the Holcombe calendar in 2019 was our Christmas outing, involving the whole House. Miss McCann, Mrs Brader, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Beavon all headed to Westfield for some essential shopping, and then it was off to the Palladium for the Christmas Pantomime. We are so lucky to have these experiences on our doorsteps and the lockdown made us even more appreciative for having enjoyed this together earlier in the year.

We were also fortunate to have several girls join us in Holcombe this year as part of the Global Schools' Exchange Programme. I was very proud of the way the Holcombe girls welcomed and hosted our visitors, who came from as far afield as

Australia. A large number of girls have been offered places on the programme for next year, and we can only hope that our ability to travel will have been restored, to enable them to experience life in another country and another school.

Miss McCann and I have greatly missed seeing all the girls and their families in the Summer term. We are particularly sad to not have had our wonderful Upper Fifth girls with us for their final term, but enormously proud of the way they have acted as role models for the younger girls. Finally, we have been so fortunate to have such a strong team of Seniors this year - my thanks go to Jessica Chapman, Georgia Allison and Arella Szlapak.

**Mrs Barbara Brader,
Housemistress (Holcombe)**



TEDWORTH

None of us could have foreseen at the start of the academic year just how eventful it would become but, as ever, House life has been about more than just one term. In the Michaelmas term, we welcomed our new Upper Fourth girls. They seemed to fit seamlessly into the House and as Hannah Hurd kindly observed, *'I felt so welcomed and happy in the House. Starting out in the five-bed dorm with many of my friends really helped!'*

As well as House Drama, the main adventure of the term was our House trip to Tiger Kloof. It really is the most amazing experience as Mary Hazlitt reflected in her thoughts on the trip. *'When we first arrived, we went to the Hem, Maggie's Soup Kitchen. It was an eyeopener to many of us on the trip and some tears were shed, especially at the end of the day when some families would go without food as we would run out very quickly. We also went to Thusaneng School, a special needs facility. The experience we had there made us more openminded and brought out the best in all of us. Smiles were seen all around that day. Tiger Kloof was an amazing experience that I will never forget and will always be a monumental event in my life. I wish I could go back there again as the feeling of making someone else's day better is the best feeling in the world*

and my peers and I managed to do that at least once every day we were there.'

A busy Lent term came upon us swiftly especially for the Upper Fifth with mock examinations. However, despite the heavy workload, there were also perks to the Lent term including House Music. Tedworth were triumphant in the House Choir category with a very appropriate – given our South Africa link – rendition of 'Africa' by Toto. We are very much looking forward to some of the postponed competitions being concluded when normal schooling resumes.

We also encouraged the girls across the House to participate in our varied activity programme. Ella Spry commented, *'In the Lent term, as it is shorter compared to the long haul of Michaelmas, we were more inclined to participate in the activities the Housemistresses kindly set up for us. From the Book Club to great activities at the weekends, we were never short of things to do.'*

We almost made it to the end of term before the impact of COVID-19 became the new normal and the Upper Fifth realised that the early end to the term also marked the end to their time in Tedworth. Thankfully we have seen plenty of them as we moved to online learning and they have been superb supporters of the House.

We cannot escape the fact that this has been the most unusual of terms as Konstanza Haefner reflects, *'The Tedworth family has been strewn all over the world, from Hong Kong to Rome to Lusaka. This has not hindered us from being together; we have had countless Zoom calls during our breaks and teas, as well as a weekly quiz, where everyone has time to catch up with one another. Mrs Barnard and Miss Stubbings have both been very active on the House's Instagram account, where they diligently make posts for our birthdays, for the latest Downe House events or even for the Tedworth Virtual Pet Show. This past term has undoubtedly been a stressful one but our Housemistress and her team have worked non-stop to ensure it was the best one yet, regardless of the circumstances. Virtual learning was a hard feat to conquer and I am not certain I have mastered it yet. Nonetheless, we have all chosen to battle it head-on and I personally have found that it isn't as hard as I first perceived it to be. As the Summer term reaches its end, I have learnt that what is most important is the community that we have built. No matter the hardships we face, we will always be a family and we must always stick together.'*

Mrs Sarah Barnard, Housemistress (Tedworth) with contributions from Hannah Hurd, UIV, Ella Spry, UIV, Konstanza Haefner, LV and Mary Hazlitt, LV





Lower School

DARWIN

Our first year at Downe was one to remember as we moved into our cosy new home, and we loved becoming a part of the Darwin family. A lot happened in that first year and it was certainly a rollercoaster of emotions. We all made lots of friends and our friendship groups soon stretched beyond Darwin to other Lower School Houses. The Darwin Lower Fourth girls were very welcoming and the great atmosphere in the boarding house always helped to put us at ease.

Downe House certainly kept us on our toes but we also got to have a lot of downtime, when we caught up on prep, read, drew, played swing ball, and lots of other fun activities in the beautiful gardens and woods surrounding the boarding house. We got involved in many House events as well, such as 'Darwin's Got Talent', Dorm Drama, celebrations of cultural events, charades and even a summer fete. 'Darwin's Got Talent' is a talent show in which the Remove and Lower Fourth girls perform together singing, playing piano, dancing or performing some magic. Dorm Drama was a fun talent show - we made pantomimes in our teams that had a mix of year groups. My pantomime was *Little Orange Hood*, depicting the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*



with a surprise twist set in a parallel world. Weekends in Darwin were always such fun too, we had a variety of activities in House, as well as our sporting commitments. We really enjoyed baking in the House kitchen, crafting and pamper sessions with a movie.

Darwin felt like a 'home from home', the House staff were always on hand and we were lucky enough to have lots of pets to help look after too. All in all, it has been a wonderful place to come back to after a long day at school.

Sophia Zhu and Esmée Haefner, Remove





Lower School

HERMITAGE

Looking back on this extraordinary year, it seems hard to believe that in September, 21 new Remove girls arrived in Hermitage House ready for an adventure to begin. We were all quite nervous at first, some of us from the other side of the globe, but it only brought us closer. The newness of our surroundings swiftly left us as our days were filled from dawn to dusk with activities, information and chill out sessions all helping us to get to know our new friends who we were going to spend the next seven years with. We found that there was no time to be homesick as we were kept busy the whole day and we were all tired out by bedtime. Our Housemistress, Mrs Collingwood, is totally used to bringing new girls into the Downe House way of life and Hermitage is her world which we all willingly joined as happy Hermites. Aided and abetted by Miss Hennequin and Miss Thomas, Mrs Collingwood steers the Hermitage ship through storms and calm seas to bring all the girls back to a place we are delighted to call home.

There are so many special things we do in Hermitage such as running all over the House playing sardines, baking with Mrs Hamisi on a Friday night and our Sunday House breakfasts in our PJs. We have our own boxes of tuck and when there is a birthday in Hermitage, we always share a delicious cake. There have been numerous events, sports matches against other schools, trips out on Sundays such as to the Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre and the fabulous Christmas Markets in Winchester and so much more, there really is never a dull moment.

We are always keenly aware that there is a world outside Downe House and new this year is the Eco-Committee of which both Hao Yan (Helena) Yuan and Ada Kurumlu are members. We also contribute to the many School and House charity events including Mufti days when even the teachers dress up!

In Hermitage we each have our own tutors, Miss Emeny, Mrs Phillips-Morgan and Reverend Platt, who



meet with us regularly to see how we are managing our work and our prep and to give us guidance on our other interests outside the curriculum. Mrs Hamisi, Mrs Illott and Mrs Essex also assist with pastoral support in the House during the evenings to ensure that we have lots of support available and a hug should we need one.

At the start of the new academic year, each member of Hermitage is allocated to one of the five Upper School Houses that we move to when we join the Upper Fourth. Every girl gets the chance to join in with whole School competitions including House Drama, Dance, Sport, Music and Gymnastics and everyone's contribution counts. It is quite competitive but afterwards we all come back to be happy Hermites where being together is the one real thing that matters.

In the past term it has been a challenge to keep connected to each

other when we are all at home. But Mrs Collingwood and the team are in touch with us all each day and we have regular meetings on Teams and catch-ups with one another every day. We all miss each other and Hermitage but have made the most of the online school environment, enjoying some of the benefits (not having to rush around the School between classes and hugs from our parents) and carrying on despite the disadvantages (seeing our friends, team sports and the numerous school facilities). We will look back at this extraordinary year as new Downe House girls with pride and wonder, as we look forward to coming back together in September with the wisdom of what we have learnt and lived through during this year.

Georgia Ainscough, Sasha Novis and Dominica Prentice (Hermitage Remove Heads and Deputies of House)





Lower School

HILL

The girls enjoyed a wonderful, if slightly shorter than usual, year in Hill House. We welcomed a super group of girls to the House this year and the Lower Fourth were excellent buddies to the new girls helping them to settle into life at Downe House.



The real highlights of the year were the fantastic charity events which the girls set up and organised themselves. We had movie nights and invited the other Lower School Houses down to join us for a movie, popcorn and sweets. The girls held quiz nights, inventing their own quizzes for all the Lower School to take part in. We had a huge number of cake sales for which they baked some amazing cakes and sweet treats. We enjoyed talent shows with weird and wonderful entries and much more! It was excellent to see how committed the girls were to supporting these events and each other.

We have enjoyed some fantastic trips organised by the CCA Department. Some favourites were the Remove trip to Cadbury World where they watched the chocolate being made, as well as learning about its origin and the brand's history. The girls also loved their beginning of year trip to Avon Tyrell Outdoor Activity Centre where they enjoyed many teambuilding activities and finished the day building rafts on the lake!

The girls have enjoyed using their Surface devices and I was so proud of how well they managed during the period of online learning, but also how innovative and creative they were whilst at home.

Mrs Claire Williams, Housemistress (Hill)





Downe House
Veyrines

VEYRINES REPORT

From the mid 1990s, our school in France was nestled deep in the Périgord Noir; the picturesque village of Veyrines-du-Domme sits just below the mighty Dordogne and to the west of Domme, a bastide town with a stunning view down to a majestic curve in the river. It has been a wonderful home for our girls and staff; the creamy stone buildings, once part of a working farm, set behind the original iron gateway and around a central courtyard. Right next door is the Salle des Fêtes and a small church. In the warmer months, the garden is full of colour and greenery, pots of red geraniums tumble down the stone stairs, the creeper over the buildings turns a rich warm red as winter approaches and the atmosphere is quite different in the colder months when the cosy classrooms and the common rooms downstairs welcome the girls and



the staff each day with the bright winter light streaming in. If there was snow, the girls would race to the village tennis court to make a snowman.

The school had a homely feel and was very much a part of the small hamlet. The PE lessons made use of the village facilities and the school pushbikes meant the girls could venture out into the pretty countryside. Each term, the Downe House girls and staff held a small soirée in the Salle des Fêtes – music, poetry readings, short plays. The girls were quite at ease chatting with the villagers before and after, just as they were when they ran a stall in Sarlat to raise money for a local charity.

The school lessons were interspersed with sorties to a great variety of places, with the teachers taking small groups out in the school minibuses. They may have gone to sketch in the countryside, to hunt for truffles with the local experts and their dogs, to visit the prehistoric cave paintings in Rouffignac, to a lesson in baking

bread, to the cookery school in Souillac or they may have taken to high ropes in the village trees under the guidance of Cedric.

The girls learnt about the local way of life, the history of the area and its geographical features, all the while developing their language skills through lessons at the school and by taking part in local activities. Each girl kept a journal of her time at Veyrines, a mix of pictures, sketches and writing and it is clear that they had a special time whilst there, forming friendships and learning a great deal about the language, the country and the people.

In terms of the leadership, Jennifer Howard was the first Head of Veyrines, followed by Eric Reynolds assisted by his wife Vi, Alison Gwatkin assisted by her husband Rodney and finally Deborah and Iain Scotland.

Jane Caiger-Smith, Archivist



"C'était le trimestre le plus excitant, productif et incroyable de ma vie! Je me suis fait plein de Nouvelles amies et j'ai recontré des filles que je ne connaissais pas du tout avant. J'ai fait des activités que je ne vais jamais oublier et j'ai appris des choses qui vont me servir dans la vie."

"It was the most exciting, productive and incredible term of my life! I have made loads of new friends and I met girls I didn't know at all before. I did things which I am never going to forget and I learnt things which will be useful in later life."

Kate Mulvany, LIV 2016/17



HOUSE DRAMA

This year's House Drama was a little different as the LVI were set the challenge of creating their own story from scratch using the theme of 'Untold Stories'. Directors and Scriptwriters were tasked with choosing a popular story and then creating an untold sequel or prequel. The Lower Sixth certainly rose to the challenge with a vibrant and eclectic mix of stories from *Annie* through to *1984*. The standard of the scriptwriting was excellent and was further bolstered by the quality of the direction. It was fantastic to see pupils stretch and challenge themselves by creating these original contemporary drama pieces.

First up were last year's winners, Holcombe, with their brilliant prequel to *Alice in Wonderland*, which gave the audience an insight into the history of the Mad Hatter and won Rosie Moore the Best Actor Award for her portrayal as the young Mad Hatter. This was then shortly followed by *1985*, which was performed and directed by Aisholt and provided us with a dark sequel to Orwell's dystopian classic. After lunch we were treated to the AGS sequel to *Annie*, which showed off the wonderful singing talents of the whole cast. This was shortly followed by *Peter Pan* from Tedworth who gave us a wonderful backstory for Captain Hook. Last, but certainly by no means least, was AGN's performance of the prequel to Disney's *WALL-E*, which encouraged the audience to reflect on their responsibility towards climate change. This was a thought-provoking and moving piece of theatre, that rightly won AGN the award for Best Script.

The awards were an intense affair, after the hours devoted to creative planning and rehearsing led by our outstanding Lower Sixth production teams. The Artistic Endeavour Cup was given to AGS for their creation of the sequel to *Annie* and the overall House Drama Cup was awarded to Aisholt for their powerful sequel to *1984*. Overall individual prizes were also given to Claudia Pope for Best Supporting Actor and Yaashna Shourie for Most Promising Young Performer. The award ceremony was a delight to behold and it was truly inspiring to see the Houses support each other in such a genuine and meaningful way.

Our adjudicator for this year's House Drama was Sarah O'Connor, who currently stars in the West End production of *Waitress*. Sarah was tremendously impressed by the standard of the productions the girls created in such a short space of time and was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm Downe House girls have for theatre. This was echoed by many members of the audience who commented on the sophistication of this year's performances. It would certainly be accurate to say that the Lower Sixth creative team have set the bar even higher for House Drama 2020!

Mrs Kirsty Richardson,
Director of Drama and Dance



HOUSE MUSIC 2020 – SAVE THE PLANET

Always a highlight of the Downe House calendar, House Music this year lived up to expectations with a spectacular evening's entertainment in the Performing Arts Centre. From the vibrant music choices to the striking dress codes, it was certainly an energetic display of talent and musicianship. Each House presented a programme of music featuring a soloist, an instrumental ensemble, a vocal ensemble and finishing with the House Choir. The theme for the House Choirs this year was 'Save the Planet' and the audience were treated to some interesting takes on the theme with Holcombe choosing 'Radioactive', Tedworth 'Africa', Aisholt 'What A Wonderful World', AGN 'Earth Song', and AGS 'Mr Blue Sky'. Our adjudicator for the evening was Tim Bennett, Director of Music at Cheam School, and he had the tricky task of selecting the prize winners from all the quality entries on display. Holcombe continued their winning streak by being crowned not only as the overall winner, but also winning Best Instrumental, and Best Presented House. Cheuk Yu (Queenena) Wong won the prize for Best Soloist for her performance on the marimba, and Tedworth were the worthy winners of Best House Song. AGS won two categories with Best Vocal Group, and Wan Hei (Victoria) Cho, Le (Joanne) Yu, and Rosanna Love shared the accolade of Best Conductors, whereas AGN were victorious in the Best Programme Design. There were two new categories this year; Best Accompanist was awarded to Camilla Hale from AGS, and Outstanding Individual Contribution was awarded to Holcombe's Antonia McClintock who performed their solo, sang in the vocal ensemble, performed in the instrumental ensemble, and accompanied the House Choir. Well done to Holcombe conductors Rosalind Wippell, Lucia Bugeja, and Alexandra Hamilton for leading their House to victory, and to all girls for a highly entertaining evening!

Miss Susan Holmes,
Principal Accompanist



WELLBEING PROGRAMME

We had an exciting year planned to highlight the importance of wellbeing. We appointed a new Head of the Learning for Life (LfL) programme, Miss Katy Tinman, who was given the brief to re-vamp and build on our PSHE offering, to ensure that we have a programme for our girls that is forward thinking, dynamic and prepares them for a life beyond Downe House. Creating a designated space in which to teach LfL has been an exciting initiative and we unveiled The Helix in the Lent term, which was very well received by the girls. A modern space for a modern subject. One of Miss Tinman's briefs has been to bring wellbeing under the umbrella of the LfL programme.

We also had new initiatives planned this year to help manage exam stress such as puppy therapy and a full offering planned for Founder's Weekend. However, on 18 March, our unforgettable Happy Day, it was announced that exams were cancelled, and School closure followed quickly afterwards. We had to adapt very quickly to becoming a Digital School and under these circumstances, wellbeing has never been so important. With all that has come with lockdown and the impact of COVID-19, our girls have faced challenges of physical isolation from friends and family, disappointment, uncertainty and some have had to mourn the loss of exams.

For these very reasons, we embarked on a robust virtual wellbeing programme. I believe the staff rose to the challenge magnificently and the girls have had the benefit of support and the opportunity to connect, albeit virtually, in many ways. Wellbeing cannot thrive in a 'one size fits all' approach, so the programme has had to be broad and far reaching. The girls and staff have had opportunities to sing in virtual choirs, learn new skills, attend lectures, practise yoga, bake, create, exercise and socialise online through House quizzes. The list of opportunities has been endless, and I have been so proud to be part of this amazing Downe House community that I call home. When we can come back together again, the new initiatives planned will be back in place and I know that we will all appreciate being together more than ever. We will continue to encourage our girls to look up and outwards, to ensure that service to others is part of their routine. I hope that lockdown in 2020 has given each of us the time and opportunity to reflect on what is important, to make any changes that we need to, so that moving forward we will have grown as individuals and refocused our energies. I believe that Downe House will be all the richer for it.

Mrs Genevieve Ford, Boarding Deputy and Designated Safeguarding Lead



THE HELIX

The Helix provides a more informal classroom for the Learning for Life (LfL) programme as well as providing a quiet device-free space where girls can go when they feel like some time out, known as the Snug. Girls from Remove to Upper Fifth now enjoy all their lessons in our new teaching space. The room is deliberately designed without desks or whiteboards but with beanbags and benches in order to facilitate open discussion around a host of sensitive topics covered in the LfL programme. The relaxed atmosphere

in The Helix has made a huge difference to the class dynamic. There has been a noticeable positive shift in the way the girls are responding to the important issues and topics in the LfL curriculum. The space in The Helix is also being used by other departments for yoga classes, wellbeing activities, peer mentoring sessions and student society meetings, to name but a few.

Miss Katy Tinman, Head of the Learning for Life Programme

"I love the Snug in The Helix as it is the perfect, comfortable space to go to chat to friends or for when you need a break from busy school life."

Emilia Finney, UIV

"I like the atmosphere of The Helix the most because the beanbags and colourful lighting just make it a more open and relaxing space to be in - it's so nice to have a break from sitting at a desk!"

Charlotte Mackinnon, UIV



Academic Life

English

I have to say that it has been an incredibly good year for the English Department. Firstly, we must say how proud we are of our examination students who have worked diligently to ensure the best possible grades; the standard of coursework and examination practice has been simply outstanding. Girls in KS3 have been working equally hard producing work that is both impressive academically and a pleasure to read. Both before and after lockdown, the English Department have been extremely impressed by the level of commitment shown by our students and we commend them all for their continued efforts – well done everyone.

In the teaching team, we have welcomed back Mrs Boswell and Mrs Mears-Smith from maternity leave and gained a new addition in Aisholt Housemistress, Mrs Masters. Sadly, this term we have said goodbye to my predecessor as Head of English, Mrs Harrington, who has taught at Downe for five years. We thank you Mrs Harrington for all you have done and wish you lots of luck in your new ventures – please keep in touch!

Alongside the academic, it has also been a great year for enrichment activities too. Quantum Theatre, a traveling theatre company, visited us twice. Before Christmas, they performed *A Christmas Carol* to KS3 in the China Auditorium, putting us firmly in the mood for the season and then in February, they performed *Macbeth* for KS4 as part of their GCSE Literature exam preparation. The Lower Sixth travelled to the Barbican in London to see *Measure for Measure*. The Lower Fifth saw *An Inspector Calls* in Milton Keynes and the Upper Sixth attended an evening with Booker Prize Winner, Margaret Atwood.

World Book Day on 5 March provided us with a great opportunity to collaborate with the Murray Centre to encourage reading for pleasure with in-house competitions. All year groups were invited to take part in the Downe House Short Story Competition and the National Poetry Competition. The Lower Fourth girls attended their first Lower School Debate with boys from Ludgrove; this was a marvellous occasion for speech makers and audience participants alike.

Mrs Joanne West, Head of English



The English Department celebrates World Book Day with Mrs Hill (Librarian) and Mrs McKendrick



Lower School students enjoying A Christmas Carol in the China Auditorium



Lower Sixth A Level students at The Barbican, London in January 2020

Mathematics

Despite the lack of external examinations for all except the UV top set, who sat their IGCSE Maths in January 2020, it was another very busy year. Throughout the year the Department had been making good use of Microsoft Teams and OneNote in their teaching, and this proved a great help when teaching switched to online at the end of the academic year.

Over the year, girls were entered for the various UK Maths Challenges as usual. In October 2019, six girls took part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls (UV and above) and Distinctions were achieved by Alice Pernthaller (UV) and Ruiqi (Rachel) Wang (LVI). Then in November 2019, 26 girls from the UV and Sixth Form, together with Lan (Lydia) Zhang from LV, sat the Senior Maths Challenge, achieving six Bronze, seven Silver and four Gold certificates. Best in Year in UV was Yuhan (Angela) Wan, Best in Year in LVI and Best in School was Ruiqi (Rachel) Wang, and Best in Year in UVI was Michelle Sung. As a result of their excellent performances, Yuhan (Angela) Wan (UV) and Lan (Lydia) Zhang (LV) both qualified to take part in the Senior Kangaroo, with Yuhan going on to achieve a Merit. Ruiqi (Rachel) Wang (LVI) and Michelle Sung (UVI) both qualified for the British Olympiad Round 1 and both went on to achieve a Merit. In February 2020, 77 girls selected from the UV, LV and UIV entered the Intermediate Maths Challenge, achieving 13 Bronze, 26 Silver and nine Gold certificates. Best in

Year in UIV was Janice Li, Best in Year in LV and Best in School was Christine (Yichun) Zhao, and Best in UV was Yuhan (Angela) Wan. Nine girls qualified to take part in the follow-on Kangaroos, and Christine (Yichun) Zhao and Yuhan (Angela) Wan both qualified to sit Olympiad papers. Due to COVID-19, these follow-on papers have only just been sent to UKMT for marking, so results are not yet available. This year's Junior Maths Challenge was initially cancelled, but then eventually made available to sit online (at home). A total of 63 girls from the Remove and LIV entered and achieved 18 Bronze, six Silver and two Gold certificates. Best in Year in LIV and also Best in School was Youran (Jocelyn) Li, and Best in Remove was Scarlett Hayes.

In January 2020, Ms Debra Coyne from Methodist Ladies College, Melbourne joined the Mathematics Department for two weeks as part of the Global Staff Exchange Programme - an excellent opportunity for us all to share current practice, expertise and ideas together, and a mutually enjoyable experience.

Throughout the year, members of the Department continued to give freely of their time to run Maths Clinics on Friday and Saturday mornings and on Wednesday afternoons for girls to drop in when they needed specific help, as well as seeing girls individually when appropriate.

Mr Robert Barnes, Head of Mathematics

Economics and Business

Our students have taken part in national essay competitions, been involved in the annual Oxbridge Academic Conference, undertaken their own research on the working of the NHS and considered the macroeconomic and microeconomic impact of COVID-19. Yitong (Carrie) Chen (LVI) wrote a superb piece for a national essay competition entitled 'What is the socially efficient level of crime?', an interesting twist on a standard economic concept of private and social benefits and costs in which she argued 'that the socially efficient level of crime is where marginal social benefit and social cost of crime prevention are equal.'

Early in their studies, students researched the way in which the NHS operated and the demand pressures on the NHS compared to their ability to supply their services. Notably, Tabitha Kendall (LVI) investigated the importance of healthcare on economies and the impact of economic, social and demographic factors on demand for different healthcare services and the resulting pressure on government budgets.

All students were required to consider the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. They considered different economies which led them to discover many interesting facts and showed just how inclusive they are in their understanding of this pandemic which does not respect national borders. Both Tanisha Doshi's (LVI) critical assessment of the impact of travel restrictions, business closures and poor consumption on world trade, and Poppy Penney's (LVI) investigation of the effects and duration of

quantitative easing as well as the environmental impact of the pandemic, were outstanding examples.

At the Oxbridge Academic Conference, Susanna Brooke (LVI) considered the link between Behavioural Science and Economics, reporting that she had been looking into Behavioural Economics and how it can be applied to the COVID-19 pandemic. Susanna researched common biases that result in irrational behaviour which opposes a fundamental assumption of rationality in Economics.

Yiru (Ruby) Huang (LVI) looked at the whole idea of supply chain management and its innovation with blockchain technology. Yiru concluded that, 'supply chains have evolved from simply physical distribution to logistics management and supply chain management is a constantly changing idea because the demand for supply chain differs over time. In my opinion, the future of supply chain management will be related to blockchain as this technology makes the supply chain more transparent, efficient and environmentally friendly.'

Yitong (Carrie) Chen (LVI) considered the global financial crisis of 2008 saying that, 'the main drivers of this crisis were the loosened restrictions to lend money to subprime borrowers with a tarnished credit history and few savings combined with overconfidence in the housing market, which eventually led to the burst of the housing bubble. In addition to the fact that the requirements for taking out a mortgage were minimal, American people were heavily influenced by the American dream which encouraged house ownership.'

Mr Ian Chapman, Head of Economics and Business Studies

Geography

UV GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO SUSSEX

The UV Geographers headed off to Lewes in Sussex on a crisp November afternoon to meet the Field Studies Council staff at their relocated South Downs base. After an evening lesson to prepare for our first day of fieldwork, we settled into our dorms to relax and bemoan the lack of 4G WiFi in the South Downs National Park!

Our first day took us to Seaford to study the impact of groynes on beach size and sediment and discuss the effectiveness of the coastal defences with people in the local community. As we walked along the seafront to Splash Point we couldn't fail to see 'terminal groyne syndrome' in operation. Climbing down the natural rock steps to the pebble beach below, we split into our groups and the girls learnt how to measure the size and gradient of the beach with a tape measure, ranging poles and a clinometer.

As we moved to the west side of the groyne, we added additional data to our investigation by using callipers to sample the size and angularity of the pebbles as well as their distance away from the groyne. It was great to be able to see with our own eyes the impact and effectiveness of the coastal processes that we had studied in class.

During lunchbreak, the girls approached local people to analyse opinions on the sea defences in the town. Due to the cold weather there were not many people out and about but as a group we still managed to collect enough data to be a valid sample. Again, it was great to learn about sampling methods and to experience their advantages and disadvantages in real life! Back at the Hostel we had a little time to relax before returning to the classroom to analyse the day's data and start drawing our graphs.

On our second day, the students visited Eastbourne to measure the success of regeneration in the town centre.

We visited four locations inside and outside of the regeneration zone and gave scores for the attractiveness of the buildings, the amount and range of greenery and learnt how to measure the levels of noise using a sound recording meter. As we started in one of the unregenerated areas, the students were not impressed with the local government's efforts; they annotated photographs of cramped housing, ill-maintained shopfronts and roads packed with parked cars. Around the corner we heard sighs of relief as they moved into an open, clean and attractive retail zone with a cute local market serving up a wide range of snacks and delicacies.

Within the regenerated areas, the girls were introduced to a new data collection technique called place profiling using a derive method. In groups they had to follow a range of visual clues to randomly find themselves in a different area of the development. This enabled each group to get to different locations and gain a wide range of data for the whole development. We encountered the difficulties of some data collection techniques, namely the challenge of getting a range of locals to complete questionnaires but this too taught us that all techniques have negative and positive aspects.

The students had time in their lunchbreak to undertake their own personal tour of the regeneration recognising big brands and independent stores in the development, and after lunch we had a discussion of the extent of the success of the development which we all agreed was mostly positive but had some negative aspects such as noise, and unfinished construction.

Whilst it was a long weekend, it was invaluable preparation for the GCSE Paper 3 exam. It is compulsory to complete data collection projects for both physical and human topics, but we managed to pack a lot more into our time and were able to consolidate our theoretical knowledge of the coasts and urban topics in addition to seeing geography in its real-life context.

Miss Emeny and Mrs Patrick, Teachers of Geography



History and Politics

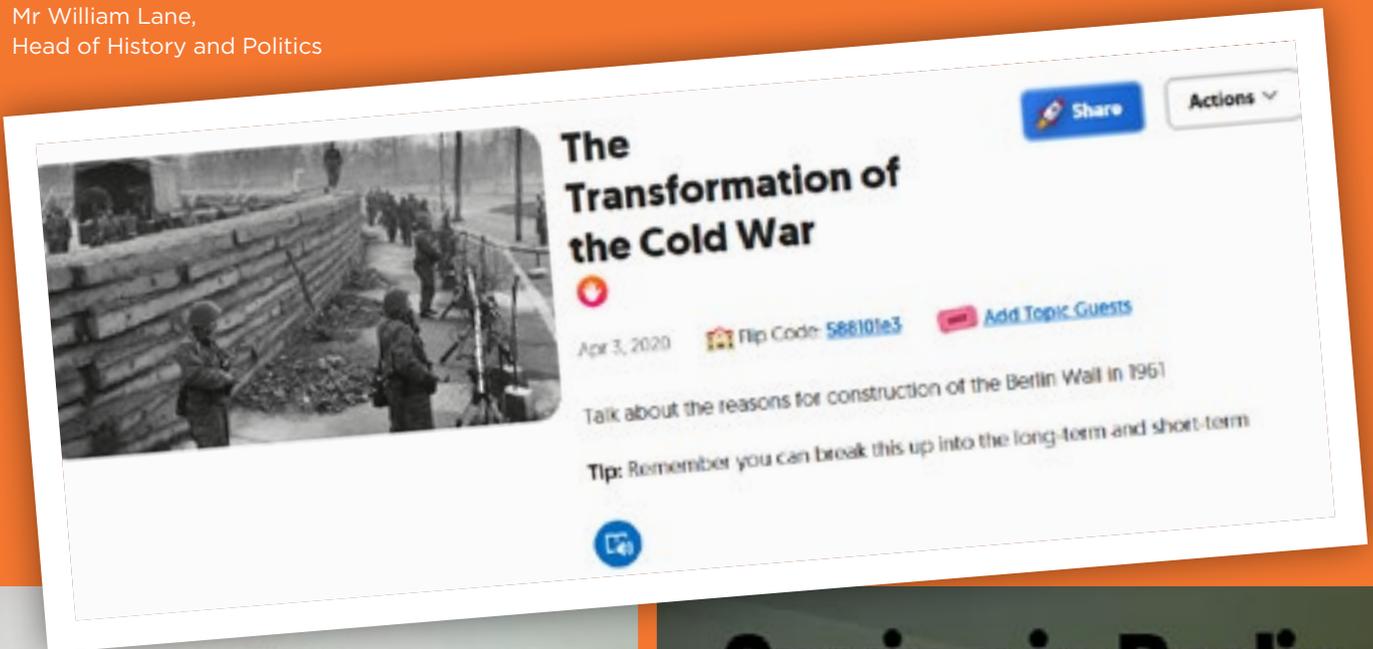
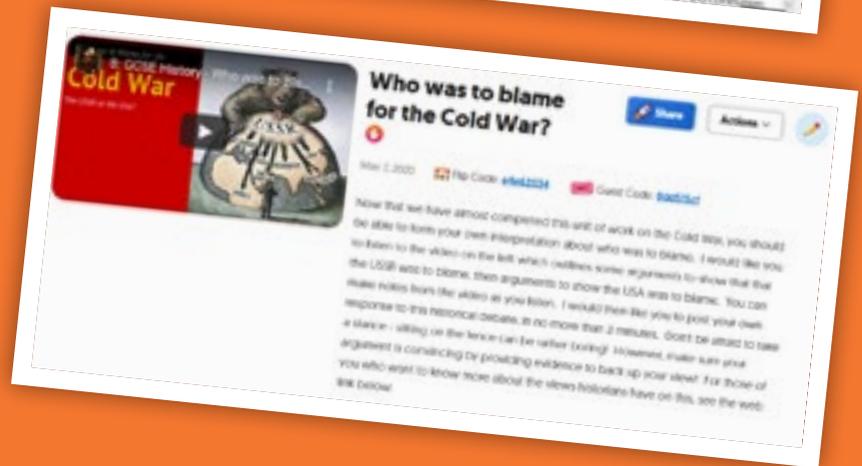
This was a year of exciting opportunities, although not of the type we originally envisaged! On the agenda for 2019-20 was a trip to Russia for the LV and UV, to Ypres for the UV, to the battlefield of Hastings for Remove, and to Washington DC for the Sixth Form Politics students. In addition, there would have been an afternoon workshop on Medieval England for our UV Historians with Professor David Carpenter of King's College London. Coronavirus, sadly, put paid to it all.

Instead of this, we all got used to a new way of learning, making use of the wonderful resources available online – virtual tours of medieval castles and battlefields, online debates, Flipgrid presentations...

What did make it under the wire was our mock general election in December, which began with some lively presentations by the participating parties in a Whole School Assembly and was won, after a vigorous campaign, by the Conservatives. The Greens, though, put up a strong fight.

We look forward to a return to the real world next year!

Mr William Lane,
Head of History and Politics



Science

BIOLOGY

We were delighted to welcome Dr Manning and Dr Yabsley to the Biology Department and despite the obvious considerable challenges of the Summer term, we had another very busy and highly successful year. The Michaelmas term was as busy as ever, especially in October when our Upper Sixth spent a weekend at Juniper Hall completing their two mandatory fieldwork practicals. In February, some of our talented Upper Sixth took part in the Biology Olympiad and over 70% of them were highly commended or more - well done to them all!

Then came COVID-19 and lockdown. The 'show' absolutely did go on and our lessons continued with virtual or filmed practicals, online textbooks, worksheets and EdPuzzles. The Lower Fourth Biologists had a whole new and utterly brilliant online forensics course written for them by the amazing Mrs Lomax. Mrs Harrop gave us a tour of her vegetable plot as part of the Food Production topic. Dr Skinner introduced us to her husband and world-renowned virologist, Dr Mike Skinner, who kindly took part in some Q and A sessions for our outgoing Upper Sixth and incoming Lower Sixth. We were also very proud of our Lower Sixth girls who took the time to sit the Intermediate Olympiad under exam conditions at home with 50% gaining a bronze award or above which was fantastic!

I must thank my wonderful team of teachers, technicians and our fantastic pupils for rising to every challenge so brilliantly with enthusiasm and cheer.

Mrs Nadine de Chazal. Teacher of Biology and Induction Mentor



Science

CHEMISTRY

The Chemistry Department had another busy year despite the obvious challenges of the Summer term. The Science Ambassadors helped at the Lower School Saturday workshops which included some forensic-style chemical investigations and some gravity-defying eggs. They also supported Mr Reynolds at the fabulous Science Quiz for the Upper School.

Lower Sixth girls have been pioneers of the new A Level since our move from the Pre-U specification and the new practical endorsement has been positively received by all. Some Lower Sixth girls took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and special mention must go to Ruiqi (Rachel) Wang, Constance Pope and Chioma Emenike for their extremely high scores.

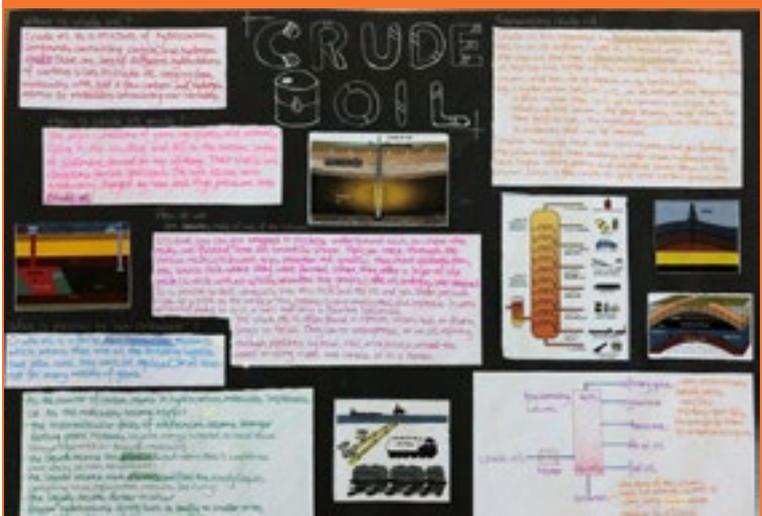
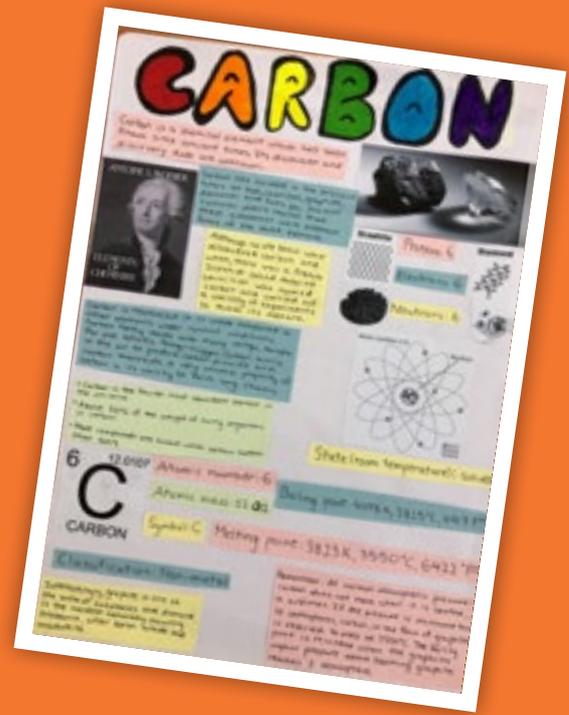
As a department, we have embraced the Digital Strategy and staff have been using OneNote, Teams, Forms, Doodle, Kerboodle, Kahoot, Quizdom and many other interactive platforms throughout the year.

We have included more project-based work for the Lower School - Remove have used their solubility techniques to determine the percentage of fat in different types of crisps and the Lower Fourth delved into the gruesome depths of Medieval medicine. Remove also completed an investigation-based library project on the Periodic Table. We were due to take girls to the

Salters' Festival of Chemistry during the Summer term but sadly this was cancelled.

The Summer term provided challenges for teaching a practical subject like Chemistry, but the girls rose to this like champions and we have been delighted with their effort, enthusiasm and enormous progress.

Miss Poppy Hoskins, Head of Chemistry



Science

PHYSICS

The Physics Department had another very good year. We started by celebrating an excellent set of results both at GCSE and A Level, particularly the very high number of Grades 8 and 9 in this first assessment of the new syllabus at GCSE.

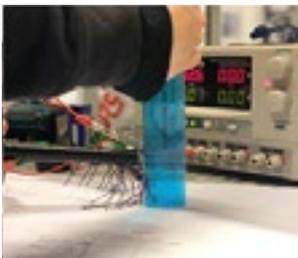
As before, Mr Richard Smith co-ordinated our involvement with the Engineering Education Scheme (EES) and this year, he was able to secure another placement for our LVI team with the Haas F1 team engineers in Banbury. Whilst last year's project was to design, build and test high speed pressure-response valve systems, this year's project had the more environmental focus on separating waste from their manufacturing processes. Despite the lockdown restrictions, the girls were still able to achieve the Gold Crest Award for their work.

The Department played a big role in this year's highly successful STEM Day, hosting the Bloodhound team again who ran an excellent design, build and race competition for the girls. We also hosted Wade Allison, Emeritus Professor from Oxford University. He gave a fascinating talk on Britain's nuclear future and sought to dispel a number of misapprehensions about the industry's safety record. He had to deal with some excellently posed questions from the highly attentive audience and everyone came away wiser.

Both our dependence on and facility with IT systems increased rapidly over the year, very ably assisted by Mr Peter Webb who showed remarkable patience with hardware, software and human failings and enabled us to continue functioning very well through the transition to online learning.

Finally, we are sad to have lost Mrs Isabel Ember to retirement but very much looking forward to working with Mrs Sara English (Sheridan, DH 1997) in her place.

Mr Matthew Rivers, Head of Physics



Art History

VISIT TO THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

On Sunday 24 November Sixth Form girls visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to see 'Last Supper in Pompeii'. This fascinating exhibition provided an extraordinary insight into the production and consumption of food and wine in Pompeii, before the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79. Over 400 objects were on show, including masterpieces of Roman art which ranged from the luxury furnishings of Roman dining rooms to the carbonised food that was on the table when the volcano erupted. Some of the objects were displayed in a gallery installation, which highlighted key rooms in a villa associated with food and wine, creating a very atmospheric experience. In addition, Ms Slocombe gave the girls a whistle-stop tour of the cast gallery, to consolidate knowledge of Greek statuary studied in class, while the Classicists could examine the copy of Augustus of Prima Porta.



LVI ARTICULATION COMPETITION

On Tuesday 21 January the Lower Sixth took part in the ARTiculation competition which provides an opportunity to deliver a presentation about a work of art, design or architecture that really inspires.

Fourteen girls competed making presentations on a diverse range of artists, artworks and buildings, and they all worked hard to create a fascinating, informative and entertaining evening! The standard was particularly high this year, and the adjudicators, Mrs Toogood and Mr Wise, had some very difficult decisions to make.

Lu (Lulu) Tian was highly commended for her talk on the work of Italian artist, Mimmo Rotella, because she had researched his methods by adapting them to create her own piece of work, which she explained to the audience. Amelie Furse was awarded the runner-up prize, for her confident and articulate presentation on the work of American artist, Martha Rosler. She demonstrated very good knowledge of the issues surrounding the artist's political motivations for creating the work. Lara Coppen-Gardner was awarded the winner's prize, for her distinctive focus on each aspect of a work by Jean-Michel Basquiat. She gave a confident and informed analysis of the work's context, composition, iconography and production techniques. Many congratulations to Lara!

Ms Diane Slocombe, Teacher of History of Art



A Year in Modern Foreign Languages



It is always a delight to bring our new Language Ambassadors together and this year's team of Lower Sixth Form linguists have been focused and helpful, providing support for younger pupils in their language learning. They also produced our first ever magazine, *Lingo*, with articles highlighting the plight of languages at university level as well as putting the spotlight on fashion, music, food and culture around the world. Tare Ebimami should be congratulated for shepherding her team to produce such a good magazine.

To celebrate the European Day of Languages (EDL), a team of Lower Fourth girls took part in the annual EDL quiz at Marlborough College. Clara Rainsford, Sewon (Victoria) Min, Alexandra ter Haar and Blanca Laidler did well to come second and they felt they had 'learned so much from the experience.' It helped them to complete the in-house Great Big Language Quiz prepared by the MFL teachers and the Language Ambassadors. Many of our community took part in the quiz but there could only be one winner per age group, and these were as follows: Remove and LIV winner, Anna Monckton; UIV - UV winner, Janice Li; Sixth Form winner, Giselle Tan; Staff winner, Dr Judith Skinner.

The Language Taster Day offered Lower Fourth girls the opportunity to experience the new languages they can learn when they are in the Upper Fourth. The girls came off timetable for taster lessons in Chinese, German, Italian and Spanish as well as enjoying international cuisine at lunchtime - our amazing chefs served up minestrone, bratwurst and tarte aux pommes! The girls then attended a talk by Enza Siciliano Verruccio, Programme Director of the BA Modern Languages degree at Reading University, who gave them an insight into how learning a language can help to broaden horizons. Enza also spoke to our Lower Sixth linguists. Jemima Harrison and Lara Coppengardner reported that, 'the talk was informative and inspiring, and we learnt a lot about language degrees and were especially interested in the opportunities for a year abroad.' Another highlight of the term was the Remove Christmas Party organised by our Language Ambassadors. The girls took part in a Kahoot! quiz and enjoyed partaking in the Spanish New Year tradition of eating 12 grapes, one at each strike of the clock.



In the Lent term, girls provided an evening of singing and Chinese zither performances to mark the Chinese New Year. The entertainment was preceded by a lovely Chinese dinner of rice cakes, spring rolls and dumplings.

Girls thoroughly enjoyed the theatre trip to see a thoroughly modern and electrifying performance of *Cyrano de Bergerac* which Poppy Scales described as 'a completely mesmerising play and an unforgettable evening thanks to the strong performances and the fresh, unique twist on a famous story'.

Lower Sixth French linguists travelled to Lille to visit French World War II museums as part of their A Level studies. The trip gave the girls a true flavour of life in that period of France's history and thus they gained a better understanding of the themes of their set text, *Un Secret*.

The Lancaster University Essay Prize invited Sixth Form linguists to write on the topic of 'Learning languages to build bridges'. Christina Elliot's piece in French was commended and Noure Miao's piece in Chinese was highly commended and received a prize. Girls were also invited to submit a short creative piece for our in-house fiction competition. The Department found it difficult to choose a winner between two very individual pieces that were imaginative in their own way. Congratulations should go to all girls who took part and to Lara Coppen-Gardner and Angelica Singh for their winning entries.

It is no mean feat to stand up and talk and debate in a foreign language and Jemima Harrison and Poppy Scales did remarkably well to reach the semi-finals in the Joutes Oratoires at Marlborough College. Jemima noted that 'it was a great experience as it challenged them to think spontaneously in French and stretch their linguistic ability and knowledge'. We also had success in the Chinese Speaking Competition in which Toluwase Augusto went through to the finals and enjoyed the opportunity to



learn more about Chinese culture which was valuable experience for her A Level Oral.

Although our year was cut short for obvious reasons, linguists were still able to enjoy a plethora of events and activities that have enriched their learning. We look forward to more of the same next year.

Mrs Jane Basnett, Head of Modern Languages



LANCASTER MODERN LANGUAGES COMPETITION

Noure Miao's essay 'Learning languages to build bridges', which was highly commended in the Lancaster University Modern Languages Competition Essay Prize.

用语言铸造桥梁

古今中外，无数的人在尝试学习异国他乡的语言，为了可以和与自己不同的人交流和相处，并且接收和传授自己的文化。

打比方说利玛窦，他在16世纪就从意大利前往了中国。在当时的社会上，中国有一些排外，因为当时的社会上并没有外国人，可是因为利玛窦在中国快30年的经历和他流利的中文，他被皇帝请到了北京的宫殿里 - 他是第一位被皇上请到宫殿的西方传教士。

在1577年，利玛窦前往了葡萄牙，并一边等着能带他去往西方的船，一边在科英布拉大学就读。等到船后，他前往了里斯本和印度的果阿邦，在印度他继续为了成为一名祭祀而修炼，最后在成功成为祭祀后，他主动要求前往中国。

因为和意大利相比，两国的文化差异非常的大，所以利玛窦在澳门花了很多的功夫和时间来学中文和中国的习俗文化。他把他的天文学知识和数学知识随着天主教一起带到了当时的中国。

在中国利玛窦被称为“天主教的开拓者”，然后直到他逝世之时，他也在中国。虽然利玛窦以逝世已久，可是因为他的影响，当时的中国多出了2500个天主教徒，并且这些人把天主教在中国继续延续了下去。因为利玛窦会说中文并且花时间学了中文，所以当今的中国到现在还有他带来的改革。他是当时为数极少的，理解中方和西方文化并且掌握中方和西方语言的人。利玛窦在中国的早期时间用语言铸造了跨越中西文化的桥梁。

Nuo (Noure) Miao, LVI

FLASH FICTION COMPETITION

Piégée et étouffée par la chute de la classe moyenne, une jeune fille au bord de l'âge adulte, est obligée de laisser sa vie et ses amis derrière elle et de se soumettre à la volonté de ses parents. Avec la richesse qui accompagne la classe moyenne vient une façade infaillible de perfection que personne depuis l'extérieur ne peut pénétrer. L'isolement commence à s'installer et un sentiment de mélancolie écrasant, la pousse au désespoir et la force à envisager des actions drastiques qui bouleverseront et changeront sa vie et son avenir.

Pourtant, quel choix a-t-elle quand elle ne possède même pas de nom ?

Angelica Singh, LVI

Coincée sur une île.

Je suis en sécurité ici.

Les dangers du monde restent dehors, je reste dans une bulle impénétrable.

L'ennui se cache ici, je commence à oublier qui je suis. On craint que je sois perdue dans ma tête, mes rêves. Je peux respirer, néanmoins je ne peux pas me déplacer, je me sens encore piégée. Une chute sans atterrissage, dans les profondeurs, traînée par un poids qui ne disparaîtra que si la bulle éclate.

Quelle est la réalité ? la vie est devenue déformée.

Il vaudrait mieux que je revienne, donc j'attends à la fenêtre pour que je puisse être libre.

Lara Coppen-Gardner, LVI

DIGITAL ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AND LIFE SKILLS COURSE FOR THE UPPER SIXTH

Launched in the Summer term, the Academic Enrichment and Life Skills Programme was a bespoke online programme of short courses and individual workshops to challenge, inspire and prepare the girls for life beyond School. The aim was to give a real insight into topics which the girls would not normally study and to provide expert tuition, not only from teachers at Downe House but from a vast array of external guests, including Downe House alumnae and parents. Girls took up course in international relations, psychology, history of art, cookery, first aid, self defence, photography, musical genres, medical ethics and personal finance, to name but a few.

“The Enrichment programme was a brilliant opportunity to try something completely new whether that be practical like yoga or academic such as international relations or even learning a new language. It was great to experience such a variety of subjects outside of the constraints of the curriculum and also have a lot of fun in the sessions run by teachers and guest speakers. I particularly enjoyed the psychology sessions and am now considering taking this as an optional module at university which I probably wouldn’t have done if it hadn’t been for the programme introducing the subject to me.”

Georgia Allison, UVI



Market Shares for 2021

Select market report: Product sales by unit

Company	Product	Snapper	Status	Holiday	Profit	Kills	Tickets	CAMERAS	Market
Snappi	Snack	38,873	198	5,490	190	529	2,294	48,750	
ETHNIC	Snack	0	16,918	198	4,990	0	479	21,762	
Snappi	Snack	228	798	5,364	1,104	688	3,036	12,800	
Snappi	Snack	18,720	48	3,390	90	273	1,434	24,300	
Upper	Snack	0	5,132	85	14,817	0	980	30,852	
CanCrew	Snack	1,800	58	3,717	202	621	3,062	14,400	
CanCrew	Snack	1,403	915	5,313	188	379	2,085	9,808	
TOTALS		61,240	22,407	28,774	21,071	3,360	10,240	101,374	



A definite highlight of the programme was the five-week Mini MBA business simulation, run in conjunction with Hult International Business School. Six UVI girls took part in the five-week competition designed to help students develop their inter-personal skills, emotional intelligence and business acumen. Coming together as a new board of Directors, the team was responsible for formulating and implementing a successful strategy for a fictional company and were given the opportunity to hone their financial and team-working skills during the simulation.

“My favourite course has to have been the Mini MBA, where we were assigned a group and given the tools to practically take over an online business. This has enabled us to work collaboratively to gain a better understanding of general business management functions, and what different skills are needed in setting up a business.”

Anna Neville, Company Director and UVI



LVI HIGHER EDUCATION AFTERNOON

Lily Mathews and Sappho Novatin,
LVI

At the event, Ms Akhtar enlightened us on the numerous curricular programmes that the School offers and what universities look for in order to select their students. We were also introduced to a new Global Internship Programme which has been launched to enable selected Downe girls to obtain internships abroad, for example an opportunity with a women's rights activist in Canada. This could not have come at a better time for us, as it is something we need to be researching and planning now to broaden our horizons and develop super-curricular activities, which will be beneficial for university applications and our future careers. After Ms Akhtar's presentation, Mr Martin Birchall, Managing Director of High Fliers Research, introduced us to the graduate job market beyond university and he gave us a comprehensive insight into the jobs available with a graduate degree. His talk included statistics about graduate salaries and we also learnt about the excellent apprenticeships available. We learnt that recognising and setting goals will be crucial to our success in the job market in the future. Learning about the job market and different areas of employment at this early stage means we can be well prepared for the daunting yet exciting experience ahead of us. We were grateful for the editions of *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers* so we can educate ourselves about the fascinating opportunities out there.



SCHOOLS INTERVIEW EXCHANGE

Alexandra Kiy, UVI

In the Michaelmas term, Downe House's Oxbridge applicants welcomed several local schools and their students to take part in an interview exchange. We were all given the opportunity to have a mock interview with a teacher from a different school about our own subject and Personal Statement. Engaging in an academic

conversation and undergoing the experience of a real interview with an unfamiliar teacher was extremely helpful and it was fascinating to be able to talk with other students applying for the same subject. I am sure that the experience as well as the feedback provided were invaluable in helping to improve the interview skills of all who attended.

CV WRITING SKILLS WORKSHOP

Lily Mathews, LVI

Downe House alumna, Jemima Atkins (DH 2012) from Allianz Global Investors came and talked to the Lower Sixth about job applications and CVs. We gained an insight into the key aspects that employers look for when reviewing CVs which will prove to be very useful when we are applying for internships and jobs in the future. We learnt that accuracy in an application is key and making an application clear, precise and relevant provides a higher chance of success. In addition to this, Mr Duncan Perry from Morgan Stanley presented the 'Step in, Step up' programme which encourages young people to put themselves forward for investment banking opportunities. There are programmes specifically for girls which aim to inspire them to apply. Both talks were extremely informative, and I have no doubt that everyone now feels prepared for the mock job application event. This process requires students to actively prepare for university and from this we will be able to refine and develop necessary skills for job applications in the years to come.



ANNUAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Beatrice Weaver and Christina Elliot, LVI

The Oxbridge and Medicine applicants took part virtually in the annual Academic Conference. Each of us had spent the preceding weeks preparing a presentation on topics we had independently researched. We then had the opportunity to share ideas on our area of interest with other students aspiring to study a similar discipline. It was hugely beneficial for us to be able to practise and develop our ability to discuss our areas of academic interest. The experience was extremely useful as it enabled us to broaden our understanding around our chosen subject and the debating aspect of the conference was extremely thought-provoking.

Beatrice commented "As a student of Italian and French, I attended a panel with other Humanities applicants, including some studying Architecture, History of Art and English Literature. It was amazing to see the variety of topics everyone had chosen, and we really enjoyed hearing our peers talk about their research with such enthusiasm! The knowledge that we have gained through this experience, being able to reflect on our work and share ideas, has meant that I feel very well equipped for the next steps in my higher education applications journey and truly excited about my future studies."

Beatrice

HIGHER EDUCATION APPLICATIONS DAY

Chioma Emenike, Susanna Brooke and Chloe Holbrook, LVI

The Higher Education Applications Day for the Lower Sixth gave us the opportunity to make a start on our Personal Statements and UCAS applications, and learn how to make university and degree choices. The day began with Miss Clark talking about factors to consider when choosing a university such as location, unbiased ranking, social life, costs, and course structure. Miss Clark then explored the fundamentals of an effective Personal Statement and explained the dos and don'ts. After that, DH alumna Ilaria Bevan encouraged us to make use of the alumnae network to support our university research. Another alumna told us about her experience at St Andrew's, giving us a clearer picture of what life there would look like.

For the UCAS log-in session, we were in small groups with our tutors who instructed us on how to fill in all the necessary details for our applications. Later in the day, we chose from a variety of talks for Oxbridge, Creative, Overseas and Apprenticeship routes. Dr Atherton ran an Oxbridge Personal Statement workshop which emphasised the need for a Personal Statement to reflect an applicant's motivation for wanting to study a course.

It was an extremely helpful day and a fantastic opportunity to get started on our university applications as well as making the process seem much less daunting.

LVI OXBRIDGE PROGRAMME LAUNCH

Alessandra Tydeman, LVI

The afternoon began with a brilliant workshop by Oxbridge Applications which introduced us to the Oxbridge tutorial system. They challenged us with intriguing questions beyond our syllabus, encouraging us to think in depth about aspects of our subject that we had not considered before. This was then followed by a talk by Mr Barry Webb, a former Oxbridge Admissions Tutor, who suggested a few helpful interview techniques and described the key qualities that ideal candidates should possess. This was followed by an introduction by Dr Atherton on the Downe House Oxbridge application process and how the School would guide us on our journey. The evening culminated with two successful Upper Sixth Oxbridge applicants describing their personal journeys and giving us their top tips. Overall, it was a hugely informative and enlightening evening which was very motivating for us all!

HOW TO APPROACH AN OXBRIDGE INTERVIEW

Poppy Scales, LVI

A virtual interview skills workshop was held as part of the Lower Sixth Oxbridge and Medicine applications preparation. Subject specialists interviewed another teacher, and in my faculty, Mr Owen conducted a mock Oxbridge interview with Dr Atherton, asking questions about a Personal Statement written by a Downe House girl several years ago, as well as wider questions about literature in general. There were two similar events taking place at the same time for Social Sciences and STEM. It was a very valuable exercise as it gave us an idea of what we might expect in an Oxbridge interview and we realised that it resembled a normal tutorial more than the merciless grilling many of us had been picturing! It was useful to see the way Dr Atherton approached a question, unpicking its parameters and talking through his thought process, and how Mr Owen then used his answers to further explore the topic at hand. It was a very effective way of breaking down the interview process and helped us to understand the way in which we should conduct ourselves.

LVI INTERVIEW WORKSHOP WITH OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS

Chloe Holbrook, LVI

The Lower Sixth took part in this Interview Workshop hosted by the Higher Education Department and Oxbridge Applications. This was a unique opportunity for every girl to spend 30 minutes with an interviewer, consisting of a 20-minute mock interview for a fictional job and then a 10-minute conversation for feedback. In advance, we were required to submit a CV and cover letter, detailing why we were the most suitable candidate for the position. Writing these documents was a fantastic chance to begin to prepare our CV, the first time for many of us. This process made us think about the skills we possess that demonstrated our competency for the role and to reflect on any gaps in our skillset. I applied for the position of a trainee journalist and some of the questions included, 'What makes a journalist different from a non-fiction writer?' and 'What is the most impactful article you have ever read?' These questions encouraged me to reflect on why I am so passionate about this career route. The conversation that followed covered all the interviewer's reflections on my CV, cover letter and interview. The feedback on my writing style and the way I answer questions was particularly useful.

The event came at an ideal time of the year with summer internships, work experience and Oxbridge interviews all on the horizon. I am sure I speak for the year group when I say the event has put us in a much better position for future interviews.



TALK FOR POTENTIAL MEDICS

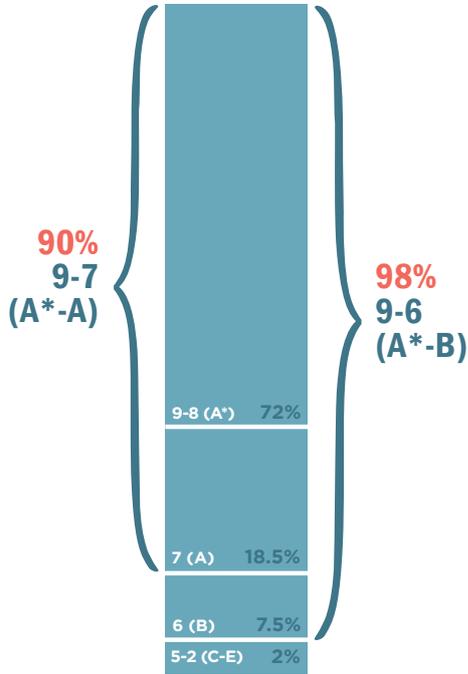
Ayobami Razak-Shittu, LVI

The Medical Applications talk provided me with a real insight into the universities which would suit my learning style, and therefore the ones that I would probably flourish at. I also gained a better understanding of the medical entrance tests and an informative timeline of what you need to do at every step of the way to get into a medical school of your choice.

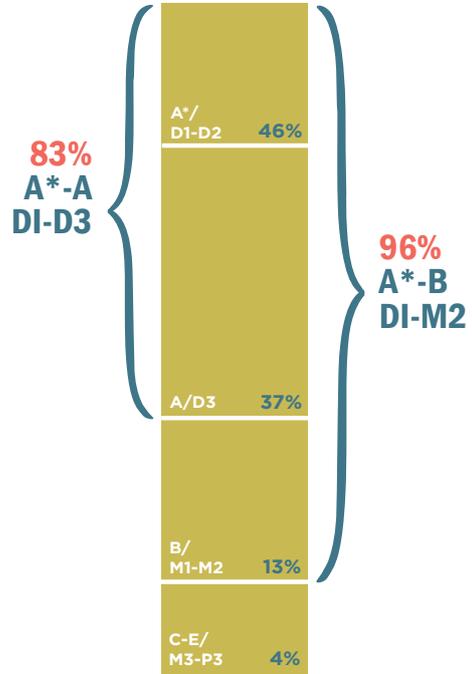
The preparation I have undertaken has involved independent research to gain a better understanding of the specific areas of medicine which interest me by reading books and articles about neuroscience or oncology. I took part in two MOOCs at School, one on epilepsy and the other on genetics and cancer which I feel cemented my interest in these topics and led me down my current path of research on neurological disorders. In addition to this, I have also had the opportunity to carry out work experience placements in the hospital setting, as well as attending summer courses and taster days at potential future universities. It has already proven to be a richly rewarding pathway.

Results and Destinations

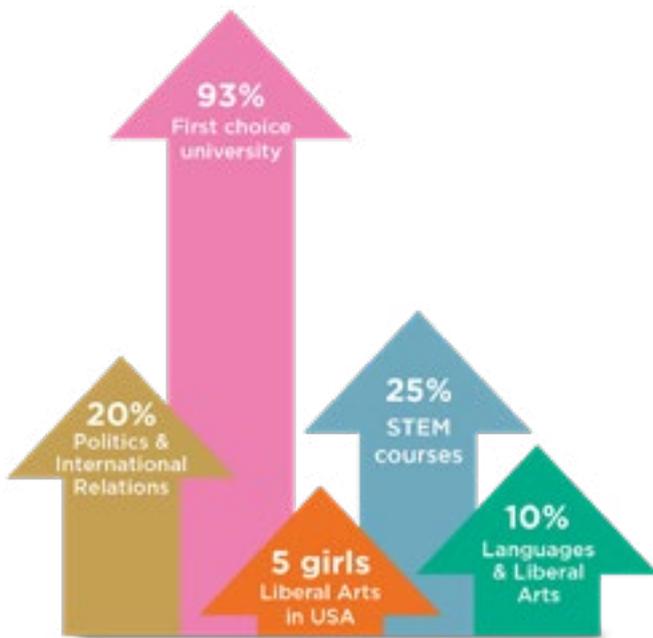
Overall I/GCSE Success



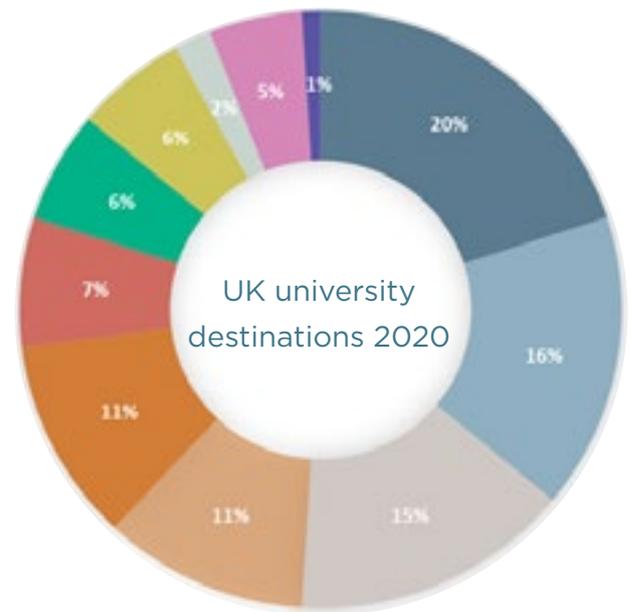
Combined A Level and Pre-U Success



Destination and course highlights



Where did our girls go?

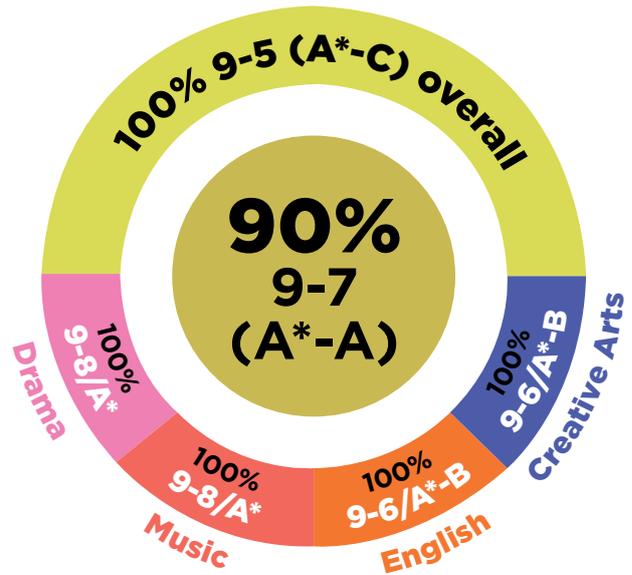


- Exeter
- Other universities
- London universities inc. UCL, UAL, Imperial and LSE
- Durham
- Edinburgh
- Leeds
- Cambridge
- Newcastle
- Oxford
- Bristol
- Royal Veterinary College

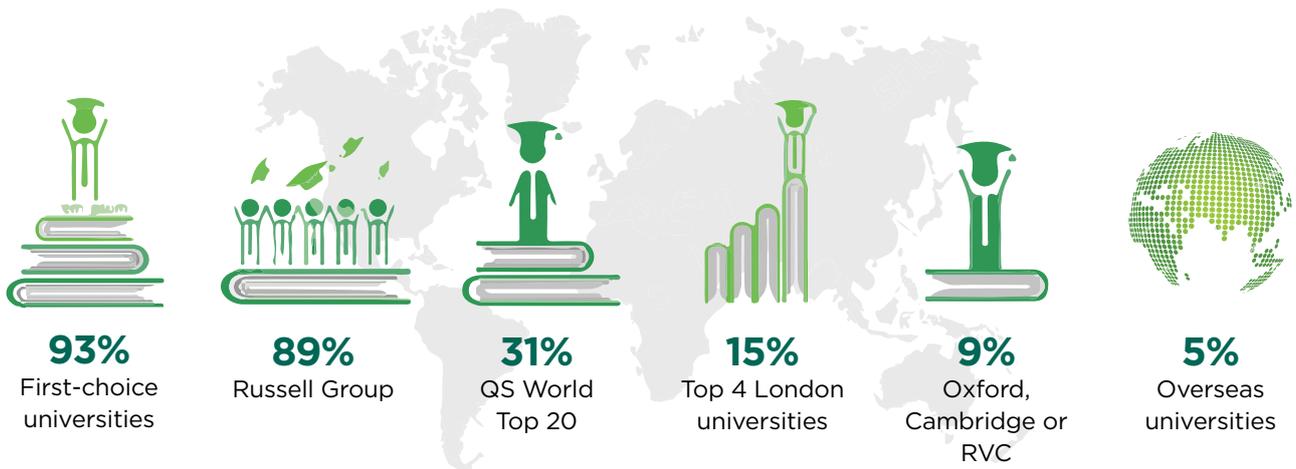
A Level/Pre-U



I/GCSE



Where do our girls go?



What are they studying?





Creative

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Launched in February 2018, the Artist of the Month Award aims to recognise the creative endeavours of selected girls across the year groups. The announcement is a much-anticipated feature of the first whole school assembly of every month and the Creative Arts Seniors present a PowerPoint of the winner's artwork. Girls are awarded a prize and certificate and their work goes on display in the vestibule for everyone to admire, as well as being featured on Downe House social media platforms. The award not only recognises artistic ability; it is also an acknowledgement of progress, work ethic and engagement in this subject. This year we have had some fabulous winners, all of whom have a bright creative future ahead of them - congratulations to all!

November 2019



Alicia de Broë-Ferguson, UV

September 2019



Anna Neville, UVI

October 2019



Lan (Lydia) Zhang, LV

February 2020



Alicia de Broë-Ferguson, UV

December 2019



Hao Yun (Hedy) Jiang, Remove

January 2020



Gabriella Parkinson, UVI

March 2020



Olga Monteverde Lopez de Vera Vera, UIV

April 2020



Fleur Williams, UIV

May 2020



Alexandra Witter, LVI

June 2020



Alice Morgan, LIV

Lower School Art

The Lower School girls have produced some vibrant and exciting work using a wide range of media this year. 'Lockdown' did not prevent the girls from producing some beautiful work which we were delighted to feature in the Founder's Fortnight Art Showcase.

REMOVE

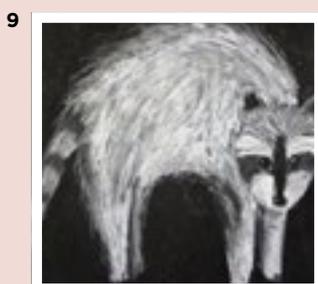
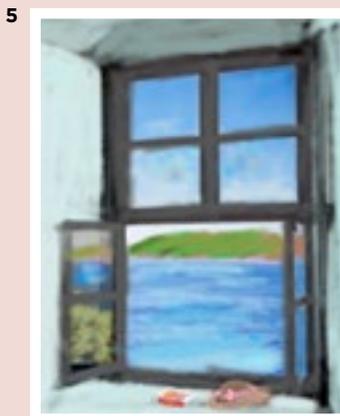
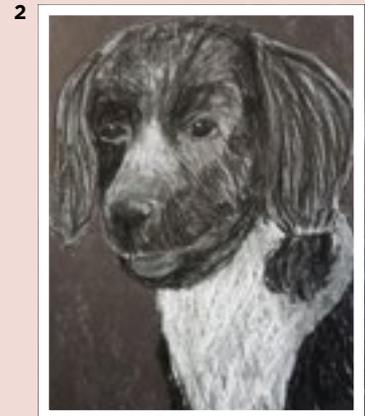
The Remove worked on creating ceramic houses during the Michaelmas and early Lent terms taking inspiration from all sorts of styles around the world. They developed their structures using clay slabs building in areas of texture, relief and stoneware glazes. The final collection looked like a global village.

The girls also developed their observational drawing skills during the Lent term, creating a collection of animal portraits in monochrome and colour pastels. Inspired by the Chinese New Year celebrations, Remove designed and decorated Chinese lanterns with the traditional motifs of dragons, flowers and fish. The lanterns were then hung from the ceiling in the Art Studio to create a colourful display.

The Summer term of remote learning enabled the girls to hone their digital drawing skills, taking inspiration from the work of David Hockney. Embracing the theme of lockdown, the girls were asked to create a view from their window using the digital programme Paint 3D. Their views were beautifully transformed, making very creative use of their artistic licence!

The Remove girls were very motivated and worked well independently. They responded with enthusiasm and imagination to produce wonderful 'Land of sweets' dioramas, inspired by the Land of Goodies found in *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton. They made fair gardens on places, and designed and drew monsters which they put into jars to stop them escaping, inspired by *The Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll.

1. Ceramic house
2. **Mia Corbett**, Animal portrait
3. **Felicity (Effie) Harris**, Animal portrait
4. **Hao Yun (Hedy) Jiang**, Animal portrait
5. **Sophia Fergusson**, View from my window
6. Chinese lanterns
7. **Anna Monckton**, View from my window
8. **Amelia Hicks**, View from my window
9. **Sophie Lambourne**, Animal portrait
10. **Georgia Ainscough**, Land of sweets
11. **Joline Lam**, View from my window
12. **Cheuk-Yi (Cherie) Lau**, Monster in a jar

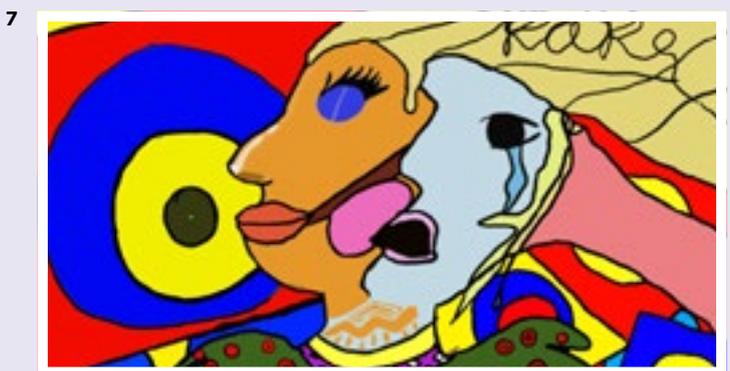
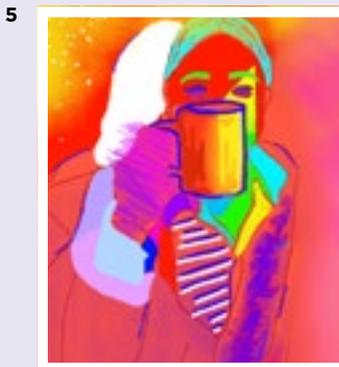
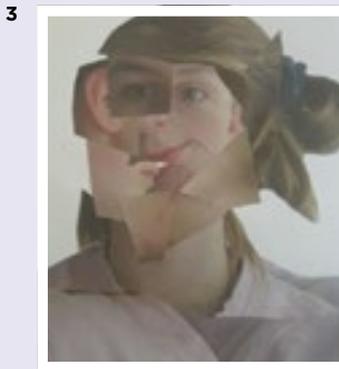
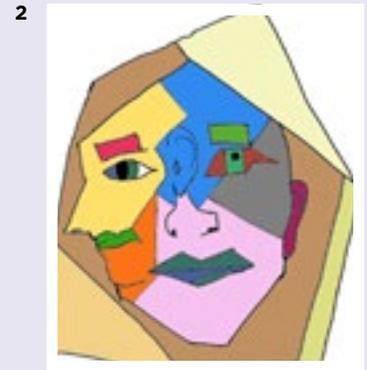


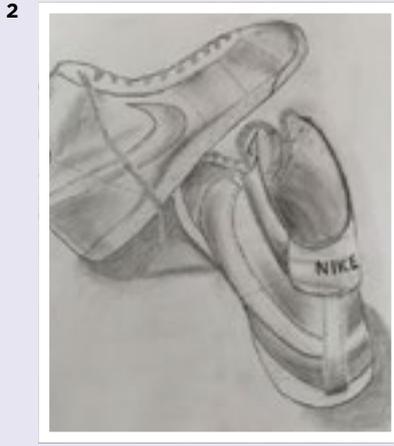
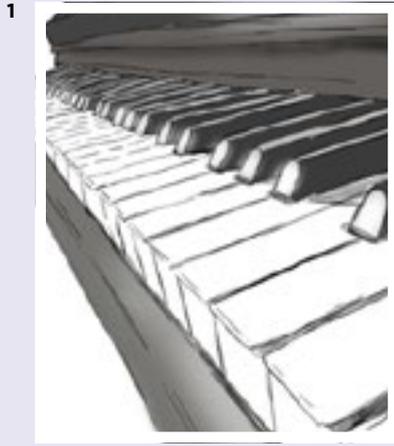
LOWER FOURTH

The Lower Fourth explored paper sculpture in the Michaelmas term taking inspiration from the work of Anna Wili-Highfield. The Lent term focused on the environmental impact on animal life as a theme and Andy Warhol's collection of endangered animal screen prints were the main source of inspiration. The girls researched an endangered animal of their choice, composed an image which they cut into lino, creating a series of colourful reduction lino prints. With the transition to remote lessons, the girls were encouraged to explore the objects around them, focusing on the theme of Still Life. They learnt how to observe and draw objects using a variety of media depending on what they had available to use at home. There were some excellent tonal pencil studies, watercolours and much use was made of the digital drawing app, Autodesk Sketchbook, which enabled the girls to produce some colourful imagery inspired by the work of Michael Craig-Martin.

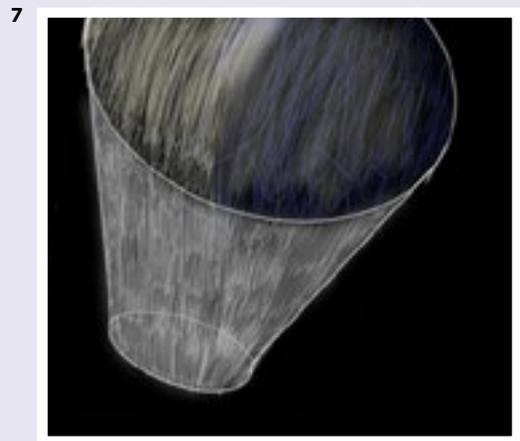
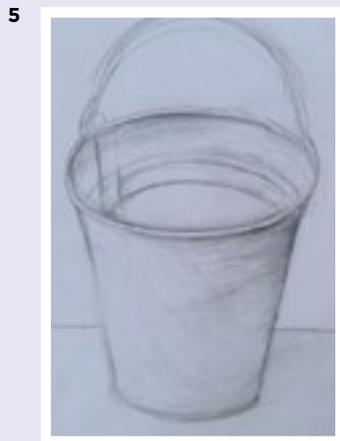
The online learning also provided an opportunity to take Lower Fourth girls on a journey through the History of Art and each week the girls were introduced to a different artist and movement. Beginning with the Impressionists the girls went on to explore Van Gogh, Picasso, Matisse, Frida Kahlo, Pop Art, Surrealism and Kandinsky. They then produced their own practical work in response to the artists and were encouraged to experiment with different media. The girls produced some inspirational studies and their contextual knowledge has increased.

1. Alice Barber
2. Jemima Booth
3. Ava Brass
4. Georgina Dawson
5. Lola Kandrac
6. Alice Morgan
7. India Hassall
8. Isabella Hudson
9. Siyu (Phoebe) Wang
10. Blanca Laidler





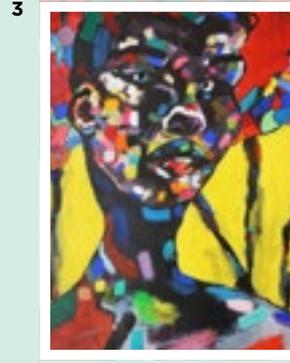
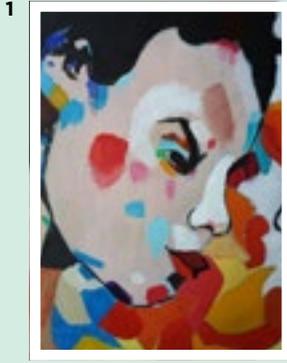
- 1. Petchnapa Bennett
- 2. Isabelle Regis
- 3. Astrid Davis
- 4. Tanaya Budhwani
- 5. Octavia Hoare Nairne
- 6. Xin Yan (Annabel) Yang
- 7. Hao Yan (Helena) Yuan
- 8. Hei Ching (Renee) Wong
- 9. Clara Richardson





1. Yuchen (Rebecca) Gao
2. Janice Lee
3. Serena Browne
4. Emily Gray
5. Cathy Wang
6. Maya Gazzard
7. Youran (Jocelyn) Li
8. Alexandra ter Haar
9. Hope Black

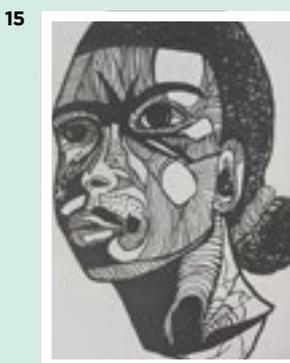
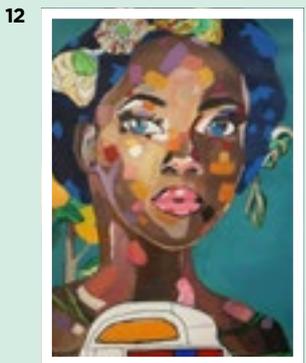
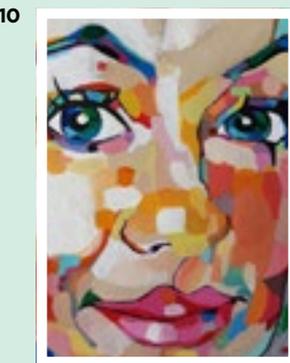




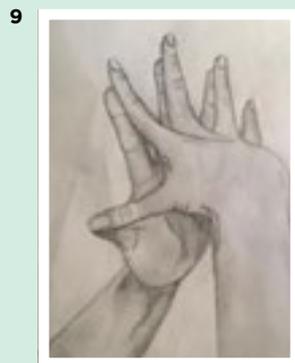
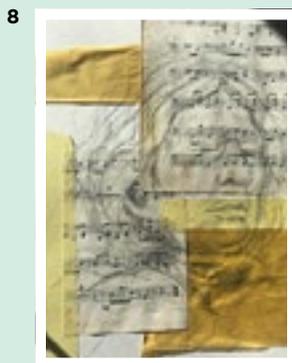
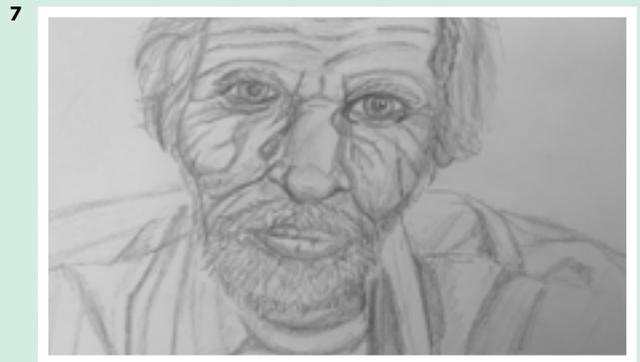
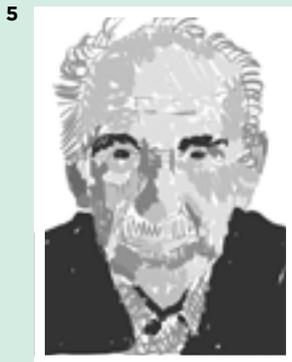
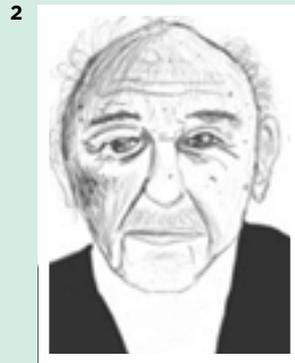
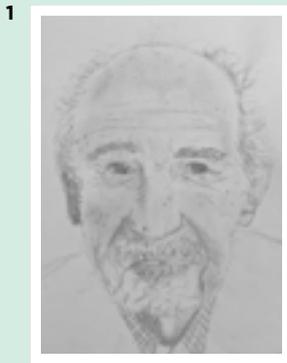
UPPER FOURTH

During the Lent term, girls in the Upper Fourth completed reproductions of paintings by the portrait artist, Dominik Jasiński. The purpose of the activity was to hone their observational, colour-mixing and paint application skills. This will be especially useful for those girls continuing to GCSE Art in the Lower Fifth. The girls painted their pieces beautifully and they enjoyed working in an expressive style.

In addition to this, the Upper Fourth created sketchbook studies that related to the human figure. This has enabled them to improve their manipulation of materials as well as their recording of proportion. It is fair to say that we have some very promising talent in the Lower School!

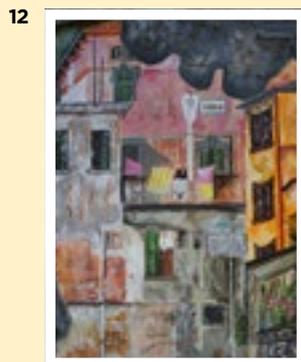
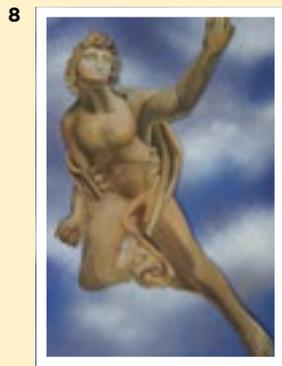
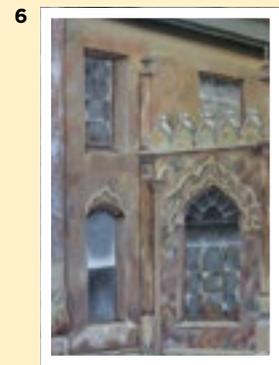
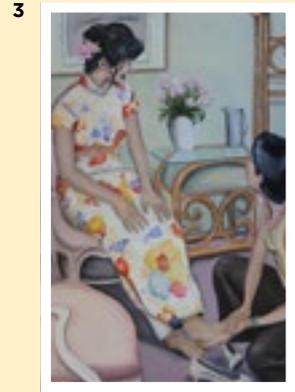


1. Anjola Adeniji
2. Cassiana Bennett
3. Georgina Boucher
4. Onicha (Aimee) Chansue
5. Ilaria Perhar
6. Zara Reeve
7. Isabelle Wessely
8. Xin Yi (Jessica) Zhang
9. Kimberly Gan
10. Joann (Minkey) Koo
11. Honor McNair Scott
12. Olga Monteverde Lopez de Vera Vera
13. Xinrui (Sherry) Chen
14. Emily Phillips
15. Fleur Williams

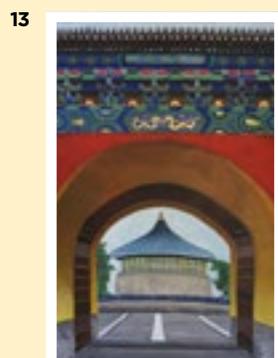
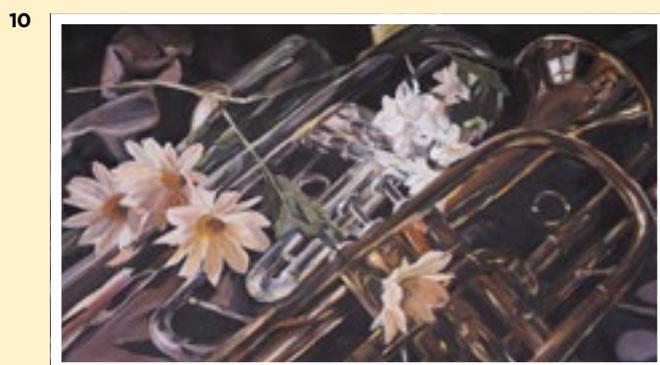
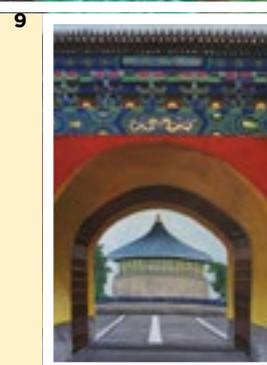
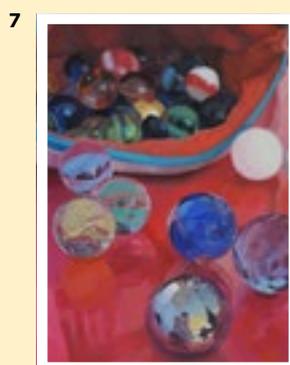
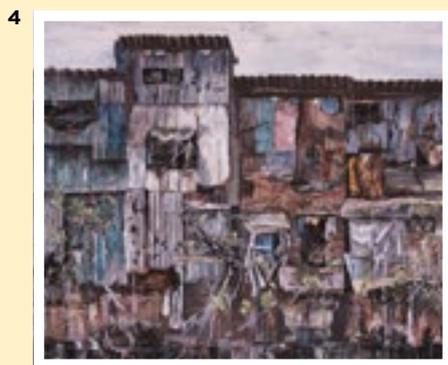


1. Ruby Agbede
2. Sophie Scott
3. Yu-Fei (Zhenzhu) Song
4. Kai Yuk Kianna Tsui
5. Tabitha Venning
6. Beier (Sissi) Xi
7. Isabelle Ashworth
8. Katie Beeson
9. Ploypailin Bennett
10. Martha Drew
11. Ziyue Yu
12. Summer Hardy
13. Hannah Hussain
14. Yi Kei (Alisha) Pak

GCSE ART

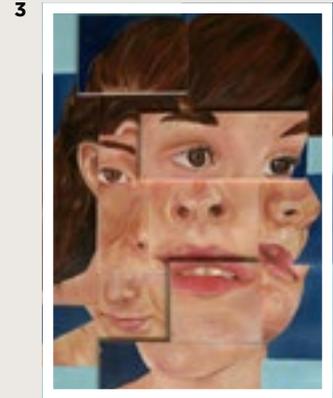


1. **Lucy Barrie**, Cottage Ruin
2. **Zlata Krokmalna**, Moonlit Stag
3. **Philippa Lim**, Wedding Day
4. **Harriet Boucher**, Flock
5. **Alicia de Broë-Ferguson**, Crab
6. **Nga Man Cheng**, Architecture
7. **Hoi Yiu (Danna) Cheung**, Inside Sagrada Familia
8. **Jiwon Moon**, Statue
9. **Sophie Kelly**, Bird and Berries
10. **Louise de Riquet de Caraman Chimay**, Still Life
11. **Chiara De Sa Subiotto**, African Woman
12. **Georgia Dunkerley**, Rustic Buildings

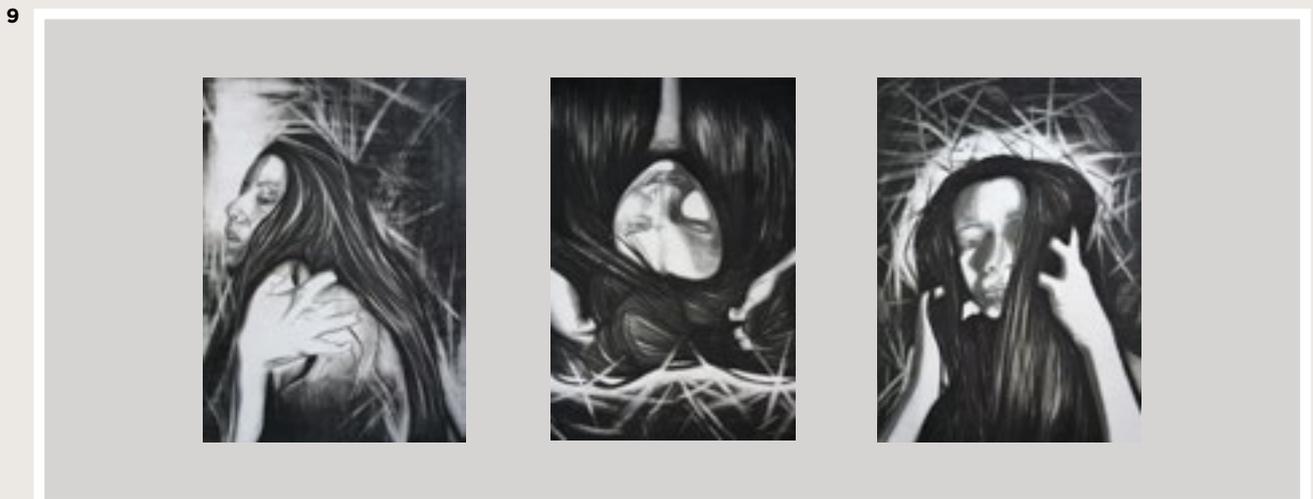


1. **Jiaying (Linda) Shen**, Sun in the Woods
2. **Mathilda Singer**, Prickly Pears
3. **Pasitaporn (Memie) Sripen**, Waterfall
4. **Pattrawaran (Teal) Uahwatanasakul**, India
5. **Anlan Wang**, Reflections
6. **Cheuk Yu (Queena) Wong**, Door
7. **Hei Nam (Ashley) Wong**, Marbles
8. **Wai Che (Rachel) Wong**, Succulents
9. **Kexuan (Sophie) Zhang**, The Forbidden City
10. **Zhihan (Helen) Yang**, Trumpets and Flowers
11. **Ziyi (Annie) Yang**, Perfume
12. **Phoebe Whiting**, Yellow Taxi
13. **Zilin (Rachel) Zhang**, Chinese Building

**UVI
A LEVEL**

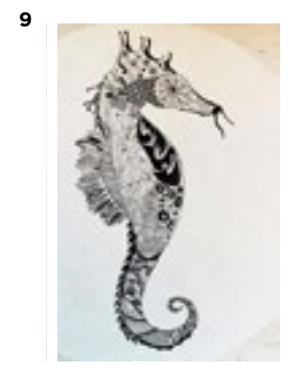


1. **Clementine Pemberton**, Distortion
2. **Clementine Pemberton**, Sketchbook Studies 2
3. **Clementine Pemberton**, Viewpoints
4. **Gabriella Parkinson**, One Week's Plastic Waste
5. **Gabriella Parkinson**, Puppet
6. **Gabriella Parkinson**, The Human Problem
7. **Sasha Percy-Davis**, Anxiety
8. **Sasha Percy-Davis**, Sorrow
9. **Sasha Percy-Davis**, Torment (trptych)



INSPIRING THE ART SCHOLARS

At the start of the year, we always refresh our drawing skills by completing some mark making exercises. Combined with tone, this then forms the basis for observational drawings of a range of still life objects. I remind the girls how important it is to be able to look carefully before making a mark on the page, and to draw what we see rather than what we think we see. A drawing that combines mark making, tone and line is visually interesting and holds our attention, while we try to make sense of the image in front of our eyes.



1. Athina Lin, UIV
2. Alice Barber, LIV
3. Sewon (Victoria) Min, LIV
4. Alice Barber, LIV
5. Katie Beeson, UIV
6. Liliias Hoare Nairne, UIV
7. Octavia Hoare Nairne, LIV
8. Hao Yun (Hedy) Jiang, Remove
9. Athina Lin, UIV
10. Ying Shan (Abigail) Liang, UIV

One of the girls asked me 'What do artists do Mrs Jones?' and my response was that 'Artists look, and they notice things'. One of my favourite teachers taught me to look for double the time you would ordinarily do before making a mark.

Once we have spent time using graphite, charcoal and conte, we move on to exploring colour. I encourage the girls to express their own ideas within the Art Scholars' class. One of the many benefits of learning in a smaller class size, is that each student can work on something personal to her. In this way, the girls are encouraged to make artistic decisions for themselves, with guidance and support as needed.

The Art Scholars already possess a particularly high standard of skills when using art materials, so part of my role is to develop these skills in ways that take the girls into new creative territory, giving them the confidence to experiment. In the final term, we looked at ways of using a grid when drawing our own face and combined this with mark making skills. A self-portrait can present quite a challenge even for the most expert of art practitioners, and I think you will agree that the results are super.

Mrs Tracey Jones, Teacher of Art, Textiles and History of Art Tutor

UTOPIA COMPETITION

At the beginning of lockdown, we came up with the idea of holding a competition, entitled Utopia. Girls from all year groups could enter pieces that related to their vision of Utopia and they were free to express their concept in any medium, whether that be painting, drawing, textiles, photography, or poetry. The competition was split into three categories: Remove and Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth and Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth, and we were very impressed by the range and variety of entries that we received from all year groups. Each entrant was asked to provide written justification to back up their submission and we took this into consideration when awarding prizes. The talent and imagination that we have at Downe House never ceases to amaze us!

Our winners are Pearl (Ivie) Avwenagha in Remove, Liliias Hoare Nairne in Upper Fourth and Harriet Boucher in Upper Fifth.

Pearl submitted a beautiful poem about the imperfections of our world and how in her Utopia, those things would be rectified.

Liliias made an amazing 3D Dogtopia, using cotton wool for the smiling dog clouds and a pathway for those joining us from heaven - we were very moved by her love for the companions that many of us love and cherish.

Harriet produced a stunning watercolour and pen drawing of a magical tree that transported us to another world where the beauty of nature is all-encompassing.

Our runners up in the three categories were Astrid Davis in the Lower Fourth, Clothylde Debray in Upper Fourth and Lucy Stebbings in the Lower Sixth who were all in close contention, and we would like to recognise the skill and effort that was evident in their entries.

Highly Commended certificates were awarded to Tomi Olunuga in Remove, Alice Barber and Alice Morgan in Lower Fourth, Emilia Finney in Upper Fourth, Yiming Song and Elfreda Harvey in the Lower Fifth, Zhihan (Helen) Yang in the Upper Fifth and Lu (Lulu) Tian and Florence Hack in the Lower Sixth.

Elfreda created a video in which she interviewed people from all over the globe to find out about their perception of Utopia.

We would like to thank everyone who entered our competition; we were blown away by the thought and effort that went into the submissions. It made it very hard to judge as each entry was wonderful in its own way, and we loved seeing the work of the amazing artists, writers, and designers that we have at Downe House.

Francesca Horton (Head Creative Arts Senior) and Imogen Dale (Deputy Head Creative Arts Senior)

1. **Pearl (Ivie) Avwenagha, Remove**, Remove and LIV Category
2. **Liliias Hoare Nairne, UIV**, UIV and LV Category
3. **Harriet Boucher, UV**, UV and LVI Category
4. **Lucy Stebbings, LVI**, UV and LVI Category
5. **Astrid Davis, LIV**, Remove and UIV Category
6. **Clothylde Debray, UIV**, UIV and LV Category

WINNERS

1

When there are fields of lush green grass,
And the seas are clean,
And the streets are uncluttered,
That's my Utopia

When people don't die in accidents
But they can be in danger
And enjoy the thrill of it.
That's my Utopia

When fairies and pixies
And other fantasies are real,
And they're not against the human race,
That's my Utopia

When the world is at peace
But the world is at conflict,
Over how to make it a better place
That's my Utopia

When no one is judged
Because everyone's considered the same
But everyone is different
That's my Utopia

When reality and imagination meet,
And the world lies at your feet
Yours for the taking,
That's my Utopia

2



3

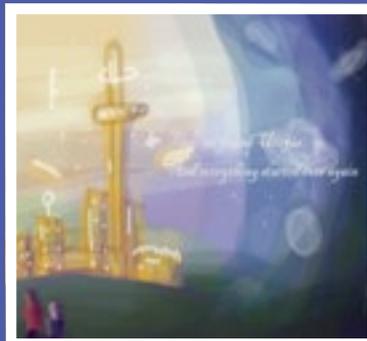


RUNNERS UP

4

You say you can't breathe, but
my lungs are selfish.
And my stomach and my mouth.
My feet are so far away from me,
I want to climb the fraught distance towards them,
reunite with them in a limbic swing
and hurdle through the rhythms,
together.
I want to dram my scalp in cold, hard silk
and melt into their vision,
liquidate it all, brew it! Serve it in bowls,
let their organs be touched by the rays.

5



6



UVI SCREEN PRINTING WORKSHOP

In December 2019, our UVI A Level students enjoyed a day of screen printing at Squeegee and Ink Studio in Newbury. In advance of the workshop, the girls created colourful backgrounds to print onto as well as designs on acetate that they later photographically exposed onto the silk screens. At the studio, the girls were able to use specialist equipment to produce a variety of prints, all of which were added to their A Level and Art College application portfolios. It was a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into the workings of a professional print studio and to realise the endless possibilities that can be achieved for commercial use through this medium. The girls were proud of the results that they achieved, and they thoroughly enjoyed discovering this technique.

Mrs Kirsten Mortimer, Teacher of Art



Clementine Pemberton, UVI



Sasha Percy-Davis, UVI



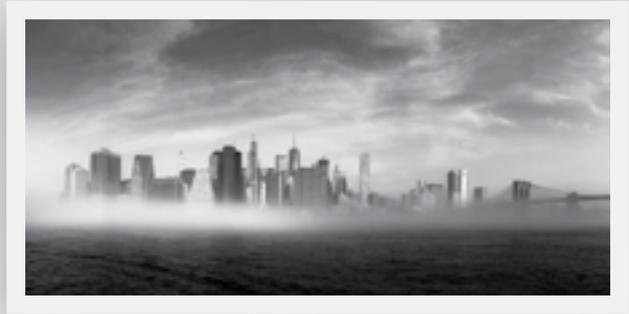
Gabriella Parkinson, UVI

UPPER SIXTH A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

1



2



4



5



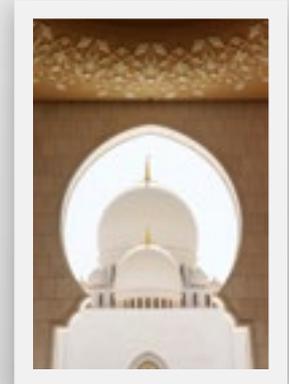
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7



8



6



9



- 1. Maria do Carmo Calem
- 2. Anna Neville
- 3. Gabriella Parkinson
- 4. Henrietta Miles
- 5. Amber Spencer

- 6. Anna Neville
- 7. Gabriella Parkinson
- 8. Maria do Carmo Calem
- 9. Jocasta Ferrigno
- 10. Jocasta Ferrigno

- 11. Grace (Nosa) Inneh
- 12. Enekole Mark
- 13. Grace (Nosa) Inneh
- 14. Henrietta Miles
- 15. Enekole Mark

10



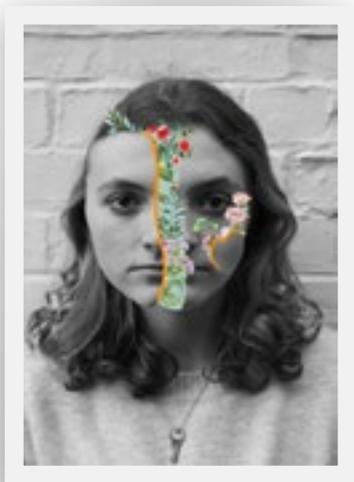
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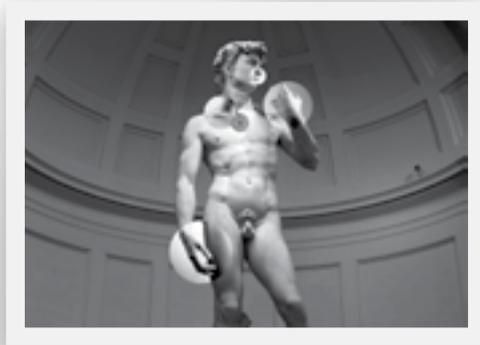
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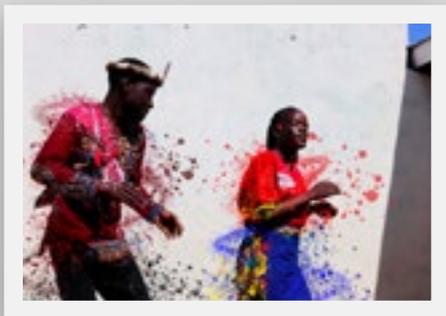
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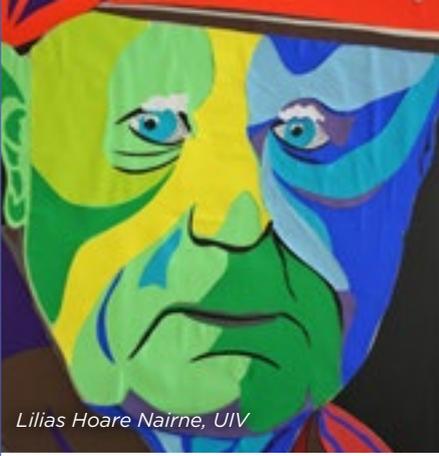


14



15





Lilias Hoare Nairne, UIV



Kimberly Gan, UIV



Olga Monteverde Lopez de Vera Vera, UIV

REMEMBRANCE DAY

During the Michaelmas term, girls in the Lower and Upper Fourth created artwork for an exhibition at Newbury Racecourse for the Armed Forces Race Day and regional British Legion Poppy Appeal launch. Unfortunately, owing to torrential rain, the event was cancelled at the last minute as the ground was too waterlogged for the horses to run.



Honore Thorne, UIV

Instead, we put on a Remembrance display in the Murray Centre, which was very well received by all who saw it. Mrs Scott's Lower Fourth girls created colourful silk paintings depicting soldiers and Resistance maps, and the designs were inspired by Tiffany glass. Mrs Keeling's Upper Fourth classes took their inspiration from the work of the artist Anselm Kiefer, and they worked in teams to produce wartime landscapes. Mrs Mortimer's Upper Fourths marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day and made collage portraits of some of the veterans who took part in the invasion.



Kexuan (Angela) Zou, UIV

This display was such a success that we hope to repeat it on an annual basis and our congratulations go to all the girls who participated!

Mrs Kirsten Mortimer,
Teacher of Art



Venetia Knight, UIV



Fleur Williams, UIV



Yanci (Sophie) Chen, UIV



Remembrance Day display

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



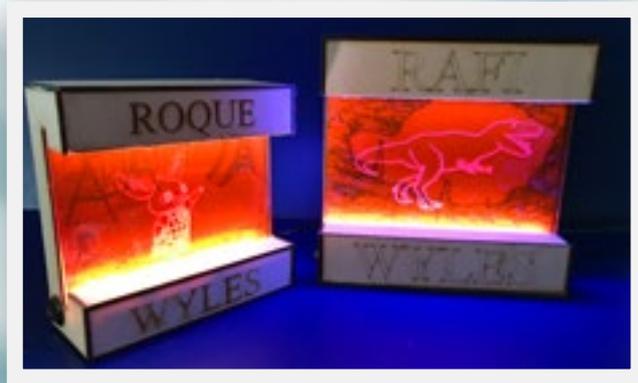
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10



11



12



1. Georgia Ashley
2. Charlotte Beveridge
3. Ella Clegg
4. Amelia (Mimi) Fernie
5. Cora Green
6. Hongcan (Sarah) Gu

7. Daisy Hersee
8. Egunlola Oyegunle
9. Miranda Tromans
10. Verena Whitbread
11. Jasmine Wyles
12. Rosie Phillips

GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: RESISTANT MATERIALS

1. Deborah (Ayanfe) Adedeji
2. Nga Man Cheng

3. Gwyneth Choi
4. Tara Dyer
5. Lyla Elichaooff

2



Project: Solar powered garden water feature.
Materials: Ash, acrylic and stainless steel.

4



Project: Beer Pong table!
Materials: Birch ply with chrome plated steel legs.

1



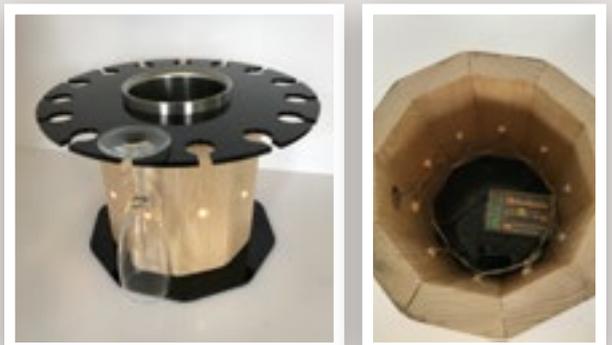
Project: Bluetooth speaker and wireless charging unit.
Materials: Bamboo laminated board, stainless steel and acrylic.

3



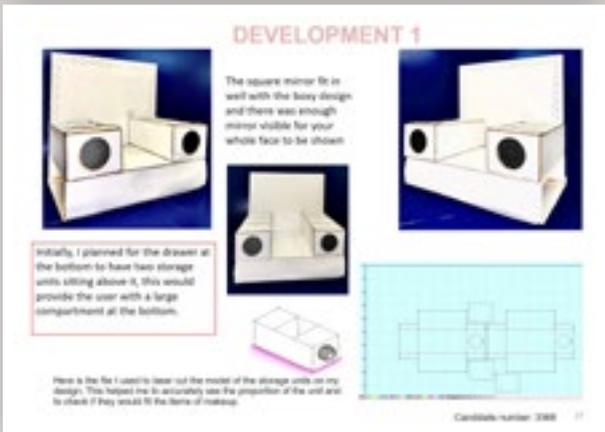
Project: Space saving make-up storage mirror.
Materials: Birch ply, acrylic mirror.

5



Project: Champagne chiller and glass storage unit.
Materials: Ash, acrylic and stainless steel.

6



Project: Make up and jewellery organiser with sound system - getting ready for a party!
Materials: laser ply, acrylic, aero ply.

6. Indi Hine
 7. Tiwani Olusola
 8. Charlotte Pearson

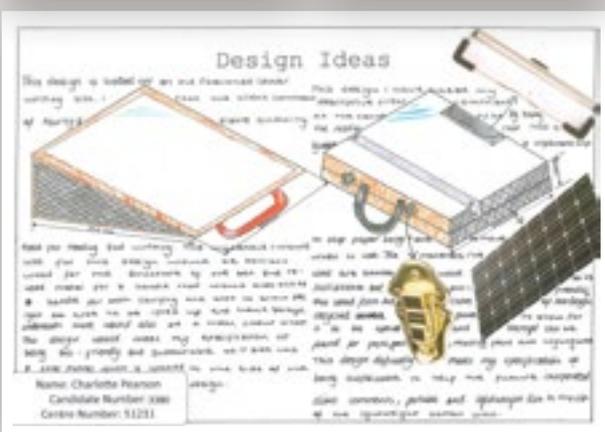
9. Isabella Pemberton
 10. Hannah Perkins

7



Project: Solar powered scent diffuser and radio for relaxation.
Materials: Sapele and sapele veneered MDF.

8



Project: Reading light box to assist people with reading difficulties. The colour of the light shining through the page can be changed. Text can be read in between the sliding bar.
Materials: Bamboo laminate board, acrylic.

9



Project: Flat packable doghouse.
Materials: Pine structure with birch ply covers.

10



Project: Multifunctional bedside table/desk unit.
Materials: Birch ply, hardwood veneers, acrylic.

11



Project: Secure cabinet with LED light and alarm.
Materials: Walnut veneered MDF, aluminium, acrylic.

13



Project: Secure cabinet with LED light and alarm.
Materials: Walnut veneered MDF, aluminium, acrylic.

14



Project: Multifunctional children's furniture. The flatpack unit can be converted to a table, desk or chair. A battery operated light clips on the edge.
Materials: Birch ply, pine, acrylic.

11. Poppy Wessely

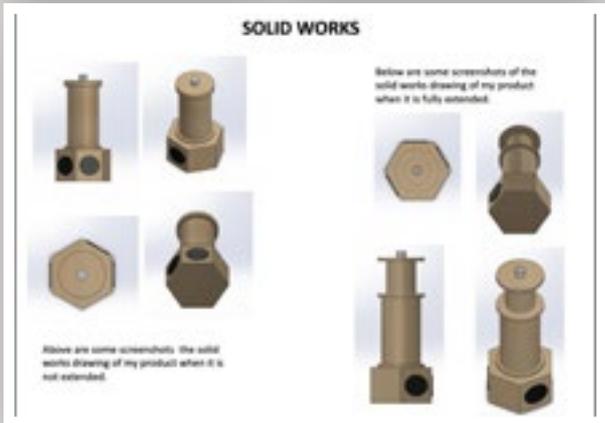
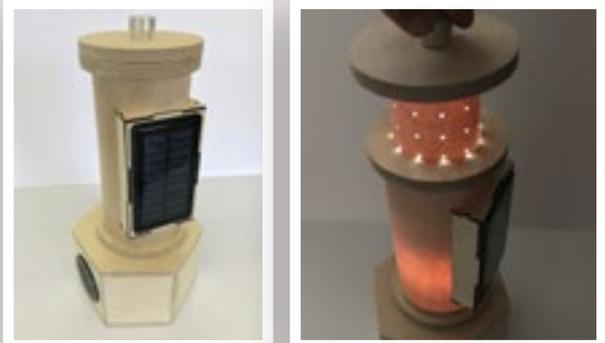
12. Matilda (Tilly) Wilkinson

13. Wai Che (Rachel) Wong

14. Ziyi (Annie) Yang

15. Zhihan (Helen) Yang

12



Project: Solar powered radio and adjustable lamp.
Materials: Aero ply, birch ply, acrylic.

15



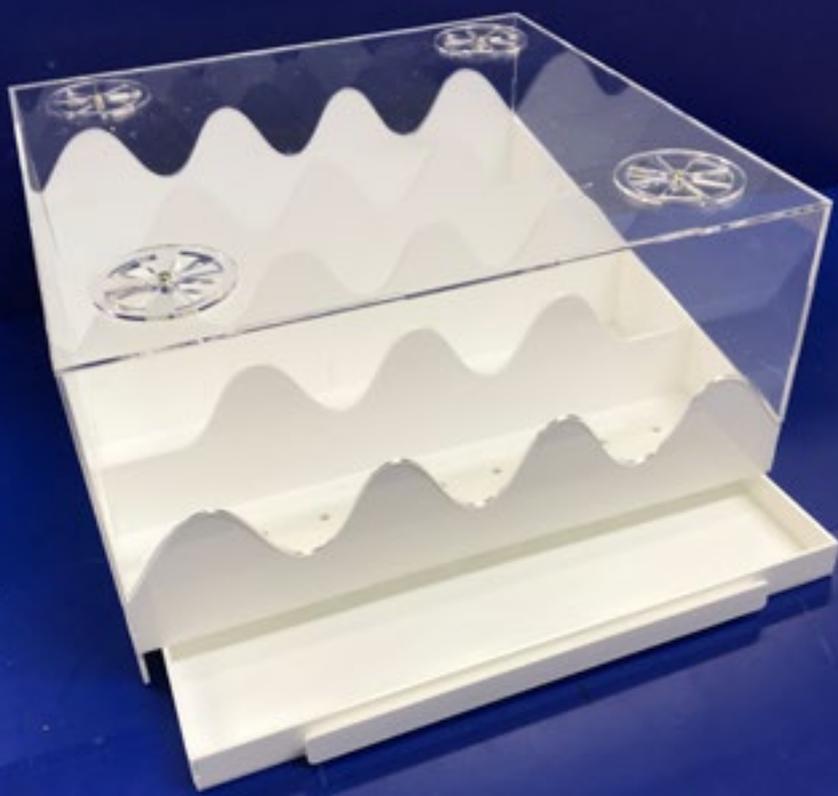
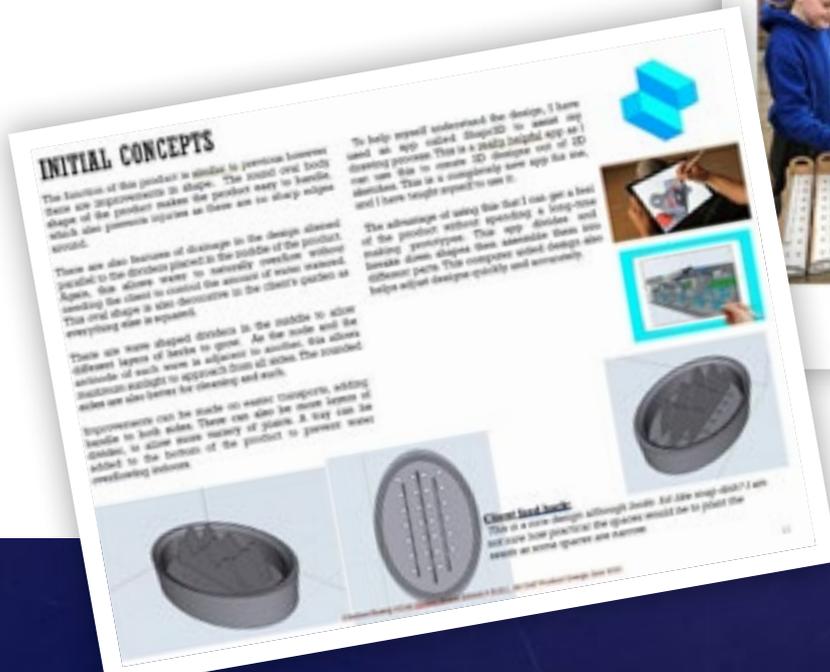
Project: Adaptable storage system for a student. Storage boxes for stationery and devices can be added or taken away from the rail allowing customisation.
Materials: Laser ply, acrylic, 12v LED strip.

AS LEVEL D&T PRODUCT DESIGN - LOWER SIXTH

Chelsea Huang

Project: Indoor/outdoor greenhouse to encourage children to develop an enjoyment of gardening.

Materials: Solvent-welded acrylic.



1



A LEVEL D&T PRODUCT DESIGN - LOWER SIXTH - INTRODUCTORY COAT HOOK PROJECT

1. Alexandra Hamilton
2. Omolade Pearse

3. Florence Hack
4. Lisabel Thistlethwayte

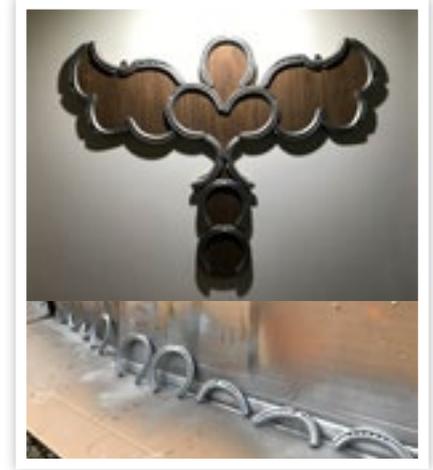
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3



4



A2 LEVEL D&T PRODUCT DESIGN - UPPER SIXTH



Motolani Oladitan

Project: Solar powered charging case for Apple devices. This is for use in Nigeria where there are frequent power cuts..

Materials: Hexaboard, aluminium, laser ply, PU Foam.



Lower School Art & Design Textiles

REMOVE

In Remove, the girls learn how to block print and batik organic cotton fabric. These hand decorated fabrics are then patchworked and embroidered to create a lavender heart that could be sold as a Fair Trade product.

Lavender Hearts created by Yun Qiao (Melody) Wang and Tabatha Ridley.



LOWER FOURTH

Girls were asked to create a hand painted fabric canvas inspired by the work of Kurt Jackson. They learnt how to mix paint to create a defined colour palette and how to blend colours. The outcomes are excellent!

Canvases created by Alice Barber and Astrid Davis.

UPPER FOURTH

Pupils are introduced to a skillset that will prepare them for GCSE Art Textiles. The girls have learnt how to develop their illustrative drawing skills working from primary source material. They were then introduced to the textiles techniques that enabled them to recreate their drawings using stitched marks. In lessons, the girls created portraits using free motion stitching, tie dye and hand embroidery to create bold and striking tote bags. In online lessons, the girls were able to create self-portraits inspired by the work of an illustrator called Natasa Kekanovic



GCSE Art & Design Textiles

Polly Cecil

Polly used a combination of sources of inspiration from the human form and these include the intestines, the eye and the mouth. Her style is bold and eclectic, and she used a range of quirky techniques including 3D beaded textile sculptures, applique, quilting and free motion embroidery.



Lyla Elichaooff

Lyla has created a bold and energetic jacket informed by the artist Jackson Pollock. The jacket is made using a neoprene fabric which she marbled using marbling inks. The front of the jacket has been hand painted and embellished with hand embroidery. The sleeves are constructed out of painted fabrics that are patchworked together.



India Hinds

India looked to magnified cell structure to inform the creation of her vibrant and abstract waistcoat / jacket. She used a considered combination of foiling, dyeing, free motion embroidery, gathered organza and quilting to create her outcome.



Freya Illingworth

Freya looked to the muscles seen in the human body. She used a method called modelling, whereby she created her garment on the stand / mannequin, pleating and gathering fabrics until she was happy with the creation. The draping of fabrics is then stitched into place using free motion embroidery and additional yarn is added to create further definition in places.



Madelaina Lavelle

Madelaina's fitted top has been created incorporating an intricate and abstract textiles media portrait, and is constructed from a range of techniques including free motion stitching, hand embroidery and reverse applique. The oversized and three-dimensional sleeves are inspired by the folds seen in the skin of the human form and the back of the top is informed by the human spine, recreated using pleated velvet.

**Yasmine McLennan**

Yasmine looked to cell structure to inform her highly adorned jacket. Refined techniques include a hand-woven collar, dyeing, pleating, free motion embroidery and foiling.

**Rosie Montague**

Rosie looked to the study of the human brain and veins to inform her outcome. The main bodice is quilted and sections of the bodice are adorned with hand woven applique. The item is finished with plaited fabrics arranged to represent the veins.

**Isabella Pemberton**

Isabella looked to cell structure to inform her vibrant and abstract dungarees. Tie dye has been used to create colour and pattern for the base fabric, and applique, beading and embroidery is used to create the organic shaped cells.

**Yuhan (Angela) Wan**

Angela looked to the human brain and veins as inspiration for her skirt. She created the base using dye, and this was worked into with free machine stitching and beading. Additional texture is created by attaching a textured yarn with a zig zag stitch on the sewing machine.

**Zi Xin (Sunnie) Wei**

Sunnie created a skirt incorporating a portrait and other aspects of the human form such as skin and the veins. Sunnie combined techniques with real sophistication and skill, if you look at the portrait closely you can see applique, reverse applique reveals sourced fabric, hand embroidery and free motion stitching. Other explorative methods include pleating, foiling and shirring.



A Level Art & Design Textiles

Elodie Hersee

Elodie has created a hand-woven piece of art that would not look out of place on a Textiles degree course. Her work is informed by an 'under the sea' theme. She created the loom out of twisted hazel and created the base weave first. Additional detailing can be seen; a fish has been felted and worked into with intricate stitching and French knots. An urchin has been recreated with yo-yos, and also a hand knitted and textured spine and coral is created using French knitting.

This work is incredibly labour intensive and time consuming to produce.



Henrietta Miles

Henrietta looked to Indian culture to inform her A Level garments. A dress incorporating innovative pattern drafting techniques has been made utilising rust dyeing methods to create unique and abstract mark making. A jacket has been made using the Japanese shibori dyeing method, and this dyed fabric was then quilted and carefully hand stitched. A hand knitted scarf made from recycled sari fabric completes the traditional layered aesthetic.



Lu Min Hew

Lu Min looked to cacti to inform the creation of a dress that incorporates a wide range of carefully refined techniques. The base fabric of the bodice and dress are hand dyed using the Japanese shibori method. You can see on the skirt how the shibori has been stitched before it is gathered and dyed to reveal the resist dyed leaf shapes. The bodice fabric is further adorned with printing, free motion stitching and hand embroidery. 3D felt shapes are created and are further embellished with thread-wrapped wire to convey the spikes seen in cacti. And finally, 3D wire shaped, batik waxed and dyed leaf shapes are arranged and hand stitched into position for impact.





Music



A Musical Year Like No Other

We have performed at the Royal Albert Hall, girls have been awarded places at the Royal College of Music Junior Department, diplomas continue to thrive and new instruments have been taken up – not even a pandemic can stop the music at Downe House! With the launch of our Virtual Music School, lockdown challenges have been overcome and the music has continued with fantastic creativity and commitment from the girls. We have made history with Downe House's first ever online concert, 'Music Unlocked' and radio show, 'DH Music Live', showcasing the extraordinary talent of the whole Music Department as well as welcoming British composers, Bob Chilcott and Will Todd.

I wish to thank Anna Hall (Head of Music 2019-20), Imogen Fowler (Head of Instrumental Music 2019-20), Alice Peters (Head of Choral 2019-20) and Jocasta Ferrigno (Deputy Head of Choral 2019-20) together with all of our talented Music Award Holders for their exceptional contribution to the Music Department this year, inspiring others around them and living the music!

With now over 3,250 followers, our Twitter account continues to capture all our exciting news, live updates and inspiring moments from the Music Department. Please do follow us @DowneHouseMusic.

What a whirlwind musical year where so much has been achieved and where music continues to transform lives and equip girls with lifelong skills. Bravo Downe House Music!

Dr Charlotte Exon, Director of Music



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEW MUSIC SENIORS



ALEXANDRA HAMILTON (HEAD OF MUSIC)

I started playing the piano and violin when I was five and I have always loved learning new instruments, whether that be teaching myself how to play the flute when my uncle let me borrow his when I was eight, or jumping at the chance to take up the tuba when I got braces. One of the things that I love about music is performing, from playing one of my pieces to my grandparents at Christmas, to playing in a concert with the West of England Youth Orchestra and everything in between. I now play the tuba, violin and organ and I am a member of Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band as well as Prima Voce and Polyphonix. Outside School, I also play for the West of England Youth Orchestra and have just gained a place at the Royal College of Music Junior Department.

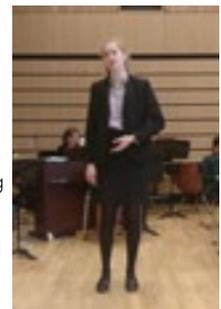
ANTONIA HOLLOWAY (HEAD OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)

I began playing the recorder when I was eight - my teacher, Ms Rita Porzi, saw potential and inspired me to continue, and suggested that I learn a new instrument that would enable me to join orchestras and be part of a wider community. I started learning the oboe at a local music school and now I attend the Royal College of Music on Saturdays, on both the cello and the oboe where I am in multiple chamber groups, orchestras and choirs and receive individual tutoring. I gained a diploma in performance on the oboe and am a member of the National Youth Orchestra, where my performance opportunities have been endless, ranging from the Barbican to the Royal Albert Hall. I hope to gain an LRSM by the end of my time at Downe and I am currently in the process of preparing for it. In the future, although I am hoping to pursue a career in finance, music will always be a part of my life.



ROSALIND WIPPELL (HEAD OF CHORAL)

Music came into my life quite by accident. My older sister asked my mother for singing lessons but I, a small and confused six-year-old, ended up in the music room instead of her. Now, as a significantly taller seventeen-year-old, I could not be happier that this mix up brought singing into my life. I also took up the cello, joined the school choir and the children's choir at my church. Currently, I sing in the Prima Voce and Polyphonix choirs, as well as running the Holcombe Singers, and have just gained my Grade 8 in Voice. By the end of my time at Downe, I hope to have gained an ARSM Diploma. Although I will not be pursuing music as a career, opting to dig for rocks in the ground as an archaeologist, I am certain it will always be an important part of my life. Singing in choirs has helped me grow as a person in so many ways, building my self-confidence and cementing friendships. Creating a beautiful sound together as a community is a feeling like no other.



AMELIE FURSE (DEPUTY HEAD OF CHORAL)

Coming from a musical family, I've always loved music and the emotional responses that it produces, especially in the form of opera (as you can tell I'm secretly a grandma and often enjoy the occasional Werther's Original or perhaps a little rose pruning). Although I haven't pursued music rigorously at Downe, I have really relished the sense of community and friendship that it brings, through orchestras, choirs and with the music staff themselves. Engaging with the Music Department is such a great way to develop as both a musician and a person, with plenty of opportunities for both. Support is an important aspect to the musical life at Downe, and it is through this that I have managed to gain Grade 8 for both piano and singing. I would love to encourage as many people to get stuck in and simply come and have a bit of fun!



PRO CORDA CHAMBER COMPETITION

Being able to play in a trio and taking part in this competition has taught me valuable skills in Chamber music playing, and how to work with others and make music together. I would love to take part in similar experiences in the future.

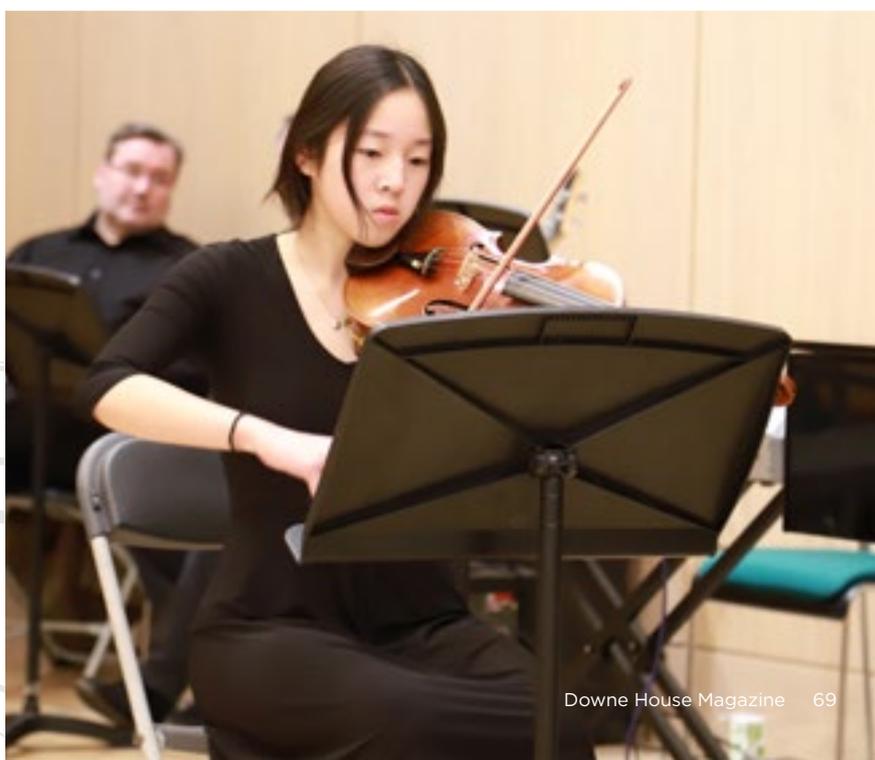
Katie Lam, LV

My experience of Pro Corda's Chamber Music Festival was rewarding to say the least, but also filled with new experiences every step of the way as I learnt so much about ensemble playing. It honed both my cello playing and musicality at the same time, thanks to the insightful masterclasses the competition provided at the end of every round. The euphoria I got from this competition and the success that came with it were highlights of the Lent term for me, as it gave me confidence to grow as a musician, as well as reassurance that the trio was working out well. My mentor, Mr Picker, has also been a fundamental source of encouragement for me throughout this competition and my gratitude extends to him.

Cheuk Wah Sara Lee, LV

If I had to sum up my experience in one word, it would have to be eye-opening. Not only has this competition broadened my views about chamber music, but it has also taught me to work with other musicians and persevere. To all you musicians out there, I would definitely encourage you to take part in Pro Corda next year, as it gives you an unforgettable experience. The success we've been able to experience is in no small part due to everyone in the Music Department's constant support, from Dr Exon and Mr Lambert's Masterclass to Dr Alexander taking us to the competitions, something all three of us feel very lucky to have experienced.

Anson Leung, LV



DIPLOMA RECITALS

The Music Department is very proud of all our ABRSM and Trinity exam students, six of whom prepared for Diplomas. The ABRSM ARSM Diploma and the Trinity LTCL Diploma require the candidate to prepare a thirty-minute recital, which involves not only high technical ability but also stamina. As part of their preparation for this, the Department put on two Diploma recitals so that the six girls could practise a dry run of their recital in front of a friendly and supportive audience. The first recital involved three Upper Sixth girls: Eliza Inglis (flautist), and Anna Hall and Mathilde Hughes (both singers). Particular highlights from this recital included Eliza's unaccompanied 'Syrinx' by Debussy, Anna's controlled and sensitive performance of 'Après un rêve' by Faure, and Mathilde's expressive performance of 'Empty Chairs and Empty Tables' from *Les Misérables*. The standard was very high that evening, and the second

recital in the series was no exception with three Upper School girls displaying their talents – Katie Lam (LV) on viola and Chenxi (Thalia) Li (LV) and Yan Lam (Emily) Lau (LV) on violin. A special mention must go out to Yan Lam (Emily) Lau whose performance was interrupted by a fire alarm; however, this did not deter her from completing her recital with great aplomb upon returning from our various muster points! Chenxi (Thalia) Li demonstrated great dexterity with Stravinsky's 'Danse Russe', and Katie Lam's unaccompanied performance of 'Passacaglia' by Biber was very controlled and emotive. Thanks must go out to their respective Visiting Music Teachers for helping them prepare for this recital and plan their programmes, Ms Karen Wills, Miss Jacqueline Pischorn, and Mr John Kane. Well done to all the performers for treating us to two evenings' entertainment, worthy of Wigmore Hall.

Miss Susan Holmes, Principal Accompanist

MUSIC AWARD HOLDERS' RECITAL

On Sunday 10 November 2019, we were treated to a wonderful concert by some of our Music Award Holders. A great variety of music and instruments were on display, all played to a very high standard. Two piano works by Brahms topped and tailed the first half of the concert with Amelie Furse (LVI) setting the bar very high with an Intermezzo, and Jiayi Zheng (UV) performing one of the most renowned piano works – 'Rhapsody in G minor'. The audience knew that they had a treat on their hands this evening! It was great to see two different takes on dance movements; Cheuk Wah Sara Lee (LV), in stark contrast to the Brahms intermezzo, performed a vibrant and energetic 'Tarantella' by William Henry Squire, followed by Olivia McClintock's (UIV) take on a stately 'Sicilienne' by Grovlez for the bassoon. Further piano performances would highlight the instrument's versatility with Kylie Chan (LV) performing a very elegant 'Allegro' by Kuhlau, and Camilla Hale (UIV) demonstrating great control with her sensitive performance of Chopin's 'Nocturne in G minor'. Marina Pownall (UV) entertained the audience with a vibrant 'Concert Etude' by Goedicke on the trumpet, a challenging piece leaving the performer with hardly any time to breathe! Similarly, Hei Ching (Renee) Wong's (LIV) performance on the violin of a Mozart 'Allegro' involved meticulous coordination of the bowing and fast finger work. The concert was rounded off with three superb performances of brass and woodwind, Alexandra Hamilton's (LVI) 'Pastoral' by Vaughan Williams on the bass tuba contrasting with Sophie Loftus' (UV) jazzy clarinet 'Sidewalks of Harlem', and Dayeon Go's (LV) 'La Flûte de Pan' by Jules Mouquet. Music is certainly thriving at Downe House with these role models at the helm!

Miss Susan Holmes, Principal Accompanist

UVI A LEVEL RECITAL

It was a blustery, wet and wintry evening on 3 March. The musicians were warming up backstage, calming their nerves and even partaking in meditative practices...nonetheless, it was a nerve-wracking experience. We had spent endless hours of practice to secure our pieces and tonight was the final performance. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming as friends and family began to enter the Concert Room and take their seats. Jocasta Ferrigno (UVI) confidently walked on stage and sang Mozart's 'Voï Che Sapete' which brought delightful sweet melodies to the room and resulted in roaring applause. I then approached the stage and played Brahms' 2nd Clarinet Sonata in E-flat 1st Movement, which was a little on the lengthy side... I hope no-one fell asleep! The night's finale was Sarah Park (UVI) and it was worth the wait for her emotionally deep and mature performance of 'Still Hurting' by Jason Robert Brown. The evening concluded with a spread of refreshments as we shared the praise for all the performances. Our thanks must go to Miss Holmes, our Accompanist, who made each performance possible. It was a recital not to be missed!

Anna Hall, UVI



BARNARDO'S SENIOR CHOIR OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

On 16 October 2019, Polyphonix participated in a masterclass given by Douglas Coombes MBE, eminent adjudicator of Barnardo's Choir of the Year competition. As previous winners of the competition in 2018 and 2019, Mr Coombes had composed a piece in their honour, 'Orpheus and His Lute', and throughout the workshop Mr Coombes was able to work on this piece with them. Polyphonix performed the premiere of this in the Michaelmas Concert 2019. Mr Coombes had this to say upon hearing the performance: 'I just do not know what to say as I feel that any words I write cannot do justice to the performance I have just heard...I feel that you have made the piece better than it is with the interpretation and the resulting performance...thank you and the choir for breathing life into Orpheus.'

Although unable to attend the competition this year due to the Coronavirus, Polyphonix were very proud to once again get through to the final of the competition in 2020 for a third year running. Their entry was commended by Mr Coombes for well-balanced parts, words 'sung with understanding and sensitivity' and a 'sensitive and well-crafted' performance with a 'beautiful tone'.

Miss Susan Holmes, Principal Accompanist

POLYPHONIX PERFORM AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

After being crowned Barnardo's Senior Choir of the Year earlier in the year, on 4 November 2019, Polyphonix had an amazing opportunity to sing at the Royal Albert Hall. When we arrived in London and saw the impressive building that we would later be performing in, in front of so many people, we all felt really excited. After getting lost several times in the maze of staircases and corridors backstage in the Royal Albert Hall, we did our warm-ups to get ready. We then rehearsed with Douglas Coombes MBE conducting some of the Disney classics that we would be singing later that evening with the other children performing. This included a Mary Poppins medley and songs from The Jungle Book which we all really enjoyed taking part in. In the afternoon we were also given the chance to go up to the top balcony of the Royal Albert Hall which allowed us to appreciate the unbelievable size of the renowned building. We took some great photos of each other which will be wonderful memories in years to come. At the end of the afternoon we were shown to our dressing room which made us feel very professional! We felt both nervous and of course very excited for our performance in such a prestigious venue. After singing with the children and watching the performances of the first half of the concert, it was our turn and the moment we had all been waiting for had arrived. It was an incredible atmosphere when we walked onto the stage ready to perform Arnesen's 'Flight Song' after so much hard work in rehearsals in the Concert Room at school with Dr Exon. We felt really connected in our performance right up until we sung our last note and heard Miss Holmes' last few notes on the piano fade out into the magnificent building. When we heard thousands of people clapping, we felt so thrilled with what we had achieved, and we were on a high all the way back to School eating lots of chocolate to celebrate! Our thanks to Dr Exon and Miss Holmes for all their support and for making this fantastic experience possible. Singing on the stage at the Royal Albert Hall was truly something we will never forget.

Sophie Loftus, UV



VISIT FROM WESTOVER SCHOOL (USA) GLEE CLUB

On 4 March, Downe House was thrilled to welcome the Westover Glee Club for an 'Informal Sing' while they were on a tour of the UK. Westover School is one of our Global Exchange partner schools, where I was fortunate enough to spend three weeks last year, so it was great to catch up with everyone and introduce them to Downe House. After a lively warm-up in which both choirs swapped exercises and got to know each other, it was time to begin.

Westover sang three songs, including the 'Irish Blessing'. This was particularly interesting as we had previously sung a different arrangement of the same song. The choir also sang a folk song a capella, which was remarkable, and they sang with wonderful tone and strong conviction. We thoroughly enjoyed their performance, and it was clear how hard they had worked to get it to such a high standard. It was also the final tour for their Director of Music, Mr Havery, before his retirement, so it was a truly special moment.

Next, it was Polyphonix's turn to take to the stage. We also sang three songs, including 'Music of Stillness' and 'When

we were young'. Inspired by Westover's fabulous performance, we connected, communicated and lived the music, and hopefully made a good impression on the Glee Club girls who had travelled so far to hear us.

To finish, the two choirs joined together in singing 'Jerusalem'. It felt magnificent to unite the two choirs into one, and by listening hard to one another, we achieved a superb blend in such a short amount of time. We ended the visit by having lunch in the Main Dining Room where the girls could find out a little more about each other and the tour. Finally, it was time to say goodbye, and we wished Westover good luck for the rest of their performances.

Overall it was an outstanding morning, and we enjoyed meeting new people and connecting with other musicians. The future is bright for young choristers, and we hope to see the Westover girls again soon!

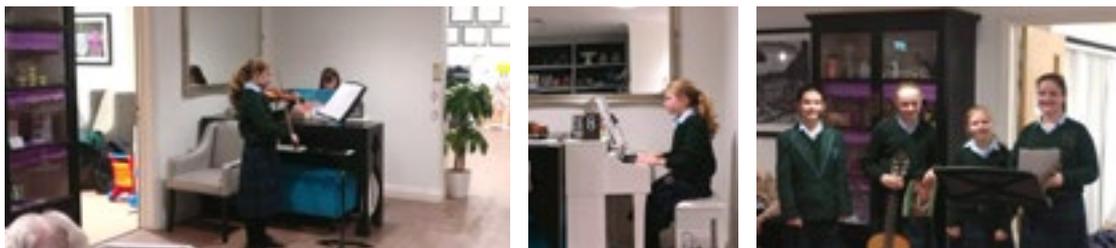
Alice Perntaller, UV



LOWER SCHOOL CARE HOME PERFORMANCE

The Lower School Care Home Concert on 26 February was a lovely experience. Miss Winsor kindly took Clara, Isabella, Anna and I on a minibus from School after supper and we arrived at the care home. We were warmly welcomed by the staff and met some of the kind residents. Some of the residents were musicians themselves and told us all about their experiences in music. It was wonderful to share a passion for music with them. Then, we tuned our instruments and each of us played a piece for them. They all smiled happily as we played and gave us a big round of applause at the end. I really enjoyed the visit and it was a great opportunity to perform in front of such an enthusiastic audience.

Maria Taraban, Remove



CONCERT OF LIGHT MUSIC

This year's Concert of Light Music took place on Friday 14 February and the theme of romance was in the air. Chamber Orchestra topped and tailed the event playing Gardel's most famous tango and the 'Love Theme' from *Love Actually*, between which we heard Lower School Concert Choir singing 'I See the Light', as well as lovely performances from Sinfonia (the strings, the wind, and then the whole group). There was a shift in tempo and dynamics when Jazz Band performed two short sets, both brim-full of energy and fun; and there was a highly accomplished chamber music performance from Trio Sempre Giocando (Anson Leung, Cheuk Wah Sara Lee and Katie Lam), playing three delightful pieces by Frank Bridge. We were treated to exemplary solo performances given by Alexandra Hamilton, Jiayi Zheng, Rosalind Wippell, Camilla Hale and Olivia McClintock, with styles ranging from classical to jazz and each one utterly delightful. This was the first time our Concert of Light Music had taken place in the Murray Centre Auditorium, and it proved to be an outstanding venue in which to showcase the considerable musical talent at Downe House. As the audience and performers left to head away for the Exeat weekend, the gentle chatter and warm smiles reflected the relaxed mood of the concert. Our thanks (as ever), go also to Miss Holmes who accompanied all the soloists.

Dr Christian Alexander, Teacher of Music and Head of Composition



PRIMA VOCE SING AT HOPE FOR HOMES CAROL CONCERT

On 4 December 2019, Prima Voce had the huge privilege to be invited to sing at the Hope and Homes for Children carol concert at St Mary Abbots Church in Kensington. Hope and Homes is a wonderful charity, founded by Downe House alumna, Caroline Cook and her husband with the aim of providing homes for children affected by war or disaster.

Prima Voce, conducted by Dr Exon and accompanied by Mr Lambert, Miss Holmes and Dr Alexander, performed alongside cellist Maxim Calver and Canon Brass. As well as performing Bob Chilcott's 'I Lift My Eyes' and 'Mary Did You Know' by Pentatonix, Prima Voce were delighted to accompany Katie Melua, one of the UK's highest-selling female recording artists of all time, in a number of songs, one of which was Bob Chilcott's and Katie's particularly beautiful arrangement of 'Oh Holy Night'. It was a wonderful evening and a great start to the Christmas period – a favourite time of year amongst choral singers!

Mr Chris Lambert, Music School Manager



MICHAELMAS CONCERT

The Michaelmas Concert is always a special highlight in the Downe House calendar, and this year lived up to the high expectations. Our very own Farr Centre was the stage for the evening's entertainment on 23 November 2019 and there was a vast array of talent on display. Symphony Orchestra opened the concert with a rousing performance of 'Crown Imperial' by William Walton. This was a great crowd pleaser, and the audience were sat on the edge of their seats! Our percussion ensemble, Downe Beats, had their debut performance in this year's concert. It was great to see Ji Ching (Janice) Lee (LIV), Cheuk Yu (Queenena) Wong (UV), and Hoi Yiu (Danna) Cheung (UV) wear their cowboy hats for 'Oregon Trail', a piece designed to transport you to the Wild West. Following this performance was Chamber Orchestra, transporting us back to the English countryside with Butterworth's tone poem, 'The Banks of Green Willow'. Key soloists here were Anna Hall (UVI) on clarinet, Antonia Holloway (LVI) on oboe, and Eliza Inglis (UVI) and Dayeon Go (LV) as our able flautists. A special moment of tranquillity and calm was created here as this performance seamlessly transitioned into Prima Voce coming forward to sing 'I Lift My Eyes' by Bob Chilcott, closing the first half of the concert. The second half of the concert was a showcase of all the choirs that Downe House have on offer for the girls. From the youngest, Once Removed singing with such enthusiasm, through to Treblemakers, 'Flying Free', the auditioned In Harmony ensemble searching for 'Someone To Love' and Polyphonix performing 'Flight Song', there was a definite theme of freedom and the ability of music to make us soar! All the choirs came together at the end to perform 'The Music's Always There with You' by John Rutter, and the audience left the venue feeling this in abundance. Special thanks must go (as ever) to Dr Charlotte Exon, the Music Department, and all the Visiting Music Teachers for their support leading up to this concert.

Miss Susan Holmes, Principal Accompanist



MUSIC SHOWCASE

The Music Showcase took on a slightly different format this year as unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the concert was unable to take place at our usual setting of St John's Church in Newbury. Nevertheless, despite the last-minute change in venue, the girls rose fantastically to the occasion, providing us with a magnificent concert in the Murray Centre. The concert featured performances from our Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Twice Removed, In Harmony, Polyphonix and Prima Voce. The concert began with our 70-member strong Symphony Orchestra providing us with an exciting programme from William Walton's 'Crown Imperial', 'Gabriel's Oboe', performed beautifully by LVI Antonia Holloway and lastly, 'Forrest Gump Suite' by Alan Silvestri. Our choirs also provided us with a stunning programme from 'Oh Danny Boy', 'The Music of Stillness' and Faure's 'Cantique de Jean Racine'. The concert was brought to a close with a poignant performance from all the choirs of 'The Prayer with Lead Us Lord' by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster. Sadly, this was the last concert for our Upper Sixth musicians and as ever, we were sad to see them go. We are sure they will take music with them to their next endeavours.

Miss Sarah Morgan, Graduate Music Assistant



PRIMA VOCE JUDICIAL SERVICE

The first public performance of this year was the Judicial Service, held at Reading Minster in October. Even though it was slightly daunting (as this was our first performance as a choir), the experience was exhilarating and we felt honoured to be singing in front of so many important people, including the High Sheriff of Berkshire, and the Bishop of Oxford. It was a fantastic opportunity, and the beautiful venue allowed us to really exploit the acoustics! We performed 'Lift My Eyes' by Bob Chilcott, 'Look at the World' by John Rutter and closed the service with an arrangement of the Irish Blessing. Performing at such an important event in the judicial calendar was truly a privilege and we all enjoyed every moment of it.

Amelie Furse, LVI (Deputy Head of Choral)



CAROL SERVICES

The Michaelmas term ended with two spectacular Carol Services, both of which took place at St Nicolas Church in Newbury. The Junior Service began with a solo of 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' sung beautifully by Lauren Akinluyi, Head of In Harmony. Once Removed sang 'Follow the Star' and Treblemakers performed 'A Maiden most Gentle' and Chilcott's 'Mid-winter'. In Harmony then sang a serene rendition of 'Epiphany' by Bob Chilcott, and Camilla Hale, Eloise Kirkby and Olivia McClintock performed a beautiful arrangement of 'Ave Maria' by Mawby. All of the choirs also came together to sing 'Of the Father's Love Begotten' and led the congregation in singing carols such as 'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly', 'As with gladness men of old', and 'Angles from the realms of glory'.

On the following day, the Senior Service, taking the form of nine lessons and carols, was opened with a beautiful solo of 'Once in Royal David's City' from our Head of Choral Alice Peters, before the choir processed into the church. Polyphonix sang an ethereal rendition of Gjeilo's 'The Rose' and the calm 'Myn Liking' featuring solos from Anna Hall and Charlotte Field, as well as a lively version of 'Ding Dong! Merrily on High' by Nicholson. Prima Voce then sang two a capella arrangements: the lively 'In Dulci Jublilo' with solos from Poppy Scales, Anna Hall and Alice Pernthaller and the stunning 'Bethlehem Down' by Warlock. The two choirs also joined forces to sing 'Not that far from Bethlehem', before finishing with the beautiful 'Christmas Blessing' by Stopford. The service would of course not be complete without hymns, and the choirs led the congregation in singing some firm favourites, 'The Sussex Carol', 'We Three Kings', 'O Come all Ye Faithful,' and of course, 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'. The Carol Services were a spectacular end to an action-packed Michaelmas term, and thanks must of course always go to Dr Exon, Mr Lambert, Miss Holmes and the whole Music Department for making everything possible.

Antonia and Olivia McClintock, UV and UIV



YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Young Musician of The Year is an annual competition held at Downe House which follows a similar structure to the BBC competition of the same name. To apply you must be of or above Grade 8 standard. After three rounds, the winner is announced by a Guest Judge in the Grand Finale. It is a formal affair aimed to showcase the high-class performing capabilities of the School and probably my favourite musical event of the year! This year, we were lucky enough to have Mr Alun Jones, Principal of Chetham's School of Music, as our Guest Judge for the first round. There is an additional prize awarded for the most promising musician named the Judith Weir Concerto Prize, after the composer who adjudicated the competition three years ago. I was lucky enough to be awarded this last year and therefore was given the opportunity to play 'Gabriel's Oboe' with our School's Symphony Orchestra in the Lent term concert. Overall, the competition is an incredible way to show off your skills as a soloist performer in a supportive environment. Although we were not able to have the final round with Will Todd adjudicating, it was an amazing experience to compete in the first round with so many high-level players.

Antonia Holloway, LVI (Head of Instrumental Music)



BERKSHIRE YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION – LENT TERM

This year, Berkshire Young Musician of the Year was open to players of wind, brass and percussion instruments and I was encouraged to enter on the tuba. The process was started by sending in a video audition at the end of the Michaelmas term which was equivalent to the first round of the competition. If you got through this round, you would reach a sectional semi-final. I was lucky enough to gain a place in the brass semi-final and so on Sunday 2 February I headed up to South Hill Park in Bracknell. It was a really nice atmosphere, feeling more like a small concert than a competition, just with the added nerves of knowing that your performance was being judged. Everyone competing was amazing so I didn't get through to the final, however I was given really useful notes on my performance showing me which areas of my performance were good and which areas I could improve on.

Alexandra Hamilton, LVI (Head of Music)



DOWNE HOUSE MUSIC FM LIVE!

As part of Founder's Fortnight, Dr Charlotte Exon and Mr Chris Lambert put on a one-hour radio show covering a range of topics from the challenges of virtual choir rehearsals to composing during lockdown. Guests included our very own Head of Composition, Dr Christian Alexander, giving us some songwriting tips, choral composers Will Todd and Bob Chilcott discussing their sources of inspiration with Rosalind Wippell, Amelie Furse and our Head and Deputy Heads of Choral, and Mrs Emma McKendrick sharing her experience of lockdown from Downe House. No radio show from the Music Department would be complete without

some musical performances, and so the audience were treated to Symphony Orchestra performing 'Gabriel's Oboe' with Antonia Holloway, Head of Instrumental Music, taking the lead role; Prima Voce performing 'I Lift My Eyes' by Bob Chilcott; original songs from Dr Christian Alexander and Anna Hall, our outgoing Head of Music; and our Virtual Choir bringing Will Todd's 'Like a Rainbow Shining' to life. Special mention must go to Mr Alex Boswell for his technical expertise on all things audio and visual!

Miss Susan Holmes, Principal Accompanist

FOUNDER'S FORTNIGHT - COMPOSERS' CORNER

As part of Founder's Fortnight, there was an opportunity to hear some of the work that our aspiring composers and songwriters have been arranging in their homes. This term, Dr Christian Alexander set girls the challenge of composing a variation to an eight-bar musical theme for flute and piano by Osbert Parsley, called 'Meditations'. There was a choice of six ready-made piano parts for girls to add new flute music to, and it was great to hear the sixteen interpretations compiled altogether. It was great to hear contributions from singers Jiwon Moon and Anna Hall, as well as Jiayi Zheng's skilful studio demo. Cheuk Wah Sara Lee's composition for cello and piano was very dramatic, and Anson Leung treated us to a very graceful waltz for clarinet and piano. Alongside this we were able to hear last year's GCSE compositions from our current Lower Sixth - Lucia Bugeja, Wan Hei (Victoria) Cho, Amelie Furse, Alexandra Hamilton, Antonia Holloway, and Ruiqi (Rachel) Wang. They were given the task of composing a piece to accompany a painting, and it was great fun trying to guess which painting had inspired the composition! Thank you to Dr Christian Alexander for his compositional expertise, and Mr Alex Boswell for compiling it for us.

Miss Susan Holmes,
Principal Accompanist



The Gathering
be part of something special

Calling all musicians
Including all pupils & members of staff young & old, beginner & experienced
You can help us create something really BIG
Be part of an exciting group music project
Whether you know 4 notes, 44 notes or all the notes
Have some fun with music & be part of something special

Here's how you join in:

Simply create a small fragment of music, a melody, a harmony; just few notes that you like the sound of together and send them **either as a video clip or written down** to Dr Alexander (alexanderc@downehouse.net) by the newly extended deadline of **Sunday 14 June**.

Dr Alexander will then have the challenge of putting them all together to create one piece of music that will be **played by Symphony Orchestra when we are all back together at School**.

Every single contribution will be included and the entire score, with your name included, will be **presented to the Headmistress to become a very special part of the history of the School**.

Visit Composers' Corner in the Virtual Music School Team to find out more.

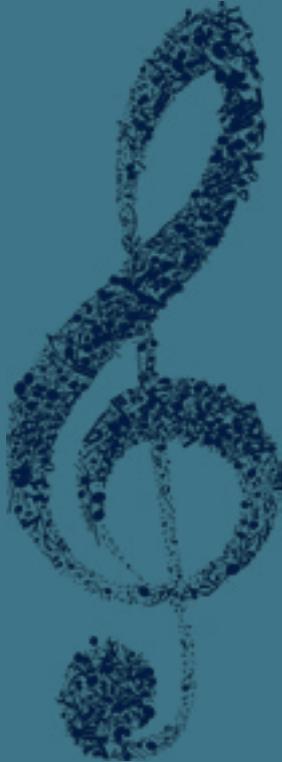

Music

FOUNDER'S FORTNIGHT - MUSIC UNLOCKED

On Tuesday 23 June 2020, the Downe House community was treated to a virtual concert by our Music Award Holders, Trio Sempre Giocando, and Prima Voce. Lasting about an hour, there was a great variety of music on offer, from unaccompanied Bach to Burt Bacharach, and from French composers to Chinese. Each performance was introduced by the performer offering a mini programme note on their piece which was greatly appreciated by the audience. There was strong representation from pianists in this concert with Antonia McClintock transporting us to France with a Ravel take on a minuet, and Maria Taraban giving us Sibelius's impression of a harp. Trio Sempre Giocando (Anson Leung, Katie Lam, and Cheuk Wah Sara Lee) were reunited in Hong Kong and it was great to hear their performance of Frank Bridge's 'Miniatures for Piano Trio'. Members of the string family featured with violinist Ziyue Yu performing Bach, Chenxi (Thalia) Li transporting us to China with the 'Butterfly Lovers' Concerto', Katie Lam demonstrating the viola's expressive ability with a passacaglia by Biber, and Antonia Holloway (Head of Instrumental Music)

performing von Paradis' 'Sicilienne' on the cello. Special mention should be made of our outgoing Upper Sixth Music Award Holders, three of whom were performing in this concert, Anna Hall (Head of Music), Eliza Inglis, and Georgia Allison. Anna started the concert with a piano solo by Chaminade, setting the standard very high for the following performers! Eliza's performance of the virtuosic flute solo 'Syrinx' by Debussy was mesmerising, and Georgia ended the concert with a performance that very much had family at the core; alongside her brother on bassoon, they performed an arrangement of a Burt Bacharach song which their grandfather had arranged. The Music Department is very proud of all that Molly Dewar, Anna, Eliza, and Georgia have achieved in their time at Downe House and thank them for everything that they have done in the Department. Thank you also to Mr Alex Boswell for helping to put this all together, the Music Department, and the Visiting Music Teachers for teaching all our Downe House musicians.

Miss Susan Holmes, Principal Accompanist




Programme

Anna Hall (*piano*)
'Automne' by Cécile Chaminade (Op. 35, No.2)

Antonia Holloway (*cello*)
'Sicilienne' by Maria Theresia von Paradis

Katie Lam (*viola*)
'Passacaglia' by Heinrich Biber

Maria Taraban (*piano*)
'Joueur de Harpe' by Jean Sibelius (Op. 34, No.8)

Trio Sempre Giocando
(Anson Leung - *piano*; Katie Lam - *violin*; Sara Lee - *cello*)
'Three miniatures for Piano Trio' by Frank Bridge (H87)

Sophia Yu (*violin*)
'Partita No. 2 in D minor - Allemande' by J. S. Bach (BWV 1004)

Antonia McClintock (*piano*)
'Sonatine - Second movement ("Mouvement de menuet")' by Maurice Ravel (M.40)

Eliza Inglis (*flute*)
'Syrinx' by Claude Debussy (L. 129)

Thalia Li (*violin*)
'Butterfly Lovers' Violin Concerto' by He Zhanhao and Chen Gang

Georgia Allison (*piano*) featuring **Michael Allison** (*bassoon*)
'A House Is Not A Home' by Burt Bacharach

Prima Voce
'The Road Home' by Stephen Paulus



Founder's Fortnight

Home Edition 2020

MINORITY INSTRUMENT SCHEME

The Minority Instrument Scheme has been a roaring success this year with girls in Remove taking up various instruments such as trombone, french horn, bassoon, harp and more! Girls have enjoyed receiving instrumental tuition from our outstanding visiting music teachers and have leapt at opportunities to perform in and around School. Pearl (Ivieve) Avwenaga said 'I have thoroughly enjoyed the MIS programme because it let me explore a lesser-known instrument. I have found out I really enjoy it and I would love to carry on playing after the programme has ended!'. The Music Department is so proud of our MIS girls and hope their love for music making continues throughout their time at Downe House.

Mr George Picker, Teacher of Music

PREP SCHOOLS' ORCHESTRAL FUN DAY

This year we hosted our largest Prep Schools Orchestral Fun Day to date. The theme for this year was a 'Day at the Musicals', featuring red carpets, camera reels, Oscar trophies, action cards and a movie-themed treasure hunt! Over 250 young musicians joined us from 25 different schools across the area. The musicians were also joined by our 70-member strong Symphony Orchestra, producing the largest (and possibly noisiest) ensemble at the School. Like every year, the day was filled with excitement, enthusiasm and most importantly a shared love of music making. The musicians spent the day in rehearsals, workshops, a masterclass for the advanced musicians and of course most importantly a movie-themed lunch break! The programme for the day featured music from *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars*. To close the day, all the musicians performed in a concert, showcasing their hard work and the chance to share what they had achieved during the day with their teachers and families.

Miss Sarah Morgan, Graduate Music Assistant



A young woman with dark hair, wearing a black dress, is captured in a dramatic pose on a stage. She is looking off to the side with a focused expression. The background is dark with blue lighting, and other performers are visible in the shadows. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Drama & Dance" in a white, cursive font.

Drama & Dance

Despite this academic year being one of the most unconventional in my whole teaching career, it has been fantastic to see the Drama and Dance Department continue to thrive in the face of adversity. It has been a year of many firsts, both during and before the COVID-19 pandemic. What has struck me most when looking back is the value of creative thinking and resilience, which our pupils and staff have shown in droves. We have seen many new initiatives this year that have really fostered both of those skills in our pupils, making a huge contribution to the success of the Department. Once again, I have been struck by the passion and enthusiasm the girls have for Drama and Dance at Downe House and it has been wonderful to see this showcased through a variety of mediums.

The year of course started with our annual House Drama competition, which as ever was a roaring success. This year's LVI students were given the additional challenge of creating an original piece of theatre under the theme of 'Untold Stories'. We were treated to sequels and prequels to popular stories like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Annie*.

Aisholt House were crowned victorious with their chilling sequel to the dystopian novel *1984*. The standard of all the productions was incredibly high making the job of this year's adjudicator, Sarah Connor, a very difficult one.

We were treated to several excellent performances throughout the year, including *Girl-X* which was performed by the UVI and a fantastic version of *Daisy Pulls It Off*. We were delighted to welcome members of local care homes and primary schools to watch a special performance of *Daisy Pulls It Off* which was enjoyed by all members of the audience. We also saw the introduction of Directors Shorts this year which gave pupils an opportunity to write and direct their own theatrical pieces. The evening was a huge success, and the value of this independent creative task was clear for all to see. We also saw our first January Dance Show which was performed by the newly created Dance Company and Academy. The performance that told the story of *The Hunger Games* was a spectacular showcase of the dance talent we have here at Downe House.

Community outreach has been a focus for the Department this year with both Dance and Musical Theatre days, as well as community performances.

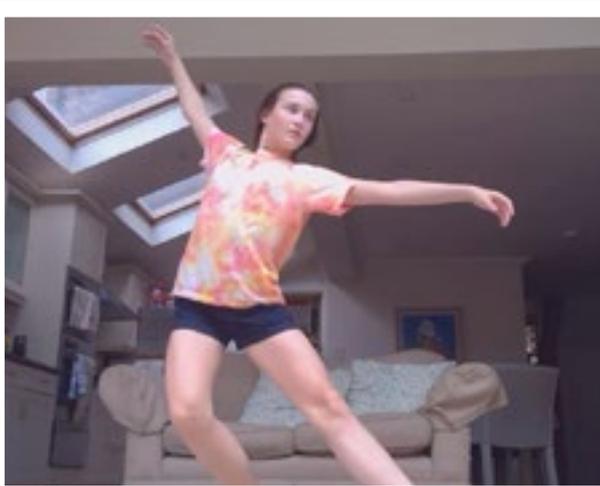


At the beginning of March, we welcomed nearly 100 local primary school children to take part in our Day of Dance. The children were able to participate in workshops with our in-house experts, culminating in a performance at the end of the day. It was fantastic to see so many young people embracing dance and performing with such confidence.

The Speech and Drama Department has continued to go from strength to strength this year and although lockdown prevented us from completing the end-of-year examinations, there were still success stories. At the beginning of the academic year, Jessica Chapman and Emma Bracken were both awarded a national prize from Trinity in recognition of their outstanding exam results. At the beginning of the Lent term we also saw huge success in our RADA examinations with a record-breaking number of girls receiving their Gold Award.

Of course, as a creative faculty, lockdown brought about its own challenges, but I am tremendously proud of how the pupils and staff rose to that challenge. We saw innovative weekly extra-curricular classes running, including theatre discussion groups, script writing workshops as well as a full programme of weekly dance classes. A special mention must also go to Miss Ward who kept us all sane with her twice-weekly morning yoga sessions. Founder's Fortnight was a brilliant opportunity for us to get creative with our events, with the highlights being our fantastic Women in Theatre panel and our Unprecedented competition. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in all these fantastic events and to thank the AV team for their unwavering support throughout the academic year!

Mrs Kirsty Richardson, Director of Drama and Dance



UV GCSE SCRIPTED EXAM

On Monday 10 February 2020, the Upper Fifth GCSE Drama students completed their scripted practical exam for the Lead Examiner. What a pleasure it was to be able to witness such inventive and innovative work! The students performed duologues from Adam Barnard's *Buckets*, a play about time, its impact on our lives, and how to address the fact that it always seems to be running out. The play comprises 33 interconnected scenes, some just a few lines, others mini plays which reflect on wide-ranging themes including sadness and happiness, illness and health, youth and experience, kissing and crying, amongst others. This is a challenging play which asks performers to interpret

the text for themselves and does not include a clear driving narrative. The work of the students clearly indicated a very clear understanding of the play and its wider context, as well as stylistic factors required to creatively stage performance work. Both their use of voice and physicality created a wide range of effects and their characterisation showed huge consideration and diversity. Huge congratulations should go to Matilda (Tilly) Bridgeman, Lyla Elichiaoff, Tilly Gibbens, Eleanor Gibbs, Alethea Ings-Chambers, Yasmine McLennan, Alice Pernthaller and Marina Pownall for beautiful performances!

Miss Kayleigh Anger, Head of Drama (Curriculum)



UVI A LEVEL SCRIPTED EXAM

The UVI Drama students performed an abridged version of *Colder Than Here* by Laura Wade to their A Level examiner and an audience of friends, family and staff on Wednesday 4 March 2020. The play follows the lives of a family struggling to deal with the impending death of the mother, Myra. Her husband, Alec, struggles to communicate with his wife and adapt to having to fill her shoes in terms of his role in the family, whilst their young adult daughters Harriet and Jenna attempt to deal with their emotions in very different ways. The students chose to apply the methodology of Frantic Assembly to their performance and did an outstanding job of balancing the naturalistic acting with the heightened emphasis on physicality and movement that the company demands.

Tara Farquhar gave a stoic and moving portrayal of Myra, providing both optimism and defeat in her characterisation. Her portrayal of the physical pain caused by her character's illness was particularly impressive and was sustained incredibly effectively throughout the performance. As Alec, Holly Fenn rose fully to the challenge of portraying a male character realistically and provided both moments of comedy and heartbreak as the character had no choice but to confront the impossible situation he found himself in. Holly's comic timing was outstanding and provided much needed moments of light relief throughout the performance. Harriet, the eldest daughter, was played by Anna Neville who very successfully communicated the responsibility she felt on her shoulders with regards to supporting her mother, as well as the rest of her family. Anna utilised her skills beautifully to communicate a constant bubbling of tension underneath her 'together' persona until she finally burst into an outpouring of emotion towards the end of the play. Jessica Chapman was utterly convincing as the youngest sister, Jenna, and provided a dose of innocence, honesty and even selfishness in her portrayal of the way in which the character deals with her impending loss. This was a character that demanded vast dramatic range and Jessica certainly met the challenge!

Overall, their performance was of the highest standard and was supported wonderfully by our AV team who created some incredibly special effects by bringing the vision of the class to life, including beautiful projections, lighting effects to support the action and even building a full size tree! These students are some of the most talented and dedicated I have had the pleasure to teach and they will be greatly missed.

Miss Kayleigh Anger, Head of Drama (Curriculum)



WOMEN IN THEATRE PANEL

During Founder's Fortnight, the Women in Theatre panel brought together six talented and knowledgeable Downe House alumnae who shared their time, wealth of experience and passion for theatre with us. Each panel member talked about her individual journey and career as well as taking questions from the virtual audience. The members of the panel were Emma Barclay, Imogen Sarre, Marianne Oldham, Georgina Rylance, Flora Montgomery and Geraldine James.

Emma Barclay (DH 2010) studied English, Drama and Education at Cambridge and she has worked as an actor for the last five years, mainly in theatre and touring productions. She has also been lucky enough to work at the Watermill Theatre of which she has many fond memories of school trips!

Next on the panel was Imogen Sarre (DH 2007), a literary agent who represents many talented playwrights, mainly in theatrical work, helping them to develop their careers and contacts. She studied English and Drama A Level then read English at Oxford.

Marianne Oldham (DH 2000) left Downe House to go to theatre school and has acted in theatre and films for six years. She has worked with some amazing people such as Tim Carroll and has toured all over England, as well as internationally. She has also worked in television with Flora Montgomery on *A Very English Scandal* and with Sally Cookson on *A Monster Calls*, which she described as an amazing experience.

Georgina Rylance (DH 1994) left Downe House in 1992 after her GCSEs and went to study Politics at university, but still yearned to be an actor. After finishing her three-year course, she applied to do a one-year course at LAMDA. She worked on *An Old Carriage* in London and after that went on to *Uncle Vanya*. She told us this was a big shift from a relatively small theatre in London to a much larger 800-seat theatre!

Flora Montgomery (DH 1992) shared fond memories of drama at Downe and described her experience at acting school in Dublin for three years. Flora has worked on many fantastic productions in Ireland and then she came over to England and joined the RSC where she did three plays in rotation as well as spending a lot of time on tour. She told us about her work in film, theatre and TV as well as all the highs and lows from many tours where she has stayed in digs to glorious hotel rooms in Cuba.

Geraldine James (DH 1968) was at Downe in the 1960s and told us about putting on plays on the stage in the Dining Room and her first introduction to Shakespeare at the age of 14. She went to a flower arranging and cooking school but then quickly moved onto a three-year course at The Drama Centre, an incredible revelation for her as she discovered what acting really meant. When she left in 1972, she went into rep and played fantastic parts in Chester, Exeter and Coventry for four and a half years. She then came down to London to do an audition for the Royal Court and the casting director there put her up for television. She performed in *The Merchant of Venice* and shortly afterwards, she worked in New York and was asked by her agent to go to Hollywood and audition for films.

It was so fascinating to hear all their stories and the different ways in which all these women entered the world of theatre. It was truly inspirational to hear how hard they had worked, and they all talked about how important it is to be resilient and creative, whilst also having confidence in yourself and your ability.

The panel fielded many questions which gave us a fantastic insight into the world of acting and the theatre. I particularly enjoyed the section of the evening when the panel discussed the value of theatre and how we can all play an active part in ensuring that theatre is successful in the future which I think is an important discussion, even more vital at a time when the whole country was in lockdown. I felt very empowered and determined to contribute to the success of theatre in the future. It was an insightful and inspiring event, and we are so lucky to have had such an amazing group of alumnae with such a vast experience in the theatrical world.

Lyla Elichhoff, UV





UNPRECEDENTED AT DOWNE HOUSE

As we couldn't do Founder's Weekend in the normal Downe House style, we had to be very creative and find new ways to celebrate this weekend virtually. The Drama and Dance Department put together a fantastic competition, Unprecedented, named for the unprecedented times that we are living in. The categories in the competition were Musical Theatre, Dance, Modern Monologues and Historical Monologues; the staff hosted online meetings for each category to give their top tips to the girls. The entries were then assessed by Miss Anger and Mrs Richardson who were amazed by the amount of talent at Downe. Only eight girls across the categories got through to the final - Clementine McNair Scott, Rosalind Wippell, Eleanor Gibbs, Honor Harris, Alice Weldon, Anna Neville and Lisabel Thistlethwayte.

At the beginning of the competition, the judge, Dom Hartley-Harris, who has most recently starred as George Washington in the West-End hit, *Hamilton*, talked about his career and life as an actor and his journey to how he got to where he is today. He announced that the two runners up were Lisabel Thistlethwayte who performed an extremely realistic and emotional modern monologue from BU21 by Stuart Slade and Honor Harris who did a stunning dance using a personal story as her stimulus. The winner was Clementine McNair Scott who was a finalist for both the Musical Theatre round and the Modern Monologue round. However, she won the Musical Theatre category with her performance of 'In My Dreams' from the musical *Anastasia*.

Marina Pownall, UV

DANCE OVER FOUNDER'S FORTNIGHT

I enjoyed watching and performing in many dance events during Founder's Fortnight. As one of the dancers, I was captivated by the screening of *The Hunger Games* performance. Miss Ward, who directed the show and Carina, our Dance Senior, discussed how the cast used a moving set and what their favourite parts of the show were. There were also interviews with dancers who took part in the show. Watching *The Hunger Games* performance for the first time since the showcase was very interesting as when dancing, I had not noticed the use of lighting to capture the different emotions.

The Unprecedented competition had four categories - Monologues (Modern & Historical), Musical Theatre and Dance. I took part in the Dance category and after a virtual choreographic workshop with Miss Ward, I choreographed a solo which I based on a personal event which I thought would make it easier to portray the emotions. I chose music which had a change in tempo which reflected the change in my emotions. The judge was Dom Hartley-Harris who starred in *Hamilton* as well as other famous musicals. Having feedback from someone so successful in the industry was a great privilege, and something which I will always remember.

The final Dance event of Founder's Fortnight was Dancing Through the Ages - an event in which each House created a video to demonstrate how dance styles have evolved throughout the last century. Every House created vibrant and exciting videos showcasing a wide range of dances from the Charleston to Hip Hop. Although every House produced a brilliant entry, Holcombe's really stood out as the most energetic and they had the craziest outfits!

Honor Harris, UIV



Theatre Trips

A VERY EXPENSIVE POISON

On 2 October 2019, my classmates and I went to see the amazing theatre production of *A Very Expensive Poison* at The Old Vic in London. It was a long journey, but the coach was filled with an excited buzz of anticipation. When we arrived, we all flooded off the bus and into the theatre with enthusiasm. We took our seats and got ready for the performance to begin. The style of the play was Epic Theatre with moments of naturalism in a political piece based on the poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko. Alexander was a member of the KGB in Russia who helped MI6 to uncover KGB plots.

We found out halfway through the play that it was Putin who ordered the poisoning and forced a character called André to do it. Litvinenko was poisoned with polonium-210 in his cup of tea, which left me feeling slightly cautious as I am an avid tea drinker. Despite the chilling plot line, the play was filled with moments of dramatic irony and comedy which helped to lighten the mood. As well as being an enjoyable performance to watch, we were also blessed to see the incredible staging which consisted of a platform that moved seamlessly from the front of the stage to the back. This magnificent piece of equipment allowed the space to be used for many different locations, ranging from a hospital to a coffee shop. Personally, my favourite character was Maria Litvinenko played by MyAnna Buring who did an excellent job of narrating the story, making it easy and enjoyable to follow. Overall, the performance was excellent, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who loves a play with a rollercoaster of emotions!

Agnes Rose, LV

KING JOHN

We ventured to Stratford-Upon-Avon on 25 September 2019 to see *King John* at the RSC, as part of our RADA Shakespeare Award. The play follows the story of King John's battle for power over Plantagenet land in France and the lengths he goes to in order to maintain authority. From previous knowledge of the play and the history of King John, I must admit I didn't expect the production to be so engaging and original. The costumes and set were inspired by the mid-20th century but the actors kept to original Shakespearean language which provided an entertaining contrast. Every scene was action-packed, and each had its own quirk, whether that was a dance number to some jazz music, a food fight, or some audience participation!

King John was played tremendously well by a woman, Rosie Sheehy. She captured every line and emotion so well that I almost forgot she wasn't a man in the first place (definitely a compliment)! From perfectly confident physicality to a booming authoritative tone, everything about the performance was equally believable and shocking. The play itself was entertainingly witty throughout, each character having moments of comedy amongst the intensity of the story. A particular favourite of mine was the Pope, again played by a woman. With her staple purple handbag and high heels, she brought even more comedy and a flurry of female empowerment as she controlled the male characters with confidence and craft. As the blood began to spill, the lighting and sound darkened with it, successfully manifesting the breakdown of King John's morality. What once was an exuberant and humorous play, turned to something much more sinister soon after the interval, culminating in a very sticky end.

All in all, the trip was well worth it as we thoroughly enjoyed watching such a well-executed play and learnt some skills to use in our RADA pieces too. I even went back in February to watch it again! Thank you to the Drama Department for organising the trip!

Ellen (Nellie) Gawne, LVI

DRAMA SCHOLARS' WORKSHOP AND PERFORMANCE - FROM THE SCHOLARS' PERSPECTIVE

In the Michaelmas term, I attended a Drama Scholars' workshop at which we worked with the Paper Birds theatre company and performed our piece to some of our parents and teachers. We created an original piece about important problems in the world such as climate change and racism. I was very excited to showcase our hard work to our parents but I was also quite nervous about performing a piece created and rehearsed in just a few hours because usually it takes much longer. My favourite part of this experience was being able to interact with other Drama Scholars and share my ideas. The evening was very enjoyable, and we had a nice dinner before the performance. I really enjoyed talking to other girls and our parents throughout the evening! This was one of the best drama experiences I have taken part in, and I am very happy to have had this opportunity!

Anjola Bolodeoku, LIV Drama Scholar

I was lucky enough to be able to participate in the Paper Birds workshop in the Michaelmas term for the Drama Scholars. I thoroughly enjoyed everything, from the challenging but fun exercises at the beginning of the afternoon, the performance itself and the delicious dinner. I found the drama exercises at the beginning of the day really enjoyable and I liked how even though there were so many different ages in the group, we were all able to work together really well as we all shared the same love and passion for drama. We were able to incorporate our own ideas into the piece and it was amazing how we could all bounce ideas off each other and end up having an interesting discussion about climate change and plastic pollution. I thought that the final performance was incredible, and it was so fun to perform. It was certainly a privilege to work with such an amazing company as Paper Birds and learn different theatrical techniques that I had never imagined before. I think that I speak for all the girls when I say that the evening was a tremendous success and we all felt very lucky to be able to take part in it.

Annabel Munnely, UIV Drama Scholar

Working with the Paper Birds theatre company was an unforgettable experience. Aimed at all levels, the exercises allowed us to explore important topics in a new way and use our physicality to tell a story. We were asked to think about things we are passionate about and many of us said global warming as it will lead (if not stopped) to the loss of human lives, plants and animals. We used this stimulus and created our own physical performance to portray the issues we all care about. The process was incredibly enjoyable, and the outcome was a piece we were all proud of. In the evening, our families were invited to come to watch what we had been working on. The dinner was delicious, and I had a very lovely evening with my family and friends.

Clementine McNair Scott, LVI Geraldine James Drama Scholar



CREATIVE DIRECTOR'S REVIEW OF THE HUNGER GAMES DANCE SHOW

In my first year in post, I wanted to create a performance which showcased the phenomenal talents of the Downe House Dance Company and Academy. The girls auditioned at the very beginning of the Michaelmas term and were immediately thrown into intensive rehearsals. During the rehearsals, the Assistant Choreographers, Miss Stubbings, Mr Stakim and myself asked the girls to step out of their comfort zones to explore the dark and depraved themes that the *Hunger Games* story presents. The rehearsals not only challenged the girls physically, but also encouraged them to explore the thoughts and feelings that the characters they were portraying would have experienced. The result of this process was a raw,



intense and authentic performance which captivated the audience, leaving them on the edge of their seats.

In order to create a unique viewing opportunity for the audience, the show was performed in the round. This presented a new set of challenges for the dancers as they had to consider their performance skills in a new way. As expected, every girl rose to the challenge which created a powerful experience for the audience who were made to feel like they were a part of the action.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to every one of the girls who performed in the show. Their relentless work ethic, willingness to explore unprecedented creative ideas and brilliant humour made the creation of the show something I will never forget. In addition, I would like to thank everybody in the Drama and Dance Department, the Foundation Office and the AV team for their amazing support.

Miss Olivia Ward, Head of Extra-Curricular Dance

STUDENT REVIEW OF THE HUNGER GAMES DANCE SHOW

On Monday 20 January 2020, we saw the Downe House Dance Company and Academy's very first dance show, *The Hunger Games*. As soon as we entered the Auditorium, the atmosphere was already very intense with a set designed so that the audience surrounded the stage, making us feel as though we were a part of the action. Soon, the music began, the lights were out, and the show began. The first dance really set the very high standard that continued throughout the show. The amazing choreography was evident in all the dances and each dancer showed her passion through her facial expressions as well as her movement. The Dance Company's routines were exceptional, and the Dance Academy really showcased their talent through lots of different dances. About halfway through the show, the outfits changed, and a new set was brought on in a very creative way as part of the dance which looked extremely professional. This, combined with intense music, really heightened the intensity of the performance and made it all the more exciting. One of my favourite parts was Carina's solo as Katniss as she really showcased all her talents throughout her dance as well as her acting skills - it was incredible! Overall, the Dance Company and Academy's first dance show was a huge success and I know that many of us are looking forward to what is going to come next! It is clear that Downe House has a huge number of talented dancers and we are all so glad they were able to come together and put on such an incredible show with the huge help of Miss Ward, our new Head of Dance. *The Hunger Games* show did not disappoint, and I know that the whole audience was hugely impressed with every amazing dance!

Emily Manners, UVI

GIRL-X FROM THE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

When tasked with directing an UVI production to showcase the talents and creativity of a very able year group, I knew at once that I needed to create a bespoke performance around the cast... and so *GIRL-X* was born! When scripting this original narrative, I knew that I wanted to create a real, current and honest picture of the life of teenage girls. Working at Downe House for the past nine years and particularly having spent six of those years in a boarding house, had solidified in my mind more than ever, that life as a teenage girl is both hugely exciting and exhilarating, whilst also posing significant issues and challenges to overcome. This UVI production was a dedication to every member of the Downe House community carrying the message, 'We hear you; we support you and it's ok to be whoever you want to be'.

After settling on this theme, I asked the cast to source a song, dance or textual extract from a play or work of musical theatre that they believed suited the concept. What a gift of selections they presented me with! From the choices of the cast, I created a narrative and wrote a series of short scenes that transported the audience on a journey through teenage life. The audience would have experienced some of the issues presented, either first- or second-hand and some, they may have had no experience of at all. As a creative team, we hoped that through our performance the audience would be able to witness a raw and genuine portrayal of the highs and lows of teenage life. *GIRL-X* was never meant to be only one person and I hoped that the nature of the multi-rolled performance made it clear to the audience that *GIRL-X* could have been them, she could have been me, she could have been anyone sitting in the Auditorium.

The cast were an utter delight to work with and I could not have wished for a more dedicated, talented and supportive team of students. What a wonderful way to celebrate and showcase all they have achieved dramatically as a year group over the past seven years!

Miss Kayleigh Anger, Head of Drama (Curriculum)





STUDENT REVIEW OF *GIRL-X*

GIRL-X told the tale of teenage life. It focused on the pressures, complications and stresses of growing up. However, it was not the story of one girl, but the story of many. Existing works of theatre were weaved together by a sometimes comic, sometimes tragic script created by Miss Anger that made the audience laugh and cry in equal measure.

The performance began with a super-charged whole-cast number 'Hard Work' from *Fame* which brought to light the excitement but also fears of getting into and joining a new school. Jessica Chapman starred as the in-control, feisty English teacher, Miss Sherman, and definitely set the energy and standard for the rest of the performance. What was particularly impressive was the canon at the end of the number as each 'section' recited almost a chant to the lyrics of 'Hard Work' which was powerful and inspiring – congratulations to Miss Anger (Director/Musical Director) and the cast for such slick rhythmic work and harmonies! The number was fun and also filled with dance sections, expertly choreographed by Miss Ward, which resulted in a roaring applause. Holly Fenn then directly addressed the audience and highlighted the pressures that perhaps we don't always voice when moving to a new school such as anxiety, stress, pressure and...boys! The narration then shifted to Emma Bracken as she detailed her first day at senior school. What followed was her awkward meeting with a boy (Sasha Percy-Davis) as they navigated the pressure of a first conversation in a lunch queue, in which even we, as the audience, felt some second-hand embarrassment from this very truthful reality! It was a hilariously accurate portrayal of pubescent teens simply yearning to be more attractive narrated through the song 'Stud and a Babe' from *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Yet, the disillusion was clear as the realisation kicked in that neither of them was a stud nor a babe. Yet, what followed was a celebration of themselves as neither a stud nor a babe but rather just two teenagers navigating school life. The shift in personas was very slick and both Emma and Sasha bounced off each other very effectively.

Next in the story was an extract from *DNA* by Dennis Kelly, where Beatrice Phillips and Grace (Nosa) Inneh portrayed a girl who is struggling to connect to a boy she is 'interested in' and ends up talking awkwardly about anything and everything. We saw the worries that go on in the teenage mind: 'Am I talking too much? Does he have negative thoughts about me?' Through their acting, Beatrice and Grace successfully depicted such a raw and real scene that many of us are familiar with.

Following this was a duet from *Bare the Musical*, performed by Tara Farquhar and Otilie Whitbread. It was a sensitive and innocent portrayal of a breakup that then left us wondering how perhaps the other person in the relationship might feel. Tara and Otilie brilliantly executed the balancing of emotion with the vocal discipline required by the song.

What followed was a haunting yet impressive dance to the song 'Run Boy Run' performed by Alice Weldon. Alice's ability to both choreograph a contemporary dance and communicate through performance meant that we clearly saw the darkness and emotional pressure accumulating in the boy's mind and the anxieties that we perhaps hide from each other.

It soon became apparent that the boy had been suffering just as much as *GIRL-X*, yet they both failed to notice each other's feelings. The boy couldn't express himself or even *feel* his emotions; he suppressed them and returned home. Here began an extract from *Things I Know to Be True* by Andrew Bovell, which showed a complicated conversation between him (now performed by Julia Kennerley), his parents (Holly Fenn and Molly Dewar) and his sister (Emily Manners) as they found out that their son wanted to transition to a woman. The four actors navigated a very challenging script expertly, taking the audience on a journey of comedy to tension through use of pace, pause, vocal tone and body language. It was a deeply moving piece that wouldn't have been out of place on a professional stage and it brought to light the heart-breaking realities of just wanting and trying to be yourself and finding a place in the world.

Charlotte Field then sang 'It Means Beautiful' from *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* which was uplifting and sensitively sung, highlighting the beauties of every one of us. Not only was Charlotte's voice light and delicate which was highly appropriate for this song, but she also created a wonderful relationship with Julia who was still on stage playing the boy.

Jessica Chapman and Anna Neville who had transitioned into the parents, then performed 'It's Quiet Uptown' from *Hamilton* which was beautiful and accompanied by sections of contemporary dance. The song narrated the suffering of not only the son or daughter but also that of the parents. The performers were able to create such simple empathy for their characters with *their* suffering and made the teenage audience consider how their decisions affect everyone around them.

The last track was moving and inspiring as the whole cast came together dressed in leaver's gowns to sing 'Bring on Tomorrow' from *Fame* – the music was powerfully communicated and the harmonies incredibly well managed. This showcased a true sense of community, joy and made me feel proud to be part of such an amazing community!

Overall, the play was a triumph and encouraged us that despite the struggles, pressures and anxieties that we all feel at some stage, we can celebrate them and move forward together. Congratulations to Miss Anger (Director/Musical Director), Miss Ward (Choreographer) and the whole cast for an excellent performance!

Anna Hall, UVI

DAISY PULLS IT OFF

Daisy Pulls It Off is a parody of life in a 1920s girls' school. The play sees Daisy Meredith, played by Emilia Finney (UIV), navigating the new world she finds herself in as the first scholarship girl at Grangewood School for Young Ladies. We see Daisy coming up against unspeakable snobs who are determined to get her expelled. Amongst all this, Daisy finds a best friend in Trixie Martin, played by Alice Farquhar (UIV), who assists Daisy in her many adventures including the search for missing treasure.



This enjoyable and funny production gave the audience an insight into Daisy's journey tackling class differences and friendship issues. Emilia gave an outstanding performance as Daisy allowing the audience to empathise with her in her moments of need. This was juxtaposed with moments of courage and bravery when dealing with Sybil and Monica, played by Emilia Methven (UIV) and Astrid Davis (LIV). The dynamic between this duo had the audience seething at the injustices. The comedic energy of Alice Farquhar gave the audience moments of light relief which had us all thoroughly entertained. Alice and Emilia created a natural relationship onstage and a nostalgia about childhood friendships. The cast created a beautiful and entertaining performance filled with joy and laughter.

Miss Kerry Treacy, Teacher of Drama

We were overjoyed to host a community performance of *Daisy Pulls It Off*, welcoming pupils from local schools and residents from local care homes to come and watch a special performance of this fantastic production. It was fantastic to bring together the local community and to see such a range of ages in one audience. The Downe House girls very much enjoyed performing to such an enthusiastic audience and were able to come and meet some of the younger children in the audience after the show. This event was a tremendous success and something that we hope to continue to offer in the coming years.

Mrs Kirsty Richardson, Director of Drama and Dance



REVIEW OF DIRECTORS SHORTS

The Performing Arts Centre was transformed into an intimate studio space to host a first-of-its-kind studio production called 'Directors Shorts' on 5 December 2019. Overseen by Mrs Watson, students from Upper Fourth to Lower Sixth had the opportunity to send in their proposals in the Michaelmas term for potential performances. From this, auditions then took place and students were able to direct and rehearse a short ten-minute play or extract. This was an excellent opportunity for students to experience the other side of the production process which they may not have experienced before.

We were treated to five excellent pieces of theatre ranging from the whirlwind story of Amy Winehouse's life, directed by Marina Pownall (AGS, UV) to a subtly chilling performance of *This Changes Everything*, an extract focusing on how a group navigate power struggles while being stranded, directed by Agnes Rose (Tedworth, LV) and Susannah Wood (Tedworth, LV). The list of plays performed that evening were: *The Stars Among Us* directed by Alice Pernthaller (AGS, UV), *Winehouse*, *This Changes Everything*, *Snitches get Snitches* directed by Katie Beeson (AGS, UIV) and Olga Monteverde Lopez de Vera Vera (AGS, UIV) and *Stage 11* directed by Daria Andreeva (AGN, LV) and Elfreda Harvey (AGN, LV). All girls, whether actors or directors, displayed incredible commitment and clearly enjoyed working together in smaller groups to create their pieces. I was incredibly impressed with the level of detail and the high quality of each piece of theatre which the directors and actors were able to produce in such a short space of time! It was a stunning evening and I strongly hope that it was the first of many.

Miss Rosalie McCann, Teacher of Drama/Speech and Drama





REFLECTION FROM A STUDENT DIRECTOR

Although it was initially a daunting prospect, creating a Directors Short was definitely one of my highlights of drama at Downe House. I had never done anything like it before, so it was fascinating to be on the other side of the table. I gained insight into all aspects of creating a show, from playwriting to staging to costume and lighting, which made me realise that there are other careers in theatre aside from being an actor, and I discovered a love for directing. I thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsal process and was immensely proud of the finished result.

Alice Pernthaller, UV

DAY OF DANCE

Seven local prep and primary schools joined us on 2 March 2020 at Downe House for the very first Day of Dance. We welcomed 77 boys and girls from The Ilsleys, Hermitage, Oratory Prep, Curridge, Hampstead Norreys, Beedon and Yattendon and began the day in the Murray Centre Auditorium playing games, warming up and getting to know one another.

The children then split into groups, each led by one of our extremely talented Dance teachers. The children worked on dance skills such as Hip Hop, Contemporary and Jazz to create exciting and energetic routines which incorporated the turns, leaps and poses they had learnt in their warm-up earlier in the day. On top of this we even had some break dancing and balletic movements thrown in!

After lunch, the children reconvened in the Auditorium to perform the routines for their parents who had been invited to come along and watch. All the children performed with a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm and it was a real joy to watch! At the end of a long and exciting day, the children returned to their schools with a wealth of new dancing skills, smiles on their faces and a giant cookie!

Miss Olivia Ward, Head of Extra-Curricular Dance



PREP SCHOOLS' DAY OF MUSICAL THEATRE

We warmly welcomed over 120 girls from different prep schools for our annual Day of Musical Theatre on Thursday 27 February. The day started with a variety of teambuilding games as each of the groups were introduced to each other. This then led to a few competitive relays and a hilarious vocal warm-up from Miss Rose. The theme this year was the wonderful *Aladdin* and so first on the agenda was learning the big ensemble number, 'A Whole New World'. The quality of the singing was fantastic from the offset and we all knew we were in for a great day!

The groups then broke away to work on their musical number with help from the Drama and Dance Department staff and LVI and UVI volunteers. During this session, each group worked on singing, acting and movement. Whilst creating these short pieces the girls were introduced to a range of new musical theatre techniques, which they could use during their final performance.

After a delicious lunch thanks to the Downe House Catering team, the girls and staff set about piecing the show together during the technical rehearsal. Parents arrived and took their seats for the performance of *Aladdin* which was a tremendous success and really showcased the hard work the pupils had put in through the day. Everyone left with a real sense of achievement and a great deal of excitement. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day such a rewarding experience.

Mrs Kirsty Richardson, Director of Drama and Dance





Sport

A fabulous year of sport at Downe House

Sport at Downe kicked off in September with over 20 matches taking place over the first weekend of term! The **Lacrosse** teams started their seasons off with the 1st XII winning the Berkshire Schools competition and the U15As coming runners up. The 1st XII also retained their title of South West Lacrosse Champions beating St Helen and St Katharine's in the semi-final and going on to win the finals.



MICHAELMAS TERM

2019

"At the end of September, we hosted Balmoral College from Argentina. We played two hockey matches and a volleyball match. It was a wonderful experience to play against such a talented school and make some new friends along the way!"

Jessica Chapman,
UVI Hockey Captain



Senior **Netball** kicked off their season with a match against Wycombe Abbey in which the U19A team, captained by Emily Manners (UVI), came away with an 18-15 win. From there they remained unbeaten for the rest of the season! The U12s started the season with a match against Queen Anne's in which all five teams managed to beat their opposition, a very promising performance to start off the season.

The first **Swimming** match of the term started with two School records being broken which set the tone for the swimming team for the rest of the season. Isabelle Regis (LIV) broke the U13 25m backstroke record, followed by the 25m butterfly (a record that had stood for 23 years!). The same week, we competed in the English Schools' Association Relays Gala. Our junior team of Joline Lam (R), Emily Regis (R), Isabelle Regis (LIV) and Natalie Sideso (R) broke the School record in both the 4 x 50m freestyle relay and the 4 x 50m medley relay.

The 1st **Badminton** team also made a winning start to their season beating St Mary's Calne 12-4.

In October, the girls combined their swimming skills with running, when they travelled to Bath University to take part in the regional round of the Schools' **Biathlon** competition. The U12 team of Emily Regis (R), India Evans (R) and Natalie Sideso (R) won their age group with Emily receiving the individual gold medal and Natalie, the bronze. The U14 team of Isabelle Regis (LIV), Georgina Ritchie (LIV) and Kexuan (Angela) Zou (UIV) finished 2nd overall with Isabelle being ranked 5th and Georgina 9th.



Meanwhile, the 1st, U16A, U14A and U14B **Squash** teams all began competing successfully in their first round of the National Schools Championships.

In addition, the U18 and the U15 **Hockey** teams won the West Berkshire league whilst the U12A also saw success by winning the West Berkshire tournament.

October was also the start of the U13 and U15 Downe House **Cross-country** season. Both teams took part in the first round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup. The U15 team were placed third and therefore qualified for the Regional Round at King's Taunton in November.

November saw the Regis sisters continue their record-breaking **Swimming** performances, with Isabelle breaking her own U13 25m backstroke record and Emily breaking the U12 25m freestyle record.

The Senior Inter-House **Hockey** Tournament was, as usual, a thrillingly competitive celebration of skill across the year groups, with Aisholt coming out on top.

November also saw the **Tennis** teams play their first Aegon matches. The 1st team started off the season with a tight win against St Mary's Ascot in a sudden death tie-break. Similarly, having won their first match against Magdalen, the 2nd team played some great tennis under pressure leading to a 7-6 win against Tudor Hall in a sudden death tie-break.



Berkshire Schools **Cross-country** took place towards the end of November at Newbury Showground in which Downe House fielded U13, U15, U17 and U20 teams. Emily Regis (R) in the U13, Lilia Hoare Nairne (UIV) in the U15, Poppy Wessely (UV) and Yasmine McLennan (UV) in the U17 were all placed in the top ten in their respective races. Alessandra Tydeman (LVI) came first, finishing two minutes ahead of the field with Romilly Cox (LVI) second in the U20 race. Overall a fantastic performance from the DH teams in muddy wet conditions!

At the end of November, the biathlon girls were in action again at the finals of the British Modern **Biathlon** Championships. Emily, Natalie and India finished in an amazing third place in the country in the U12 event with two girls in the top 20 in the country (Emily 6th and Natalie 19th place overall). Isabelle Regis (LIV) continued her good form, to be placed 11th in the country in the U14 age group.

The final **Swimming** gala of the term was the Wycombe Abbey Invitational Tournament with ten schools taking part. The team rose to the occasion with six personal best times and a new School record in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay from Georgina Ritchie (LIV), Natalie Sideso (R), Isabelle Regis (LIV) and Emily Regis (R). Our Lower Sixth Captains, Emilia Shippey (LVI) and Morgan Kandrac (LVI) were delighted to receive the shield on behalf of the team for winning the tournament!



In January, we took two **Ski** teams out to Flaine for the British Schoolgirls' Races.

The girls enjoyed two days of training, trying their best to master both Slalom and Giant Slalom courses. With very sunny skies on the first day of racing, we had some great individual runs in the Giant Slalom from our A team. Well done to Catherine Nicol (UVI), Tate Halestrap (LV) and Matilda McDougall (LVI) who all posted very competitive times on a challenging and steep race piste. This was followed very well by the B team, with Emily Glover (LVI), Imogen Ridley (LVI) and Sienna Baggioli (LIV) performing well in their Giant Slalom runs. Day two meant it was time to tackle the Slalom, however, the weather was not on our side. There was very heavy snowfall on the course as well as very low light and poor visibility. This did mean the race finished earlier than planned with no B team runs taking place. The A team, despite some falls in the Slalom, performed well and really put together an impressive team performance given the snowy conditions.

LENT TERM

2020



The new year also saw the **Squash** teams take on Wycombe Abbey in a unique format. Both schools put out their top 12 players across all the years which even saw Willow Wilkinson (LV) play against her sister! The teams continued their campaign to qualify for Nationals and after some very close matches, all four teams managed to qualify for the National Schools Championships.

Alessandra Tydeman (LVI) placed in the top eight in the Berkshire Schools **Cross-country** Competition in January and then was selected to compete for Berkshire in the English Schools Competition in March 2020.

In February, the U14A **Badminton** team participated in the KS3 National School Tournament and got through to the finals placing third overall. The U16A team competed in the KS4 National School Tournament and came third in their group.

The U12 **Netball** team enjoyed success in Bristol when they finished second to Millfield at a busy end-of-season tournament. U13 player, Isabelle Regis (LIV) was also selected as the Player of the Tournament at this event. The U12B team must also be mentioned for a fantastic season; they too only lost one match all year. The future is bright for netball at Downe House.

The Radley Relays on 11 February was the last **Cross-country** event of the term and the U16 team won bronze and the U18 team won gold with Alessandra Tydeman (LVI) being the fastest girl in the competition.



Success in **Swimming** continued at the GSA Swimming Gala in which eight schools took part. Downe House were the leading boarding school, finishing third behind St Catherine's School, Bramley and The Abbey, Reading. It was a very successful year for the swimming team, with more than 80 personal best times during the season!

The **Basketball** 1st team began their season with a successful home game against Wellington College.



"Everyone put in a lot of effort to showcase all they had dutifully worked on during practice, which paid off with an impressive 26-11 win. The U16A also team played extremely well and won their game against TASIS!"

Torrung (Mook) Rungjerdfa (LVI)
Lower Sixth Basketball Captain

The 1st **Hockey** team made history by securing their first ever victory against Cheltenham Ladies' College with a tight 4-3 victory! The U12, U13 and U14 lacrosse teams all enjoyed wins over Benenden in February which was promising to see with the Nationals approaching in early March.

After the Long Exeat, the National Schools **Lacrosse** Championships arrived. Overcoming the horrendous weather, all Downe House teams that took part were successful in reaching the top 12. This was no easy accomplishment, and we are very proud of the work the teams put in to get there. A special congratulations goes to the 1st XII who gained a place in next season's Top Eight Tournament and the U14As who remained unbeaten, including winning the Berkshire Lacrosse Tournament, until the quarter finals of the Nationals.

Hockey saw success in the county team with Lauren Raeburn-Ward (UV) and Poppy Wessely (UV) selected for the U17 Berkshire squad, Cecilia Stone (UIV) for the U14 and Natalie Sideso (R) for the U13s. Meanwhile, Mia Corbett (R) was also selected for the Buckinghamshire county side for the U13s.

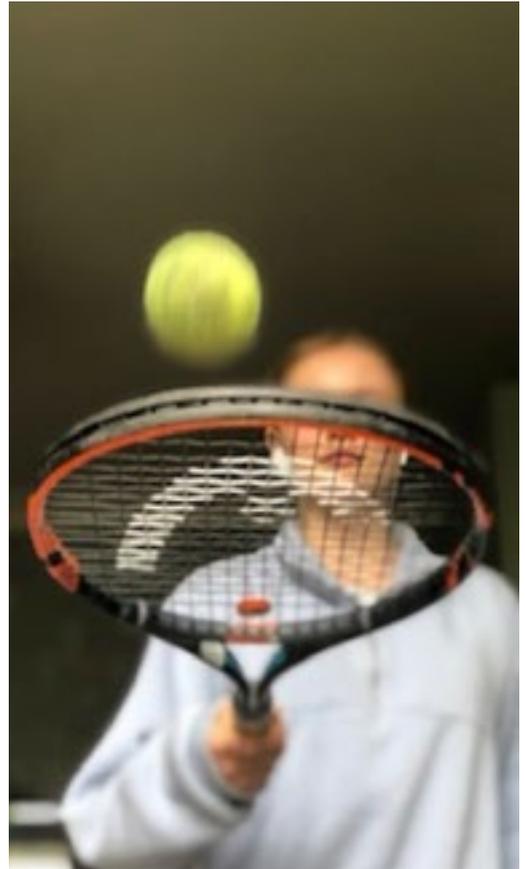
With over 100 netball matches played this year, the netball season drew to a close. There were some impressive results across all age groups including the U14C team who only lost one of their 12 Lent term matches. The Senior teams managed to score a total of 539 goals during the season, with the 2nd team being the top scoring team with 145 goals.



For many of our sports, the season was cut short or cancelled because of the lockdown and the closure of all schools. The **Squash** teams were never able to make their claim to become national champions and the tennis, athletics and cricket season never got going. However, the Summer term did provide a chance for the girls and staff to achieve and perform in different ways! In online lessons many of the younger year groups carried on with tennis lessons and it was great to see people getting creative where space and equipment was limited. For those who have had access to courts and facilities, there were some brilliant Sports Diary entries and despite not being to play this term, Tennis Captain, Susanna (Susie) Brooke (LVI) said, 'We are excited about the tennis to come!'

SUMMER TERM

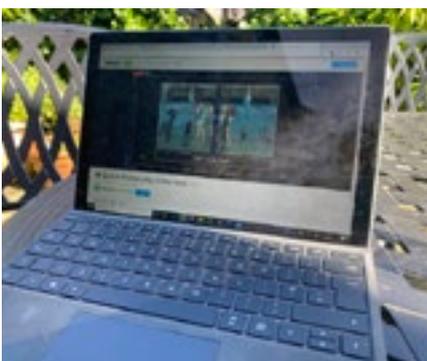
2020



"This term has been very different from our usual Summer term! Many girls, parents and staff have been taking part in running challenges, as well as two 3km virtual races against St Swithun's and Cheltenham Ladies' College. This has been a great opportunity for us all to remain competitive as well as having a goal to motivate us with our training."

Francesca Rhodes (LVI),
Athletics Captain

A virtual Sports Day was organised in which each girl participated in at least three events for their House. These ranged from running a 5k to doing some trick shots! It was wonderful to see so many girls getting involved and supporting their Houses with over 650 entries submitted. Congratulations to Aisholt who were the overall winners of the Virtual Sports Day 2020.





Throughout the Summer term, Junior and Senior Lacrosse Club has been taking place every Tuesday evening virtually. This has been led by Captain of Lacrosse, Francesca Rhodes (LVI) who has given the girls an opportunity to revisit different skills from agility to wrist strength, with the hope of starting next season as ready as possible!

"We have all been given the opportunity to hone our athletics skills and technique at home through the Downe House digital lessons which I am sure will put us in good stead for next season! There has been lots to get involved with which has been available and enjoyable for all!"

Honor Neville (UV), Incoming Athletics Captain

The Downe House digital programme has proved to be a huge success and girls have been given the opportunity to remain active in a variety of ways throughout the whole Summer term. We have done tennis, athletics, cricket, football and dance lessons as well as undertaking lots of sporting challenges, running, cycling, swimming and walking thousands of collective kilometres, taking part in virtual fixtures and a huge number of Zoom workouts! We could fill a whole magazine showcasing the amazing work from this term. Well done all on such a successful sporting year!

Miss Katie Quarterman, Assistant Director of Sport



DH SPORT LECTURE SERIES

The Lecture Series launched at the beginning of the Summer term and featured seven high-profile sports professionals. Our guest speakers shared their individual stories and experiences, passing on invaluable advice and insight into different aspects of the sports industry. The speakers fielded an array of questions via the interactive Q&A function. Our thanks go to them all for a fascinating series of lectures.

Sean Connelly, Medical Services Manager and Lead Physiotherapist for the Football Association of Wales gave a talk entitled, 'Fibula fracture to Euro 2016 in 35 days - lessons learned'.

Lucy Fowler, Senior Assistant to the Chair of Premier Team Promotions; Sophy Coombes-Roberts, Senior Account Manager at Pitch Marketing; and Claire Thomas, Assistant Producer for Sky Sports shared some of the amazing ways to be involved in professional sport.

Sarah-Jane Perry, squash player and British Number 1, World Number 6, two-time British Champion, World Team Champion and Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist, talked about 'Playing to your strengths'.

Hannah Thurston, England and Duke University lacrosse player, U19 World Bronze Medallist, U20 European Gold Medallist and All-World Team player shared her passion for lacrosse and her career so far.

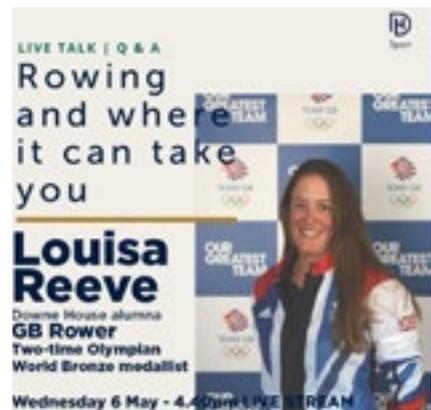
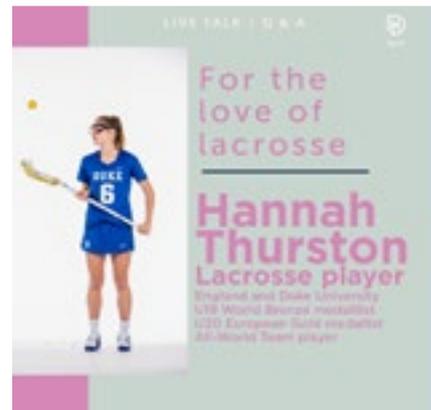
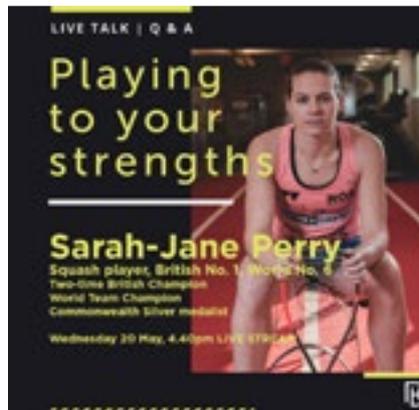
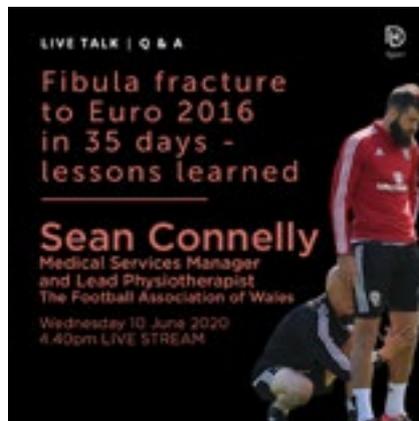
Graham Kitchener, England Professional rugby player, gave an insight into his experience of working in professional sport.

Louisa Reeve (DH 2002) represented GB in the Beijing and London Olympics and spoke about rowing and where it can take you.

Dr Eleanor Gaastra, Wales Lacrosse Captain and Specialist Registrar in Anaesthetics talked about balancing playing sports at a high level with studying and working.

Erin Walters-Williams, Inclusion Specialist for Sport and Higher Education and Wales lacrosse player from 2011-17 spoke about inclusion in sport.

Miss Charlotte Williams, Assistant Director of Sport (Competitive Sports and Fixtures)



SPORTS SCHOLARS

Summer term usually provides the girls with the opportunity to shine on the track, court and pitch but this year has been very different. However, the Sports Scholars have really shown resilience and determination and through the completion of their Sports Diaries, I have been able to see how hard they have been working at home. It has given them the opportunity to focus on skills, mental resilience, mobility, their goals, nutrition and hopefully much more. The girls have all had access to their usual PE lessons, Monday mobility, Friday fitness and their Strength and Conditioning programme at home.

In addition, the Scholars, and wider Downe House community have been enjoying the Wednesday lecture series. We have covered a range of sports and topics ranging from professional rugby and rowing to careers such as physiotherapy and sports marketing. We have been so lucky to have such amazing individuals give up their time to speak to us!

The girls also had the opportunity to represent their House in the virtual Sports Day, represent the School in virtual fixtures and take part in our Downe House community challenges.

Usually our end-of-year celebrations provide a great opportunity for the Scholars to come together, usually over pizza, to celebrate the year. However, this year was of course different, and we finished the term with our very own Sports Personality of the Year awards ceremony. All the girls, parents, siblings and staff enjoyed coming together to celebrate, look back at the season and remember all that we achieved as a collective group since September. We were honoured that Clare Balding, Downe House alumna and 'real life' presenter of the BBC SPOTY awards joined us to present the lifetime achievement award.

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to Eva Bartlett (UVI), Fenella Bowlby (UVI), Jessica Chapman (UVI), Mathilde Hughes (UVI), Emily Manners (UVI), Anna Neville (UVI) and Arella Szlapak (UVI) who have all given so much to Downe House Sport over the years. They will all be missed. It would be a very long article if I wrote about their individual contributions but I hope they will always regard themselves as part of the scholarship and Downe House community and I truly hope that they all stay in touch and come and visit in the future!

Miss Katie Quarterman, Assistant Director of Sport



CENTAURS JUNIOR CANADA TOUR 2019

International Representation

Every sportsperson aspires to represent their country and our elite Downe House athletes are certainly on their way to playing for their home nations in a variety of sporting disciplines.

Susannah Field (UV), Poppy Wessely (UV) and Honor Neville (UV) travelled to Canada as part of the U15 Centaurs Juniors team to participate in the U19 Lacrosse World Cup Festival – they played against teams from Wales, England, Canada and the US. They got through to the final of the 3rd Division where they were beaten by an England U18 team. At the same festival, Romilly Behagg (LV) and Cordelia Reeve (LV) played for Wales Dragons in the U15 section whilst Anna Neville (UVI) played for the U18 England team in the U19 section of the festival. It was a great experience for them all to play in an international competition at such a high level.

CHINA

Kexuan (Angela) Zou (UIV) trialled for the China Senior Women's Lacrosse World Championship 2021 Training Squad and was selected. An amazing experience and it will be a superb learning experience for her.

WALES

Three girls have been awarded a place in the Junior Wales Lacrosse Dragon Academy: Honore Thorne (UIV), Miranda Harries (UIV) and Zara Reeve (UIV). They joined Lara Harries (UV), Cordelia Reeve (LV) and Romilly Behagg (LV) who are already training with the Academy.

Romilly was also selected for the U19 Wales Home International Training Squad, a fantastic achievement given that she was in Lower Fifth at the time.

ENGLAND

Poppy Wessely (UV) successfully trialled for the England National Lacrosse Academy from which the U19 England team is selected and joined Anna Neville (UVI) who was already a member and was selected to represent England in the U18A team at the Home Internationals 2020 which were due to be hosted by Wales but were cancelled due to COVID-19.

GB

Hoi Yiu (Danna) Cheung (UV) has taken part in the England Volleyball pathway and was invited to join the GB Volleyball Squad.

Emilia Nelson (LV) is riding for the GB Equestrian team.

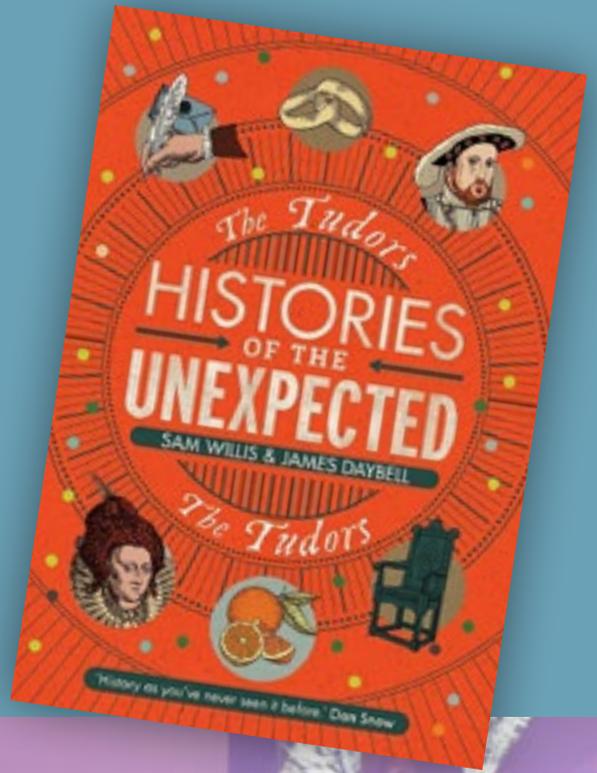


A group of six young women are posing for a photo in front of a large, dark bronze sculpture of horses. The sculpture depicts several horses in various poses, with one horse in the foreground appearing to be rearing up. The women are dressed in casual winter clothing, including jackets, scarves, and beanies. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the stone structure of the building where the sculpture is located.

Beyond the Curriculum

A YEAR IN THE MURRAY CENTRE

It proved to be a full and exciting year in the Murray Centre. The Michaelmas term saw the Centre hosting a range of whole school events from Open Mornings to mini concerts, the Murray Music Moments being a particular highlight of each Friday lunchtime. Focusing on a theme of Globalisation we were pleased to welcome a variety of speakers to talk around this huge topic. Justin Wateridge of Steppes Travel took us on a world tour with his talk on 'Embracing Uncertainty: The Art of Travel', inspiring his audience to step into the unknown and away from traditional paths in order to really experience the world. In November we welcomed Simon Stokes of China Acumen to discuss China as a world economy with the Lower Sixth focusing on how important China will be for them as they begin their professional lives over the next ten years. His talk promoted interesting and challenging questions from a highly engaged audience. Dr Michael Scott thrilled an audience of pupils from all year groups when he spoke to us about how the Classical World still influences political, cultural and economic life in the 20th century.





We also hosted our second 'Downe House Challenge' with Holcombe House victorious once again in a closely fought final. Having built a Christmas tree from books and enjoyed all of the seasonal celebrations we returned in January and were delighted to welcome Sam and James from *Histories of the Unexpected*, who took us on a whistle stop tour through the Tudors, including a re-enactment of Anne Boleyn's execution which had the audience awe struck. Trying on a range of hats after the talk as well as being able to chat to Sam and James and update our collection of books from their series was a treat. We were taken further back in history by film director Justin Hardy who shared his passion for the Crusades and his experiences directing his 2010 series *1066 - The Battle for Middle Earth* for Channel 4. A further highlight of the Lent term was Japan Day with our Remove being exposed to a huge variety of Japanese culture, language, history and tradition. As we moved into virtual schooling, our focus changed to Murray Centre Online, a series of ten digital publications highlighting arts, culture, literature, enrichment and a few fun competitions. It was wonderful to hear from our pupils around the world about life in lockdown as well as welcoming contributions from staff and alumnae.

Mrs Philippa Toogood, Director of Operations and the Murray Centre



IN THE LIBRARY

Whilst the Library is and will remain a place of quiet study and reading for most of the time, we have also had some fun this year and celebrated books and reading in style! We have invested in expanding the fiction section and have added almost 200 books to the collection. Staff have been recommending their favourite books and reviews have been popping up everywhere - even on the backs of the toilet doors in the Murray Centre! During Michaelmas term, we launched the Reading Hour, a time after supper every weekday evening when girls come to share books, with Library staff on hand to advise on book selection. As part of this, we enjoyed Mrs McKendrick reading from *Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood, Mrs Gilpin-Jones reading from *Noughts and Crosses* and a Halloween extravaganza when Mrs Bizior shared her love of all things Harry Potter.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

DofE is often remembered for the exciting expedition but of course it is so much more! It has been wonderful to see all the aspects of the Award being undertaken this year, both at School and at home since the lockdown. The Physical section saw girls active in their winter sports then continue with plenty of room circuits and exploring with family walks, runs and bike rides. For the Skills section, girls undertook musical challenges, baking bread and making face masks, while for Volunteering we saw many girls helping others in the community; teaching their siblings at home, collecting food for the vulnerable or supporting neighbours when needed.

Only the expedition training for the Lower Sixth Gold and Lower Fifth Bronze groups was completed because of the lockdown. The Lower Sixth girls did however have one magical night out doing a navigation exercise around Donnington Castle in Newbury along with problem-solving tasks to fix broken expedition kit. The Bronze groups had a workshop evening developing skills needed for expeditions such as map reading, menu planning, kit selection and emergency shelter use. We are looking forward to seeing all that was learnt put into practice next year.

Mr Tony Riddle, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator and Teacher of PE



In November, we welcomed Kathryn Evans, the award-winning author of *More of Me* and *Beauty Sleep* who came to talk to the UIV about resilience and pursuing your dreams (in her case to become a published writer). The girls loved her colourful character and enthusiastic recount of her life as a strawberry farmer, member of the GB fencing team and amateur belly dancer! In January, Remove girls took part in the Book Buzz Challenge, all receiving a newly published book to read and enjoy. They discussed the books in book clubs, wrote reviews and designed new front covers. World Book Day was a big event in March, with competitions and displays throughout the Murray Centre. Our Literary Seniors helped us to showcase books from authors around the world, we played 'Guess the staff member from photos with their faces hidden behind a favourite book' and cakes were made into book titles. These were enthusiastically demolished at the end of the day by Lower School girls who came to a Murder Mystery event in the Library.

Mrs J Hill, Learning Resources Manager





THE LIFE OF THE CHAPEL AT DOWNE HOUSE

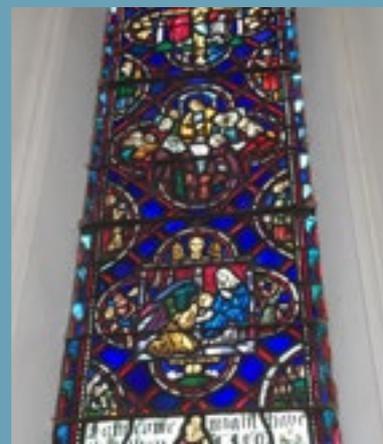
Certainly no one could have predicted the challenges our communities would face in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Yet despite the obvious concern I feel for our world and the sadness I feel for not being able to meet together physically and for having to delay our two Confirmation and Leaver's Services, when I reflect on this year I still feel full of gratitude for the rich contributions offered by so many to Chapel life. I feel full of gratitude for the talents and versatility of the Downe House family. Chapel service may have changed but the spirit of service, collaboration, generosity and challenge remain throughout our School community.

Themes explored in Chapel this year have included the Psalms, Black History Month, Thanksgiving, Forgiveness, The Environment, Jesus and Service. As ever may I convey my huge thanks to Mrs McKendrick, Mrs Barnard, Mrs Boswell, Mr Chapman, Miss McLachlan, Mrs Mears-Smith, Miss Thabet, Miss Thomas, Mrs Patrick and Mrs Prentice for their challenging, encouraging and inspirational weekly Chapel talks.

Thank you to Chapel Senior, Sarah Park for her service to the life of Chapel, and for the support of all the Seniors especially at the early morning services! Thank you to all Houses and Housestaff for their contributions to Sunday services and for continuing to raise awareness

for their specific local and international charities. Thank you to our Lower Sixth for leading such a moving Remembrance service. Many thanks to Miss Prentice for helping with Confirmation classes and for her skill creating the Stations of the Cross over Easter and the virtual prayer walk for Founder's Fortnight. Thank you to Miss Thabet for her continued dedication leading our Christian Union group, Roots. It was a pleasure to welcome Mr Colin Cunningham from the Gideons Society and Mr Roger Ryton from West Berks Foodbank. It has also been a privilege to have been able to welcome a series of visiting preachers to our services - in person and then virtually. The Rt Reverend Henry Scriven conducted our beautiful and joy-filled confirmation and baptism service in November. The Reverend Dr Saskia Barnard, the Venerable Elizabeth Adekunle, the Reverend Robert Wynford-Harris and the Reverend John Toogood offered inspirational and thought-provoking reflections during lockdown. I am also most grateful to the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Reverend Olivia Graham for her powerful preaching and prayers for us at our Founder's Service.

A huge thank you goes to the marvellous Music Department, to Dr Exon and Miss Holmes for their energy, commitment and vision each week. We have also been blessed with amazing music for the Welcome service, two beautiful Carol Services and a Confirmation service. Over lockdown, our virtual Chapel services were enriched with powerful and moving pieces from Prima Voce and from individual performers.





Despite lockdown, the life of Downe House Chapel has continued. Over the Easter holidays and throughout the Summer term, boarding houses and their representatives did an excellent job recording Bible readings, prayers, hymns and musical pieces. Thank you to our Downe House Parent Prayer Group for their prayers and faithful support of our community. Man of the Match awards must surely go to Mr Boswell and Mr Braybrooke from

the AV Department for their incredibly creative support and technical skills. It is of course very different coming together in a virtual Chapel service but it has also been an intimate and moving experience. Perhaps, when we view and listen to such services via our own individual screens in locations around the world, we may be poignantly aware of the unifying thread of God's love which spans the distance and weaves our lives together.

The Chapel building is still very much the spiritual heart of Downe House and when I have been able to broadcast or record services from there, my sense of connection to each member of our scattered community has felt particularly strong. Yet I have also felt a deep connection and continuity when leading services from my own home - this rhythm of worship, prayer and pastoral care has sustained me during lockdown.

We do not know what the future holds but we know that Downe House Chapel has survived many things (including two World Wars and being moved from its original site!) and I have no doubt it will continue to do so. This pandemic has also shown us that the act of worship is larger than the building in which it may sometimes take place. My prayer therefore for each one of us is that we can trust that God who is love is always with us. May we in turn respond to that love in faith and in hope, ready to use our gifts well for the service of others.

Reverend Anthea Platt, Chaplain

ELECTIVE PROGRAMME

The Elective Programme has gone from strength to strength this year, enriching the curriculum for those taking part and cultivating a love of learning for its own sake as well as refining highly desirable learning skills. This year, I have taught a module on 'Doing English: the philosophy of literary study'. Often known as literary theory, it is a mainstay of undergraduate English courses throughout the country. Indeed, it tends to be one of the first areas of thought introduced to eager first-year undergraduates and a dividing line between A Level and university study. So, it made perfect sense to me to use the Elective Programme to introduce some of these ideas to the Lower Fifth! We discussed how we might define literature, the role the author plays in a text, the concept of the literary canon and why some voices are privileged but others not. It was fascinating and the girls really thought deeply and engaged with some very complex literary and philosophical ideas!

We adapted the Elective Experience workshops to deliver them online to a number of prep schools over the course of the Summer term. Topics included an 'Introduction to Film Studies' and the 'History of the Book'.

Dr Andrew Atherton, Director of Research and Academic Enrichment, Teacher of English

THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME - GLOBAL SCHOOLS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Between September and March before the lockdown began, Downe House hosted 19 exchange students from around the world, including Spain, Hong Kong, South Africa and Australia.

Four girls went abroad on two extremely successful and very varied exchange trips to both Welham Girls' School, India and YK Pao School, China. The girls returned with reports of some amazing experiences and a new insight into the world around them.

In Spring, with the world in lockdown, our girls remained connected with our Global Exchange schools with messages of love and support. One of the highlights of our lockdown was a 'Virtual Around the World Relay' for charity, organised by our team of Global Ambassadors, which raised over £2,500 for the International Rescue Committee, helping less developed countries deal with the COVID-19 outbreak.

Mrs Marya Akhtar, Director of Higher Education and Global Initiatives



GLOBAL SCHOOLS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME LAUNCH EVENT TO UPPER FOURTH

On Saturday 29 February, Mrs McKendrick gave a talk to UIV girls and their parents to launch the Global Schools' Exchange programme. We learnt about how it would be an amazing experience and about the benefits of participating in such a programme.

Downe House is partnered with sixteen other schools around the world; all of which have been visited by different staff members. Mrs McKendrick told us about where each of the schools were, how long each exchange trip would be for and when it would take place, along with how the selection process would work. We were amazed and excited about all the different activities and experiences this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity would offer us.

This was followed by Mathilda Singer (UV) and Honor Mathews (UV) talking about their amazing trip to Welham Girls' School in India and how they experienced a new culture and enjoyed making new lifelong friends. We watched a video about their trip which highlighted all the enjoyable activities they had been lucky enough to take part in. Following all the presentations, we all agreed that going on an exchange trip would open new opportunities for us, both academically and socially, while also giving us a better understanding of the different cultures around the world. It would also make us more independent, more globally aware and improve our communication skills, allowing us the opportunity to interact with people who have different lives and routines to us. With the Global Schools' Exchange programme, you can make special connections across the world which in the future might be useful to have. We all agreed that taking part in the Global Schools' Exchange Programme is an unmissable opportunity.

Tabitha Venning, Georgina Jackson and Ada Ambrose, UIV

CONNECTING WITH OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

During the pandemic, our exchange ambassadors were quick to reach out to our partner schools around the world with messages, letters, diaries and photos to share their own experiences of their adjusted way of life and it was wonderful to receive messages from girls at our partner schools who have visited Downe House. Here are just a few of the girls' messages.

Matilda Wilkinson, UV

To all at Methodist Ladies College, I hope that everyone is keeping well and that we will all be able to go back to normal life soon! There are many positives that have come out of lockdown. I have spent so much more time with my two siblings who are also at boarding school; we have been playing endless card games, board games, jigsaws as well as resurrecting our trampoline! Lessons went online after all schools in the country closed in March. This has been a new experience; Sport has been particularly fun as we have been set challenges to do at home and to keep a Sports Diary.

Marina Pownall, UV

Hola Sansueña, I hope you are all well. During this lockdown I have had a lot of time to reflect on my memories of my time in Spain with all of you! In my room I have a framed photo of Thea and I with Carlotta, Alejandra, Merry Betty and Blanca on my last day at Sansueña. I hope you are all healthy both physically and mentally; I know the lockdown measures in Spain are a lot stricter than here but I know that you will all be doing well because you are such a close community. Please look after your friends and family and remember there is so much to look forward to. 'La esperanza es lo único más fuerte que el miedo'



"I'm beyond grateful for my experience at Downe House. It wouldn't have been the same without all the people who made me feel so welcome and who it an experience I will never forget. Although my journey was shorter than expected, I am so glad that I got the chance to meet Cora, all the incredible teachers, staff and Housemistresses - I miss you all so much and you are never far from my heart."

"I know that we're going through a period of a lot of uncertainty and worry but just know that we are in this together! Sending you lots of love all the way from South Africa."



Heloise Friedlander, UV

I really hope that everyone at Mayo College Girls' School (MCGS) stays safe and healthy through these uncertain times but it has been great keeping in touch with my friends from MCGS. To help our community, my family and I have been buying groceries for an elderly couple and making protective masks out of scrap fabrics.

Char Will, Methodist Ladies College, Australia

To my friends at Downe House, I hope you are doing well during these testing times and that you too are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I, just like you, have spent nine weeks isolated at home this year to try to stop the spread of COVID-19. With online learning came the cancellation of many events and the need to adjust our daily routine. I found myself doing regular, daily exercise, whether that be running or riding, and spending more quality time with my family. I hope that one day our worlds will return to normal so that I can see my friends at Downe House in person.

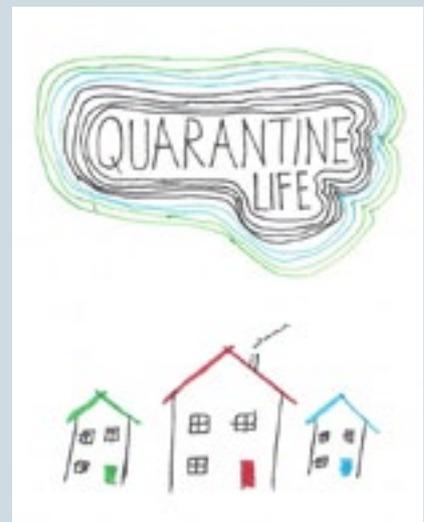
Adeline Toohey, Methodist Ladies College, Australia

I hope everyone at Downe is well and staying safe during lockdown. I miss you all so much! The first few weeks of online school were challenging but after I settled into a routine, I began to enjoy making myself lunch and being able to take classes in my

tracksuit. I missed seeing my friends at school even though we had lunch on Teams! I also began sewing and made heaps of scrunchies. We went back to school two weeks ago and it was amazing to see all my friends. It's still strange having to social distance and sanitize all our stuff, something which I don't think will ever feel normal.

Sarah Sparks, Durban Girls' College

I'm beyond grateful for my experience at Downe House. It wouldn't have been the same without all the people who made me feel so welcome and who made my experience one that I will never forget. I know that we're all going through a period of uncertainty and worry but just know that we are in this together! Sending you lots of love all the way from South Africa.





'My highlight was going to London and shopping and sightseeing there. But I also absolutely loved all that boarding school life has to offer, it was an amazing experience!'

Olivia, Herschel Girls School, South Africa



'I go to a co-ed day school with no uniform in the centre of Prague and so Downe House is very different! I feel that boarding makes you more productive because everything is right on your doorstep and so you don't waste any time travelling to and from school. What I have loved most about Downe House are all the co-curricular opportunities - there's so much on offer.'

Klara, Johannes Kepler Grammar School, Prague



'I am so grateful for all the educational lessons, the motivated girls and the teachers. They have helped me improve my English and made me love school even more than I already did. Thank you Downe House for these wonderful 12 days.'

Alice, Campus Manilla Gymnasium, Sweden





'For our afternoon classes, we both took Global Perspectives where we were assigned the task of making a presentation explaining the differences in school life between Downe House and YK Pao; following this we had the great pleasure of being able to study in the Library for our free sessions. We were part of the Halloween day at YK Pao School when Dasha and I joined some Year 9 girls in dressing as memes.'

Amy Jiang, LV



'I have experienced a different way of living and a more exotic way to live which was unfamiliar to me. I have grown mentally and emotionally as well as becoming more responsible and mature in my decisions. I have experienced new things which have made me more aware of the bigger world around me.'

Daria Andreeva, LV



'We stayed in Delhi for two nights and we went to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. While staying at my exchange buddy's house, we visited the Golden Temple in Amritsar. I've learned to appreciate things that I've taken for granted. I also discovered a whole new culture and way of life.'

Mathilda Singer, UV





CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It has been another fantastically busy, albeit extraordinary year and I am delighted to be able to share just a few of the pictures showing all that the girls have enjoyed during their weekends and evenings. From House team bonding days to trips to Cadbury World and the Escape Rooms, the girls certainly managed to cram a lot in! Our evening programme has continued to offer a wide and diverse variety of options from horse riding to wall climbing and of course, our very popular on-site cookery and art clubs.

Since online learning started, the girls' enthusiasm has been a joy to see. The activities have included poetry writing competitions, virtual yoga sessions, art clubs and baking competitions. We are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved!

Mrs Hannah Pilgrim, Head of Co-Curricular Activities



Lower School





Upper School & Sixth Form



Virtual Activities



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Each year, Lower Sixth girls are given the opportunity to participate in a business experience programme to add to their wider skills in advance of UCAS applications. This year, we participated in Young Enterprise, allowing girls to establish their own business from scratch, raise funds, research product options, and finally take advantage of selling opportunities to (hopefully!) make a profit.

Our two teams this year, Stitched and Emerge, had very different journeys but showed excellent determination and ingenuity to become runners up and victors respectively in the West Berks Area Final. Emerge went on to the Regional Final, where they were awarded the Judges' Prize for Teamwork in recognition of the way in which they pulled together in the face of supplier difficulties. While sales and award ceremonies have been delayed this term due to COVID-19, both teams will be invited to celebrate their successes in the next academic year.

Both teams have made a modest profit so far this year, but do still have products available, so do get in touch with the teams via their Instagram pages if you would like to support them!

STITCHED

We are Stitched YE, a student-run company consisting of ten Lower Sixth girls. Once we had assigned everyone roles of responsibility such as marketing, sales and HR, our first task was to raise initial funds so we all set about handmaking scrunchies and earrings to be sold at House Drama in October. We undertook polls on our social media and a questionnaire for the School community to help us to choose our final product and decided that we would sell beanies! We set up a stall at a trade fair in the Kennet Centre in Newbury and quickly learnt that being confident and friendly attracted customers! Lunchtime sales have also been successful, and we are still taking online orders so please follow us on Instagram @stitched_ye

Young Enterprise has been a fun experience which has given us an insight into the world of business. Having to design and produce a product to sell was something completely new for us. Negotiating the cost of our beanies was quite a challenge but a valuable skill to have gained. The importance of teamwork has been crucial too and we were certainly tested in this regard when School ended early. We switched to online meetings to carry on our business and continue making sales.

EMERGE

Producing an eco-friendly product that can contribute to our care for the environment was at the heart of our product development. We conducted product research to identify a gap in the market for sustainable drinking straws, taking inspiration from the news that McDonalds and other eating and drinking establishments were no longer offering single-use plastic straws to their customers.

Originally the team wished to pursue a product idea of collapsible, reusable plastic lunchboxes, recognising that Downe House pupils may be able to help the catering department reduce their consumption of single-use plastic sandwich wrappers if each girl had her own lunchbox. This idea ran aground upon discovering that the lunchboxes were made in China. Our Sustainability Director, Florence Hack (LVI York) set the objective to create a sustainable product with a low carbon footprint. We refused to compromise on our eco-friendly aims, and switched products to source the straws from a UK supplier. While this meant that the products did not arrive until after the lockdown, we are pleased to have stuck to our key sustainability aims.



DH LINKS

The DH LINKS team has had a very busy and successful year developing a host of new opportunities to connect, network and engage with alumnae whilst providing innovative and exciting careers insights, advice and practical support for the girls.

In the Michaelmas term, two local businesswomen, Caroline Dallas from Luna Boutiques and Romilla Arber, Founder of the Honesty Group came to talk to the girls as well as DH alumna, Ginnie Chadwyck-Healey (DH 2001) who captured the girls' attention with her insights on a capsule wardrobe and the sustainable fashion world.



The team managed to fit in an opportunity in the Lent term for girls to meet DH alumna, Ellie Measham (DH 2007) who is an architectural designer with professional experience in both the US and the UK, as well as launching the first ever UniMeet which brought together girls at Edinburgh University, alumnae living and working in Edinburgh, and even a former member of staff. It was a wonderful morning of catching up and making new connections and it is hoped that when restrictions lift, we will be able to organise more such events.



Behind the scenes, the DH LINKS team were working hard on developing a new identity for the Department and the 'Connect, Innovate Online' strapline was created to better reflect the scope of our activities.



Alumnae were asked to provide work shadowing opportunities and mock interviews for current girls and we were delighted to receive a very positive response – we were able to create 40 work shadowing placements and organise 60 interviews for girls with feedback opportunities. Sadly, the impact of COVID-19 meant that most of the work shadowing opportunities have had to be postponed but the Downe House spirit prevailed and three girls embarked on digital work placements with Kings Tutors, and Madison James (DH 2020) undertook an internship with the DH LINKS team and contributed as a guest editor for *Cloisters*.

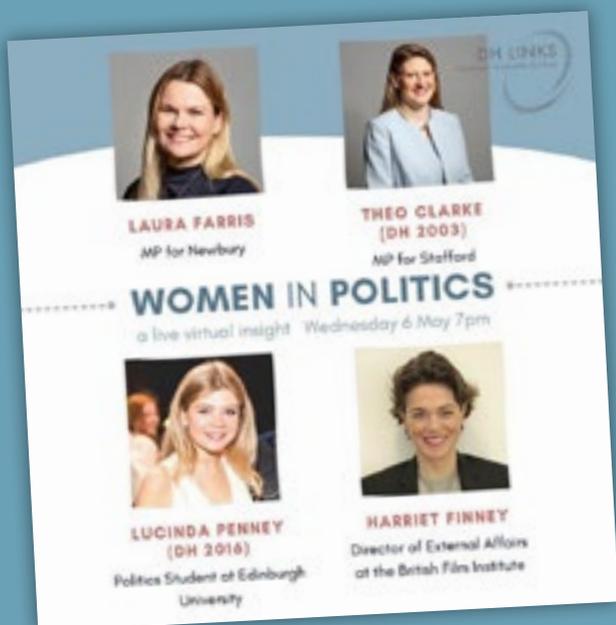


Just before lockdown, we were able to launch the UNIMENTOR programme to the Sixth Form which aims to link girls with an Alumna Mentor at their chosen university who will be ready and willing to help and support them to negotiate those first months at university and beyond.



After the School closure, the DH LINKS team embraced the digital tools at our disposal and learned a whole new vocabulary of vodcasts, Zoom, Instagram live, gallery view, and Teams invites, so that it could continue its work of connecting girls with alumnae to offer insights into career opportunities. It was also wonderful to see so many yeargroups organising their own online reunions.





WOMEN IN POLITICS

Our first big venture into livestreaming events was our 'Women in Politics' Insight with an impressive panel of guests including Laura Farris, MP for Newbury, Theo Clarke (DH 2003), MP for Stafford and Virginia Crosbie, MP for Ynys Mon as well as Lucinda Penney (DH 2016), current politics student and Harriet Finney, Director of External Affairs at the British Film Institute. It was a truly fascinating insight into the world of politics.

BIG VIRTUAL INSIGHT

In June, we held a live Big Virtual Insight event with six members of our alumnae community, all of whom have pursued very different career paths and experiences since leaving Downe House. Our thanks to Alexandra Tolstoy (DH 1991), Katie Cary (DH 2007), Isabel Spearman (DH 1997), Charlotte Monico (DH 1993), Elizabeth Jenkin (DH 1990) and Toks Ogunsanya (DH 2007) for their time and sharing their wealth of experience.



THE VODCAST SERIES

The Vodcast series featured different career sectors such as Medicine and Healthcare, Horseracing and Equestrian, and Law – they were very well received by the girls and once again, our thanks to all the alumnae who took part and to our fantastic host, Rosie Tapner (DH 2014) who made everything go so smoothly.

Alongside the events, the DH LINKS team have created many opportunities for girls to have bespoke career guidance from an alumna in the sector in which they are interested. For this, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a strong global alumnae community upon which we can draw to ensure that we are able to provide this invaluable careers-based knowledge, guidance and practical support to give Downe House girls a headstart and a guiding hand on their journey.



Mrs Alex Barlow, Alumnae Relations Manager and DH LINKS Coordinator

A YEAR IN PICTURES

The Foundation works hard to keep the spirit and ethos of the School at the heart of all that we do and this year, the strength and resilience of our community became more important than ever as the School went online with teachers, pupils and parents spread across the globe.

Of course, in the first half of the year, it was business as usual and it was wonderful to see all the alumnae who attended their 10-, 20- and 25-year reunions at the Lansdowne Club. Parents also had the opportunity to catch up at the Upper Fourth, Lower School, Lower and Upper Fifth, and Sixth Form Parents' Drinks events held in London which were well attended. We also organised receptions in Bangkok and Hong Kong where we were overwhelmed by the fabulous hospitality of our parent and alumnae community in those countries - their affection and loyalty to Downe House were evident and much appreciated.

Here are just a few memories from those wonderful social occasions that we all enjoyed so much.

Mrs Michelle Scott, Assistant Headmistress (Foundation)



FOUNDER'S FORTNIGHT

This year, Founder's Weekend became Founder's Fortnight and was a particularly memorable two weeks as the Downe House community came together online to enjoy over 50 events and activities. There were challenges, debates, masterclasses, quizzes, exhibitions, performances, fundraising and presentations as well as live events for everyone in the community.

Drama kept us entertained with re-screenings of *Jane Eyre* and the Downe House Dance Academy and Company's spectacular performance of *The Hunger Games* production featuring interviews with the Choreographer, Miss Olivia Ward and some of the dancers. New work came in the form of Drama: Unprecedented, a vibrant showcase of individual pupils' creative projects from the lockdown period featuring a variety of theatrical genres including Musical Theatre, Modern and Historical Monologues and Dance. Not to be outdone, the Music Award Holders entertained everyone with an online concert of stunning pre-recorded performances, each introduced by the soloist themselves. Popular throughout Founder's Fortnight were the bake-along demonstrations with Mrs Mac's lemon drizzle cake and Mrs Ford's chocolate and orange marble cake amongst the firm favourites. York House organised a 24-Hour Dance-a-Thon in aid of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust - girls danced the day and night away and raised over £1500.

During the fortnight, the girls were encouraged to do an act of service - whether it was writing a letter, shopping for a neighbour or fundraising for charity. The girls embraced the idea, and it was wonderful to see them making a difference in their at-home community.

There really was something for everyone - girls took part in the inter-House Sports competition, the Autodesk Sketchbook Masterclass, an online Yoyalates class, Family Bingo and Quiz, browsing the Creative Arts Exhibitions, watching the Women in Theatre discussion panel or attending the live Writing Workshop with Caroline Lawrence, author of the *Roman Mysteries* series. Of course, the high point of any Founder's Weekend is the Founder's Tea and over the course of the two weeks, everyone had access to a range of videos and recipe cards so that families could make their own afternoon tea to share at home.

Although we were unable to be together on the campus, Founder's Fortnight was a huge success in bringing the Downe House community together. Virtually!

Mrs Hazel Ormrod,
Senior Communications Officer



WHAT'S ON GUIDE			
YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE LIVE EVENTS OVER FOUNDER'S FORTNIGHT 2020			
Wednesday 17 June Wednesday 17 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Thursday 18 June Thursday 18 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Friday 19 June Friday 19 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Saturday & Sunday 27 & 28 June Saturday & Sunday 27 & 28 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir
Tuesday 23 June Tuesday 23 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Wednesday 24 June Wednesday 24 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Thursday 25 June Thursday 25 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Friday 26 June Friday 26 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir
Sunday 28 June Sunday 28 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Monday 29 June Monday 29 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Tuesday 30 June Tuesday 30 June 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir	Wednesday 1 July Wednesday 1 July 10.00am - 11.00am The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir The Downe House Community Choir

A photograph of two young women with long blonde hair, wearing white t-shirts, standing behind a table covered with a white cloth. The table is filled with numerous stuffed animals, primarily white bunnies, many of which are wrapped in clear plastic bags with purple ribbons. There are also bags of candy and other items on the table. In the background, there is a wooden door with two vertical glass panes and some framed pictures on the wall. A white box with the word "Charity" in a cursive font is overlaid on the center of the image.

Charity

Thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising activities

Fundraising is firmly embedded in the Downe House ethos with girls involved in a multitude of activities and events designed to raise money for their chosen charities. Whilst the first half of the year followed the traditional calendar of fundraising events, the second half saw a surge of virtual creative fundraising activities. A grand total of £24,000 was raised in the 2019–20 academic year which was donated to 28 charities worldwide. At Christmas, Prima Voce performed at a carol concert with singer-songwriter Katie Melua at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, which raised £14,000 for the charity Hope and Homes for Children, founded by DH alumna Caroline Cook and her husband, Mark. The collections taken at the Junior and Senior Carol Services at St Nicolas Church in Newbury were also donated to the Hope and Homes charity.

During the lockdown period, the spirit of helping others shone out from the Downe House community. Virtual Mufti Days were organised by Tedworth, in aid of the

Alzheimer's Society, and Arella Szlapak (UVI) to raise money for the Kangemi Church School Kindergarten in Nairobi where she volunteers when she is at home; AGS moved their Founder's Fair fundraising online and encouraged everyone to donate £2 for two good deeds, raising £1,600 for their overseas charity, Hope Asia Children's Home in Myanmar. Also, as part of Founder's Fair, York House organised a 24-hour Dance-a-Thon in which girls danced in 10-minute periods around the clock and raised £1,709 for the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust. Emily Barber (UVI) made good use of her Leiths cookery skills by preparing and delivering food to those in need in her local community. Special mention should go to Kitty Shepherd-Cross (UVI) who rose to the challenge of cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in just nine days and raised £4,140 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. As always, we must thank the fabulous Downe House community for their generosity in supporting all our fundraising events and activities.

Mrs Hazel Ormrod, Senior Communications Officer



A LOCKDOWN CHANNEL SWIM

Sisters Elodie Hersee (UVI) and Daisy Hersee (LV) and their family successfully swam 21 miles (the equivalent of swimming the English Channel) in their swimming pool and raised a phenomenal £17,928 for Rennie Grove Hospice Care. Elodie said: 'Rennie Grove is a charity that provides hospice care to people in their homes. Their funding has been reduced by 75% because of the closure of its charity shops and cancellation of fundraising events. Their work is so important at this time because it alleviates the pressure on the NHS by caring for people at home instead of in hospital. My family wanted to help Rennie Grove in any way we could because they looked after my Grandpa and my Step-Grandma Rosemary in their last days, and we are very grateful for the care they provided them with.'



GIFT FAIR

The annual Gift Fair brought together a wonderful array of stallholders with many different products on display. Parents, staff and girls enjoyed an excellent morning's shopping and raised a fantastic sum of £4,488 for Barnardo's.

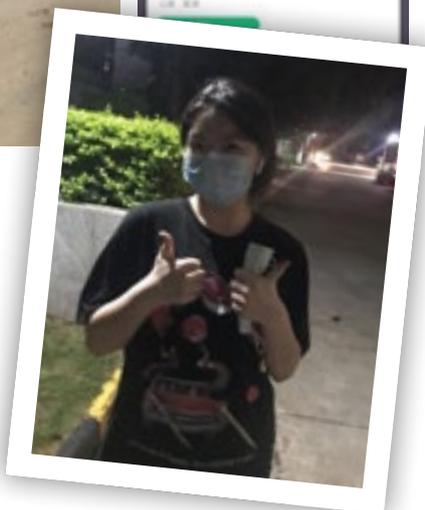
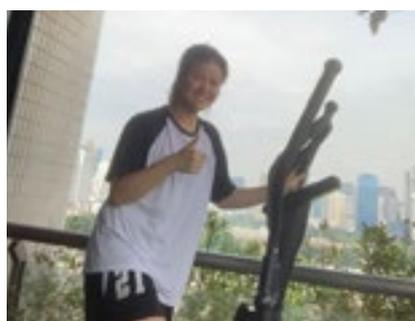
ARCHANGEL MLD TRUST

A series of events including a Mufti Day, a charity sale and a film night raised £2,391 for the Archangel MLD Trust which helps people suffering from the rare genetically inherited disease called Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD).



VIRTUAL AROUND THE WORLD RELAY

The Global Ambassadors team comprising ten girls and four members of staff embarked on the 'Virtual Around the World Relay' to raise money for the International Rescue Committee which responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises. The team ran, cycled or walked over 100 kilometres over a two-week period and travelled virtually through India, Thailand, Kenya, the UK, China and Hong Kong, raising £2,674 along the way.



DONATION TO THE KENNET & AVON CANAL TRUST

The DECO Committee won a £1,500 donation for the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust from the British Standards Institute (BSI). The DECO Committee took part in an event organised by the BSI called Horizon Scanning Day and made a presentation on ecological issues they had identified as being of particular concern and at the end of the day, they were asked to nominate a charity to receive the donation.



SUPPORTING THE OSCAR FOUNDATION

Early in the lockdown, we heard from the OSCAR Foundation who visited Downe House in October 2018 that the families they work with were facing extreme hardship and that they had launched an Emergency COVID-19 Appeal. Airlie Fleming (UV), Cecilia Stone (UIV), Alice Farquhar (UIV) and Melissa Farquhar (DH 2019) put together a video to encourage everyone to support the Appeal. The girls also organised a Sunday online yoga session for a £5 donation to raise more funds for the charity.





Awards & More

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR PRIZE WINNERS

	Subject	Award	Nominee
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Pearl (Ivie) Avwenagha
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Pearl (Ivie) Avwenagha
Remove		Stars and Commendations Prize	Pearl (Ivie) Avwenagha
Remove		Independent Learner	Mia Corbett
Remove		Stars and Commendations Prize	Mia Corbett
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Josephine Cull
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Polly Fowler
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Alice Gilchrist
Remove		Independent Learner	Yan-Tung Cecilia Hon
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Hao Yun (Hedy) Jiang
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Joline Lam
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Cheuk-Yi (Cherie) Lau
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Jemima McDougall
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Anna Monckton
Remove		Independent Learner	Tomi Olunuga
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Dominica Prentice
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Dominica Prentice
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Dhyaana Shourie
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Liberty Spry
Remove	Music	Colours - Bronze	Anna Stopford
Remove		Excellence in Examinations	Maria Taraban
LIV	House: Hermitage	The Lunn Cup	Alice Barber
LIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Petchnapa Bennett
LIV	House: Hill	The Moore Cup	Hope Black
LIV	Music	Colours - Bronze	Anjola Bolodeoku
LIV		Excellence in Examinations	Jemima Booth
LIV		Excellence in Examinations	Georgina Dawson
LIV	Music	Colours - Bronze	Yuchen (Rebecca) Gao
LIV		Excellence in Examinations	Yuchen (Rebecca) Gao
LIV		Independent Learner	Yuchen (Rebecca) Gao
LIV		Excellence in Examinations	Maya Gazzard
LIV		Independent Learner	Maya Gazzard
LIV		Excellence in Examinations	Youran (Jocelyn) Li
LIV	House: Darwin	The Berwick Cup	Clara Rainsford
LIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Isabelle Regis
LIV		Independent Learner	Rose Rollo
LIV		Excellence in Examinations	Alexandra ter Haar
LIV		Excellence in Examinations	Cathy Wang
UIV	Music	Colours - Silver	Shiloh Akintaju
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Ada Ambrose
UIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Ada Ambrose
UIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Isabelle Ashworth
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Katie Beeson
UIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Ploypailin Bennett
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Georgina Boucher
UIV		Independent Learner	Ottillie Campbell
UIV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Alice Farquhar
UIV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Emilia Finney

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	Subject	Award	Nominee
UIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Camilla Hale
UIV		Independent Learner	Camilla Hale
UIV		Independent Learner	Honor Harris
UIV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Araminta Hervey
UIV	Sport	Colours - Cross Country	Lilias Hoare Nairne
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Lilias Hoare Nairne
UIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Lilias Hoare Nairne
UIV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Hannah Hurd
UIV		Independent Learner	Colette Jolley
UIV	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Janice Li
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Janice Li
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Ying Shan (Abigail) Liang
UIV	Music	Colours - Silver	Yi Zhuo (Sophia) Liu
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Yi Zhuo (Sophia) Liu
UIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Yi Zhuo (Sophia) Liu
UIV	Music	Colours - Silver	Charlotte Mackinnon
UIV		Stars and Commendations Prize	Charlotte Mackinnon
UIV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Annabel Munnely
UIV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Claudia Pope
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Tacita Rhys Williams
UIV	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Kai Yuk Kianna Tsui
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Isabelle Wessely
UIV		Independent Learner	Isabelle Wessely
UIV	Music	Colours - Silver	Ziyue Yu
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Ziyue Yu
UIV		Excellence in Examinations	Jocelyn Yue
LV	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Motunrayo Morinsola Adeniji
LV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Lauren Akinluyi
LV	Foot Essay	3rd Place	Lauren Akinluyi
LV		Independent Learner	Lauren Akinluyi
LV	Sport	Colours - Tennis	Daria Andreeva
LV	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Ka Yuet (Sophia) Chan
LV		Independent Learner	Linlin Chi
LV	Sport	Colours - Tennis	Ella Clegg
LV	Sport	Colours - Swimming	Alice Crowston
LV	Sport	Colours - Tennis	Elodie Davies
LV		Independent Learner	Elodie Davies
LV		Independent Learner	Thea Davies
LV	Foot Essay	Commended	Clara Dutertre-Delaunay
LV	Foot Essay	2nd Place	Cléo Dutertre-Delaunay
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Cléo Dutertre-Delaunay
LV	Foot Essay	Commended	Ziqi (Jade) Fang
LV	Sport	Colours - Netball	Ziqi (Jade) Fang
LV	Sport	Colours - Netball	Anya Gannon
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Dayeon Go
LV	Foot Essay	Commended	Hongcan (Sarah) Gu
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Hongcan (Sarah) Gu
LV		Independent Learner	Elfreda Harvey
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Katie Lam
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Yan Lam (Emily) Lau
LV	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Cheuk Wah Sara Lee

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	Subject	Award	Nominee
LV	Sport	Colours - Swimming	Longwen (Vivi) Lei
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Longwen (Vivi) Lei
LV	Foote Essay	Commended	YouYou (Yoyo) Li
LV		Excellence in Examinations	YouYou (Yoyo) Li
LV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Angelina Morton-Cutt
LV	Sport	Colours - Netball	Jamie Ojo
LV	Foote Essay	1st Place	Ebunlolaoluwa (Ebunlola) Oyegunle
LV	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Isobel (Izzy) Peddie
LV	Sport	Colours - Tennis	Cordelia Reeve
LV	Drama	Colours - Bronze	Agnes Rose
LV	Sport	Colours - Netball	Yaashna Shourie
LV	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Yaashna Shourie
LV	Music	Colours - Silver	Sayuri Shukawa
LV	Sport	Colours - Volleyball	Sayuri Shukawa
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Catherine Skipworth
LV	Foote Essay	Commended	Yiming Song
LV	Sport	Colours - Netball	India Sparrow
LV	Sport	Colours - Tennis	India Sparrow
LV	Foote Essay	Commended	Ling Xuan (Victoria) Tiang
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Ling Xuan (Victoria) Tiang
LV	Sport	Colours - Squash	Willow Wilkinson
LV	Sport	Colours - Tennis	Georgina Williams-Bulkeley
LV	Sport	Colours - Swimming	Amy Wright
LV	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Amy Wright
LV	Foote Essay	Commended	Lan (Lydia) Zhang
LV	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Lan (Lydia) Zhang
LV		Excellence in Examinations	Lan (Lydia) Zhang
UV	House: Holcombe	The Barnes Cup	Harriet Boucher
UV	sport	Colours - Volleyball	Hoi Yiu (Danna) Cheung
UV	Sport	Colours - Swimming	Gwyneth Choi
UV	House: AGN	The Austin Cup	Heloise Friedlander
UV	House: AGS	The Doherty Cup	Madeleine (Maddi) Hales
UV	Sport	Colours - Swimming	Madeleine (Maddi) Hales
UV	House	The Houghton Cup	Alethea Ings-Chambers
UV	Music	Barbirolli Colours	Sophie Loftus
UV		Independent Learner	Sophie Loftus
UV	House: Tedworth	The Gwatkin Cup	Honor Mathews
UV	Sport	Colours - Cross Country	Yasmine McLennan
UV		Independent Learner	Olivia Monckton
UV	Drama	Colours - Silver	Alice Pernthaller
UV	Music	Barbirolli Colours	Alice Pernthaller
UV		Independent Learner	Alice Pernthaller
UV	Drama	Colours - Silver	Marina Pownall
UV		Independent Learner	Lauren Raeburn-Ward
UV		Independent Learner	Mathilda Singer
UV	Sport	Colours - Swimming	Pattrawaran (Teal) Uahwatanasakul
UV	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Poppy Wessely
UV	Sport	Colours - Squash	Poppy Wessely
UV	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Wai Che (Rachel) Wong
LVI	Sport	Colours - Squash	Toluwase Agosto

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	Subject	Award	Nominee
LVI	Music	Barbirolli Colours	Jantaluck (Kelly) Bhanarai
LVI	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Jantaluck (Kelly) Bhanarai
LVI	Sport	Colours - Volleyball	Jantaluck (Kelly) Bhanarai
LVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Susanna Brooke
LVI	Sport	Colours - Squash	Susanna Brooke
LVI	Sport	Colours - Cross Country	Susanna Brooke
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Susanna Brooke
LVI	Sport	Colours - Squash	Lucia Bugeja
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Yitong (Carrie) Chen
LVI	Sport	Colours - Cross Country	Romilly Cox
LVI		Independent Learner	Tanisha Doshi
LVI		Independent Learner	Christina Elliot
LVI	Sport	Colours - Basketball	Chioma Emenike
LVI		Independent Learner	Chioma Emenike
LVI	Drama	Colours - Silver	Ellen (Nellie) Gawne
LVI		Independent Learner	Lavinia Geddes
LVI	Sport	Colours - Skiing	Emily Glover
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Emily Glover
LVI		Stars and Commendations Prize	Alexandra Hamilton
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Yiru (Ruby) Huang
LVI	Sport	Colours - Basketball	Gardiner Hunt
LVI	Sport	Colours - Basketball	Olivia Jackson
LVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Jemima Landale
LVI	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Li Hui (Lily) Lin
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Li Hui (Lily) Lin
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Saskia Mactaggart
LVI		Independent Learner	Maria Manduca
LVI	Sport	Colours - Skiing	Matilda McDougall
LVI	Drama	Colours - Silver	Clementine McNair Scott
LVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Florence McNair Scott
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Nuo (Noure) Miao
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Poppy Penney
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Araminta Plumstead
LVI		Stars and Commendations Prize	Araminta Plumstead
LVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Francesca Rhodes
LVI	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Torrung (Mook) Rungjerdfa
LVI	Sport	Colours - Volleyball	Torrung (Mook) Rungjerdfa
LVI		Excellence in Examinations	Poppy Scales
LVI		Stars and Commendations Prize	Poppy Scales
LVI	Music	Barbirolli Colours	Lisa Lotte Scheuner
LVI	Drama	Colours - Silver	Lisabel Thistlethwayte
LVI	Sport	Colours - Netball	Lu (Lulu) Tian
LVI	Drama	Colours - Silver	Rosalind Wippell
LVI	Sport	Colours - Netball	Rosalind Wippell
LVI		Stars and Commendations Prize	Rosalind Wippell
LVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Alexandra Witter
UVI		Independent Learner	Georgia Allison
UVI	Sport	Colours - Netball	Chloe Babis
UVI	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Emily Barber
UVI	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Eva Bartlett
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Emma Bracken

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Subject		Award	Nominee
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Jessica Chapman
UVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Anouk Davies
UVI	Sport	Colours - Squash	Georgina Day
UVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Abriella (Abby) Dolbear
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Tara Farquhar
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Holly Fenn
UVI		Independent Learner	Anna Hall
UVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Mili Haywood
UVI		Independent Learner	Elodie Hersee
UVI	Sport	Colours - Badminton	Lu Min Hew
UVI	Sport	Colours - Volleyball	Lu Min Hew
UVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Eliza Inglis
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Julia Kennerley
UVI	Sport	Colours - Netball	Annabel Le Grice
UVI	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Alice Lloyd-Evans
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Emily Manners
UVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Emily Manners
UVI	Sport	Colours - Tennis	Lucy McCreery
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Anna Neville
UVI		Stars and Commendations Prize	Anna Neville
UVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Charlotte Nicholson
UVI	Sport	Colours - Netball	Clementine Pemberton
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Sasha Percy-Davis
UVI		Independent Learner	Michelle Sung
UVI	Sport	Colours - Lacrosse	Alice Weldon
UVI	Sport	Colours - Hockey	Daisy West
UVI	Drama	Colours - Gold	Ottillie Whitbread

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Congratulations to all the girls who achieved their Bronze and Gold Awards this year which reflects their determination, commitment and endurance. The Award scheme cycle runs from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

BRONZE AWARD

Deborah (Ayanfe) Adedeji, Sophie Armitage, Isabella Ashley, Milly Assheton, Lucy Barrie, Ceara Bastin, Sukhmani Bath, Georgia Biggs, Vasilisa Borovskaya, Harriet Boucher, Polly Cecil, Nga Man Cheng, Hoi Yiu (Danna) Cheung, Gwyneth Choi, Katerina Christova, Gina Cukrowicz, Louise de Riquet de Caraman Chimay, Chiara De Sa Subiotto, Georgia Dunkerley, Tara Dyer, Arah Elombi, Susannah Field, Airlie Fleming, Eleanor Gibbs, Madeleine (Maddi) Hales, Lara Harries, Théa Hawtin, Louisa Healey, Freya Illingworth, Alethea Ings-Chambers, Maria Kheyman, Madelaina Lavelle, Sophie Loftus, Maryam Mammadova, Honor Mathews, Antonia McClintock, Yasmine McLennan, Olivia Monckton, Rosie Montague, Tallis Montgomerie, Jiwon Moon, Honor Neville, Charlotte Pearson, Isabella Pemberton, Hannah Perkins, Alice Pernthaller, Marina Pownall, Lauren Raeburn-Ward, Margot Ridley, Amelia Rosling, Mathilda Singer, Lucinda Slack, Lucy Stebbings, Georgia (Hope) Thistlethwayte, Pattrawaran (Teal) Jahwatanasakul, Mia Viventi, Anlan Wang, Poppy Wessely, Phoebe Whiting, Emma Woodworth, Xinyue (Audrey) Xu, Ziyi (Annie) Yang, Jiayi Zheng, Zhihan (Helen) Yang

GOLD AWARD

Alexandra Adderley, Emily Barber, Fenella Bowlby, Emily Carpmael, Romilly Cox, Imogen Fowler, Mili Haywood, Lucy McCreery, Anastasia Mullen, Yi Wei (Lily) Peng, Alice Peters, Jennifer Standbrook, Ottillie Whitbread, Arabella Woo

I/GCSE RESULTS

"The I/GCSE pupils of 2020 deserve the greatest credit for the excellent results that they achieved. They worked extremely hard and consistently, throughout their courses and the fact that they were a group that really enjoyed learning shines through. The grades they have reflect their work ethic, the way in which they worked collaboratively with their teachers and of course they also enjoyed the support of their families. What is perhaps most impressive is that their exam results tell only a part of the picture of what they have achieved. When these successes are set alongside the many other areas of school and wider community life to which they have contributed, they are all the more noteworthy. I pay huge tribute to these wonderful young people who can move on to the next stage of their educational journey with confidence."

Mrs Emma McKendrick, Headmistress

These talented and committed students have shown remarkable resilience in the face of the challenges and uncertainties surrounding the conclusion of their Upper School studies. Statistically, the cohort has excelled, with 71% of all GCSE/IGCSE grades achieved at the very highest 9-8 (A*) grade, and 98% of all results graded 9-6 (A*-B).

There are many personal triumphs behind the statistics, and we congratulate all our students for their success, but the following individual achievements show exceptional dedication and deserve special note:

Girls who achieved 8-11 x 9/8 (A*) grades and above at GCSE:

Deborah (Ayanfe) Adedeji (10),	Antonia McClintock (10),
Isabella Ashley (9),	Rosie Montague (10),
Milly Assheton (10),	Jiwon Moon (10),
Lucy Barrie (10),	Honor Neville (10),
Ceara Bastin (10),	Hannah Perkins (10),
Georgia Biggs (9),	Alice Pernthaller (11),
Vasilisa Borovskaya (8),	Lauren Raeburn-Ward (10),
Harriet Boucher (8),	Margot Ridley (9),
Tilly Bridgeman (10),	Amelia Rosling (9),
Polly Cecil (8),	Lucinda Slack (10),
Nga Man Cheng (10),	Sui Ying (Ashley) Tsoi (10),
Hoi Yiu (Danna) Cheung (10),	Pattrawaran (Teal)
Gwyneth Choi (11),	Uahwatanasakul (9),
Gina Cukrowicz (8),	Yuhan (Angela) Wan (10),
Alicia de Broë-Ferguson (9),	Anlan Wang (9),
Georgia Dunkerley (9),	Zi Xin (Sunnie) Wei (8),
Heloise Friedlander (9),	Poppy Wessely (10),
Tilly Gibbens (10),	Phoebe Whiting (9),
Eleanor Gibbs (8),	Hei Nam (Ashley) Wong (10),
Lara Harries (10),	Cheuk Yu (Queenena) Wong (10),
Louisa Healey (10),	Wai Che (Rachel) Wong (8),
Freya Illingworth (10),	Xinyue (Audrey) Xu (9),
Zlata Krokmalna (8),	Ziyi (Annie) Yang (8),
Philippa Lim (9),	Zhihan (Helen) Yang (9),
Sophie Loftus (11),	Chi Yan (Hilary) Yu (8).
Honor Mathews (10),	

A LEVEL AND PRE-U RESULTS

"I could not be more proud of this exceptional group of young women who have so much to offer. I am delighted that the results the girls have received reflect these students' hard work and commitment throughout the two years of their courses and of course also the support that they have received from their teachers and their families. I applaud their ambition, dedication and fortitude, and the way they have approached the challenges that the pandemic has brought them. I wish them the very best as they head into their futures with our continued support."

Mrs Emma McKendrick, Headmistress

The girls have worked extremely hard and, although they did not sit examinations, they all have every reason indeed to be proud of their achievements. At A Level/Pre-U, 95% of the grades achieved were A* to B with the A*/D1/D2 percentage remaining at 46%. Whilst of course we celebrate every single girl's hard work and effort, there are some highly notable personal achievements which deserve to be singled out for recognition:

Girls who achieved 3 or 4 x A*/A or D1-D3 grades and above at A Level and/or Pre-U:

Victoria Aarons (3),	Luoyi (Sunny) Li (4),
Eniayo Teniola Adeniji (3),	Alice Lloyd-Evans (4),
Georgia Allison (4),	Olivia Lopes (3),
Chloe Babis (4),	Emily Manners (3),
Emily Barber (3),	Georgina Marchand (3),
Eva Bartlett (3),	Lucy McCreery (3),
Fenella Bowlby (3),	Zi Yin (Ariel) Mo (4),
Emma Bracken (4),	Anna Neville (3),
Jessica Bracken (3),	Catherine Nicol (3),
Maria do Carmo Calem (3),	Nina Paterson (3),
Emily Carpmael (3),	Clementine Pemberton (3),
Zoe Carruthers (3),	Yi Wei (Lily) Peng (4),
Jessica Chapman (3),	Sasha Percy-Davis (3),
Risa Cooper (3),	Alice Peters (4),
Molly Dewar (3),	Beatrice Phillips (3),
Abriella (Abby) Dolbear (3),	Olivia Pockney (3),
Holly Fenn (3),	Michelle Sung (3),
Imogen Fowler (4),	Giselle Tan (4),
Anna Hall (4),	Alessandra Walsh (3),
Carina Harbinson (3),	Sabrina Wang (4),
Mili Haywood (3),	Imogen Webber (3),
Elodie Hersee (4),	Alice Weldon (4),
Lu Min Hew (4),	Daisy West (3),
Chao Heng (Gemma) Ho (3),	Ottilie Whitbread (3),
Mathilde Hughes (3),	Arabella Woo (4),
Eliza Inglis (3),	Ruyao Xu (3).
Chui Yin (Emerald) Ip (4),	
Anchisa (Pim) Ittiphakorn (3),	
Yuk Ying (Shirnie) Lu (3),	
Madison James (4),	
Julia Kennerley (3),	
Alexandra Kiy (3),	
Annabel Le Grice (3),	

Be kind, work hard, aim high



UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

In 2020, girls from the Upper Sixth left us to take up places at top universities across the world, including the US and Canada. This year, over 25% will be going on to read STEM subjects with Politics, International Relations, Economics, Business, Modern Languages, English and the creative and performing arts courses also being very well represented. We wish them all continued success beyond Downe House.

Name	University/Institution	Course
Victoria Aarons	UCL	Politics and International Relations
Alexandra Adderley	Newcastle	International Relations
Eniayo Teniola Adeniji	St Andrews	Psychology
Georgia Allison	Durham	Physics
Chloe Babis	UCL	Biomedical Sciences
Emily Barber	Exeter	Medical Biosciences
Eva Bartlett	Bristol	Politics and International Relations
Eesha Bhide	McGill, Canada	Liberal Arts
Fenella Bowlby	Edinburgh	Engineering
Emma Bracken	Bristol	English
Jessica Bracken	Edinburgh	French and History of Art
Nina Bugeja	Cambridge	Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Maria do Carmo Calem	Edinburgh	Business Management
Emily Carpmael	Exeter	International Relations
Zoe Carruthers	Leeds	History of Art
Jessica Chapman	Exeter	English and Drama
Risa Cooper	Oxford	English Language and Literature
Natalia Cremin	Exeter	Philosophy
Lucy Cunningham	Newcastle	Politics and Economics
Anouk Davies	Exeter	Biological Sciences
Cosima Davies	Exeter	Politics
Molly Dewar	Cambridge	English
Abriella (Abby) Dolbear	Exeter	Law
Emily Duckworth	Cambridge	History of Art
Imogen Dundas	Edinburgh	Social Anthropology and Linguistics
Tara Farquhar	Bristol	Psychology in Education
Holly Fenn	Edinburgh	History of Art
Jocasta Ferrigno	Exeter	Art History and Visual Culture
Charlotte Field	Northumbria	Psychology
Imogen Fowler	Edinburgh	Astrophysics
Gabriella Franklin	Exeter	International Relations
Katie Hackman	Rose Bruford College	Actor Musicianship
Anna Hall	Barnard, USA	Liberal Arts
Carina Harbinson	Exeter	English and Modern Languages
Mili Haywood	Exeter	Accounting and Finance
Elodie Hersee	Durham	Anthropology
Lu Min Hew	University of the Arts London	Fashion Management
Milly Hine	Exeter	International Relations and Modern Languages
Chao Heng (Gemma) Ho	UCL	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Mathilde Hughes	Exeter	Politics and International Relations
Eliza Inglis	Durham	Liberal Arts
Grace (Noseh) Inneh	Kent	Criminology
Chui Yin (Emerald) Ip	Bath	Pharmacy
Anchisa (Pim) Ittiphakorn	Imperial College London	Medical Biosciences
Yuk Ying (Shirnie) Lu	UCL	Mathematics and Statistical Science
Madison James	Bristol	Politics and French
Julia Kennerley	Leeds	Liberal Arts
Alexandra Kiy	Cambridge	English

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Name	University/Institution	Course
Annabel Le Grice	Leeds	Law with French Law
Clementine Lewins	Cardiff	Music and Philosophy
Luoyi (Sunny) Li	UCL	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Alice Lloyd-Evans	Exeter	Biological Sciences
Olivia Lopes	Edinburgh	Economics
Emily Manners	Durham	Modern Languages and Cultures
Georgina Marchand	Durham	Geography
Enekole Mark	SOAS	International Relations and Social Anthropology
Lucy McCreery	Durham	Modern Languages and Cultures
Henrietta Miles	Leeds	Textile Design
Zi Yin (Ariel) Mo	UCL	Economics
Anna Neville	Exeter	Liberal Arts
Charlotte Nicholson	York	Global Development
Catherine Nicol	Leeds	Civil Engineering
Motolani Oladitan	Syracuse, USA	Liberal Arts
Oluwanifemi (Nifemi) Olawuni	Reading	Law
Sarah Park	BIMM Institute	Electronic Music Production
Gabriella Parkinson	Leeds	Fine Art
Clementine Pemberton	Edinburgh	Chinese
Yi Wei (Lily) Peng	UCL	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Sasha Percy-Davis	Leeds Arts	Fine Art
Alice Peters	Durham	Modern Languages and Cultures
Nina Paterson	New York University, USA	Liberal Arts
Beatrice Phillips	Edinburgh	Geography and Politics
Olivia Pockney	Newcastle	English Literature
Sabrina Sambhi	Royal Veterinary College	Veterinary Medicine
Amber Spencer	Newcastle	Politics and Sociology
Michelle Sung	Cambridge	Mathematics
Arella Szlapak	Davidson, USA	Liberal Arts
Emma Talbot Rice	Exeter	Mathematics
Giselle Tan	UCL	Natural Sciences
Alessandra Walsh	Oxford	Biology
Sabrina Wang	Imperial	Physics with a Year Abroad
Imogen Webber	Exeter	Biological Sciences
Alice Weldon	Durham	Liberal Arts
Ottillie Whitbread	Durham	Liberal Arts
Arabella Woo	LSE	Social Policy and Politics
Helena Wormsley	Newcastle	English Literature
Ruyao Xu	UCL	Biomedical Sciences

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SCHOLARSHIP AND EXHIBITION AWARDS

Congratulations to all the girls who received Scholarships and Exhibitions awarded from September 2019.

REMOVE	Award(s)
Hao Yun (Hedy) Jiang	Art Scholarship
Maria Taraban	Music Scholarship
Mia Corbett	Sports Scholarship
Natalie Sideso	Sports Scholarship

LOWER FOURTH	Award(s)
Anjola Bolodeoku	Drama Scholarship
Hope Black	Drama Scholarship
Isabelle Regis	Sport Scholarship

UPPER FOURTH	Award(s)
Ada Ambrose	Academic Scholarship
Annabel Munnelly	Drama Scholarship
Athina Lin	Art Scholarship
Cecilia Stone	Academic Exhibition
Charlotte Absolom	Sports Scholarship
Ella Snow	Sports Scholarship
Emily Phillips	Drama Scholarship
Evie Johnstone	Sports Exhibition
Izzy Vir	Drama Exhibition
Jocelyn Yue	Academic Exhibition
Juliette Bale	Academic Exhibition
Katie Beeson	Academic Exhibition, Art Exhibition
Ruby Dean	Sports Scholarship
Summer Hardy	Headmistress' Scholarship
Tacita Rhys Williams	Academic Exhibition
Xin Yi (Jessica) Zhang	Art Exhibition
Yanci (Sophie) Chen	Art Scholarship
Yi Kei (Alisha) Pak	Academic Exhibition
Ying Shan (Abigail) Liang	Academic Scholarship, Art Scholarship
Zara Reeve	Headmistress' Scholarship
Zen Fairhurst	Academic Exhibition, Drama Scholarship
Ziyue Yu	Music Scholarship

LOWER FIFTH	Award(s)
Angelina Morton-Cutt	Drama Scholarship
Lauren Akinluyi	Drama Scholarship
Mi (Mia) Zhou	Music Scholarship
Susannah Wood	Sports Scholarship
Yiming Song	Art Scholarship
Zi Xin (Karlyia) Zhou	Art Scholarship

UPPER FIFTH	Award(s)
Jiayi Zheng	Music Scholarship
Olivia Monckton	Sports Exhibition
Sophie Loftus	Music Scholarship

SIXTH FORM	Award(s)
Alessandra Tydeman	Sports Exhibition
Alexandra Witter	Sports Scholarship
Anna Hall	Music Scholarship
Araminta Plumstead	Sixth Form Scholarship
Clementine McNair Scott	Geraldine James Drama Scholarship
Emilia Shippey	Sports Exhibition
Francesca Rhodes	Sports Scholarship
Jemima Harrison	Sixth Form Scholarship
Jemima Landale	Sports Scholarship
Li Hui (Lily) Lin	Art Scholarship
Pollyanna Pressland	Sports Scholarship
Poppy Scales	Sixth Form Scholarship
Rosalind Wippell	Sixth Form Scholarship
Susanna Brooke	Sports Scholarship
Wan Hei (Victoria) Cho	Sixth Form Exhibition
Yiru (Ruby) Huang	Sixth Form Exhibition

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ABRSM AND TRINITY EXAMINATION RESULTS

Congratulations to all girls who have had success in ABRSM and Trinity music exams this year! The Music Department is very proud of all of you. Special thanks must go to all Visiting Music Teachers who have helped prepare you for your exams.

	Instrument	Grade	Award
Sara (Sally) Niedringhaus	Singing	1	Pass
Anjola Bolodeoku	Piano	2	Pass
Emily Gray	Flute	2	Pass
Ploypailin Bennett	Piano	3	Pass
Freya O'Donohoe	Flute	3	Pass
Sophie Carter	Singing	3	Merit
Jiayi Zheng	Jazz Piano	3	Distinction
Jemima Islam	Singing	4	Pass
Zhihan (Helen) Yang	Piano	4	Merit
Heloise Friedlander	Singing	4	Distinction
Zi Xin (Karlyia) Zhou	Theory	5	Pass
Lan (Lydia) Zhang	Singing	5	Pass
Georgina Dawson	Cello	5	Pass
Honor McNair Scott	Violin	5	Pass
Saskia Dale	Singing	5	Pass
Lauren Akinluyi	Theory	5	Pass
Beier (Sissi) Xi	Theory	5	Pass
Louise de Riquet de Caraman Chimay	Theory	5	Pass
Molly Tribe	Theory	5	Pass
Lan (Lydia) Zhang	Clarinet	5	Merit
Zi Xin (Karlyia) Zhou	Singing	5	Merit
Isabella Hudson	Theory	5	Merit
Rosie Phillips	Theory	5	Merit
Mathilda Singer	Theory	5	Merit
Honor Mathews	Theory	5	Merit
Yan Lam (Emily) Lau	Clarinet	5	Distinction
Xiaoheng (Lucy) Li	Theory	5	Distinction

	Instrument	Grade	Award
Le (Joanne) Yu	Theory	5	Distinction
Airlie Fleming	Singing	6	Pass
Catherine Nicol	Violin	6	Pass
Eloise Kirkby	Violin	6	Pass
Amelie Mandic-Tyler	Singing	6	Merit
Gardiner Hunt	Singing	7	Merit
Ailin (Rachel) Zhang	Singing	7	Merit
Lisa Lotte Scheuner	Singing	7	Distinction
Cheuk Wah Sara Lee	Cello	7	Distinction
Kylie Chan	Viola	7	Merit
Molly Dewar	Piano	8	Pass
Charlotte Nicholson	Alto Saxophone	8	Pass
Zoe Carruthers	Singing	8	Pass
Tara Farquhar	Singing	8	Merit
Dayeon Go	Piano	8	Merit
Lan (Lydia) Zhang	Piano	8	Merit
Alexandra Hamilton	Tuba	8	Merit
Imogen Fowler	Clarinet	8	Merit
Anna Hall	Clarinet	8	Distinction
Rosalind Wippell	Singing	8	Distinction
Antonia McClintock	Cello	8	Distinction
Olivia McClintock	Bassoon	8	Distinction
Mathilde Hughes	Singing	ARSM	Pass
Anna Hall	Singing	ARSM	Pass
Yan Lam (Emily) Lau	Violin	ARSM	Distinction
Eliza Inglis	Flute	ARSM	Distinction
Chenxi (Thalia) Li	Violin	ARSM	Distinction

MUSIC COLOURS

Music Colours are to recognise girls who show exceptional commitment to ensembles and contribute significantly to the musical life of the School. There are three types of Music Colours. There are Lower School Music Colours for girls in Remove and Lower Fourth. Upper School Music Colours for girls in Upper Fourth to Upper Fifth. The highest Music Colours are to be called the Barbirolli Music Colours. These colours are for girls in the Sixth Form. It is possible for girls lower down the School to be awarded the Barbirolli Music Colours, but this will be wholly exceptional.

Miss Susan Holmes, Principal Accompanist

Lower School Music Colours (Bronze)

Remove – Lucinda Boucher, Charlotte Foulkes, Liberty Spry, Amelia Hicks, Chantelle Eveleigh, Kathy Chan, Maria Taraban, Pearl (Ivie) Avwenagha, Josephine Cull, Polly Fowler, Alice Gilchrist, Hao Yun (Hedy) Jiang, Dominica Prentice, Anna Monckton, Anna Stopford

Lower Fourth – Emilia Lim, Yuchen (Rebecca) Gao, Anjola Bolodeoku

Upper School Music Colours (Silver)

Upper Fourth – Camilla Hale, Olivia McClintock, Jocelyn Yue, Ada Ambrose, Kai Yuk Kianna Tsui, Georgina Boucher, Kimberly Gan, Eloise Kirkby, Clementine Ridley, Melissa Rosie Hulse, Shiloh Akintaju, Yi Zhuo (Sophia) Liu, Charlotte Mackinnon, Ziyue Yu

Lower Fifth – Lan (Lydia) Zhang, Ziqi (Jade) Fang, Gabrielle Tan, Sayuri Shukawa

Upper Fifth – Eleanor Gibbs

Barbirolli Music Colours (Gold)

Upper Fifth – Marina Pownall, Antonia McClintock, Sophie Loftus, Alice Perntaller

Lower Sixth – Rosalind Wippell, Poppy Scales, Gardiner Hunt, Le (Joanne) Yu, Yiru (Ruby) Huang, Jantaluck (Kelly) Bhanarai, Lisa Lotte Scheuner

UPPER SCHOOL POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

AISHOLT			
Head of House	Emily Manners		
Deputy Head(s) of House	Daisy West, Charlotte Nicholson		
Prefects	Amelie Furse, Lily Mathews, Anjolaoluwa Omotola, Tun Yin (Angie) Wong, Kunyi (Shirley) Song, Francesca Rhodes		
LV Games Captain(s)	Cléo Dutertre-Delaunay, Lauren Akinluyi, Ka Yuet (Sophia) Chan, Willow Wilkinson		
Charity Rep(s)	Amelia (Mimi) Fernie, Ebunlola Oyegunle		
Global Rep(s)	Lilias Hoare Nairne, Annabel Munnelly		
House Music Director(s)	Amelie Furse, Morgan Kandrac, Ruiqi (Rachel) Wang		
House Dance Choreographer(s)	Lily Mathews, Anjolaoluwa Omotola		
House Drama Producer(s)	Poppy Scales, Saskia Mactaggart, Constance Pope, Sappho Novatin		
Literature Rep(s)	Ploypailin Bennett, Longwen (Vivi) Lei		
	Michaelmas Term	Lent Term	Summer Term
Shadow Heads of House	India Hinds, Lara Harries	Cheuk Yu (Queenie) Wong, Annabel Lawson	Mathilda Singer, Patrawaran (Teal) Uahwatasakul
LV Reps	Lauren Akinluyi, Ka Yuet (Sophia) Chan	Jamie Ojo, Cléo Dutertre-Delaunay	Ella Clegg, Willow Wilkinson
UIV Reps	Tundun Are, Onicha (Aimee) Chansue	Juliette Bale, Summer Hardy	Sophie Scott, Araminta Hervey
AGN			
Head of House	Fenella Bowlby		
Deputy Head(s) of House	Imogen Webber, Arabella Woo		
Prefects	Chioma Emenike, Emily Harrow, Araminta Plumstead, Ellen (Nellie) Gawne, Beatrice Weaver, Olivia Jackson		
Charity Rep(s)	Louisa Healey, Taizya Adedeji		
House Music Director(s)	Beatrice Weaver, Lisa Lotte Scheuner, Gardiner Hunt		
House Dance Choreographer(s)	Chioma Emenike, Yitong Qiu, Francesca Horton		
House Gymnastics Captain(s)	Yaashna Shourie, Yan Lam (Emily) Lau, Sayuri Shukawa, Taizya Adedeji		
House Drama Producer(s)	Chioma Emenike		
House Drama Director(s)	Olivia Jackson, Araminta Plumstead		
House Drama Assistant Director(s)	Ellen (Nellie) Gawne, Saskia Abou-Khater Robbiati		
	Michaelmas Term	Lent Term	Summer Term
Shadow Heads of House	Mia Viventi, Gwyneth Choi	Rosie Montague, Heloise Friedlander	Tilly Bridgeman, Sui Ying (Ashley) Tsoi
LV Reps	Yaashna Shourie, Fara Akinkugbe	Hyojin (Angela) Joo, Neha Gill	Katie Lam, Sayuri Shukawa
UIV Reps	Georgina Jackson, Eliza Irving	Aimee Wilson, Theodora Gatley Limata	Isabelle Ashworth, Emilie Booth
AGS			
Head of House	Emma Bracken		
Deputy Head(s) of House	Clementine Pemberton and Annabel Le Grice		
Prefects	Hope Thistlethwayte, Jemima Harrison, Emily Glover, Le (Joanne) Yu, Saskia Dale, Trinity Glover		
House Music Director	Le (Joanne) Yu and Wan Hei (Victoria) Cho		
House Dance Choreographer(s)	Jemima Harrison, Florence Hack and Clementine Pemberton		
House Gymnastics Captain(s)	Cora Green, Isabel Davenport, Isobel (Izzie) Peddie, Miranda Tromans		
House Drama Producer(s)	Jemima Harrison		
House Drama Director(s)	Clementine McNair Scott and Antonia Holloway		
Literature Rep(s)	Cheuk Wah Sara Lee		
	Michaelmas Term	Lent Term	Summer Term
Shadow Heads of House	Théa Hawtin, Madeleine (Maddi) Hales	Hoi Yiu (Danna) Cheung, Phoebe Whiting	Ceara Bastin, Alice Pernthaller
LV Reps	Cheuk Wah Sara Lee, Isabel Davenport	Dayeon Go, Hongcan (Sarah) Gu	Chinweotuto Otti, Linlin Chi
UIV Reps	Honor McNair Scott, Jocelyn Yue	Yi Kei (Alisha) Pak, Freya O'Donohoe	Emilia Finney, Olga Monteverde Lopez de Vera Vera

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HOLCOMBE			
Head of House	Jessica Chapman		
Deputy Head(s) of House	Georgia Allison, Arella Szlapak		
Prefects	Toluwase Augusto, Alexandra Hamilton, Elsa Karoly, Tabitha Kendall, Chisengo (Elizabeth) Lukama, Matilda McDougall		
LVI Games Captain(s)	Anna Neville		
House Music Director(s)	Alexandra Hamilton		
House Drama Producer(s)	Chisengo (Elizabeth) Lukama, Rosalind Wippell		
	Michaelmas Term	Lent Term	Summer Term
Shadow Heads of House	Jiwon Moon, Lauren Raeburn-Ward	Antonia McClintock, Tilly Gibbens	Vasilisa Borovskaya, Sophie Kelly
LV Reps	Catherine Skipworth, Clara Dutertre-Delaunay	Rosie Moore, Hermione Heseltine	Cordelia Reeve, Sienna Jones
UIV Reps	Zara Reeve, Venetia Knight	Kimberly Gan, Clementine Ridley	Emily Sideso, Emily Phillips
TEDWORTH			
Head of House	Abriella Dolbear		
Deputy Head(s) of House	Anouk Davies, Emily Carpmael		
Prefects	Jemima Landale, Emelia Shippey, Susanna Brooke, Romilly Cox, Molly Dubens, Tosin Adepaju		
LVI Games Captain(s)	Jemima Landale, Susanna Brooke		
LV Games Captain(s)	Susannah Wood, India Sparrow		
Charity Rep(s)	Mary Hazlitt, Thea Davies		
Global Rep(s)	Gabrielle Tan, Konstanza Haefner		
House Music Director(s)	Christina Elliot, Romilly Cox		
House Drama Producer(s)	Susanna Brooke		
House Drama Director(s)	Christina Elliot		
House Drama Assistant Director(s)	Jemima Landale, Alexandra Witter		
	Michaelmas Term	Lent Term	Summer Term
Shadow Heads of House	Honor Mathews	Georgia Biggs, Matilda (Tilly) Wilkinson	Eleanor Gibbs, Nga Man Cheng
LV Reps	Thea Davies, Susannah Wood	Eliza McCullough, Motunrayo Morinsola Adeniji	Susannah Wood, Agnes Rose
UIV Reps	Katya Longden, Hannah Knight	Ruby Dean, Ella Snow	Sonya Leong, Cecilia Stone

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WELCOME NEW GIRLS

We were delighted that the following girls joined the Downe House community during the academic year 2019-20.

REMOVE	Joined us from
Charlotte Foulkes	Devonshire House Preparatory School
Rosamund Harris	Thomas's Fulham
Alexa Nash	Rupert House School
Alice Gilchrist	Thomas's Fulham
Sasha Novis	Pembridge Hall
Polly Fowler	Unicorn School
Cosima Islef	Lambrook
Josephine Cull	Notting Hill Preparatory School
Cheuk-Yi (Cherie) Lau	Yew Chung International School
Alexia Cheuk	St Pauls Co-Educational College Primary School Hong Kong
Liberty Spry	Broomwood Hall
Islay Leslie	Norland Place School
Pascale Ashley	Godstowe Preparatory School
Niamh Planner	Marlston House School
Jemima McDougall	Farleigh School
Charlotte Evans	Marlston House School
Lucinda Boucher	Thomas's Fulham
Sophia Cork	Maltman's Green School
Maria Taraban	Prince's Mead School
Tabatha Ridley	Putney High Junior School
Amelia Hicks	Amesbury School
India Evans	Orchard House School
Dominica Prentice	North London Collegiate School
Imogen Thompson	Prince's Mead School
Poppy Pilkington	Broomwood Hall
Anna Stopford	Wimbledon High School
Lily Colville	Pembridge Hall
Georgia Ainscough	Bolton School
Alishba Mahmood	Dharan British Grammar School
Yan Tung Cecilia Hon	ISF Academy Hong Kong
Vernados Lin	Discovery College, Hong Kong
Scarlett Hayes	Kensington Prep School
Annabel Reeve	Marlston House School
Zhi Yu Tiffany Cheong	ISF Academy Hong Kong
Esmee Haefner	Armour of God Academy
Eloise Minson	Thomas's Fulham
Sophie Lambourne	High March School
Natalie Sideso	Marlston House School
Mia Corbett	St Piran's Prep School
Joline Lam	Harrow International School Hong Kong
Ada Kurumlu	Dragon School
Anna Monckton	Marlston House School
Sophia Fergusson	Hurlingham School
Madeleine van den Berg	Hill House International School

Tomi Olunuga	North London Collegiate School
Tabitha Brewer	Ashdown House
Sophia Zhu	Beijing City International School
Dong Jin (Iris) Xie	Eaton Square School (Kensington)
Amelia Whitbread	Sandroyd School
Kathy Chan	Diocesan Girls' Junior School
Dhyaana Shourie	St George's School Windsor
Yun Qiao (Melody) Wang	United World College of South East Asia
Emily Regis	Finton House School
Hao Yun (Hedy) Jiang	Daneshill School
Felicity Harris	Old Vicarage School
Pearl (Ivie) Avwenagha	St Helen's School, Northwood
Martina Monteverde	Marlston House School
Lopez de Vera Vera	
LOWER FOURTH	Joined us from
Tanaya Budhwani	German Swiss International School
Blanca Laidler	Convent of the Sacred Heart
Chantelle Eveleigh	Dulwich College Shanghai
Hao Yan (Helena) Yuan	Queen Ethelberga's College
Yuchen (Rebecca) Gao	Nord Anglia International School Hong Kong
Cecily Brown	Godstowe Preparatory School
Kikiope Olusola	British International School of Nigeria
Muna Ubosi	British International School of Nigeria
UPPER FOURTH	Joined us from
Katya Longden	Hanford School
Rachel Raeburn-Ward	Marlston House School
Leila Magner	Queen Anne's School
Olga Monteverde	Marlston House School
Lopez de Vera Vera	
Venetia Knight	Heathfield School
Hanzhu (Jenny) Zhang	Dulwich College Beijing
Sion Ovbiebo	Children's International School (Nigeria)
Anjola Adeniji	Children's International School (Nigeria)
Cassiana Bennett	ABA Oman International School
Joann (Minkey) Koo	The British Prep (Gangnam House)
Xinrui (Sherry) Chen	The King's School
Kai Yuk Kianna Tsui	Holy Family Canossian College
Annabel Munnely	Marlston House School
Onicha (Aimee) Chansue	Dragon School
Claribelle Cheng	Children's International School (Nigeria)
Janice Li	Diocesan Girls' School
Ziyue Yu	St Margaret's School, Bushey
Xin Yi (Jessica) Zhang	Wellesley House

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Hannah Hussain	Alice Smith School
Shiloh Akintaju	Orwell Park School
Ziyue (Carol) Chen	ISF Academy Hong Kong
Kimberly Gan	ISF Academy Hong Kong
Juliette Bale	St Michael's Prep School
Mimi Thistlethwayte	Farleigh School
Zara Reeve	Cheam School
Fleur Williams	Lambrook
Katie Beeson	Marlston House School
Melissa Rosie Hulse	Marlston House School
Charlotte Absolom	Marlston House School
Summer Hardy	Marlston House School
Freya O'Donohoe	Cheam School
Zen Fairhurst	Marlston House School

Tacita Rhys Williams	Francis Holland School, Regents Park
Charlotte Mackinnon	Kitebrook Preparatory School
Isabelle Ashworth	The Banda School
LOWER FIFTH Joined us from	
Longwen (Vivi) Lei	Beijing City International School
Yushan Zhang	Yunnan University Secondary School, Yieryi Campus
LOWER SIXTH Joined us from	
Yitong (Carrie) Chen	Shanghai United International School, Pudong Campus
Poppy Penney	Epsom College
Aima Ruth Horatio-Jones	College Maafir Foundation
Chloe Holbrook	Francis Holland School
Tanisha Doshi	Peponi School



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Moving On





MRS PAULA BELL
Director of Pupil Progress

Paula transformed Learning Skills into a department addressing wider pupil progress and incorporating Study Skills, EAL and the Outstanding Able programmes. She has mentored staff, been the most phenomenal tutor and led her department with aplomb. Her calm manner, experience and wisdom have benefited staff and girls alike. The girls in her care have been taught by the best SENCO I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and she has been selfless in giving the girls her time to guide and support them with fantastic results. Never one for seeing anything as 'good enough', Paula fully embraced our move to Microsoft Showcase School status. She took an innovative approach to teaching and learning, being an early adopter in integrating technology into teaching, not only in her department but across other areas too. I am greatly appreciative of Paula's willingness to always do the very best for the girls. I will very much miss working with her and wish her all the very best in her new venture and her retirement.

Mrs Areti Bizior,
Deputy Headmistress



MRS ARETI BIZIOR
Deputy Headmistress

What wonderful news for Areti and how thoroughly well-deserved to be appointed as the Head of Luckley House School. Since joining Downe House in April 2013 she has made a significant and positive impact on the lives of colleagues and girls. Areti is a natural teacher who communicates well with girls of all ages and maintains a very relaxed but purposeful and positive atmosphere in the classroom. Her students know that she has their best interests at heart and she gives of her time very generously outside the classroom to offer support as needed. As a tutor too, she was outstanding and tutorials could last anything from ten minutes to an hour depending on need with plenty of laughter to be heard from behind the door! Her tutees were clear that she would both challenge them and support them fully.

As a member of our Leadership Team, she was thoughtful, positive and always came to all the School events, not because she had to, but because she genuinely enjoyed them. Her commitment to ensuring that Downe House had a digital strategy that was the envy of others is perhaps one of the greatest legacies that she leaves behind. She showed extraordinary vision and tenacity and how grateful we have all been in recent months!

Her contribution as an Inspector preparing the School for inspection must not be forgotten and nor must the support that she gave to her Heads of Department, the way in which she managed the Examinations Department and also her leadership of our staff training. Most of all, I am grateful to her for the total professionalism

that she always showed, the good humour with which she approached situations and above all the love and commitment she showed to the girls in our care. It has been my privilege to work with her and I wish her much success and happiness in the years ahead.

Mrs Emma McKendrick,
Headmistress



MR AMIN BOUDIBA,
Teacher of French

When Amin Boudiba came for interview, he was an instant hit with the Lower Sixth girls he taught, and it was clear that he knew how to teach a good lesson. Taking over classes mid-year is no mean feat and yet Amin, despite being new to teaching, settled to this task with ease. This is undeniably because of his professional approach, his eagerness to do well and his excellent work ethic. It is fair to say that Amin has been a popular teacher with his classes, and not only have the girls learnt well in his lessons, they have also built an excellent rapport with him. The girls and everyone in the Department will miss Amin and we wish him all the best as he heads off to a part of the country where he can enjoy the hill walking he has missed so much.

Mrs Jane Basnett,
Head of Modern Languages





MR GARETH BOWER, Head of ICT and Digital Strategy

Gareth Bower has not only contributed to teaching and learning within the Computing and IT Department, but also to the wider Digital Strategy at Downe House. In the classroom, he introduced the Imagine Academy and the goal of taking official Microsoft examinations. He also launched GCSE Computing, which is now a growing and popular subject.

This year saw the appointment of the first Digital Leaders, another of Gareth's initiatives. His belief that the girls are not only able to help themselves resolve technical issues but that they are also capable of supporting others, is testament to his forward-thinking approach to teaching and learning and I look forward to seeing the way in which the girls take on this challenge.

As one of our very first MIEEs, he certainly did set the tone for some fantastic developments in our use of technology in the classroom. His experience in the commercial world provided added insight for staff and girls alike regarding the ways in which technology is implemented and managed in a business environment. I wish Gareth well in his new role as Head of Digital Learning at St Joseph's College.

Mrs Areti Bizior,
Deputy Headmistress



MRS FRANKIE CAPPS, Darwin Housemistress and Teacher of PE

I believe that it takes a very special person to be a Housemistress successfully for 21 years but Frankie's love of and commitment to young people meant that she was one of the rare people able to do so and there are many generations of girls and families who are grateful for the care that she gave to them.

Frankie always believed in the best in young people. Her guidance for families starting at Downe was always spot on – practical, thoughtful and with a firmness that allowed everyone to have a sense of security and feel safe. She expected the highest standards of behaviour from the girls, fought passionately on their behalf to ensure that they had everything they needed and the right level of support across the School, never lost sight of the privilege that it was to look after boarders, and she simply enjoyed their company.

As well as the pastoral care that she provided, Frankie was also a great support in the PE Department where she shared her particular passion for lacrosse. She was in charge of the weekend activities for the Lower School for a period and also set up and administered the Wakefield Award, something that is a key facet of Lower School life now and encourages girls to stretch themselves in a variety of different ways and contribute to the wider community.

Most of all however, Frankie will be remembered for being such a professional and dedicated colleague whose dedication to bringing out the best in those in her care was a hallmark of her time with us. She was an excellent contributor to debate because she cared and was always looking for ways to improve right up to the last term. Downe House has been the richer for her considerable contribution and I would like to thank her for everything that she did and to wish her and Alan a long and happy retirement together.

Mrs Emma McKendrick,
Headmistress



MRS FRANCES BROWN, Teacher of Learning Skills

Frances has been a hugely valued member of the Learning Skills Department for seven and a half years. She has been dedicated to supporting the girls in her care and unstintingly gave her time to ensure that they achieved success in every aspect of their learning. As a strong team player, Frances gained huge satisfaction from working closely with her colleagues, and she has been instrumental in setting up a number of initiatives to benefit all the girls within the department. She will be sorely missed and leaves a legacy of kindness, professionalism and expertise which has made a tangible difference to many girls at Downe House.

Frances plans to engage in charity work and to pursue her love of art history during her retirement. The Learning Skills Department would like to wish her a happy and rewarding retirement, and to offer collective thanks for her friendship, warmth of personality and unflinching good humour, which has made our contact with her so enjoyable and highly appreciated.

Mrs Paula Bell,
Director of Pupil Progress





MR ELLIOTT DEAN,
Graduate Assistant
Murray Centre

Elliott joined us as the Murray Centre was beginning to take shape and his enthusiasm and hard work in getting things up and running was invaluable. From the beginning, Elliott showed himself to be a team player willing to turn his energies to a variety of different projects and activities. Elliott supported the teaching of ICT in the Lower School during his first year with us and assisted Jenny Hill in the Library. Elliott was always welcoming and helpful to the girls, sharing his own joy of learning and reading with them. Elliott was an undisputed quizmaster and wrote hundreds of questions for the Downe House Challenge. He masterminded a visit from Dr Michael Scott, a hugely successful event and put together our world map of books. A generous and very personable colleague, he leaves us to take up a position with the British Institute in Paris teaching English. We wish him well.

Mrs Philippa Toogood, Assistant Head (Operations)



MRS SHEENA EVES,
Teacher of Maths

Mrs Eves joined the Maths Department at Downe House in September 2008 from Park House School. As Sixth Form Co-ordinator, Mrs Eves successfully led the Department's transition from the modular A Level qualification to Pre-U, and then more recently back to the new linear A Level. Mrs Eves enjoyed the challenge of being a Sixth Form Tutor helping the girls as they prepared for life after Downe House.

Mrs Eves has always been generous with her time, happily seeing girls outside lessons and always encouraging them to do their best, whatever their level of ability. She has been equally generous with her time with colleagues both within the Department and including a period serving on the Common Room Association. I also believe that Mrs Eves has been a willing participant in the staff Christmas pantos!

We wish Mrs Eves all the best for her retirement as she settles into a more relaxed pace of life, spending more time on her hobbies and with her husband and family. She will be much missed.

Mr Robert Barnes,
Head of Mathematics



MRS ISABEL EMBER,
Teacher of Physics

Isabel Ember has only been with us a few years, but it feels as if she has been here far longer. Her deep experience as a teacher and Head of Department, as well as her previous work in Geophysics and IT meant that she could slip into the team and play a very significant part in all aspects of our work from day one. Isabel is a completely natural teacher, able to take on the teaching of several classes mid-course and immediately showed herself to be talented and inspiring as well as thoughtful, patient and very hardworking.

In addition to her teaching and her excellent university and careers advice, Isabel has been running our Physics Olympiad competitions for the last few years and has assisted Mr Smith with the Engineering Education Scheme. We will all miss her greatly and wish her the most excellent retirement!

Mr Matthew Rivers,
Head of Physics





MRS JOHANNE HARRINGTON,
Head of English

We say farewell to the former Head of English and full-time teacher, Mrs Johanne Harrington. Starting in September 2015, she brought with her a wide range of teaching skills and experience. It was Mrs Harrington who oversaw the massive curriculum changes at GCSE and A Level five years ago, tirelessly devising new schemes of work and resources for staff. In the classroom, she will be remembered for her great intellectual capacity, her kindness and, most of all, her ability to see a metaphor in any text or situation! Mrs Harrington has recently moved back to Wales to be near to her family and we wish her all the best in her new ventures.

Mrs Joanne West,
Head of English and Induction Tutor



DR ANDREA HARRIS,
Part-time History of Art
Teacher

We say a fond farewell to Andrea Harris, who couldn't do enough for the Lower Sixth Art Historians, bringing great care and reassurance to the girls as they began their studies. She was a dedicated teacher with a good sense of fun and she cared immeasurably about supporting the girls' progress. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

Ms Diana Slocombe,
Teacher of History of Art



MRS CHARLOTTE HARTLEY,
Teacher of DT

We have greatly valued Mrs Hartley's contribution to the department and her skills and expertise in designing and making. The girls in the Lower School have really enjoyed and been inspired by her lessons. Her exam groups have greatly benefited from her clear instructions and good-humoured teaching. Mrs Hartley has been an effective role model (in a traditionally male-dominated subject area) and numbers for GCSE and A Level have steadily grown in tandem with increasingly excellent exam results. Mrs Hartley has encouraged many girls towards Higher Education courses and careers in the design field. She has been active in organising visiting speakers and extra-curricular events. Mrs Hartley has also been an Upper School Tutor and a valued member of Tedworth House. Over the last few years, she has developed her interest in hypnotherapy and wellbeing, and has decided to embark on a new challenge by becoming self-employed in this field. We wish her all the very best for her new venture.

Mr Iain Kent,
IC / Product Design



MRS KERRY IRONS,
Teacher of Food
Technology

Mrs Irons joined the Design Technology Department three years ago on a part-time basis while still working at Claires Court in Maidenhead. She taught Food Technology to the Lower School girls and LEITHS to the Sixth Form. Mrs Irons executed her duties with much kindness, care and warmth while ensuring that the girls achieved good quality outcomes in all lessons. The girls have appreciated her patience and support especially with the more advanced practical skills and techniques that the LEITHS course demands. She has made valuable and much appreciated contributions to the Design Technology Department and supported the Co-Curricular team by running weekend cookery activities. On behalf of the girls, the DT team and all at Downe, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Kerry Irons and wish her well, as she will now be teaching full time in Maidenhead.

Miss Seema Singh,
Head of Design Technology





MADAME LOUISE LAMERET,
Deputy Head of Veyrines

When one thinks of Veyrines, one often thinks of Louise as she has been a consistent member of the team, almost from the beginning. She started at Downe House in Cold Ash where she spent her induction period learning about the School and how the pastoral and boarding side was managed. She quickly adapted to life in Veyrines and has been one of the finest Deputy Heads for which one could ever hope. She served under a variety of Heads, all with different styles and strengths, and yet each one of them had nothing but the highest praise for the way in which she helped and supported them. She was always highly committed, extremely professional and quite simply exceptionally good at her job.

As a teacher in the classroom, she was excellent. She was a tremendous linguist who enjoyed sharing her love of the language with the girls. She was thoughtful, challenging and supportive of the girls and also extremely adaptable. She gave of her best and expected the same from the girls who willingly gave it. She encouraged the use of French at every opportunity and was an excellent support to the teaching staff. She thoroughly enjoyed being with the girls and they could sense this. Whether in the classroom, on an activity or in the boarding house, her calm and reassuring presence ensured that girls felt safe and secure. She had just the right blend of compassion and firmness and was there at any time of the day or night for the girls should they need her.

The level of knowledge that Louise built up over her years in post was extensive and she shared it willingly with everyone. She enjoyed extremely positive relationships with the local community, had a very good

knowledge and understanding of the rules and regulations that were required by the local authorities and was extremely resourceful at finding out the answers to questions about all manner of things especially if they were not obvious or to hand. As a manager, she was supportive, showed a genuine interest in the lives of all those who worked at Veyrines and did her very best to support them in whatever role they undertook.

Louise was quite simply a significant jewel in the Veyrines crown, and I thank her wholeheartedly for everything that she has given to generations of girls and wish her nothing but the best for the future.

Mrs Emma McKendrick,
Headmistress



DR SAMANTHA MANNING,
Teacher of Biology

Dr Sam Manning joined us in September 2019 but her infectious enthusiasm, excellent sense of humour, supportive and hard-working nature make it feel like she was with Team Biology for much longer than just a year. She quickly built an excellent relationship with all her classes and with her colleagues this year and will be very much missed by teachers and pupils alike. The Science Department will also miss her excellent baking skills! Dr Manning was SO disappointed to say farewell to her groups via a screen but so it had to be. She is moving on to a role at Reading Blue Coat School but says she will miss us all greatly. The significant decrease in her commute time was the deciding factor - giving her more time to spend with her husband and on training for her first Ironman next summer. Go Dr Manning and thank you for everything you did for us!

Mrs Nadine de Chazal,
Teacher of Biology



MR ALEX PERDIKIS,
Head of French

There has only ever been one interview lesson where the girls applauded the interviewee at the end of the lesson and that was when Alex Perdikis came for interview. This lesson set the tone for the rest of Alex's time here as Head of French as he demonstrated his great passion for teaching and for leading his team with integrity. He has delighted in sharing his love of salsa with everyone, most noticeably at the Staff Panto. Indeed, fun and Alex go together, and I will miss the laughter that filled the staff office in Garden House as Alex recounted yet another funny story. Alex is going to teach in London seeking new challenges and a change of scenery. I have no doubt that he will support his team and his pupils in the same way as he did here. Alex, we will really miss you in the Modern Languages Department and hope that you enjoy your new role.

Mrs Jane Basnett,
Head of Modern Languages





MRS DEBORAH AND MR IAN SCOTLAND, Directrice de Veyrines and Administrator

Deb took over the running of Veyrines seven years ago with the support of her husband, Iain who took up the role of the Administrator. Veyrines proved to be in very safe hands! It was clear from first meeting Deb that she was a gifted teacher and that was borne out in the way in which she approached the language teaching and the management of the curriculum. She was ambitious for the girls and wanted to ensure that they really developed academically during their time with her. She believed strongly that the time spent in France was a unique opportunity to learn more about the language and culture of France. She ensured a rigour in the teaching and learning which took place and so ensured that all girls made real progress. The journals that the girls wrote – a lifelong reminder of this very special term for them – provide perfect proof of this. She was creative in the classroom, fun, supportive and demanding. Her lesson planning was meticulous and always had the needs of each of the girls in her class in mind.

Although Deb was new to residential work when she started at Veyrines, she was quite simply a natural pastoral leader. Deb loves young people, believes that they are capable of more than they often believe, has a wonderful sense of humour and no-one could be in any doubt that she had each girl's best interests at heart. Her honesty, firmness and fairness earned her great respect amongst the pupils and their families.

It was to Deb's great credit that she built very strong links with the local community and the girls benefited from many of the contacts that she made. As a leader of her team, she cared deeply about her staff and that was very much evident in the final months when the School was closing, and the global pandemic made this particularly challenging. She wanted to be there for them and was, without forgetting the needs of the pupils in her care too.

Running what is effectively a separate school in rural France is not an easy task! It requires great flexibility, a willingness to do any task required – cooking breakfast for 25, emergency visits to the hospital and even relocating the whole school when the sewage pump broke! Deb did all this and much more with great pragmatism and care.



It is no surprise that Iain played a key part in supporting Deb in this practical work as well as managing the administration and so much more. It would be easy to

underestimate the value of his calm and steadfast support but there is no doubt that his contribution made a significant difference. As well as managing many of the bursarial tasks, Iain made all of the travel arrangements for the girls, oversaw the improvements to the fabric of the building, most notably the bathroom upgrades, and turned his hand to anything where there was a need, whether that was helping a pupil with Maths or driving a minibus. His enjoyment of the company of young people was clear and they appreciated his consistent approach, his dry humour and his obvious support of all their endeavours.

Deb and Iain always provided a warm welcome for all those visiting whether they were parents, grandparents, colleagues or members of the local community. They managed to make



Veyrines both a place of learning and development as well as a home and it was a great sadness to them and to us that the global pandemic meant that everything that they had achieved and everything that Veyrines had meant to generations of girls, could not be celebrated and marked in their final term as was hoped. They should be in no doubt however, that the impact that they had on the lives of the girls will live on for many years to come. I thank them for all that they achieved and wish them all the very best for the future.

Mrs Emma McKendrick, Headmistress



SALLY SCOTT, Head of Art

I first met Sally Scott when I visited Downe House just before taking up my post 24 years ago. It was Music Weekend, the forerunner to Founder's Weekend, and I was walking round the displays in the Art Room. What struck me immediately was her absolute passion for Art and the huge pride that she rightly had in the girls' work. The creativity and quality in the display were clearly evident. I consider myself to have been very fortunate to have had Sally as Head of Art since then.

Sally has a natural affinity with young people, enjoys their company and wants them to achieve their very best. She built up an Art Department that is the envy of many, bringing together staff who had the same commitment to develop girls' creativity as she did. She believed very strongly that all girls should have a broad artistic experience but that they should all have a strong understanding of the fundamental skills of Fine Art that would stand them in good stead whatever

direction they chose to take their art in in the future. She had just the right touch in the classroom where the atmosphere was relaxed but purposeful and her students all had the utmost respect for her. They knew that she had their best interests at heart, and she would give generously of her time outside the classroom.

The Art Department grew to include Photography and History of Art during her tenure and the Department was certainly the richer for it. She also developed an excellent Art Scholars' Programme, including residential trips and the profile of the Department has grown considerably within and outside the School. The numbers of girls going to top Higher Education Art Departments has been extremely impressive and of course we have all been enriched by the work that she has inspired.

Sally will also be remembered as a wonderful tutor – positive and caring – a loyal supporter of AGS and a really committed Head of the Upper Fourth year when that role was part of the School structure. She was a wonderful manager and leader of her Department, a highly committed and loyal colleague with a wonderful sense of fun and humour. I wish her all the very best for her retirement. She should be in no doubt about the amount that she has given to the life of the School.

Mrs Emma McKendrick,
Headmistress



DR JUDITH SKINNER, Teacher of Biology

Dr Judith Skinner joined us in September 2015 as a full time Biology teacher. Her academic experience in research labs before she went into teaching gave her A Level lessons that extra twist and challenge, making them even more interesting for her pupils. She will also be remembered by pupils for the way she chose to teach some topics, like photosynthesis, by making them into fun songs and was also known to occasionally illustrate some concepts using her unusual crochet skills! We have Judith to thank for the very interesting and informative question and answer sessions hosted virtually by her husband, Dr Mike Skinner (world-renowned virologist, lecturer and research scientist at Imperial College). Judith's wonderful sense of humour and dedication to the job made her an excellent and fun colleague; we will miss her very much but wish her all the best for her well-earned retirement.

Mrs Nadine de Chazel,
Teacher of Biology



MISS ANIKA THOMAS, Graduate Pastoral Assistant (Hermitage)

Anika joined Hermitage in September 2018 as our Graduate Pastoral Assistant. Her bubbly personality and endless creativity quickly saw her become a valued and much-loved member of our Lower School team. Anika loved organising fun activities including arts and crafts, teaching our girls to sew and lots of baking. She encouraged the girls to read often and helped them to explore the world of literature in the Murray Centre library. Anika also organised storytelling workshops with different year groups, contributing to their Wakefield Award. Anika very much enjoyed her role as a tutor, guiding and nurturing several Remove girls. She also loved attending the socials with Elstree and Ludgrove and became our resident Quiz Master at Lower School events. We are delighted that Anika is joining the teaching profession and working with the Christian charity, Transforming Lives for Good. We hope she will visit Hermitage again soon!

Mrs Kim Collingwood,
Housemistress (Hermitage),
Teacher of PE



MRS ARABELLA WISE,
AGN Assistant
Housemistress and
Teacher of French

Mrs Wise was a much loved and valued member of the AGN House team and taught French in the MFL Department. She was always generous with her time and showed compassion and enthusiasm towards everyone in the boarding house. In the classroom, she encouraged the girls to do well and aspire to being the best they could be. Mrs Wise approached situations with a smile and a can-do attitude that the girls valued. Her relationships were based on kindness and understanding, and we will miss her great warmth. She will be remembered by staff and parents alike for her willingness to help the girls achieve their best and provide them with every opportunity to flourish. I am very grateful for Mrs Wise's contribution to Upper School life and to AGN particularly. I wish her and her family every happiness and success in their endeavours in the future.

Mrs Anna Dourountakis, Head of Upper School



MR ROSS WISE,
Teacher of History and
Politics, Head of Academic
Scholars and Enrichment

Ross has worked with professionalism and dedication to support the Academic Scholars. He has been instrumental in organising a wide range of events and trips to ensure a varied and enjoyable programme for those girls in his care. He gives unstintingly of his time and goes to great lengths to plan activities, which are highly organised, interesting and worthwhile for the girls. He has successfully developed the provision for Academic Scholars and taught extensively within the English, History and Politics Departments, making a significant impact on many key areas within Downe House.

As a colleague, Ross has been a valued member of the staff body, known for his open, friendly manner and willingness to support colleagues and work collaboratively. We would like to wish him success and happiness at Bedford School where he will teach History and Politics, two subjects he is passionately interested in.

Mrs Paula Bell,
Director of Pupil Progress



School Officers 2019/20

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Cecelia Kane

DEPUTY HEAD SENIOR

Esther (Dara) Bolodeoku

SENIORS

Catharina Benigni

Jessica Hayward-Cole

Georgia Hewitson

Isabella Jones

Honor Stephens

Melissa Farquhar

Florence Fanshawe

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AISHOLT

Trinity Hill Head

Georgina Pollock Deputy Head

Sophie Bott Deputy Head

AGN

Sophie Elliot Head

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AGS

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Imogen Gregory Deputy Head

Davina Drummond Deputy Head

HOLCOMBE

Iman Khalil Head

Lucy Dyer Deputy Head

Tae-Chan Ellis Deputy Head

TEDWORTH

Shalayna Assani Head

Calypso Cox Deputy Head

Charlotte (Lottie) Zeal Deputy Head

HEAD CHAPEL SENIOR

Soraya Koshoni

Naomi Egoh

GAMES CAPTAINS

Amelia Hughes Captain

Claudia Kandel Deputy

HEAD OF DRAMA (inc SPEECH AND DRAMA)

Elizabeth (Torera) Bolodeoku

Rosie Blackburn

HEAD OF CREATIVE ARTS

Kirsty Depledge

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

Andreja Mirosevic-Sorgo

Storm Halestrap

HEAD OF MUSIC

Katie Hackman

DEPUTY HEAD OF MUSIC

Lauren Dunn

HEAD AMBASSADORS

Amelia Smith

Elizabeth (Torera) Bolodeoku

AMBASSADORS

Cosima Davies

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Chee Sum (Tiffany) Lai

Torpad (Yok) Rungjerdfa

Yian (Annabel) Shi

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Hoi Laam (Karis) Cheung

Oluchi Emenike

Christabel Graham

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Maya Huby

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

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Natthida (Genie) Chuankajornpong

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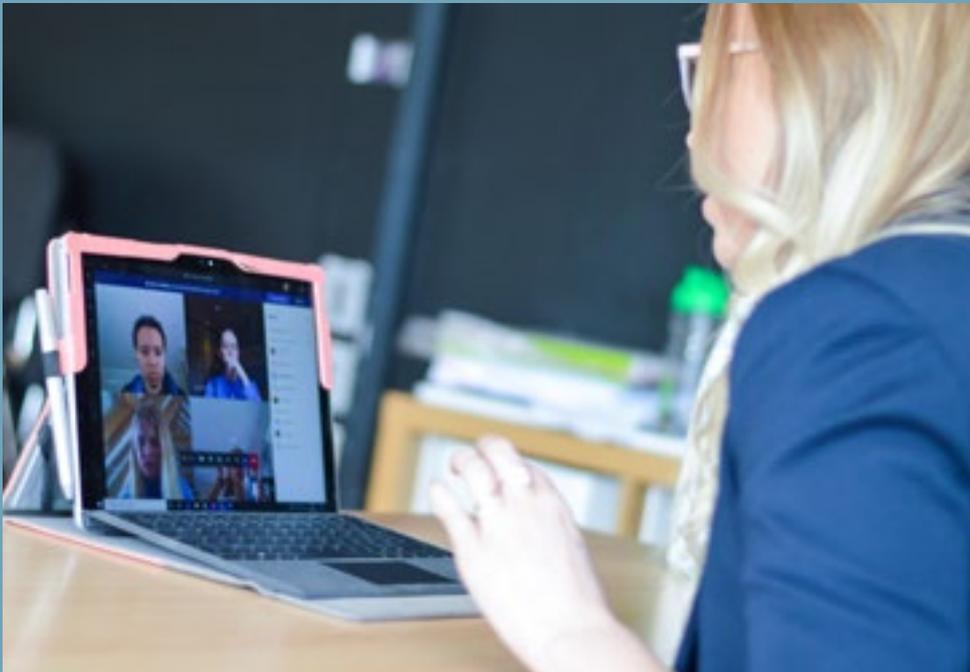
ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADOR

Sabrina Sambhi





Downe House



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