

The Judd School

Headteacher's | Newsletter



HAPPY SPRINGTIME!

I would have liked to start this with Happy Easter, but a little later than planned, please find in this newsletter a round up of all the school's achievements since the Christmas newsletter. As our year 11 and 13 students head off for their summer exams let me wish them all the very best of luck and I look forward to sharing their successes with them in August.

Maths Challenge Achievements

Senior Maths Challenge - We had two perfect scores in the Senior Maths Challenge from Freddie Hand and George Byles this year, which was brilliant to see. In total we had 35 gold, 54 silver and 40 bronze certificates; this meant 25 of our great mathematicians could follow on to the Senior Kangaroo and the best 10 to the British Maths Olympiad. Of those ten students we had two students, Rose Blyth and Freddie Hand, carry on to complete the highest paper possible the BMO2, to which only 100 students are invited to complete nationally.

We are very proud that Freddie was awarded a distinction in the BMO2, a massive achievement for a year 11 student! On the back of such good results, Rose was also offered a place at a maths camp in Hungary where she spent part of the Christmas break. Her dedication is an example to all the students at Judd of what hard work and enthusiasm can achieve.

From the Intermediate Maths Challenge we've had brilliant success with Scott Cupitt, Kiran Shiatis and Freddie Hand, leading their respective years 9 through 11, with Freddie Hand achieving another perfect score.

Biology Olympiad success

In February 2019, ninety-nine Biology students took part in the first round of the British Biology Olympiad with excellent results: five gold medals, eleven silver medals, twenty bronze medals, nineteen high commendations and twenty-eight commendations! Alexander (Y11), Adam (Y13), Bethan (Y13), James (Y12) and Henry (Y12) achieved a gold medal. Of particular note is Alexander's achievement who, despite being in year 11, has achieved



the highest score in the school. Had he been in year 12, he would have qualified to move on to round 2 for a chance to be selected to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad.

Mission Discovery

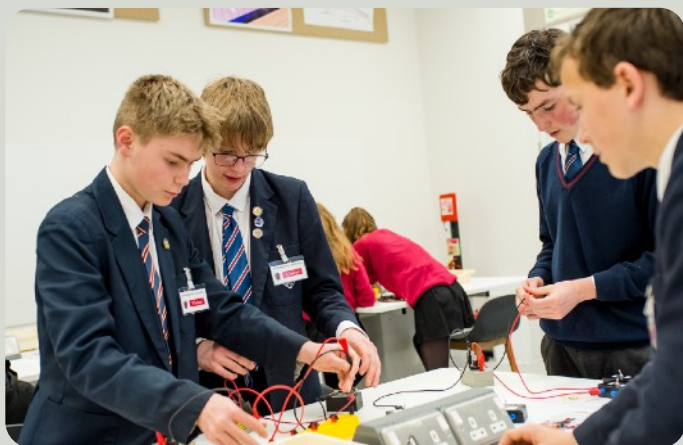
Judd students gained a once in a lifetime opportunity to plan an experiment, the best of which would be tested on the world-renowned ISS. Throughout the week, they had the opportunity to work alongside two NASA astronauts. One group, of six finalists, aimed to investigate the effects of microgravity on fluid dynamics in the presence of iron nanoparticles, which can improve medical research on earth, optical imaging and fuel systems in aircraft and spacecraft. At the end of the week, they had to present the idea to a panel of judges who specialise in this field - no easy task. However, it was amazing to hear how well they adapted to the audience and spoke confidently and passionately.

A fabulous experience as part of Tonbridge School's grand opening of the Barton Science Centre and a first for school groups. Our students were fortunate to be involved.

More scientific wonders...

Tonbridge - Barton Science Competition

On the 12th March, Charlie, Neil, Max and Miles travelled to the incredible new science facilities at Tonbridge School in order to compete in the inaugural Barton Science Competition between all the local secondary schools.



The competition comprised of 3 parts: a chemistry module where they had to create an indicator out of fruit and vegetables and test them in a titration experiment; a biology module, creating a flash chromatography set in order to separate different pigments of a leaf and a physics module creating circuits of varied difficulty. They had a tremendously enjoyable afternoon and topped it off by winning – coming first in both biology and physics and third in chemistry!

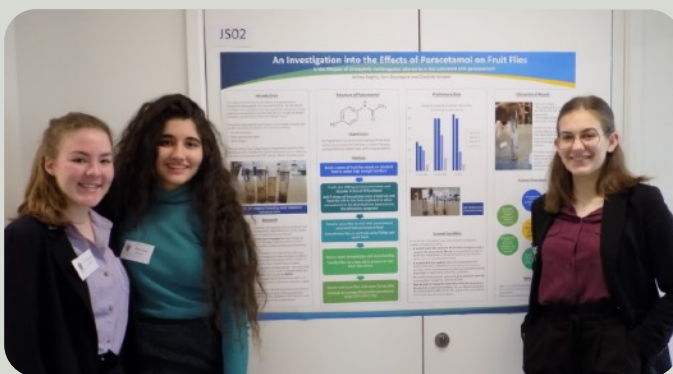
Fly Lab!

For the past few months, many Biology year 12 and 13 students have been working on their own independent research using the model organism, *Drosophila melanogaster*. The common fruit fly is widely used in research for their short life cycle, ease of breeding and maintenance and their biochemical and developmental similarities to humans. Our students are investigating a variety of questions on behaviour, physiology and



learning and memory with the support of our university partner, Dr Camilla Larsen, from the Centre for Developmental Neurobiology at King's College London.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to conduct an investigative project from start to finish: identifying a suitable scientific question, designing a valid experiment, carrying out preliminary studies, collecting and analysing data. They will also gain experience of wider scientific activities such as presenting at scientific conferences and publishing their work in the Young Scientist Journal. We look forward to providing them with opportunities to share their findings with the rest of the school community soon!



Some got an early taste of conference presentation at the Tonbridge School Science Conference, where Charlotte Kember, Athina Angelis and Fern Devonport were fortunate enough to be selected to attend and present a poster. They were able to look at a wide range of science projects carried out by students from schools around the country and even as far as Germany and Japan.

YSJ Update...



Following the December article, the YSJ team were awarded the runner-up prize which included a video call with Madeline Van Oppen from the Australian Institute of Marine Science. The comments from the judges were very pleasing: "The Judd School's glowing bacteria experiment was an exemplary and ambitious entry which really showed how to push the boundaries of what can be covered in a project. The judging team were particularly impressed with the focus on experimentation on *E. coli* bacteria which really brought genetic engineering to life."

JUDD EMBRACES EUROPE

Judd explores Berlin

During February half term, a group of sixth form historians visited Berlin. The itinerary was packed to truly German levels of efficiency. On arrival, they visited the Berlin Story Museum, located in a bunker, which exhibited a potted history of the city. In the evening, the group headed into the Reichstag Dome, from where they could look out across the night-time cityscape.

The next day they travelled to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, which was used primarily for political prisoners of the Nazi regime and then converted into an NKVD camp under Soviet occupation. The afternoon saw a visit to the Cecilienhof Palace, built in the style of a Tudor manor house for Kaiser Wilhelm II's son and daughter-in-law Cecilie, and later used as the location of the 1945 Potsdam Conference. In the evening they walked along a section of the Berlin wall painted with famous murals, including My God, Help Me to Survive This Deadly Love, depicting the "fraternal kiss" between Brezhnev and Honecker.

The following day, they explored the labyrinthine Checkpoint Charlie Museum and the Jewish Museum. They then enjoyed a guided tour of the Olympic Stadium, originally built for the 1936 Olympics. On their last day, they visited the interactive DDR Museum, which included a replica East German flat to give visitors a sense of life in the DDR. The whole trip was highly enjoyable and enriching for all participants.

Inaugural French Exchange

Twenty one students from the Judd school went to France for the first exchange with the Lycée Montesquieu in Bordeaux. They stayed there from Monday 4th until Monday 11th of March. During this week the students have done a lot of sightseeing including the breathtaking Dune du Pilat, the picturesque village of Saint Émilion and the historic centre of Bordeaux. They took part in an enjoyable

cooking lesson, experienced a captivating escape game and a rainy treasure hunt. But above all, they stayed with their exchange partners, embraced French culture and improved their speaking skills as well as their understanding of French language so much.

47th German Exchange

Judd students picked up their German exchange partners on Thursday from school; after an awkward start, things got easier over time. On Friday, they took them for a normal school day which was interesting and made clear that their school day was different to ours - for example some days they finish at one. All exchange students enjoyed their days trips out, especially those to London as they had never been. On Monday, they went to Knole Park without their partners and apparently enjoyed themselves, although they got a bit wet! Tuesday they went to Canterbury, which seemed very interesting, as they got a tour of the Cathedral.

Wednesday was one of the highlights of the exchange because both English and German students went to Brighton together; this provided a great opportunity for the students to get to know each other and everyone had a really good time. All students were given a guided tour of The Pavilion before a few hours of free time. Some students went onto the pier while others experienced British culture - fish and chips by the sea.

On Thursday, the German students attended school as normal before going to a Mayor's reception in the afternoon. This was a great opportunity for the students to say goodbye, as it was towards the end of the exchange. There was also a Mayor's speech which emphasised the importance of exchanges like ours.

Finally, on Friday the German students visited Madame Tussauds which they really enjoyed and many of them were able to get souvenirs and take funny photos. Judd students are now very much looking forward to the German leg that will take place in June.





A fantastic term of Music!

Sweeney Todd

Pupils from every year group recently concluded a four show run of the hit musical: 'Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street'. Over 85 students were involved, making up the cast, band and technical team. Rehearsals had been intense since January and the hard work was clear to see with an excellent band made up from students and staff, conducted by Mr Baker, and a cast of experienced actors and first-time stage performers, directed by Mrs Smith. The role of Sweeney Todd was brilliantly interpreted by Oliver Marshall and the lead female role of Mrs Lovett was shared by Loveday Mosley and Alex Duncan. Year 7 was also represented by the brave Max Pound and William Bromfield taking on the challenging role of Tobias.



Humour was injected into the show by the wonderfully talented Dominic Carver as the Judge, with James Gordon filling those shoes as his understudy in the Saturday matinee. Georgie Emanuel and Isabella Carraher played the role of Johanna and impressed the audience with their stunning voices. Benedict Rattray did an amazing job of leading the tech team and performing as The Beadle alongside his understudy, Henry Bretz. All

of the soloists sang with confidence including Matthew Politz, Oscar Floyd, Isabella Castello-Cortes, Elizabeth Lamb, Nick Frankel, and Aidan Ingrassia. It was an amazing show which brought the whole school together and illustrated the amazing talent within the music department and student body as a whole. Well done to all involved.

Jazz Café

The Jazz Café provided every audience member with a memory that was spoken about, at least in my household, for at least the next month. The amazing performance and energy put in to creating such a professional event allows the students to develop not only as musicians but as performers. Special thanks must be given to Christian Hoddinott and Max Taylor (Year 13 Music students) for organising the event and to Mr Lacey for directing the Big Band that opened and closed this magnificent evening.



Battle of the Bands

George Laird and Max Gerard were given the chance to organise the Battle of the Bands evening and select various bands throughout the school to perform in another professional evening. Year 7 to Year 13, those who cannot read sheet music to those who have Grade 8 in our instruments, this evening showed us all how the Motown theme of the event beats vivaciously in us all.

The Year 7 Tea Concert saw each house perform a song of their choice. With songs from Queen, George Ezra, Imagine Dragons and more, the year 7s put on the best show to date – singing (and dancing!) more confidently than ever. Well done to Taylor who won first place!



The Soloists' Concert is a great opportunity for students to play to an audience and this year saw the most participants yet! We were treated to performances on a huge variety of instruments including Cor Anglais, Cello and Classical Guitar.

Champions!

National Bowl U15 Winners!



Judd's reputation as a rugby school was put in the hands of the U15 squad at the National Bowl Final on March 19th. After a 3 hour minibus journey and hotel stay the night before, the team found themselves in the elite changing room of Sixways Stadium, Worcester, with fresh playing shirts bearing the boar head on their front and the outcome of the match at the back of their minds.

What followed was a 60-minute match that would last the boys a lifetime. To the chime of a drum - kindly donated by the music department and played by Mr Greg Pring - and the roar of a crowd from those at the stadium itself and watching live from home, Judd regained their composure at the end of the first half, with their first try of the match, putting them neck-and-



neck with their opponents Hutton Grammar School with a 7-7 equaliser. Soon after the first whistle of the second half, Hutton gained a narrow lead from a penalty try. The three point lead came to an end when Judd score their second try of the game.

After another penalty try and a five point-gap in the forty-third minute, the boys knew the fate of the match could change at any second; their win was secured only when there were three minutes left on the clock, with a try from Ed Leach at the base of the post and subsequent try from Tom Froggatt just two minutes later in the corner, to end the match with an unforgettable 27-10 score to Judd.

Senior Knole Run Success

This prestigious cross country race is held at Sevenoaks School every year. It is ranked as one of the highest quality senior school races in the country and Judd have an extremely good reputation in it, having won the event six times in the previous nine years. The 6-mile course consists of six brutal hills, which are typical of the beautiful Knole Park scenery. The whole Judd team started conservatively, showing their experience of running in such a high quality competition. The race was won by a student of Brighton and Hove Sixth Form College in a record time of 31:31; he would later go on to place 7th at the English Schools Championships. James Kingston came through in 3rd, replicating his position from the previous year, in a time which would've won the race every other year but one. Dan Schofield finished strongly to finish 5th, with Adam van der Plas only 10 seconds behind in sixth. The scoring team was completed by Toby Emm in 10th, Alex Sandberg in 21st, having one of his best ever races, and finally Matthew Dubery in 27th, placing as one of the highest year 10s in his first ever Senior Cross country race. Alex Thompson, Dan Seaton, Alex Beeston and Joe Georgiadis were all unfortunate not to make the scoring team, all placing very highly. The team finished with a tremendous 72 points, winning the event by 58 points from the Coopers' Company and Coborn School. All those who ran did themselves proud round this challenging course and hope to repeat their success in the coming years.



Girls' sport thriving!

Netball National Finals in the wind

This year The Judd School is proud to have entered a girls' netball team into the Kent Schools' Netball Competition. The competition started with group matches played across the county. Undefeated, the team qualified for the Kent Schools' Finals in Aylesford. On the day, narrowly coming second place by one goal and qualifying for the London South-East Regionals.

Battling through wind, rain, and hail against tough opposition the Judd netball team prevailed as winners taking home the shield. This is the first time in Judd's history that this has been achieved which is a fitting tribute to the twenty-fifth anniversary of girls integrating into the Sixth form.



The next stage was the England Schools National finals where the top eighteen teams in the country qualified. Playing tough competition, Judd came sixth in our box and missed out qualifying for the playoffs, where the top two in our box went on to contest the final and win the competition. We had an exceptional team, and we are very proud to have had Judd represent the South-East. A huge thank you to Mrs Middleton for all her hard work and efforts in helping them get there, all the support of the parents and everyone that came to watch, as well as

CCF

Over half term 5 RAF Cadets were fortunate to receive places on the London and South East region NCO Cadre held at RAF Halton. I am delighted to say that they all passed - which is not a given. Two cadets surpassed themselves; Nick Frankel won 'Best Junior Cadet', having the best average scores across 6 disciplines; Drill,

Chantelle Gunter for captaining the team; of course, not to mention all the girls who played, Holly Hayward, Sarah Ogunko, Hannah Reiddick, Rachel Henderson, Nancy and Rosie Dennis and Chantelle and Monique Gunter.



Girls' Rugby

This year, the sixth form have formed a girls' rugby team, with the help of Mr Reilly who kindly agreed to be their coach. Most of the girls had never played before but what they lacked in skill early on, they definitely made up for in enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in. They also appreciated the support from the rest of the sixth form in the various matches and fixtures they played.

Their first match found them facing one of the most successful girls teams in the South East, Robert Clack. They kept their heads and put in a very respectable performance, managing to secure a few well deserved tries, much to the relief of the team and supporters alike. During the rest of the season, they played in a number of matches and three different Tournaments, including Reigate Sevens, with mixed results but thoroughly enjoyed by all. I am sure they would join me in thanking Mr Reilly for his consistent support, as well as Mr Parkin and Mrs Baldock who gave up their time to attend fixtures. The team has really enjoyed playing this year and hope to continue playing, with the possibility of welcoming new players in Year 12.

Method of Instruction, Command task, Uniform and billet inspection, Aptitude test and an observation test. Henry Bretz won 'Best effort' for a junior cadet. Flt Lt Neave, staff officer on the course, attests that all the cadets - including Oliver Marshall, William Kingswood and Myles Kelly - worked incredibly hard and personified the Judd spirit and ethos.

Important Dates for the Diary

Y7&8 ISSP Da Vinci Lecture - 21st May - 6:30pm
Year 12 Music Recitals - 4th Jun - 6pm
Y6 Induction Evenings - 5th & 6th Jun - 6:30pm

Y12 Parents' Evening - 19th Jun - 5pm
Summer Concert - 27th Jun - 7pm
Open Evening (Y5) - 4th Jul - 4:30pm
JPA Football Fiesta - 7th Jul - all day