

The Judd School

Headteacher's | Newsletter



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As the end of term draws to a close, we all look forward to the festivities ahead and reflect on what has been an excellent term of success in all areas of school life, as you'll read in the following pages! May I take this opportunity to wish every member of our Judd community a very happy and restful (if you're lucky) break - a time to spend with family and friends!



A Magic Evening to Celebrate our Junior Prize Winners' success

Early this term, we celebrated Junior students' academic achievements during 2018/19. As well as hearing speeches from the Chair of Governors, Mr Charles Doyle, and the Headteacher, the audience were treated to a mesmerising magic show, courtesy of Old Juddian and Magic Circle Stage Magician of the Year 2018, Edward Hilsum.

Edward also spoke fondly about his memories of the school and the challenges he has faced over the years while pursuing his dream of becoming a magician. He encouraged the boys to follow their passions, find like-minded friends, accept that failure can make us who we are and, of utmost importance, to be kind.



A huge thank you to parents!

There are so many ways in which parents support the school for which we are truly grateful. Just a quick update on a few such examples:

Parent Governor Election

With the polls closing at noon today I can announce that after more than 250 votes were cast, **Scott Henderson** has been duly elected as Parent Governor for the school. School Governance is a critical aspect of ensuring we all move forward productively, so I am appreciative of those giving up their time to offer support in this way.

JPA

The Judd Parents' Association continue to provide a wealth of support to the school, whether through

supporting activities at the school offering refreshments and welcoming visitors, or the extensive range of events they run wholly themselves, raising thousands of pounds to give students an ever richer learning experience. Recently, this has supported the purchase of a new 3D printer for our DT department! Thank you so much on behalf of our staff and students for your help. Any parents wishing to get involved, please do make contact!

Careers Evening - 3rd October

Approximately 800 students and parents attended. Lots of positive feedback. We had 31 guest speakers in total, mostly parents with only one or two exceptions.

One parent, a lawyer, even managed to get here to speak despite trying to complete two "deals". He was seen at the end conducting a conference call in his car!

A view from my window!

As you can see, work on the building projects around school is really taking shape. The extension to the current RS building, is now almost at roof height after some impressive crane work and a lot of creative solutions to adopting an existing structure!



The kitchen that served thousands of students over many years is no more, finally demolished and the old dining room almost ready to be given back as our new staffroom and workspace.

Our own election...

As millions of Britons voted on 12th December in the 2019 general election (including 72 of our own Year 13 students), The Judd School also took to the polls for our mock election. For the parties and candidates involved, this meant the culmination of weeks of canvassing, campaigning and debating.

During November, parties were formed comprising members of all year groups, with each party democratically selecting their candidate for leadership. This resulted in Seb Graham being selected for the Green Party, Louis North for the Conservatives, James Lester for Change UK, Joseph O'Connor for the Labour Party, and Xander Voorsluijs for the Liberal Democrats. Over the next fortnight the parties printed leaflets, formulated their electoral strategies and made requests to respective national parties for material to help with the campaign.

The official campaign began on 2nd December and the school became covered with leaflets, including two three metre posters of Corbyn and Johnson appearing in Atwell! Three of the official candidates standing in the



Lastly here, the MUGA - more hard play space - will be opening after the holidays! Hopefully some of our corridors can then be safely traversed without tennis balls ricocheting around one's ears...



Tonbridge and Malling constituency (Dylan Jones for Labour, Richard Morris for the Liberal Democrats and April Clark for the Green Party) visited the school to take part in open, lunch time question and answer sessions. The school's candidates also took part in two hustings events, on the 5th and 11th of December. The candidates answered questions from an extremely raucous student audience.

Finally, election day arrived. As the polling station opened, the queue to vote stretched out of the door, while the candidates were attempting to sway any undecided voters. Eventually, the polls closed at the end of lunch, the votes were counted, and the winners were declared. From the 541 valid votes cast, the results were as follows: The Lib Dems received 223 votes (41.2% of the total), the Conservatives gained 150 (27.7%), Labour received 85 votes (15.7%), while the Green Party and Change UK got 35 (6.5%) and 18 (3.3%) respectively. This meant that, although the Conservatives won the seat of Tonbridge and Malling, this result was not repeated at Judd, as the Liberal Democrats, with Xander Voorsluijs at the helm, proved overwhelmingly victorious in our mock election.

Our academic achievements

Salters' Institute Awards

Having gone back to teaching Salters' A-Level Chemistry, Judd have made a big splash at The Salters' Institute Awards, with not one but two of our students receiving Salters' Advanced Chemistry Awards. This was to the amazement of some of the brightest and best academics who attended the ceremony on the 6th December.

Only five of these awards are given for the top 5 exam results in the country.



These honours were given to Rose Blyth, who is now thoroughly enjoying reading maths at Cambridge and to **Ayush Gupta, who had the highest score in the country**, and is now studying medicine at University College London.

Fly Lab Gold

As part of the Fly Lab project, Erin, Ella and Rena investigated the effects of anaesthetics on the health and life span of *Drosophila melanogaster* (the common fruit fly). Having worked on this project since November 2018, they completed over 70 hours of research and experiments, qualifying for a Gold CREST Award. The award is issued for scientific research projects and is highly regarded by universities and companies in the STEM field, by demonstrating dedication to a subject and motivation to look beyond the A-level course. The anaesthetising agent used was called FlyNap, which contains the active ingredient triethylamine. Through mobility assays and monitoring the movement of the flies, which is an indicator of the flies' health, the students concluded that anaesthetics had a debilitating and negative long-term effect on the flies. Weekly, they recorded how many of the flies in each of their samples (each sample having a different dosage of FlyNap, including a control group) were still alive and from this they plotted a survival curve. Analysing these results



suggested that the anaesthetic also decreased their lifespan. A final report was submitted, with the assistance of Dr Courel. The students have found the experience to be invaluable and beneficial for their university applications as well as growth in their analytical and investigative skills.

Judd Biologists...

...were awarded Royal Society Partnership Grant - We are thrilled to announce that the Biology Department has been awarded a Royal Society Partnership Grant of £3,000 in support of Fly Lab.

Partnership Grants are available to enable students, aged 5-18, to carry out STEM projects in partnership with a STEM professional from research or industry. Our partner from the Centre for Developmental Neurobiology at King's College London, Dr Camilla Larsen, was instrumental in setting up Fly Lab and in obtaining this grant. Among other things, the funding will go towards purchasing better binocular microscopes and carbon dioxide anaesthetising equipment which will make handling the flies easier. We look forward to sharing with you more details of our students' projects!

The Great Debate...

James (Y12) won the regional round of the Historical Association's Great Debate and is going to the national finals at Windsor Castle in March. According to the event organisers, James not only won, but bowled over the jury with his wit, intelligence, oratory and knowledge. Well done James and good luck at the finals!



MUNGA Triumphs

Congratulations to the 16 Year 12 students who participated in the 2019 Tunbridge Wells Model United Nations last week. Alongside delegations representing Bangladesh, Cuba and the United States, students were involved in the press and secretariat teams and also co-chaired the committee on International Conflict. The Model United Nations allows students from local schools to recreate the United Nations General Assembly, discussing critically important current issues such as famine, nuclear armaments and climate change from different national perspectives.



Judd students were phenomenally successful, receiving many well-deserved awards. Theo was named as best delegate in the International Conflict Committee, having skilfully argued the United States' case under sustained criticism from almost every other country! Eleanne won best delegate for her passionate portrayal of Bangladesh's struggles against climate change. Sophie was also jointly awarded best delegate, representing Cuba in the Land and Water Use Committee. For her valuable contribution to the smooth running of the Secretariat team, Ella was highly commended by the judges.

The final award of the day went to the best overall delegation, won by the Cuban team (Sophie, Harrison and James) who received the prestigious Elizabeth Thomas Trophy.



Our Physics department receives national recognition!

Congratulations to the Physics Department who recently attended the Institute of Physics Awards Ceremony to collect an award recognising the department's achievements in A-Level Physics! We are proud to have a fantastic team of teachers and technicians at The Judd School fully committed to delivering thought provoking and stretching lessons; introducing concepts way beyond the expectations of the curriculum.

Led by Simon Hewitt (pictured receiving the award alongside Renu Joshi - long serving member of the department) who has himself been working with the IOP for 15 years, the department, encourages bold, exciting demonstrations and experiments, often building new equipment for enriching the subject. Students are supported to perform exceptionally well, both in their exams, but also in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities which students run for other students, inviting experts and ex-students in to the school to give inspirational lectures

Such is the popularity of the subject at A Level, that numbers are outstanding, with well over 200 physicists in the Sixth Form, including more than 50 girls.

A fantastic junior play...

In November, Y7-11 students put on an excellent production of Arthur Miller's Incident at Vichy as this year's lower school play. The play is set in Vichy, France in 1942, where nine men and a boy are seized and held in what may be a police station. Some of them are Jews. All of them have something to hide - if not from the Nazis, then from their fellow detainees and, inevitably, from themselves. The cast and crew of 24 students, led by director Mrs Smith, put on three incredible - if not chilling - performances that were well received by audiences. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Two great trips abroad...

French Exchange

On 12th November 2019, the Judd School sent a group of year 10 French students to the beautiful city of Bordeaux, located in the south west of France, marking the beginning of a life-changing experience for everyone involved. Their visit included many culturally enriching trips, including the tour of 'le cité du vin': a fascinating wine museum which gave them all a great insight into the monopoly of wine in France.



The sightseeing opportunities were plentiful, they scaled up 'la dune du Pilat': the highest sand dune in the whole of Europe, and paid a visit to Saint-Emilion, exploring a local wine business and its elaborate methods of wine production (we even got to taste some!).

Aside from the arranged events, each evening the exchange partners would spend time with each other at their families' homes. The exchange improved our students' language skills, made new friends, taught them

invaluable lessons about French culture from the inside perspective of native French families, so much so, that they were all extremely reluctant to leave. To anyone in years 9 and below who is passionate about the French language and its culture, they said "we cannot emphasise enough how beneficial the trip was and how much we recommend it!"



Rugby Senior Tour

Over the summer holiday, 40 boys and 4 staff went on a rugby tour to NZ. Starting in Auckland they made their way down the two islands playing 1st and 2nd team matches against 5 schools, including Timaru Boys High, which is the school with whom we run a rugby exchange programme.

The rugby was a great success with the 1st XV winning 4 and drawing 1 and the 2nd XV recording 2 wins against tough opposition. The boys also got to experience a wide variety of activities, from museums and parliament tours to sulphur pools and jet boating through canyons. They also got to tour both Eden Park stadium and the All Blacks headquarters where the World Cup was still on display before heading to Japan.



A very musical term!

National Concert Band Festival

On Sunday 3rd November, Judd Winds travelled to Kneller Hall, London to compete in the National Concert Band Festival South-East regional festival. The band played a programme of four pieces, ranging from a slow gentle piece called Shenandoah to lively Eine Kleine Yiddische Ragmusik.



We were awarded the gold certificate and are hoping to be given a place in the final next year. Tom Smith was presented with the Allianz Solo Instrumentalist award for his outstanding performance of Concert etude. It was a great day overall.

House Music Competition

This competition was amazing, although nerve-wracking. There were about 30 performers from key stage 3, 4 and 5 that had been chosen after a round of auditions. The genres of music were highly varied from baroque music to rock music. Everybody was very skilled in the respective fields but in the end some people rose to the top. Our judge Brynly Clarke was highly attentive to every performance and decided the winners for each Key Stage. KS3 went to Frederic Fong, KS4 to Miles Peacock and KS5 to Emily Bretz. The winning house was Evans! The night was amazing thanks to the many performers and teachers who came together in order to organise the event.

Pianist's Tea Concert

The pianists' tea concert gives a great opportunity for piano students at Judd to build their confidence and showcase the pieces they have been working on over this term. Everyone played brilliantly, from those that are just starting out on the piano to those taking their diploma exams. The soloist concert is coming up on Tuesday 28th January for any instrumentalists that would also like the opportunity to perform. Many thanks to all our fantastic peripatetic teachers who guide and support all our brilliant instrumentalists and singers.

Winter Concert

On Thursday 5th December, Judd held its annual winter concert and it was a success as always. Judd Winds opened the evening with a performance of their programme from the National Concert Band Festival. A highlight of the concert was the Year 10 GCSE music classes' performances of Christmas songs Feliz Navidad and Merry Christmas Everybody. The concert closed with the Symphony Orchestra, who played music from Gladiator, the Romeo and Juliet Overture, and Strauss' famous Radetzky March. Overall it was a great concert and credit to Miss Balcombe, Mr Baker and Mr Pitts for their hard work with all the ensembles this term.

Hospice in the Weald Charity Concert



School Choir were given a fantastic opportunity to sing for a worthy cause this November. Alongside the Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Male Voice choir, the Judd School Choir sang a number of pieces at this concert to raise money for Hospice in the Weald. Many audience members said that a highlight was the choir making the sound of a thunderstorm before the piece Africa, by Toto. The choir sang with enthusiasm and did themselves proud.

Finally, this week we held our wonderful Carol Services, thanks to all who came and sang along with us!



Champions again!

National Intermediate Schools' Cup winners



It has been another superb term of Cross Country - statistically our best yet.

The Intermediate squad's focus has long-been the Schools' Cup. All have improved from last year and qualification for the final in Derbyshire was without fuss. However, in the days leading up to the race, illness and injury threatened the team's confidence and several other schools had excellent teams on paper. On the day, however, the Judd boys judged their races to perfection, sweeping through the field for an outstanding 45 points - our lowest ever team score - to win the School its 5th National Cup title in 8 years. Captain Ed Coutts had his best ever race in 5th to match the previous best Inter position. Huxley Crush and Meno Mangat also saved their best ever performances for their last race in this competition.



The Juniors opened in September with a strong defending win at the Thomas Trophy. Good progress in the National Cup was followed by A and B teams remarkably dominating 1-2 at the Junior Knole Run, with Albert Kreuzberg defending his individual title. The same result at the Judge Cup ably demonstrated our strength

in depth with boys of all years involved. At the Cup Final, Kreuzberg was not at his best, but bravely finished in 10th, leading the team to a creditable 5th place nationally and an experience they will all remember.

The Seniors, led from the front by our best runner in a generation, James Kingston, retained trophies at Wimbledon, St Albans and Tiffin, only losing narrowly at Guildford to their GB international. The squad now prepare for another memorable Lanzarote training week to set themselves up for the Knole Run - come and support the defending champions at 14:40 on Saturday 11 January!



Rugby - U15 Kent Cup success

The Judd School U15s took their 2nd county title in two years with a 17-7 win over local rivals Skinners on Wednesday.

After a 6-5 win against the same opposition earlier this season at Vizards, a close encounter was expected under the lights at Gravesend RFC.

Expectations were met as both teams struggled to take charge of the game in the 1st half with errors during phase play meaning that most of the action took place between the 22s. Despite huge physicality and no shortage of endeavour, the half time scoreline was 0-0.

The 2nd half was a different story altogether with Judd utilising their full skill set to gradually push Skinners back towards their 22 and then keep them there for a sustained period at the start of the 2nd half. The first score finally arrived after a series of Judd driving mauls at lineout time led to possession 5m out from the opposition try line in the left hand corner. From the initial drive, the ball was moved quickly by scrum half Seb Nottage to flanker Henry Pallett who put fellow forward Frank Kitchen on the front foot with a nicely timed tip pass. Judd were now inches away and immediately resorted to their surprisingly powerful pick and go. After one quick recycle from good work by John Fitzmaurice, Dom Stangroome and Harry Lewis, prop John Disbrey bundled over close to the ruck to put Judd ahead. Fullback Angus Hall added the extras to make it 7-0.

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Elation soon turned to anxiety as Judd botched an exit under pressure from Skinners, kicking out on the full having taken the ball back into their 22. Skinners sensed their opportunity and put together a powerful driving maul of their own. Judd held out, but Skinners weren't to be denied and in a carbon copy of the Judd try, the pick and go was effective. A superb conversion from the Skinners out-half followed. 7-7.

The game was now in the balance and to their credit, Judd shook off the disappointment of the conceded try very quickly as some incredibly physical and organised defence forced a turnover from which Judd played their best attacking rugby of the match. A quick tap from Nottage to feed co-captain Toby Brown led to quick ruck ball on the halfway line. Co-captain and fly half Louis Bouverie hit a superb out-the-back pass to help the Judd attackers find the outside edges of the Skinners defence and make serious headway, being pulled down just outside the 22. After one more quick phase back to centre field, Man of the Match Kitchen picked and went through the centre of the ruck and offloaded superbly to centre Seb Hilsdon as he was pulled down 5m out from the posts. Judd went straight back to their pick and go, with George Townsend being shunted across the tryline by at least 3 teammates after three more phases. Once again Hall added the extras to make the score 14-7.

Judd were now in the ascendancy and more quick phase ball led to a penalty out to the left for a tackler not rolling away. With designated kicker Hall off the pitch with a hip injury, up stepped 2nd row Fin Mooney to slot the kick over for the decisive 17-7 lead.

Skinners knew the game was getting away from them and instantly proceeded to throw the kitchen sink at the Judd defence. The ball was worked wide and only a wonder tackle from Oli Davies prevented the Skinners winger from going over from 20m out. The team from Tunbridge Wells continued to hammer away but resolute Judd defence held firm until the final whistle. A ferociously contested final played in great spirit by both teams.

U14 also triumph in the Kent Cup

The U14 team retained the county cup, with a superb performance of team rugby to defeat Ravenswood School in the final 38-12, after beating Langley Park, Dartford and Skinners schools to reach the final, the final was held at Gravesend rugby club, under floodlights. Judd started at express pace, storming into a 21-0 lead with 3 quick converted tries. The team were driven forward by quick breaks at scrum half from Isaac Canham, great rucking from Cameron Honavar, Jack Wilson and Finley Stables which resulted in tries from Frank Kitchen (2) and Dante McNichol, with captain Angus Hall converting all three.



Judd were superb from kick offs, with Eddie Trebess and Dante McNichol repeatedly dealing excellently from kick offs, as well as linking well with forwards and backs. Ravenswood attacks were halted by strong defence from Ben Rodenhurst, Tom McDonald, with the 'back 3' of Jake Tucker, Charlie Fassnidge and Felik Gollan dealing expertly under the lights of any attacks Ravenswood could muster, as well as being involved with 2 of the first 3 tries.

The work rate of Judd was highlighted with the excellent work rate and skills of Arthur Hansen and Jonny Shaw, who shone coming off the bench. The second half saw Ravenswood rewarded with 2 quick tries to take the score to 24-12 and with Ravenswood back in the game it took excellent tackles from Warwick Baker, Trebess and Cordiner to turn over possession. An outrageous bit of skills from Hall, linking with Stables then set up Trebess for The Judd 4th try and the 5th and final try came from a powerful double tackle from Tucker and Cordiner, forcing a knock on, with Kitchen linking suitably with man of the match Hall, to go over from close range. The final whistle soon followed after a great advert for schools rugby from both schools.