

Headteacher's Newsletter



Our first term back without many restrictions has been such a revelation. Yes, the pandemic is very much still with us, in our thoughts, impacting our daily lives, but we were able to return to almost all school activities without limits for the majority of the time. Regular testing (including another on return in January) and infrequent mask wearing feel like proportionate compromises to allow this to happen. Perhaps this led to increased disruption and absence, with 'quite a few' positive cases in the first half term, but the ability to enjoy the full and rounded life of the school has been welcomed by almost all.

We welcomed 23 staff and 312 new students to the school, swelling our student numbers to 1429, including 110 joining the school in Year 12. Induction trips to Bewl Water and Bore Place helped to welcome them in, and all now seem to be settled in well. With two years of further growth to go, we are heading towards our planned capacity of 1500 students. More next term about our plans to fit them in and how you can help.

Continuing on the theme of a return to normality, in November, we held our Social Evenings for new year 7 parents; a chance to forge friendships among the parent generation to match those made by the students! I regaled parents with our plans for the school's development over the coming years and chatted over a glass of wine to those who had put their trust in us to educate their children without so much as an Open Evening to judge (those returned too this Autumn!).

Finally, before an update on the many academic, musical and sporting activities of the term, may I take this chance to thank everyone in the school community for their stoicism in getting to this point: to parents for your unerring support, to staff for their energy and enthusiasm in getting back to close to normal, to students for their engagement this term and to Governors for their support.

Have a fantastic holiday one and all!

Christmas!

Last week, to **celebrate Christmas**, we were treated to a delicious Christmas dinner one lunchtime thanks to the lovely lunch ladies of Independent Catering. We were each given a Christmas hat which really put people in the Christmas spirit. At the same time there was also a Christmas Bazaar that was chock-full of activities. There was ring toss, roll six sixes, hook a bauble, put the carrot on the snowman and so many more. The event was for our 2 school charities, and a total of £914.27 was raised for them thanks to the combined efforts of the teachers who organised it and the prefects who helped out in running the event. We had participation from all the year groups, with some very impressive Christmas jumpers all around. The atmosphere was incredible, especially when combined with my favourite part which had to be the music. As we listened to so many of the Christmas

classics that we know and love playing in the background it was hard to not at least hum along to and in some extreme cases dance. In the end it was impossible to not have a good time.

Nico Burrone Y13

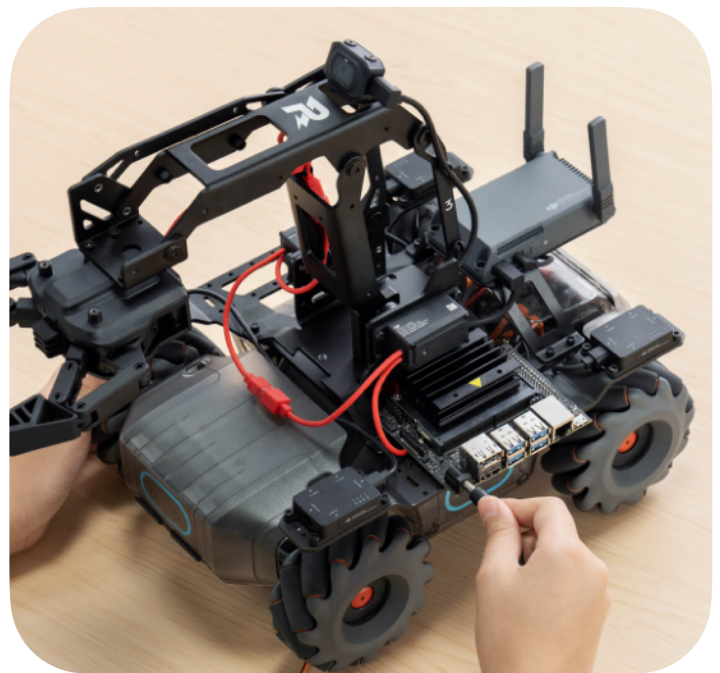


JPA - Thank you!

A massive thanks to the JPA, who despite deciding that it would be prudent to stay 'online' for this year's Christmas Fayre have raised an incredible amount, in excess of £10,000.



The donations they have given to the school over the course of the pandemic have enabled

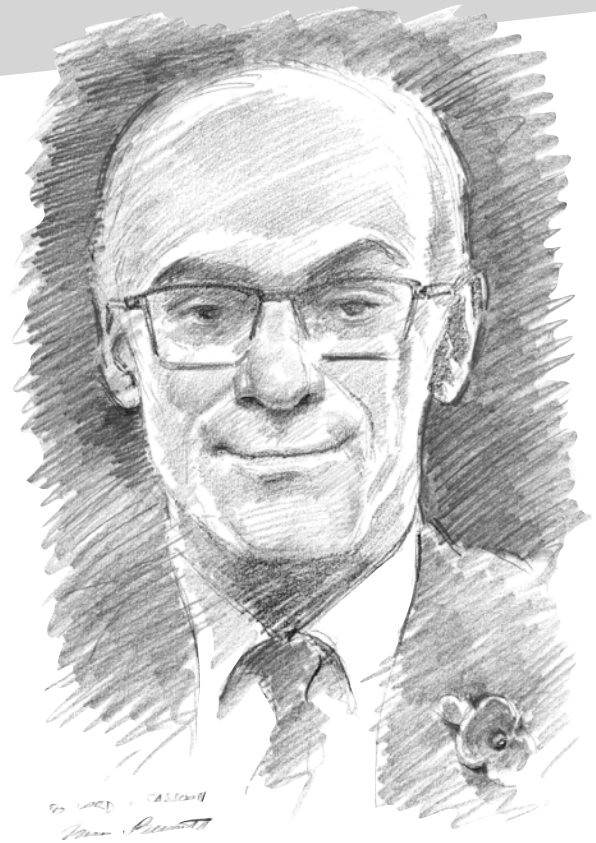


us to buy: robots and drones for our growing Computing department; cricket, football, tennis and fitness equipment; a piano; board games; and outdoor tables and benches that have been most welcome to our lunchtime

Politics, Economics and Current Affairs

Society had the pleasure of hosting a talk by Lord James Sasson in November. Lord Sasson has held prominent roles in the private investment sector, the civil service (The Treasury). He has also been a special advisor to David Cameron, a government minister and latterly a backbencher in the House of Lords. He is currently chair of the China-Britain Business Council.

Lord Sasson was keen to promote the importance of the trading relationship between the UK and China in a post Brexit world. He also discussed reform of the House of Lords and inevitably matters relating to Brexit. Art Teacher, Mr Bennett, surprised Lord Sasson with a fantastic sketch.



Maths in Action - We were delighted to be able to take 60 Year 12 mathematicians to London for the first time in two years for the Maths in Action event. The Students enjoyed hearing about aerospace engineering with Sophie Harker, the irrationality of numbers with Ben Sparks (pictured below), and the surprise appearance of Dr. Frost! Everyone left with a smile on their face and a puzzle up their sleeves.

The Senior Maths Challenge was held recently, with Scott Cupitt (Y12) achieving a perfect score which is a huge achievement. 7 students progressed through to the Olympiad, and another 36 carried on to the Kangaroo. Special mention Leo Hand (Y8) for making it to the Olympiad and Adi Srivastava (Y9) for making it through to the Kangaroo. We wish them the very best of luck!

Prize Giving



We were delighted, at the start of the school year, to be able to once again celebrate our students' success with Prize Giving in September; the first being our **Senior Prize Giving (Skinners' Day)** event at Tonbridge School. In front of families, friends and Governors, the Master (Sarah Stallebrass) presented prizes to Year 12 & 13 students, and certificates for their academic achievements in 2021 for all our Y13 students.



It was also an opportunity for the students to hear excellent speeches from outgoing Head Boy, John Mulford, and Deputy Head Girl,

Rebecca Roodt, together with words of wisdom from the Master, the Chair of Governors (Charles Doyle), and (to a lesser degree) myself as we wished them every success as they move on to the next phase of their education.

Later in the month we invited nearly 100 of our younger students and their families to a **Junior Prize Giving** event at school. As well as hearing from the Chair of Governors, the Headteacher, and the Deputy Head Prefects, they heard an inspirational speech from guest speaker, Old Juddian and Paralympian, Zak Skinner. Zak is currently double European Champion in the 100m and Long Jump, and recently finished 4th at his first Paralympic Games, an agonising 2cm behind an Olympic medal, but 43cm ahead of his next rival. He inspired us all with his stories of determination and resilience.



This term, with the lifting of restrictions, group **musical performances returned** much to the excitement of all, myself included - the absence of choir has left a huge hole in my Fridays for too long! With that, the return of the House Music Competition, the Pianists' Tea Concert, Winter Concert and the Carol Services at St Stephen's Church and this week at Tonbridge Chapel.

Each has served as a reminder not only of what we have been missing for so long, but of the fantastic talent that we have in the school and the sense of community that performing together brings.

The **House Music Competition** welcomed more than 60 competitors from all Houses and year groups to battle it out for a spot in the final in front of an enthusiastic parent audience. Huge congratulations to Jem Mossman (KS3), Adi Srivastava (KS4) and Paloma Bharucha (KS5) for their incredible performances (on violin, piano and violin respectively) to take the individual Key Stage winners medals; Paloma was crowned overall individual winner. With a 'podium finish' in each age category and more finalists than any other House, Bryant were champions of the House Competition.

December has been an incredibly busy month for the music department. First, a packed Schoolroom witnessed more than 100 students participating in the **Winter Concert**. With performances from Judd Winds, School Choir, Concert Orchestra, Boys' Group, Big Band and Soul Band before the interval, we were treated with an eclectic range of music from Leonard Bernstein to Stevie Wonder (not quite A-Z, but close!).

After a mulled wine to warm the Christmas spirits, we returned to Year 10's Christmas Singalong and then the Chamber Choir, String



Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra wowed the audience with incredible performances to close the evening. Judging by the full retiring collection drum, a fantastic evening was had by all!



Next came the **Pianists' Tea Concert** where performers at every stage of their journey on the instrument performed their piece to the assembled audience; nerve wracking to the experienced, never mind the relative novices, so huge congratulations to all. A personal highlight was not only Yuda Nel's (Y8) performance of Dmitry Kabalevsky's Clowns, but his visible enjoyment of everyone else's performances! Massive thanks to all the peripatetic teachers for their support.





Finally, at the end of a very long term, came the **Carol Services**, first in St Stephen's Church for Year 7 & 8, then a delightful evening in St Augustine's Chapel, Tonbridge School, our gracious hosts for assembled guests, parents, students and OJs.

Chamber Choir, the School Choir and, yes, even the congregation raised the already very high roof with exceptional performances of beautiful pieces, including some very impressive solos by James Bretz (Y9), Tom George (Y8) and James Gordon (Y13).

Wonderful readings from a wide variety of Judd Community members interleaved performances from the Choirs, supported by a huge team of organists - Chamberlain Ofosu (Y8), Adi Srivastava (Y9), Peter Clews (Y9), Rachel Clews (Y12), Matthew Hoddinott (Y12), Ben Nolan (Y12), Miles Peacock (Y12) and Archie Humfrey (Y13) - together with the Brass Ensemble. Thanks must go to Gillian Broome for her work with our organists, to Governors for supporting the Organ Scholar scheme and to Dagmara Jones for supporting the Brass Ensemble.

Judd sports news

The current year 8s won the Kent T20 cup. The match had been due to be played in the summer, but had been postponed to the beginning of September due to Covid and bad weather. The final was against St Olaves: Judd batted first, scoring 150-2 (James Petrie 72* and Rhys Marshall 50*), in reply St Olaves scored 128-8 (Raj Gupta 3-13 and Rhys Marshall 2-6).

For the 6th year in a row, Judd has been named in the Cricketer Magazine's Top 100 Cricket Schools, which is a testament to both the dedication and hard work of the students

and staff, ensuring that even in these trying times the cricket programme still runs smoothly.



Rugby



What a week, and indeed term, of rugby we have had. Only in the lead up to half term, when COVID cases were certainly widespread, have our fixtures been seriously hampered. It has been fantastic to see a full program of matches after so long, culminating with the block fixture of greatest interest on the last weekend - **Juddment Day!**

Each year group, throughout the week, has fought its own battles, sometimes coming out on top, sometimes not, with all attention drawing in on the 1st XV on Saturday morning. As ever, in the build up, tensions rose, social media added a bit of extra anticipation, but spirits were high, with only friendly rivalry evident.

The game itself mirrored that same sentiment, with well intentioned, good humoured chants from the enthusiastic supporters. Despite being the away crowd, we were well in voice, with the opponents likened to a library, even when ahead!

Trailing 19-3 in the second half, Skinners defending well, things did not look promising,

despite a strong performance to date; then, pressure began to mount. It was quite the most engrossing 20 to 30 minutes of school rugby I can remember watching, as first a penalty try, then one in open play, masterfully converted, brought us to within two points. With only minutes left, a penalty was awarded. Angus Hall (Y11) steps up to take



the kick, after an excellent game to this point. The pressure on him, from the crowd, the team, the school, must have felt extraordinary, yet he sent the ball through the points to take the lead, an incredible effort!

A couple of minutes of anguish later, the final whistle, pitch invasion, and celebrations. Well done to all that represented the school in rugby this term, to the staff for their amazing efforts and to parents for their support. The Chairman's Cup returns to Judd, let's keep hold of it...



Cross Country



The Judd School took a small army of runners to Newquay for the English Schools Cup final last Saturday after qualifying for the junior boys, inter boys, senior boys and senior girls races.

The junior boys (year 7 and 8) race saw Judd finish an amazing 3rd in the Country, finishing behind schools from Essex and Durham. Over a 3k course, run in high winds and occasional hailstorms, the team was led home by James Petrie in 8th place, followed by Charlie Warren in 21st, William Bachelor with his best ever race in 28th, Campbell South 54th, Harry Lawrence 65th and Toby Gwinnell in 69th place.

Over the 4.5km course the intermediate boys team finished as the best team in the South East, finishing in 6th place with Oliver Head running as one of the fastest year 9s in the race finishing 11th, followed by Oliver Clements in 39th, Daniel Jeddo in 41st, Felipe Fujimori in 60th and Mark Bridger finishing 85th.

The event saw senior races for the first time in its history, with the winners potentially being awarded a place in the World Schools Cross Country Championships in Slovakia next year.

The senior girls team finished a creditable 19th place out of 25 teams that had qualified through area and regional rounds to get to

the national finals. The team of Annabelle Hales (34th), Lydia Hawker (66th), Sophie Preston (83rd), Lucy Clements (98th) and Lilly Sheppard (108th) represented Judd superbly in tough conditions.

The highlight of the day came in the last race as Judd were **crowned the first ever senior English Schools Cup winners** with a totally dominant display. Judd managed to get 6 runners home before any other school had 4, as they won with easily the best score in any of the boys races. Captain Matthew Dubery ran in a leading pack all the way round and finished on the individual podium position of 3rd place in his best ever race, closely followed by Jamie Macdonald in 6th place, Josh Prendergast in 15th, George Hopkins in 21st, Rhys Page in 33rd and Ben Pearce in 35th, continuing their unbeaten season so far, after collecting 4 trophies before adding this national title to their collection

- Junior Boys: 3rd
- Inter Boys: 6th
- Senior Girls: 19th
- Senior Boys: 1st



Team Manager Henry Bretz said:

"It was incredible to see all four of our teams make it through to the final. The results are a testament to the hard work and dedication that everyone has put in this season."