

The Judd School

Headteacher's | Newsletter



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It has been a while since my last newsletter, I am sorry, it is not for lack of 'goings on' at the school. Indeed, this term has been as busy as ever, with successes across the range of activities available. As we head off for a well deserved Christmas break for all staff and students, allow me to share with you, or remind you, of some of our highlights!



German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce Careers Fair

On the 28th November twelve year 12 and fourteen year 11 students attended the German Careers Fair at the London School of Economics. Students were able to meet representatives of German as well as British companies with important business links to German speaking countries.

They heard about the importance of German language skills in a career context and had the opportunity to discuss employment opportunities at these companies, with one student even leaving his CV with Bosch for a possible work experience.

Quiz-Gewinner

Approximately 250 pupils attended the fair and completed a quiz. Amongst the 12 winners with the most correct answers were **five** year 11 students from Judd.

Congratulations to Olly Coote, Tom Rodenhurst, Alex Mitchell, Harry Slevin and Theo Briscoe, who will be awarded a prize by the German Embassy.



YSJ's latest endeavours

Members of the Young Scientists Journal Hub have organised a two-day after-school programme to provide year 8 to year 11 students with an opportunity to become genetic engineers.

On day 1, they gave an introductory presentation and taught their peers how to transform bacteria with a foreign gene coding for the green fluorescent protein. On day 2, participants observed their 'glow-in-the-dark' bacteria, considered different applications of the technology and even came up with their own ideas for a genetically modified organism that would be useful or could solve a world problem. It was a great success and the feedback from the 21 participants was excellent. The YSJ students will enter the Aspire to Engineer: Genetic Engineering Challenge with a one-minute video of this event. Wish them luck!

Judd Remembers...



100 years on

Like almost everyone around the country last month, The Judd School gathered to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice Day. We were joined by OJs, The Worshipful the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling Councillor Pam Bates and Revd Mark Barker who led the service.

Students in years 7 - 9 helped mark the occasion with their hard work all term in preparing more than 500 poppies which looked amazing outside the school's lobby, spilling out of the History department above!



Inspired by the exhibition at the Tower of London of 2014, 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red', the Art department led the students in creating the work, ably supported by the Premises team who helped create the installation itself.



Moved, inspired, transformed

All students in year 9 visited the Imperial War Museum over 3 days and took in the exhibitions on show as part of their work on the World Wars and in special tribute to the 100th Remembrance.

Holocaust Ambassadors

In mid-October four year 13 students, Mary Fitzmaurice, Kitty Allen, Anthony Smith and Anya Holtshausen, took on the responsibility to become Holocaust Ambassadors. In collaboration with the LFA, these students were able to visit Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland, where some of the atrocities of the Holocaust took place. At their first meeting, before the visit, they learnt more about Jewish culture pre-WWII and with this more about the atrocities of the discrimination and eventual genocide of the Jewish people under the Nazi regime. They were also fortunate to hear a first-hand account from Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper. Their one-day visit to the concentration camps, which included an emotional memorial service lead by a rabbi that accompanied them, gave them a very real insight to the extent of the unimaginable pain the prisoners underwent. As Holocaust Ambassadors they now hold the responsibility of informing others about what they learnt to ensure that such events don't happen again, knowing that soon there won't be any survivors left to tell their stories.



A fantastic term of Music!

Barcelona Tour

by Ed King & Benedict Rattray

On 21st October a number of Judd students and four teachers embarked on an unforgettable experience which would take them all around Barcelona. After a long (music-filled) journey through Europe, they arrived in Barcelona and the day after, performed at the stunning Montserrat Abbey in front of 2,000 people! It certainly was an experience that none of them will ever forget. The other days in the trip were spent sightseeing in Barcelona, with one day's trip taking them to the Sagrada Familia, a cathedral designed by the architect Antoni Gaudi, which is still being built, over 100 years on! Port Aventura, a theme park in Spain, was the destination of another day's travelling and, as well as



two other concerts in town squares around Barcelona, they were treated to an evening of majestic Flamenco dancing, singing and music, in which several Judd students (and teachers) took part. The whole trip was an amazing experience which everyone enjoyed. However, this would not have been possible without the work and dedication of all the teachers involved. The group are all very thankful to all who helped organise this fantastic (and culturally informative) event and to their wonderful music teachers, Miss Balcombe and Mr Baker, who have helped with their rehearsals and performances, as well as for so long at school.



Winter Concert

Last week the school held its Winter Concert which I would humbly report was the greatest musical event I have seen at any school in my career.

In addition to great vocal performances from the School Choir, Chamber Choir and Boys' Group, a range of orchestral and ensemble groups put on an extraordinary show across an eclectic mix of genres.

It kicked off with a rousing number from the Samba Band, we were reminded Christmas was fast approaching by the Year 10 GCSE groups and the Concert Orchestra entertained us with a Jamaican Rumba.

Undoubtedly the highlight, however, was a remarkable performance of Rhapsody in Blue (George Gershwin) from the Symphony Orchestra, not often attempted in schools anywhere. This would not have been possible without the skill and dedication of Rose Blyth, soloist on the piano, who was faultless throughout.

Carol Services

On Monday, the vocal groups, Organ Scholars and the Brass section took centre stage at Tonbridge School Chapel, leading first the Years 7 - 10 in the afternoon and then around 500 parents, OJs, staff and students in the evening service.

Around 18 different carols and 9 lessons, from a student in every group of the school, was a delight to behold.

To have 5 different organists supporting them was testament to the Organ Scholarship program; thanks to the Governors who have supported this scheme over recent years and to Gillian Broome for her dedication to helping our scholars progress.

Finally, thanks to all the peripatetic teachers for their hard work in supporting our students, but especially to Miss Balcombe and Mr Baker for making it all possible.

Champions!

National Junior Boys Schools' Cup winners!

The Judd School junior cross country team were crowned National Junior Boys Schools' Cup winners, after a thrilling race in Woodbridge School Suffolk.



A truly national competition, with 24 schools from the country all reaching the final after getting through area, then regional rounds, Judd scored 59 points and won the event by 12 points from Eastwood School, Essex.

The course was an undulating 3.4km 2 lap course, in which the first boy from Judd home was Josh P in his best ever cross country race. He paced his run superbly and was catching the leader quickly at the end, only finishing 2 seconds behind the winner. George H finished 4th in a very high class field and with Albert K finishing a brilliant 10th with most of the field being a year older than him. Judd had 3 runners in the top 10, whilst no other school managed to get 2. This success follows on from the same boys winning the Junior Knole Run the week before.

Kent Schools' Cup success

The Judd School U14 rugby team won the Kent Schools' Cup at Gravesend rugby club, under floodlights, in a great advertisement for school rugby. Having previously beaten St Lawrence Ramsgate, Dartford Grammar and Langley Park schools, all in very good quality, tough games, Judd played Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical school in the final.

An early try through captain Louis converted by George after excellent set up play by the forwards and Seb at scrum half settled the nerves in the freezing conditions, which was followed by 2 more tries in the first half. The score was 17-0 at half time.

Throughout the game the Rochester based school showed excellent attacking play. Judd defended superbly, barely missing a tackle all day. Against the run of play slightly, Judd scored again thanks to Harry with great skill bursting through a gap made by Rob and previous excellent passing skills from Jonny. Sir Joseph's then scored two fully deserved tries putting pressure back on Judd with the scoreline at 22-12. The best team try then followed - after winning a scrum against the head, Judd then put together 6 or 7 phases of play seeing the ball moving left and right, George controlling play, with forwards and backs combining superbly again. The whole team were involved and eventually Harry scored again.

Following a final try that summed up the way Judd had played all game, the whole team were delighted with the 32-12 win after a very tough run to the final.



Netball Team's winning pass to the regionals!

Congratulations to The Judd School netball team also, who played exceptionally well and are now one of only two schools who have made it through to represent Kent at U19 level in the London and South East England Netball Regional Tournament on 27th January. Good luck girls!



Students experience UN

On 30th November, 22 year 12 students participated in the Tunbridge Wells Model United Nations at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall alongside other local schools. Judd were particularly active, sending delegations for China, Iran, Mexico and Hungary as well as being part of the joint French team. We also had a team of press reporters working on broadsheet and tabloid accounts of the day, the secretariat providing administrative support for the delegates and a co-chair of one committee. Delegates were debating mock UN resolutions on contemporary issues including environmental pollution and climate change, international security and refugees and migrants, all from the perspectives of their own countries.



The large Judd team had quite a presence and were commended by the judging panel as being enthusiastic and well-informed. However, particular mention must go to our two prize winners: João Costa and Tristan Landgrebe. João performed outstandingly well as the Mexican delegate on the Migration Committee, accurately reflecting the critical issues facing refugees in Mexico and finding a forceful yet diplomatic tone. Tristan won the prize for the best opening address and was described by one MUNGA organiser as having delivered a 'commanding, thought-provoking and Macron-esque speech on the role of diplomacy and the UN'.

MUNGA 2018 was a great success and enjoyed by all. Congratulations!



Bar Mock Trial Competition

On 1st December, ten students from years 12 and 13 attended the regional heat of the Bar Mock Trial Competition at Maidstone Crown Court. The team consisted of four barristers (two prosecution and two defence), four witnesses, a court clerk and an usher.

The group had been meeting weekly since the start of the autumn term, after a few initial meetings in the summer term, and the barristers and witnesses had had to familiarise themselves thoroughly with two entirely different cases: in the case of the barristers, the preparation involved composing not only opening and closing speeches, but also examination in chief and cross-examination, while the witnesses had to immerse themselves in the facts of the case and act (but not over-act).

The court clerk essentially had to hold the proceedings together, while the usher had possibly the most nerve-racking job of fetching the judge from his or her retiring room! They had the benefit of a barrister mentor who visited the school, put the students through their paces and gave very valuable advice, which hopefully will be useful beyond the competition in interviews and real-life situations for those pursuing Law after school.

After the barrister's visit, which of necessity was close to the competition date, everything came together very quickly; we are immensely proud of the students' performance and engagement in the cases. They won high praise from the judges they appeared in front of (and from teachers of opposing teams!) both collectively and in some instances for outstanding individual performances. They showed impressive skill, assurance and maturity and we hope that the experience was enjoyable and useful for them.

A play to leave teachers in the audience concerned!

How could any teacher resist the urge to direct Giles Cooper's 'Unman, Wittering and Zigo'? The school play explored the precarious relationship between students and staff at an all boys' secondary school as they battle for control. The outstanding cast and technical crew from years 8 – 13 had the wit and humour of the characters depicted in the play, but, fortunately, none of the blood-thirsty malevolence that cows their once enthusiastic form teacher into submission and the headteacher into damage limitation.

The performances were a great success and received rave reviews such as:

'The acting was superb, and we were all gripped from the beginning to the end. In the last few months we have been fortunate enough to see two stage productions, including a West End play, and this was every bit as good, if not better. To top it all, the ending provoked a lively debate on our journey home.'



Do come and watch the next (and also rather murderous) school production of 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber'.

Judd secures safe passage to Vizards with Councillors' support



I am delighted to share with you images of our completed new footpath to our entrance to Vizards. Thanks must go to Councillors Richard Long and Michael Payne who have not only provided financial support to the scheme but have secured the reality of it through their work with the Council. Thanks too to donors to our Development Fund who have also supported the scheme. No longer will students have to negotiate the narrow, muddy final section of the route, dodging lampposts and cars! Instead, a wide tarmac path all the way to the pedestrian entrance to the adjacent field, an enormous improvement!



AND FINALLY...

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to five colleagues: Jerry Charter (Econ) and Zoe Baker (RS), who we will hopefully see again soon and Nick Maunder (Premises Manager), Anna Harvey and Vicky Marriott (both crucial to our Finance Team) who move on to pastures new.

There is an excellent report on the India exchange on the school website. I couldn't give it justice within this newsletter, so you can [READ IT HERE](#). Have a fantastic break everyone; come back raring to go in January - particularly Y11 who have mocks!!

Important Dates for the Diary

Y7 Parents' Eve - 9th Jan - 5pm
Senior Knole Run - 12th Jan - 2:30pm
Y7 Tea Concert - 24th Jan - 4:30pm

Sixth Form Application Deadline 31st Jan

Careers Evening - 31st Jan - 7pm
Soloists' Concert - 5th Feb - 7pm
Jazz Café - 12th Feb - 7pm
Y9 Parents Evening - 13th Feb - 5pm