

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Frewen students honour Naval roots...**

Serious adventure training, working as a team, discipline, orienteering, pushing yourself- these are just some of the benefits and experiences that four Year 10 and Year 11 Frewen College boarding students hope to gain by becoming newly recruited Royal Marine Cadets. The students all attend Frewen College, in Northiam, an independent day and boarding school for girls and boys aged 7-19 who have dyslexia or dyspraxia.

This marks a special moment in Frewen College's history, returning to the school's Naval roots. Frewen is based in the striking Jacobean 'Brickwall House', which was gifted to the school by its then owner, Admiral Sir John Frewen GCB, and was the home to the Frewen family for over 300 years. As Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command (1969-1970) Admiral Sir John Frewen also had the prestigious role of First and Principal Naval Aide-de-Camp to Queen Elizabeth II from 1968 to 1970. He was also decorated with the Order of the Bath, before retiring from the Navy in 1970. He then went on to transfer Frewen, then known as Brickwall House School, into an educational trust, securing its future forever as a dyslexia school.

Head of Boarding at Frewen College, Sarah Medcraft said: "We are really pleased for our four Cadets: Leo, Naz, David and Luis, as they've made quite a commitment attending twice a week and they are absolutely loving it. We are very proud to make that connection back to Admiral Sir John Frewen GCB, I am sure he would have been delighted. He was keen to support dyslexic students as he had seen many capable young men in the services whose undiagnosed dyslexia had held them back".

Leo, Frewen boarding student and Royal Marine Cadet commented: "We were interested in joining the cadets as some of our group would like a career in the Royal Marines which is an elite amphibious force of the Royal Navy, and they also do beach invasions. The Royal Marines Cadets enjoy all the exciting activities on water that the Sea Cadets do, as well some serious adventure training. Our sessions have included: drill, marching, saluting, map reading and weapon handling."

Naz, also one of the Royal Marine Cadet at Frewen, said: "It's awesome! I have always been interested in joining the forces. The Cadets are teaching me discipline. I like being part of something bigger than myself, and the camaraderie of the group is great."

Leo, summed it up: "You can do really adventurous things that would be difficult to do at Frewen. We are very grateful to our Form Tutors and Mrs Medcraft, they were really supportive in helping us join and agreeing to drive us back and forth."

Frewen welcomes students of all abilities. In 2020 the school celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of record exam results. 'Pupil progress' and 'achievement' have continued to increase year-on-year over the last six years.

Although Frewen is an independent school with privately funded students, a proportion of Frewen's students are also funded by Local Authorities through an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

Note to Editors:

**Admiral Sir John Frewen**

A Royal navy flag officer, he joined the Royal Navy in 1924, serving in the Second World War and Korean War. He rose through a large number of ranks including that of Lieutenant, Captain, Rear Admiral on to become Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet (1965-1967), then Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth and Commander-in-Chief, Allied Command Channel (1967-1969) and finally rising to Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command (1969-1970). He was also had the prestigious role of First and Principal Naval Aide-de-Camp to Queen Elizabeth II from 1968 to 1970. He retired in 1970.

He was decorated with the Order of the Bath -a British order of chivalry founded by George I. The name derives from the elaborate medieval ceremony for appointing a knight.

### **Frewen College:**

Frewen College is a unique school for young people between the ages of 7 and 19, with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia, and Speech, Language and Communication needs.

Frewen College's roots go back over 100 years, It is regarded as the oldest specialist school for dyslexic students in the UK, and quite possibly the world. First established in Rottingdean in 1910 by Seabourne Godfrey Arthur May Moens and called Down House, and then later moved to Northiam, near Rye, and called Brickwall School.

Frewen College is based at Brickwall House in Northiam, East Sussex in an idyllic setting of many acres of grounds. Brickwall is a 17th century country house and estate and was home to the Frewen family for over 300 years. In 1969 Admiral Sir John Frewen gave Brickwall House and grounds to the school as a gift.

For further information, or images:

Contact: Marketing & PR Officer, Laura Andrew on: [laura.andrew@frewencollege.co.uk](mailto:laura.andrew@frewencollege.co.uk)

Frewen College, Brickwall, Rye Road, Northiam, East Sussex. TN31 6NL