

December 2021

Frewen News

Mr Goodman Writes

Dear Parents

Here we are at the end of another exciting term at Frewen!



In some ways, it has felt as if we have been getting back to normal after the disruption of the pandemic. We held our first public event - it was lovely to see parents, students and villagers at the excellent firework display, courtesy of Northiam Bonfire Society, in November. School trips and visits have resumed, such as the KS4 trip to The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night in London. We have been able to go through most of the term without wearing face coverings (except in confined spaces), and Mr Stanley and I were able to attend the ISA Awards Ceremony in Coventry and pick up the award for Outstanding Learning Provision 2021! (We were also finalists in the Senior School of the Year awards, just in case you hadn't heard!)

Ofsted have resumed their inspection regime, and we were visited in late November for the (usually) annual Social Care inspection of Boarding. Three inspectors spent three days going through all aspects of boarding, including safeguarding, health and safety, as well as looking at how we support our boarders. Their report will be published during the Christmas holidays - but it seemed to go well. Thanks to Mrs Medcraft and her team, and everyone else - including the students - who contributed!

But in other ways, things are still not back to normal. Year 11 are doing their mock exams - but this is the first in a series of sets of mocks designed to take the place of real exams if there should be another lockdown. Open mornings, parents evenings and some internal meetings are still online, and at the time of writing we have had a small number of students testing positive and having to go home. We continue to follow the DfE guidelines - and as of 29th November students are wearing masks in communal areas again. The new omicron variant makes it even more important that you remind your child to test twice-weekly, including during the Christmas Holidays.

Sadly, there will be no carol service or fish and chips on the last day of term - we have had to adapt our celebrations because of the pandemic. However, there will be a Christmas Concert for students, a Christmas Quiz, a decorating the doors competition - and our reward to the students for winning a national award: a trip on the steam train from Northiam to Tenterden and back!

I would like to wish you and your families a happy and safe students, and we look forward to seeing all students, including a few new ones, back for the first day of next term: Wednesday, January 5th.



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Aztecs



This term pupils have been learning about the Aztecs. They have been learning about Cactus City and how people lived. This has included learning about children and the punishments that were administered. There has been some great drama work around this topic where children were pricked with cactus spikes and, if they were really bad, sacrificed as a gift to the Gods. Freya's class enjoyed building Aztec homes out of Lego.

The North Pole's Got Talent



Pupils have been showcasing their talents this year with their Christmas play.

The elves are having to perform their best tricks for the honour of sitting alongside Santa on his sleigh this year.

Who will the judges choose?

Santa (played by Aidan) is loving the performance by the dancing elves.

Prep School



Odd Socks

Prep school pupils participated in several assemblies in which they thought about how we treat each other and what we could do if we thought someone might be being bullied.

We had lots of fun judging the oddness of their socks each day.

All Aboard!

It was full steam ahead as Frewen students kicked off Christmas in style.

To mark the school's remarkable achievements at the Independent Schools Association Awards, the school chartered a steam train from Northiam to Tenterden.

The whole school community joined in, with students and teachers joined by governors, maintenance staff, housekeepers, gardeners and caterers.

One the way, the students completed a nature quiz and enjoyed mince pies and other treats.

At Tenterden, we disembarked, observed the trains and marvelled at the atmospheric model railway exhibition before returning to school.

Principal Nick Goodman said, "I think we are the only school in the country to organise a festive train journey. It was a unique way to round off a busy and hardworking term. As usual, the students behaved impeccably well. I would like to thank the Kent and East Sussex Railway for their warm welcome."

Living In A World Where We All Count



Pupils enjoyed helping to sort out their library this week to ensure that we have lots of inclusive books which challenge stereotypes.

This work was extended as part of our PSHE curriculum where pupils thought about 'invisible' differences and thought carefully about how we should never make assumptions about what people can and can't do.



Bushcraft

At the start of September, a group of six Year Ten students began a very exciting new course as part of their options.

The Bushcraft course is taught mainly outdoors and students have been busy gardening, building fires, crafting pot stands and carving spoons.

They have also been learning how to safely use a bushcraft knife, axe, saw and crook knife.

I am so impressed with what they have learnt so far, and with the items they have created. They have worked sensibly, with the need for only a small number of plasters and have shown that they can cope with all weather conditions so long as there is hot chocolate!

English

It's been an exciting term in the English Department with a number of new staff setting up some really exciting new initiatives. I have been particularly impressed by the role out of our new weekly spelling programme, which is already producing results that are tangible across the senior school.

Young Writers

With a record number of our students entering the Young Writers' 'Empowerment Poetry Competition', I am delighted to announce that a select few of our students have been shortlisted for publication in the Young Writer's annual poetry anthology which is due to be released in the new year.

LAMDA

Looking forwards, our Key Stage 3 students will be working towards their LAMDA Speaking in Public qualification after the Christmas break. LAMDA stands for the London Academy for Music and Dramatic Art and over the years has become a tried and tested part of the English curriculum.

Set up by Mr Stanley, Frewen College has a history of doing incredibly well at this qualification and we are hoping to continue this success next term. Each year, students have to present a speech on a different subject; the focus for Year 7 is a book, for Year 8 a holiday and Year 9 is an object. Time to get your thinking caps on!

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair returned in November and once again it was a huge success. The fair was crammed full of interesting reads for all ages and abilities as well as an enticing array of Christmas gifts. I was proud to see so many of our students give up their break times to peruse the books.

We also managed to raise over £350 for the Frewen College library. We will be setting up a group of school librarians after the Christmas break to help make suggestions for how we can improve our library and help to choose new titles. If anybody is interested in joining, please let me know.

As ever, if you have any questions about English, please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of the team. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas break.

Football

Next term some students will be given the

opportunity to attend the Brighton and Hove Albion SEND

football tournaments.

We have previously attended and been very successful but due to the pandemic these have been cancelled the last two years.

We look forward to selecting a team to represent Frewen.

Fencing

Since September we have been working with local Fencing coach Chris Higginson who is a British Fencing Association Qualified Coach.

He has been running sessions during KS3 games lessons and also offering an after-school club on a Wednesday.

The students have been keen to learn the new skills and qualities involved in Fencing.

It has been fantastic to see them developing self confidence as well as developing new skills.

Your child can sign up during games/ afterschool there is charge for this but please let Mr Swinson know if you would like to have a go.



Fencing in the Auditorium

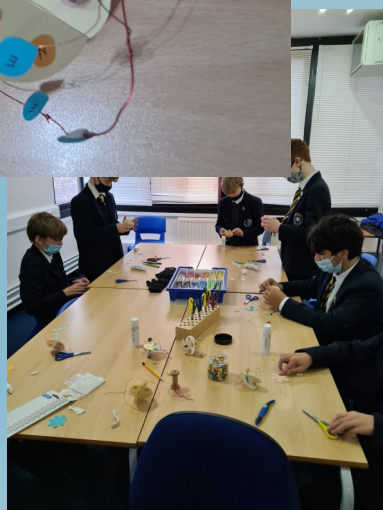
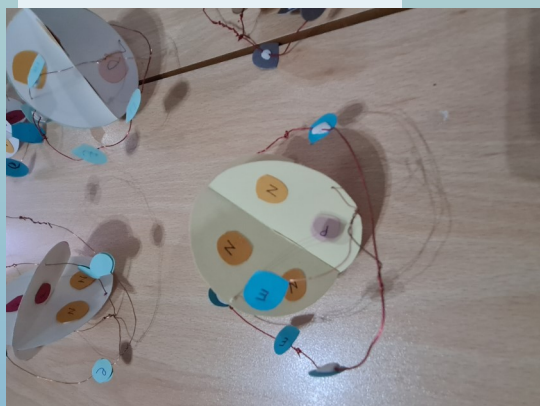
PE and Science

We are as busy as ever in the Science department as we rush headlong into the Xmas holidays.

We start with the year 8's who have been learning about the Periodic Table recently. This involves furthering their knowledge of particle theory that they studied in year 7. The photos show Miss Falder's group making models of an atom, which show the position of protons neutrons and electrons.

The year 9's have been working with forces and how they relate to motion. This has involved trips to the hardcourt for running, skipping and hopping activities so they could calculate their average speed. We're always glad to help out the PE department with some fitness training.

To end this newsletter, we must mention the year 7 classes who have been looking at human reproduction. This important topic is always entertaining, but our display models have seen better days, bits are now hanging by thread and being held in place by the collective will power of the students.



Meet Ms Falder

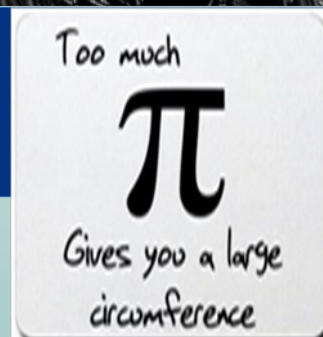
I have been teaching for 16 years in a variety of schools across Kent and East Sussex. I teach Science, Maths and PE. In that time, I have developed a keen interest in teaching students with SEN and getting them to realise their full potential.

I have four children and enjoy spending time with our cocker spaniel Dolly and exploring the great outdoors! I love horse riding, riding motor bikes and going to the theatre!



Mathematics

Meet Mr Booth



After my Master's in Computer Science, I worked as a programmer, completed my teacher training, and moved to Taiwan. Recently I setup a social enterprise that collected donated laptops and gave them to children with no access to a device during lockdown.

As a family we love to get creative; making things with a 3D printer is our latest hobby and we spent several days setting up our very own escape room for my daughter and her friends. They did manage to escape, which was a relief - it was her birthday after all!

DT

Tis the season for CAD/CAM in design and technology.

The 3d printer and the new laser cutter (named Shrek by the students) rarely have a moment to rest between all the exciting projects that are being thrown at them from all angles.

Our GCSE students are making very good use of the laser for making highly accurate prototypes and understanding the importance of designing to the nearest millimetre. Meanwhile in KS3 we have doubled down on learning to use Inkscape to add details to their bottle openers or make an entire winter project come to life in the form of a tealight holder. Traditional handcraft hasn't been forgotten, and the

aroma fruit project has kept our year 7s busy learning how to saw, drill, file, plane and sand a piece of wood to become a smooth and beautiful product.

In 3d design club the laser has seen great use for making badges, decorations and even a welcome sign, but the king has been the 3d printer with projects like the tower of toilet rolls or the magnificent Roman temple.



"Shrek"

School Council

House Vice Captain, Sean Meade (Year 11), has been chairing the school council meeting this term and has done a sterling ensuring that all voices are heard. Sean was also praised for his excellent skills by one of the school governors.

This term students have discussed:

- Catering
- School Uniform
- ♦ A whole school theatre trip



Boarding

What a great term we have had in boarding!

The lead up to Christmas is always a busy but enjoyable time.

Once again, the range of activities on offer have led to fun, discovery and most importantly memories made!

The day trip to London and Christmas Panto were stand out highlights across the weekend excursions, whilst the dark nights have seen the return of the popular game Jack Jack Strike-a-Light.

The 6th Form students have tried their hand at budgeting, buying, and cooking up a meal as part of the independence programme we run, while Key Stages 3 & 4 have enjoyed decorating the boarding house

and tree; there are lights, bunting and baubles everywhere!

Continuing with the festive feeling, our Christmas party will finish off the term well with Secret Santa, Mr Swinson's Super Seasonal Quiz and prizes for the festively best dressed!

Wishing you all a wonderful festive break and sending our best wishes for 2022.



Art

Year 8 this term have been responding to the theme of 'treescapes' by looking at various artists, as well as experimenting with ideas using various materials and techniques.

I have been immensely proud with how they have all coped with more creative freedom and choice. Furthermore, many have opted to work to a larger scale - some as big as A0 (which is 16x A4 put together!). The resulting work will be completed in the new year, where we can look forward to seeing individual, perceptive and abstract outcomes - watch this space!



Sixth Form

Arriving back to Frewen after half-term students were 'surprised' by a newly decorated Common Room. Many thanks to Aaron and his team for their hard work and for helping to give the students a space with their own identity.

In Sixth Form students follow a range of different courses, we would like to introduce you to a few of these:

Sam:

Course: Level 3 BTEC in Public Services. This course is about getting you ready for public services, both physically and mentally.

Why: I like the course and hope to join one of the services in the future.

Next steps: I want to get a job, improve my fitness, and then join one of the services.

Jack:

Course: Level 3 BTEC in ESports. We learn about the gaming industry; the physical health of gaming; and building the brand behind games.

Why: It's entertaining & interesting.

Next steps: Maybe university to study media or graphics.

Daniel:

Course: A' Level Maths & Physics

Why: There aren't any essays! And I'm good at both subjects.

Next steps: To be a pilot.



Frewen College

Brickwall
Northiam
Rye
Sussex
TN31 6NL

Phone: 01797 2523494
www.frewencollege.co.uk
E-mail: office@frewencollege.co.uk

Absence

If your child is absent from school, please email:
absence@frewencollege.co.uk

