



Frewen College Newsletter

Winter Term - December 2022

Inside the Issue :

Principals
Welcome

Prep School
News 1

Boarding News 2

Sixth Form
News 3 - 4

Maths 5 - 6

English 7 - 9

Humanities /
Science 10

ICT 11

Art 12

DT 13

Food and
Nutrition /
Food Bank 14

Here we are at the end of the Christmas term!

As you will see from the articles in this newsletter, there has been lots going on. As the holidays have drawn near, the number of events has increased, many with a Christmas or winter theme: the Prep school's touching presentation of the Little Christmas Tree; the Northiam Christingle, the Sixth Form "black tie dinner;" the Senior School Music concert (this was to an audience of students this year); the Senior School Drama "The Panto is cancelled - NOT!".

We finally managed to enjoy the annual bonfire and firework display during the last week of term, after having cancelled it twice due to bad weather. Thanks to Northiam Bonfire Society for making this possible!

This would all be worth mentioning in any year - but one of the things that made it all extra-special this year is that this was the first time most of these events had been held since 2019.

It was lovely to see the students performing again, and to see parents coming into school, to enjoy the celebrations, partake in the refreshments, and chat with staff about their children and their progress. It really felt like things were getting back to normal at last!

There have been a few changes over the last three years. Many of our staff meetings, and all of our open mornings are now on Teams. We are experimenting with "hybrid" parents evenings, where some parents come to school in person, while others speak to teachers on Teams. We will soon be introducing a new parent app - further news on this will follow.

But much remains the same - it's the end of the Christmas term: everyone is tired after a hard term, and looking forward to the Christmas holidays.

We are saying goodbye to Sarah Medcraft, Head of Boarding, this term. I know boarders and their parents, in particular, will join me in wishing her all the best for the future.

And congratulations to Natalie Carpenter, in the Prep School, for gaining her Level 7 Dyslexia qualification, with a distinction, after many months of hard work!

I wish you all a happy and relaxing holiday, and a very Merry Christmas, and look forward to seeing students back in school on Wednesday, 4th January.

Nick Goodman
Principal



Prep School by Sally Welch

Pupils at the prep school have had a busy term. Our older pupils have been learning about volcanoes and have created some fantastic models. They have been thinking about chemical reactions in science will be choosing from a variety of substances to create their own explosions in the last week of term. Younger pupils have been studying the weather and have enjoyed collecting a range of data to help them forecast the weather accurately. They have also been learning about the different seasons and the relationship between the Earth and the Sun.

It has been exciting to see the pupils back on stage again for their performance of The Little Christmas Tree. It has been our first performance to a live audience for a few years and the pupils really rose to the occasion. It was lovely to see friends and families joining with us to help get the festive season off to a good start. Many thanks to amazing catering team from providing a lovely spread of delicious nibbles and mulled wine.



Northiam Christingle

Pupils also joined with Northiam Primary School for their Christingle service. Pupils learnt about the different elements of the Christingle and performed Silent Night to a packed church.

Our term ends with the grand delivery of the Christmas post box and pupils receiving their gifts from Secret Santa.

Boarding by Sarah Medcraft

The first term of the new school year is not only the longest, but also one of changes as new students and staff join our boarding community.

From after school beach trips to sports hall activities as the nights get shorter and colder, we are always looking for ways to keep our boarders entertained in the evenings. The weekends have become so popular that at times we have been oversubscribed. We have enjoyed paddleboarding, bowling, trampolining, pottery painting and of course the annual trip to London to visit the Natural History Museum and see the Christmas lights in Leicester Square and Covent Garden.

As the term end approaches the festivities begin with a boarders' party, Christmas quiz, secret Santa and Christmas lunch followed by preparations to go home and do Christmas all over again!

After five busy years at Frewen, I shall be leaving at the end of this term. My thanks to the students who have taught me so much and parents and staff who have supported our endeavours to help each boarder achieve their personal best. My final legacy may well be winning the handstand competition! From January, Miss Lewis and Mr Potter will become acting Heads of Boarding and I have no doubt that they will do a great job.

Wishing you all a wonderful festive break and all things good for 2023!



Thank you to the maintenance team for their beautiful Christmas display!



Sixth Form by Hazel Lawrence

We recently held a Formal Christmas Dinner for Sixth Form students, a chance to dress up, let our hair down after the hard work this term and start this year's Christmas festivities. The evening started with a drink's reception, where students enjoyed non-alcoholic champagne, mocktails or non-alcoholic beer.

Our catering team prepared a magnificent three course meal of bruschetta, Traditional Roast Turkey and all the trimmings followed by a chocolate roulade.

This was then followed by a disco, which included a rowdy rendition of 'Sweet Caroline!' and a number of Christmas hits!

A great time was had by all students, and a massive thank you to all the staff that went above and beyond to make our first Christmas Dinner event such a success.



Sixth Form by Hazel Lawrence

Last year, one of our sixth form students secured a place at the Water Bear College of Music in Brighton, studying music production. Now known across Tik Tok and social media as "TAB BEATS" he is doing incredibly well, both in college and online, and has even been asked by Water Bear to pass on his skills to fellow students. TAB BEATS recently got in touch with us and said,

"Frewen was great for me because of the small classrooms. It had very supportive and helpful teachers and it felt more like a family than a school."

We wish TAB BEATS the very best for the future.



@TabBeats



Maths by Chloe Falder

"Mathematics is the poetry of logical ideas." – Einstein

As Maths teachers we obviously love the world of Math's! We love the beauty of Fibonacci in nature, the human body and even music and the way it allows us to think through problems and process our thoughts logically. Most importantly, we love that every day we get to share these fundamental pieces of knowledge with all of our students, to help set them up to enjoy math's beyond the curriculum at Frewen College, and to become confident young adults as they head out into the working world. We hope that one day when they are sat in an office analysing the profits of the company they work for (or own themselves) they will think back to their statistics work they began here at Frewen College. If they are pricing up work and estimating jobs in the construction industry we hope they recall their estimation knowledge and can apply their understanding of geometry to finding areas and perimeters. Or as we all love to do, if they are out, spending their well-earned cash, they are able to remember their number fluency all the way through school by being able to compare best buys or work out a percentage off in a Christmas sale!

Maths Department Team

Head of Mathematics
Chloe Falder

Math's Teachers
Charlene Claassen
Juan Torres
Marianne O'Connor



Math's Video

There is a great BBC series by Hannah Fry you may want to explore. Here is the episode where we discover how the Fibonacci sequence appears in nature in many ways:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyvDG8qjt-M>

Maths in the News

You might have heard about a rise in inflation.

This means that things like food, transport and clothes may be more expensive to buy this year than last year.

Inflation is calculated by the percentage change of the CPI (Consumer Price Index) between the same month 12 months

A percentage change is calculated by :

$$\left(\frac{\text{the actual change in value}}{\text{the original value}} \right) \times 100$$

The CPI is a 'basket' of 700+ products and services made up of all sorts of products from the cost of a packet of pasta to an average taxi journey.

The CPI in December 2020 = 109.2

The CPI in December 2021 = 115.1

$$\frac{(115.1 - 109.2)}{109.2} \times 100 = 5.4\%$$

inflation rate for December 2021 The target is 2%. A 2% rate of inflation so a good rate of economic growth.

Maths by Chloe Falder

What have we been up to in Maths....

What will your future career be?

You can't know exactly what you will do in the future, meaning you can't predict what Maths you will need. Many people will change careers multiple times, meaning that you need to have a wide understanding of math's to give you the best possible job options.

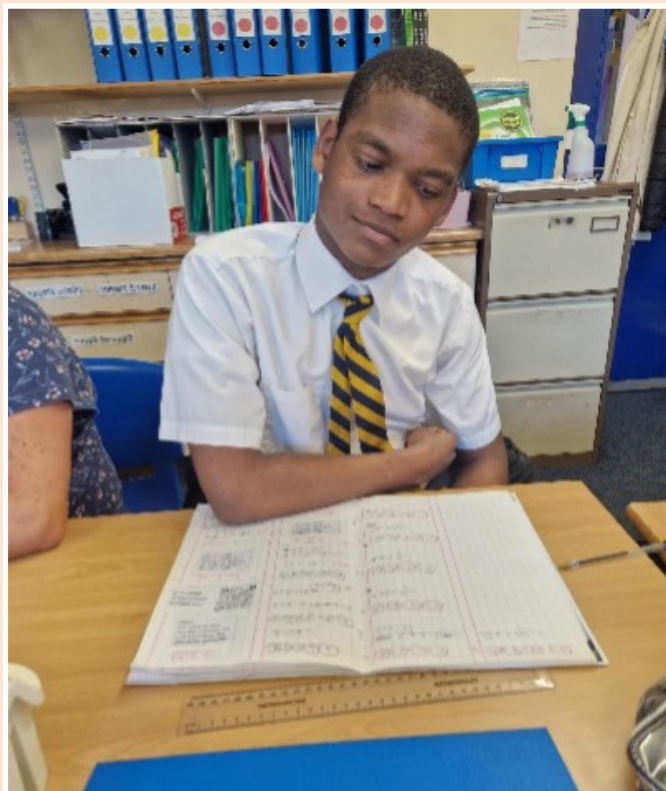
Photographer: Many people have an interest in photography today. Most people have smart phone so always have a camera on them to capture that picturesque shot or a special memory. You may think that taking a good photograph has nothing to do with Math's, but there is Maths behind taking that perfect shot:

- The Rule of thirds helps to proportion your image.
- Understanding the correct shutter speed, calculated as a fraction, to adjust how much light is allowed into the camera for a certain length of time.
- The cameras ISO levels will control the brightness of a photograph.
- If opening your own business, you will need a good understanding of percentages and personal finance.

Here are some pictures of our KS3 students working with Fractions:



And our KS4 students investigating Algebra...



Meet a photographer who has her own business:



Here is some careers advice on how to become a photographer



English by Rebecca Lowe

It's been another exciting term in the English Department with a number of new initiatives and a heightened focus on intervention. Below are just a few of the highlights but, as ever, if you would like more information on anything that is going on in the department, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Poetry

A number of our students took part in this year's Young Writers' Poetry Competition. The theme was the environment. I am delighted to announce that a 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. A copy of the anthology will be available in book shops and a copy is also added to The British Library's book collection.

The Scholastic 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 particularly proud of our new librarians who gave up their own lunch times to help run the event. They also took an active role in choosing new titles. These books will be added to the Frewen library after the Christmas break.

Sharing Good Practice

The English department, working collaboratively with our team of specialist therapists, have been sharing intervention and dyslexic strategies with a visitor from Gildredge House School in Eastbourne. The day comprised of sessions ranging from assistive technology to occupational therapy, to phonics and intervention strategies. The event made many of us more aware of how effectively the Frewen staff team works across very varied disciplines.



English by Rebecca Lowe

Functional Skills Exams

Ms Taylor-Wade's Year 10 English group have just sat their Level 1 Functional Skills exams. This is the first time these students have sat an external exam so we thought it would be interesting to find out what their experiences were like.

Functional Skills exams are one of the Key Stage 4 pathways available at Frewen College. They can stand alone or be a stepping stone to GCSE. They aim to arm students with a level of literacy that can be translated into the world of work.

"I don't know how I did, but I'm confident I didn't crash and burn so that's always a good start. As much as I wasn't looking forward to it, I found it easier than I thought it would be".

Isaac Prince

"We had to read three different texts and answer questions on them for one hour. I think that as far as exams go, it was quite simple. I didn't know what to expect and I am content with the answers I wrote. I had a lot of time spare, so I checked it around five times (which I think might be a bit too much). All in all, if I knew someone who was doing it I would tell them not to get stressed".

Charlie Hilleard

English Intervention

We were lucky to have Miss Parker, an experienced primary school teacher, join us earlier this year. This has meant that, in addition to existing offerings, we have been able to roll out a number of new programmes of intervention.

One of these is developing reading skills using decodable phonics books. We have invested in a series of new reading books, which have been developed to appeal to older learners. They are aimed at supporting readers to succeed at each level - and to progress in their skills so that they can become confident and fluent. During these sessions, students will be supported to use reliable reading strategies that support comprehension.

We have re-established the Spectrum Handwriting Programme. This is a comprehensive programme that supports students through the stages of developing a clear and fluid style of handwriting. The programme aims to link the development of handwriting skills to the rules of the English spelling system.

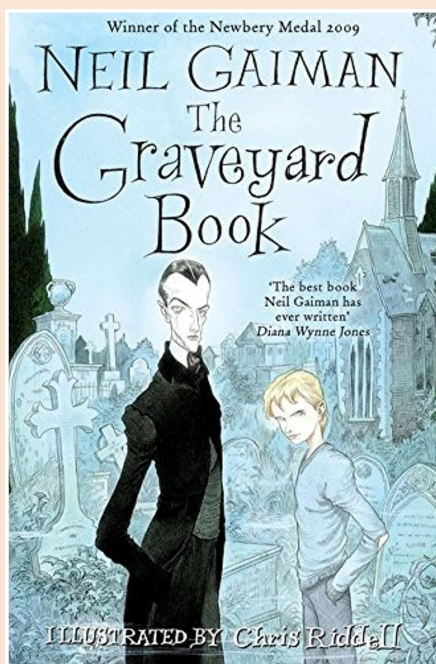
We have also trained a number of staff to use 'That Reading Thing' (or TRT). TRT is an evidence-based reading method. Students work from sound to print using age-appropriate vocabulary and real reading material.

It is tightly structured and students are able to move through the lessons at their own pace. It is intended to develop the skills of blending and segmenting and to gradually increase their knowledge of the English code. The course is assessed at frequent intervals so we will have a clear idea of its impact over the course of the year.

English by Rebecca Lowe

The Graveyard Book

This term, year 8 have been studying 'The Graveyard book' and, as part of their studies, they made the short trip out to Northiam Cemetery to investigate the gravestones. The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman is the story of Bod. Bod (short for Nobody) is orphaned as a toddler when the sinister Jack kills his family. He is taken in and sheltered by the inhabitants of the nearby cemetery. Bod grows up amongst the dead and is mentored by his guardian, the mysterious Silas. He has many adventures during his childhood in the cemetery and makes many friends. Eventually he defeats Jack and goes out into the world with eyes and heart wide open. The Graveyard Book won the prestigious Carnegie Medal in 2010.



As Bradley Barnes says

"Silas is the best character in my opinion because he is a mysterious character, and you never really learn what he is but there are little hints that he is a vampire. Silas has a good and bad side. He is Bod's guardian. Bods parents are Mrs and Mr Owens they are ghosts who cannot leave the grave yard although Silas can!"



LAMDA Lift Off

LAMDA

After the Christmas holiday, we will be launching our annual LAMDA Public Speaking qualifications and it would be really helpful if students could choose their discussion topics over the break. Year 7 need to choose a book to discuss, Year 8 a trip or visit, Year 9 an object and Year 10 and 11 a hobby. 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.

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

Humanities by Hazel Lawrence

The Year 7 students have been developing their geographical knowledge about continents and countries of the world. Students have also been working on their map skills and learning has included practising latitude and longitude on balloons, four and six-figure grid references and compass directions. Most recently, students have been enjoying making their own contours and during 'no pens day', used a range of glitter, card, playdoh and recycled products to make flags, maps and geographical features.

No Pens Day

I CAN

No Pens Day
Wednesday

Our Year 8 students have embraced what it means to be a real geographer going out in the 'field' to carry out a mock river fieldwork trip. The students worked their way through the muddy fields, into the Frewen woods and carried out measurements of the width, depth and velocity of the 'river' in line with their enquiry questions. Subsequently, year 8 have been writing up their fieldwork and drawing some conclusions and evaluations from this. This ties in with their learning about rivers.

In RE we students have been looking at different festivals of light, this has included the Hindu festival of Divali. As part of their learning students have made Divali Lamps.

Science by Scott Wassell

Festive greetings from the science division.

This is one if not the busiest term of the year. After the summer holidays we have a settling back process into the school routine but this term we need to focus on teaching content. So, it can be quite hectic trying to keep on schedule with topics coming thick and fast.

The year 7's have now entered the ever cringe inducing topic of human reproduction. It can take a while for them to get used to using the vocabulary in lesson, but it does show the importance of scientific language in science.

The year 11 GCSE cohort has had successful mocks where they got to sit 3 papers for science. We hope this was a valuable learning tool for them and they take the positives from the experience and incorporate it into their study plan going forward.

FREWEN FOCUS

DO
YOUR BEST

DON'T
GET STRESSED

ICT by Jenny Adie and Steve Booth

Frewen's ICT department wish all the students and their families a very Merry Christmas. We hope you like these ideas of how to...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santes, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pinning for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year; after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Art by Duncan Sangster

On Friday 11th November, the year 8's spent the afternoon down at Hastings Stade as part of their 'beachscape' project.

This term students have been looking at the work of John Piper and James Boswell, responding to the way they used different materials and techniques to create representations of beaches up and down the country over the past century. Not only do these works of art show us how to beautifully capture natural environments, but it also shows us how these landscapes have changed dramatically over a short period of time.

By visiting Hastings Stade, students were able to photograph the beach, cliffs, sea, fishing boats and one or two rotting fish heads! These photographs will hopefully play a huge part informing the students beach scape final outcomes that will be completed by the end of term.



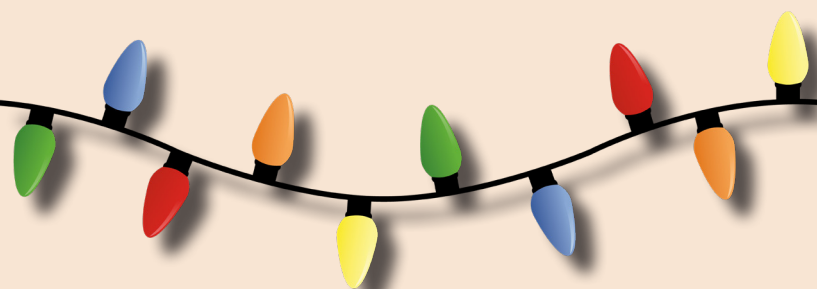
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex
James Boswell (1906-1971)



Design & Technology by Marea Saunders

Our Y7 students have now completed the Aroma Fruit project, allowing them all to experience working in wood and using some of the tools and equipment we have in the department, such as the pillar drill. To conclude the project the students were asked to create an advertisement for the Aroma Fruit they made, we had some excellent adverts, some of them were filmed using stop frame animation.

After the noisy Room Alarm project, where Y8 were able to learn basic electronic circuits and had a go at soldering. To conclude the term the students research winter festivals to help them design a tealight holder, using CAD and the laser cutter.



Y9s have just successfully completed an animal themed bottle opener, after learning about levers and ergonomics. Now they are moving on to the E-Textiles Cushion Project, with a chance to develop their textiles skills while incorporating electronics into their design.

Y10 as part of the GCSE have been learning about different technologies and how they impact our life and the environment. They have also been looking at the needs of people with disabilities and have redesigned an everyday product for their needs. The outcome was a 3D printed prototype after they had finalised their design using TinkerCAD.

Y11 are continuing with the project element of their GCSE and are busy developing their designs that they will make later next term.



Food and Nutrition by Claire Beaumont

It's that time of year again. All we hear are Christmas tunes in shops and on radio stations and so many mention food - from "Oh, bring us a figgy pudding" to "Later we'll have some pumpkin pie

In Britain we tend to have turkey and Christmas, 'figgy' pudding but does everyone?

We put up a display in the auditorium showing food traditions.

Bacalao (salted cod) is eaten in Mexico; in Germany it's roast goose, (it dates to 1350); In Lithuania there's a feast of 12 dishes and in Italy they have panettone, a cake with candied fruit, chocolate, raisins, and nuts.

The strangest food tradition must be Japan, which didn't have one until KFC persuaded the Japanese to try their holiday bucket. It was such a successful marketing campaign that people now book their meals up to 2 months in advance!

Here students made peppermint polar bears, stained-glass window biscuits (which can be hung up as decorations, if any make it home!) and a spiced German biscuit called Lebkuchen.

Others have made their own mincemeat, mince pies, cinnamon swirls and Christmas logs. There has been fantastic cooking from everyone.

Merry Christmas!



Food Bank Donations

Many thanks to everyone who donated so generously to our foodbank appeal. It was greatly appreciated. We will be delivering this wonderful array to the foodbank in Hastings.

