



Frewen College Newsletter

Spring Half Term - February 2024

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Dear Parents

There has been plenty going on at Frewen this half term, as you will see from the articles in this newsletter. But we are all relieved that, after last term, when we had no fewer than three external inspections, we have been able to focus on what matters most: making sure students get the best education possible, and looking at how we might continually improve this.

ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

I had hoped to be able to tell you about our full ISI inspection report, but this is still going through quality control checks, so I remain sworn to secrecy. Having seen the draft. I can tell you that the new reports are more like a description of the school, with no one-word judgements, but a focus on whether the school has passed each of the standards, and, all being well, some recommendations for further development.

The other big news this term has been the announcement, by the governors, of my successor from September. I am confident that Mark Loveday will be ideally placed to lead the school in the next stages of development, and look forward to working with him to ensure a smooth transition.

Finally, while current Frewen parents will probably not remember him, those reading this online may remember Mr Nick Oddie, who worked at Frewen College from 1984 until 2014, and was Deputy Head, retiring just prior to my arrival. He is remembered in this email by Sally Welch, who worked with him during his time here.



Nick's funeral will take place at 1.30pm on Tuesday 27th February at St Mary's Church in Northiam. The service will be open to all, followed by a private cremation.

Please visit the link below for the tribute website, where you can share your memories and make donations in his remembrance.

<https://nicholasoddy.muchloved.com>

Prep School

by Debbie Fraser



We have certainly been busy at Prep this term- with the children working hard exploring ancient history! Some have been delving into the Ancient Greek world; learning about the different periods of this part of history, comparing life then, to life now. We have explored city states and have appreciated the legacies that have been bestowed upon us, thanks to the work of the ancient Greeks. We have also been creative, by writing our own Greek inspired myths and by making Greek vases from clay, in Art.



Ancient Rome was the topic for the other half of Prep this term. The Green Class have emersed themselves in Roman history- acting like Gladiators and using persuasive writing to encourage people to attend Gladiator School! In art, they have made roman shields and created mosaics, inspired by pieces of art that have been discovered from this period.



Boarding

by Hannah Lewis

The Boarders have enjoyed an array of activities this term during the weekends; bouncing around at Gravity in Maidstone, swimming the rapids and sliding the flumes at Tenterden Leisure Center, a cinema trip to see Wonka and ice skating at Plant Ice Gillingham.



A highlight of this term was the rescheduled Big 6 weekend activity; a theatre trip to see 'The Play That Goes Wrong' at the Duchess Theatre, London. We took 25 of our 29 boarders who enjoyed the train journey into the city, the sushi we had for lunch and of course the slap stick humour of the play. A busy but fun day for our community.



In addition to this, there have been a variety of in-house activities. We now regularly take the boarders swimming on Tuesday evenings which has been very popular, along with dodgeball at the local sports hall. The Girls in The Warren have enjoyed facial nights; new books and new movies, including the popular Barbie! Both houses were bought a games console over Christmas and the students have been enjoy FIFA tournaments.

The Senior Boys' common area has now been completed and the boys are enjoying the new space, hanging out together, playing pool with some loud tunes playing in the background!



As part of our development programme, we have been working on transition gifts for evaluating and new starting students. Going forward all evaluation students will be welcomed with a Frewen College Boarding Water bottle, and all new started will receive a Frewen College Board Oodie. All current students will receive both on their return to school after what I hope will be a relaxing half term break.



English

by Rebecca Lowe

Filming at Frewen

On Thursday 18th January, Frewen College was excited to welcome a BBC Persian film crew to make a short film aimed at promoting dyslexia and dyslexia techniques on an international stage. Awareness of dyslexia remains limited in the Arab world.



The crew interviewed a panel of students and then conducted a master interview with our Head of Junior School, Sally Welch.

They then filmed an English lesson which focused on using dyslexic techniques in the classroom before visiting the Prep School to film a lesson on blending and phonics.

BBC Persian, which is based in London, is a subsidiary of the BBC World Service. Thank you to everybody involved but most of all to our wonderful students who were incredible ambassadors for Frewen College.



Sixth Form Success

This term, the English department recorded its best GCSE resit results ever. With two of our students achieving a level 4 and one of our students achieving a level 5. Three of the other students were very close to getting a 4 and one of our students had never sat the exam before.

Converted into a percentage, this means that we achieved a 50% pass rate, which is an incredible 10% higher than the national average for November 2023. This is even more of an achievement because most of our students struggle with dyslexia. Huge congratulations to everybody involved.



Connor, Jake and Alex celebrating their success.

English by Rebecca Lowe

LAMDA

It's been a noisy few weeks in the English department with a large number of students preparing for their LAMDA public speaking qualifications. It's always amazing to discover the wide range of interests and hobbies that our students engage in outside school, and the exciting places they have visited.

No matter the end result, the journey has been a fantastic experience with students who were previously reticent to speak in public, now doing so freely and with confidence.



A selection of the beautiful posters created by our Year Seven students.

Talking about Trips By Lily Rockhill



The Year Eight students had to prepare a speech about a trip or excursion.

Year Eight have been preparing for LAMDA. LAMDA is an exam that goes up to Year Ten but not Year Eleven because of GCSE. LAMDA Stands for London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. LAMDA is to do with performing arts, but we are concentrating on public speaking.

We make cards and posters to help us remember our speech. The subject for Year Eight is a trip or excursion. I chose my holiday to Ibiza because it was my most recent holiday. It was really fun to talk about. When we are doing LAMDA people experience feelings of anxiety, nervousness and excitement and I think it is a great way to grow your confidence in speaking.

Interesting Objects



Objects were the focus for Year Nine's speeches.

The Year nine LAMDA involves researching an object for their main presentation and this year's range was really interesting.

Logan Lyward chose his grandfather's video camera. Apparently, he had filmed a pop video for the rock band Kiss and was good friends with Roger Daltrey out of The Who.

Hayden Bradley chose his nitrous RC car; his knowledge of the interior mechanics was hugely impressive. Sean Russell's object was his wildlife camera which he received as a gift for Christmas. He has attached it to a fence in a badger reserve adjacent to his home. So far, he has footage of a tawny owl, a cheeky squirrel and a lot of foxes.

English

by Rebecca Lowe

Never Standing Still: Multi-Sensory Learning in English

Ms Taylor – Wade's class exploring different ways to improve their spelling.



In English, we are constantly trying out new forms of multi-sensory learning to make what is frequently a frustrating subject easier to take in. As a department, we are mindful that every individual's learning style is different.

Multisensory learning is all about encouraging learners to use more than one of their senses when taking in new information. It enables pupils to use their personal areas of strength to help them learn.

Dyslexic students often have difficulty absorbing new information, but these teaching techniques help break down these barriers. The best part of all is that multisensory learning is more fun and works well for all learners.

Revising Functional Skills

A number of our students will be sitting one of the Functional Skills exams directly after the half term break. If you would like to help your child revise by practicing past papers during the half term, a huge number of resources can be found here: [Edexcel Functional Skills in English | Pearson qualifications](#)

As ever, if you have any questions about English, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email at rebecca.lowe@frewencollege.co.uk

ICT

by Marianne O'Connor

ICT News - The year 8s have been getting hands on with computer hardware this term, learning the purpose of all the components, as well as how to put a computer together. They have worked really hard and will hopefully put their skills to good use in the future.



Mrs O'Connor, Mrs Claasen, Mr Torres, Ms Parker and Mr Booth



Maths

by Marianne O'Connor

Maths 'Fun Fact'

A standard piece of paper can only be folded seven times, however, according to mathematical theory, if you could fold a piece of paper in half 103 times its thickness would equal that of the observable universe.

How do fashion designers use maths?

Math is a crucial component of fashion design. Fashion industry producers use math to produce their clothing on a daily basis. Some of these tasks include fitting model garments, maintaining size uniformity, and mapping a two-dimensional pattern to fit a three-dimensional body.

$$2 + 3 = 10$$

$$8 + 4 = 96$$

$$7 + 2 = 63$$

$$6 + 5 = 66$$

$$9 + 5 = ???$$

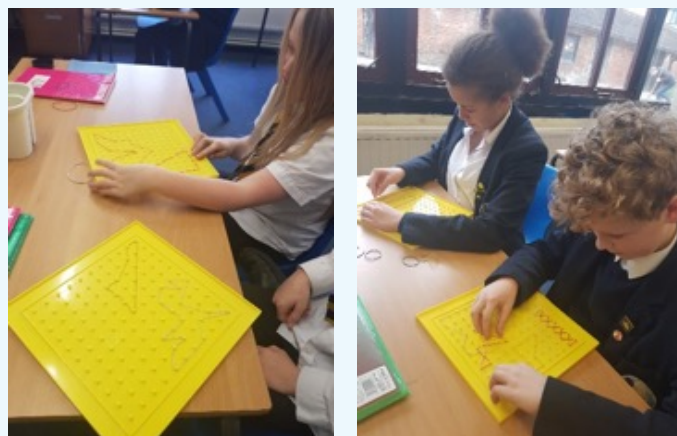
Puzzle 3

Solution in next newsletter.

Solution to puzzle 2 is 53.

HOW? - Sum of digits in the 1st and 3rd column and difference between digits in the 1st and 3rd column.

Year 7 students have been working with decimals and negative numbers. They are now tackling perimeter, area and volume of shapes. This is Year 7 using the **Geoboards**.



Year 8 students have learnt about different charts – bar graphs and pictograms.

Year 9 students have moved on to 3D shapes and will start to develop their algebra skills.

Year 10 students have been mastering how to calculate circumference and area of a circle and are now moving on to accuracy. Here are some year 10's using whiteboards to practice significant figures and decimal places.



Year 11 students coped very well with their mock exam last term and the results overall were encouraging. They are now continuing to practice exam style questions whilst revising.

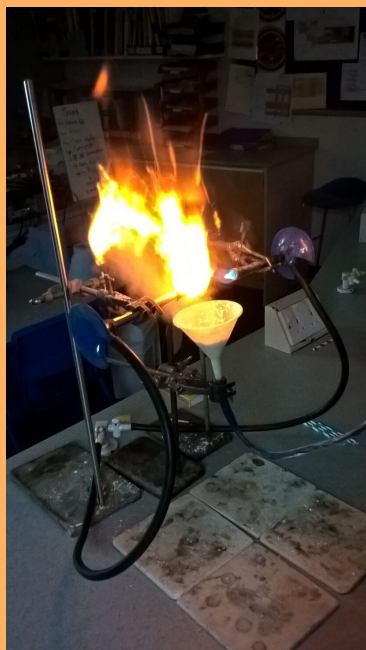
Next term, Mrs Claasen will be running GCSE maths exam practice on Wednesdays 4:15 – 5:00. All year 11s welcome.

Science

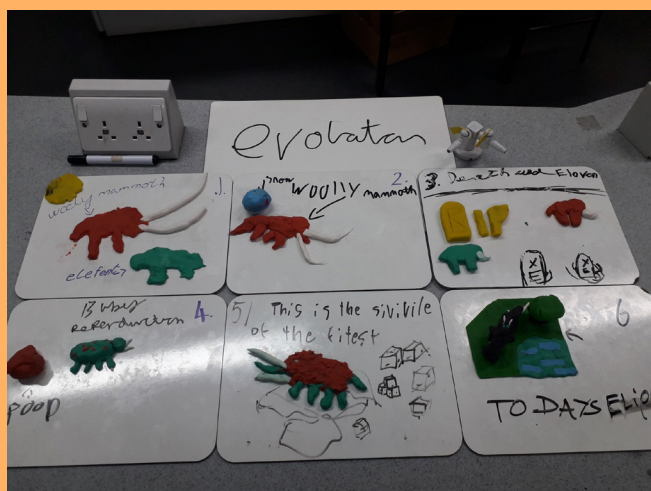
by Scott Wassell

As we make headway into 2024 it has been a busy time for the science department.

Year 8 have covered plant structure and fertilisation along with seed formation and dispersal. They have just started the combustion topic which provides lots of hands-on practical work but also reinforces chemical equations.



The year 11's have recently just finished working on their last chemistry topic which involves further work on groups in the periodic table and how we measure and what factors affect the rate of reactions. As we move onto their final biology topic, natural selection and genetic modification, we have been creative with our delivery. We have done our biological resistance play and a hands-on clay model representation of natural selection.



DT

by Marea Saunders

In the after school DT club, we are preparing for spring by designing and making bird nest boxes. Students have researched the different birds they have in their garden and will be making specific nesting boxes to meet the needs of the birds in their gardens.

All our lower school students are currently completing textiles projects. The **Y7s** after making their spin art machines, have been using them to decorate fabric. The fabric has been used to make small cushions using the sewing machine. For most of our students this is the first time they have used this equipment.



Y8s are designing a tote bag for their chosen charity. Students were able to pick any registered charity to design for. The students have picked a wide range including some of the bigger ones such as Cancer Research and The Dogs Trust to some smaller less well-known charities such as Hypo Hounds and the Shark Trust. Students have used Batik method of decorating the fabric and will be developing their textiles skills to make this fabric into a reusable tote bag.

Y9s are completing the design of a logo which incorporates E-textiles technology to provide a light. They are also using applique to apply the logo to the cushion covers they will make.

Y10s are finalising their designs to produce an adaptive design for people who have grip issues. They have looked at arrange of disabilities and considered the needs of this group in the redesigning an everyday product to make their lives easier.

Drama

by Claire Jackson

It's always very busy in the drama studio and this last term has been no exception!

Year 7 have shown enormous energy, learning Pantomime and Silent Movie drama techniques whilst **Yr8** mastered basic stage combat and sword fighting before developing their physical and vocal skills to create mood, atmosphere and tension to devise characters and stories of the rumour laden Darkwood Manor!

Yr9 have been studying the play Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah, adapted by Lemn Sissay. This has challenged them to identify the themes in a script and use non-naturalistic techniques to bring a scripted drama to life.



DEAR ENGLAND

Our BTEC Performing Arts students in **Yr10 and 11** had a fantastic trip to London to see the play 'Dear England' which is a fictionalised account of the struggles and successes of England's football teams, based on extensive research and interviews. Along with Joseph Fiennes there was a phenomenal cast that brought to life the question, 'why can't England's men win at their own game?' It was extremely engaging play which had all the students singing, 'Sweet Caroline' at the end. You didn't even have to like football to enjoy this one.



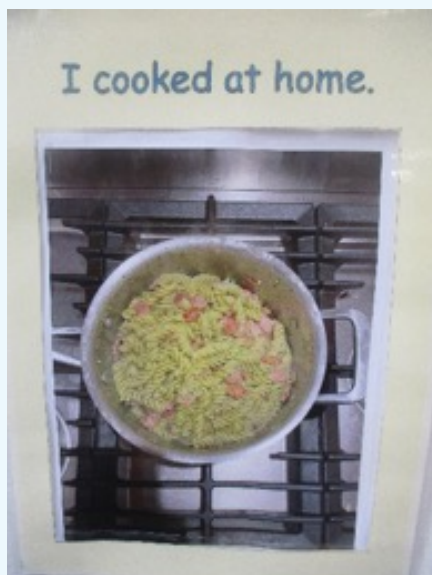
Food & Nutrition by Claire Beaumont

As next week is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, all the year groups have made pancakes. Making them in the week closest to Pancake Day has become a much-loved tradition in this subject and one that has its origins in Christian practices. Some are served with fruit; the American ones have fruit inside them, and some are served in the traditional way with lemon and sugar.



Pancake Day exists because traditionally during Lent (the forty days leading up to Easter), Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat (some Christians continue to do so, in fact, or give up something else). Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake!

I have a cook at home board at school so if you would like to email me some photos of your child cooking at home, or even the dish that they have made, then they will be put up there. If they need some inspiration, then I have sent recipes cooked at school to student's email address. You may even find out what has not made it all the way home!



Catering by David Quye

It's been an interesting month in catering. We have managed to squeeze in Russian evening, Burns night, Persian Style food and Chinese New Year. It is always fun bringing something different into the students day to day eating . It shows the diversity of students we have and the opportunities it gives us to be creative.

I had the privilege of attending a School council which was enjoyable and enlightening. although the request for burgers and salt on the tables is constant it was great to hear someone ask if we could have some Oxtail Casserole. It will happen too, in the next term.

It is really important to us that the students engage with us to bring their ideas forward. In this way we hope to provide food they like. If anyone wishes to bring us recipes you know where to find us.

Have a great Half Term Break!

Occupational Therapy

by Lucy Tait

The students have continued to develop their social communication skills in a variety of different functional settings.

At the end of the autumn term, a group of sixth form students focused on developing their understanding of social inferences and functional communication skills by working in a team to present an engaging 'Winter Quiz' for the senior school students. They created the quiz by researching and developing the questions, which incorporated a Frewen round, movie round and music round. They made a PowerPoint and delivered the quiz to the school. The students also arranged the prize of a movie with snacks for the winning tutor group which was Mrs O'Connor's tutor group. Well done to them!



A small group of senior school students have also been practicing their functional communication skills by running a shop during allotted Friday break times. The students have conducted market research by taking surveys of what people would like to see for sale. They have also helped with ordering stock and sorted the pricing. Students have advertised and set up the shop and greeted and served customers.

The shop has proved popular with students and teachers with its range of stationary supplies. The students are doing so well that we are arranging to take the shop to a local coffee morning in the village hall. This will allow them to practise the social communication skills they have developed in a different setting. Please see the poster below for upcoming dates.

Shop

where





Auditorium

when



Friday break:
1st March
8th March
15th March

What: Items from
50p-£1.50






In addition to this, a small group of students have been supported to visit Wills coffee shop in Northiam. Where they have been able to practice greeting staff and placing orders independently, with the support of the Speech and Language Therapy department. The students have been asking relevant questions related to their orders, such as allergy advice and have practiced paying for their orders. We are really pleased to be seeing an improvement in both their social communication skills and confidence each week.

As you can see, this has been a busy time for the Speech and Language Therapy team and students, but we are looking forward to progressing our functional skills development further in the coming months.

Art

by Duncan Sangster

Year 8 masks

Pablo Picasso famously said at the beginning of the twentieth century:

'A head is a matter of eyes, nose, mouth, which can be distributed in any way you like.'

He refers to a museum visit where he saw masks and sculptures created by artists from non-Western cultures. They had a profound impact on the way Picasso painted faces from then on. Year 8's used this quote by Picasso to question what a mask really is. A mask can conceal something from view. It can be worn to cover all or part of the face: to disguise, hide, protect, amuse or frighten others. It may be something we metaphorically wear to present ourselves to the world but used to hide what we really think or feel. With this in mind students designed their own masks inspired by one artist of their choice and one country of their choice, meaning that the initial designs were wildly imaginative and exciting, but more importantly showed an amalgamation of influences and styles. Throughout the project students used research skills as well as design, making, modelling and painting skills and produced some incredibly high quality, well made and unique outcomes. Students will be able to bring home their beautiful creations at the end of the school year.



News from the Garden

by Daniel Le Cornu

Big Projects at the Prep School

Gabion Seating Area

The recent storms blew down an old picket fence at the prep school and this gave us an opportunity to create something new for the students to contribute to and use...

The new seating area is made from Gabions, these are galvanised steel structures that come in all shapes and sizes and are used in landscaping for decorative purposes and as structural support. The gabions we chose measure 30cm x 30cm square.

An area was cut out to level the ground for the gabions and was completed with a brick edge, 10cm of type 1 road stone and 5cm of pea gravel, giving a firm base for the gabions to sit.

I made the benches from treated timber to make safe and comfortable seats.

The gabions are being filled with a variety of different materials including sawn logs, bricks, tiles and stones.

The seating area is nearly completed, some gaps have been left for the students to fill with their own choices including colourful plastic bottles filled with sand and stones that the students will decorate!



News from the Garden

by Daniel Le Cornu

Native hedge restoration

The native hedgerow surrounding the prep school has been significantly reduced in height, a new dead hedge has been made using the plant material cut back from the winter colours border and the native hedge. The hedge / boundary is now secure, and the hedgerow plants should thicken out nicely.



We have completed a big restoration on the winter colour garden over at prep. The area was filled with overgrown Cornus (dogwood), and Buddleja (butterfly plant), now they have all been cut back to ground level they will strongly re-grow and the stems will be a brilliant red and orange colour in winter.



Hopefully it will look something like this...



News from the Garden

by Daniel Le Cornu

Preserving the Ancient Brick Walls

There is a continuing project to restore and preserve the many brick walls around the site, they are over 300 years old and are an important part of the history of the estate (Brickwall House!) many of them were covered in Ivy and some have been damaged due to being hit by falling tree limbs over the years. It's important to remove the ivy as the adventitious roots grow into the walls and push the bricks apart. We're using hedge cutters and pruning saws to slice the ivy away from the walls and applying some weedkiller in tough places, but only when necessary.



Composting – why do it?

We collect compost materials including leaf litter, kitchen waste, and general green garden waste. Composting is a way of transforming organic waste, such as kitchen scraps, lawn clippings, and leaves, into a valuable resource for the garden. Composting mimics the natural cycle of decomposition that occurs in nature, and speeds it up by creating optimal conditions for microorganisms to break down the organic matter. The basic ingredients for composting are greens, browns, water, and air. Greens are nitrogen-rich materials, such as fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, and grass clippings. Browns are carbon-rich materials, such as dry leaves, straw, paper, and wood chips. Water is needed to keep the compost moist, but not soggy. Air is needed to provide oxygen for the aerobic bacteria that decompose the organic matter.



The leaf litter is composted separately to create a leaf mould compost which is free of weeds and weed seeds, this is used as a soil improver all around the site, particularly under trees and shrubs and on some borders to suppress weeds. The pile pictured is all leaf litter collected last autumn, it will be turned into another bay, and it should then be ready to use.

Benefits of composting

Composting has many benefits for your garden and the environment. Compost can improve the soil structure, texture, and drainage, making it easier for plants to grow and absorb nutrients. Compost can also increase the water-holding capacity of the soil, reducing the need for irrigation and preventing erosion. Compost can also enrich the soil with organic matter and beneficial microorganisms, enhancing its fertility and suppressing diseases and pests. Compost can also reduce the amount of organic waste that goes to landfills, where it would produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas.