Welcome Back . . .

Frewen College Autumn Newsletter

A warm welcome back to school from our new Headmaster

Dear Parents

I am delighted to have been appointed as Headmaster of Frewen College, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know all our pupils and parents over the course of this academic year.

I first visited Frewen College in November 2023 and was immediately struck by the magic that is Frewen: the fantastic grounds; the holistic approach to education; the small, nurturing environment; the passion of the staff; the amazing pupils; and the wonderful facilities. As I walked out of the front door, at the end of my visit, I knew I wanted to be the next Headmaster of this wonderful school.

I join Frewen College from Chadsgrove School, an outstanding specialist school in Worcestershire, where I was Deputy Headteacher and Head of Service. Previously Head of Sixth Form and Head of Learning Support at an independent school in Birmingham, I have held various leadership positions, teaching across primary, secondary, and sixth form provisions since qualifying as a teacher in 2005. During my time at Chadsgrove, I was responsible for the development of a specialist teaching advisory service, the creation of SpLD diagnostic pathways in Worcestershire, and the creation of an alternative provision and support pathway for pupils experiencing emotional based school non-attendance; the latter winning national alternative provision of the year in 2023. In addition, I am a board director for the national SpLD Assessment Standards Committee (SASC), a board director and trustee of a multi academy trust, and a Specialist Leader of Education (SEND) as designated by the DfE.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know Frewen and building on Mr Goodman's legacy, strengthening the school, and ensuring that Frewen's long term success, growth and development continues.

I was delighted to have had the opportunity to meet many of you at our Sports Day in the summer term, however I appreciate that some parents were unable to attend, and I would therefore like to offer you an invitation to join me, and my senior leadership team, on Thursday 3rd October between 6pm – 8pm for a cheese and wine evening. If you do wish to bring your child, provision will be made in our boarding sector and will include dinner and an activity. For catering purposes, please could you RSVP to Annabel Baker (PA to the Headmaster): office@frewencollege.co.uk by Friday 20th September (and indicate whether you will require provisions for your child/children).

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks and months.

With kind regards,

Mr Mark Loveday

Headmaster

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A Message from the Prep School

Dear Parents,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to Frewen Prep this academic year.

Introduction

I am Sally Welch and I am Head of Prep School. Although I was initially primary trained, I have worked at Frewen in a variety of roles both on the senior school and prep school sites. I have held my Level 5 dyslexia qualification for over twenty years and enjoy adapting the curriculum to enable all our pupils to thrive and succeed. I am delighted to be welcoming your child to Frewen Prep this academic year. Whether your child is joining us for the first time or is already a well-established member of our school community, it is always helpful to share the information in this letter at the start of each year.

There are some changes to our behaviour policy this year as we move to a more restorative approach which is detailed below.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Communication

Communication within the Prep School works in the following way. Firstly, I would like to encourage all parents to communicate with their child's tutor in the first instance for minor queries. Please use the following email addresses:

Blue Class – debbie.fraser@frewencollege.co.uk

Green Class - sally.welch@frewencollege.co.uk – natalie.carpenter@frewencollege.co.uk

Any administrative issues such as requests for time off etc. should be directed to the main school office office@frewencollege.co.uk . Absences should be reported to absence@frewencollege.co.uk or ring on 01797 252494. Any medical issues that may impact on your child at school should be reported to matron claudia.allsopp@frewencollege.co.uk

Any issues concerning Education, Health and Care Plans and Annual Reviews should be raised in the first instance with myself sally.welch@frewencollege.co.uk . Any administrative issue concerning annual reviews can be raised with jan.thompson@frewencollege.co.uk

I would appreciate it if you could copy me into all the above communications so that I may keep a clear overview of all matters concerning Prep School pupils. I am always happy to deal with any issues at the Prep School and please do not hesitate to email me directly if you are unsure about who to contact or would rather the contact be with me.

My email is sally.welch@frewencollege.co.uk. I am also very happy to speak with parents on the phone, or meet face to face by appointment, either remotely or in person.

A Message from the Prep School Continued

The School Day

The school opens for students at 8.30am. Staff are in morning briefing until then.

Registration is opened at 8.50am and closes at 9.00am. We request that you ensure your child arrives in good time for registration. If your child is late, you may be asked to register their attendance with our attendance officer in the main office.

School finishes at 3.45pm. Staff will escort pupils to buses and taxis which leave at 4.00pm. On Tuesday, clubs run until 5pm. All pupils on school transport will attend clubs on a Tuesday, other pupils are most welcome to stay by arrangement.

We would appreciate a prompt pick-up to allow staff to attend meetings at 4.00pm. If you anticipate being later than this please let us know and your child will be taken over to the main reception area.

Parking

Parents are encouraged to park at the carpark at the bottom of the Prep School and walk up with their child. Please do not park immediately outside the school. We have recently received notification from Sussex Police about causing obstructions. We do, of course, appreciate that there are sometimes extenuating circumstances with regard to this and request that parents do not obstruct the pavement in any way.

Parents may choose to walk their child along the pavement or up through the grassy play area. A member of staff will be in the hall from 8.30am.

Behaviour

We use the reward of Golden Time with pupils, selecting their Golden Time activity on a Monday. The whole school is given up to 40 minutes of Golden Time on a Friday afternoon. In addition, the whole school may work together to earn extra Golden Time.

We use a restorative approach when pupils are struggling to behave appropriately. A restorative conversation usually take place during breaktimes and never lasts more than 5 minutes to enable pupils to still go outside and get a snack and some fresh air.

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A Message from the Upper School

Welcome back to all Upper School students, and a special welcome to the new students joining us - I hope you've all had a good summer.

Students in the Upper School are frequently learning to manage change whether this is year 10 and Sixth Formers starting new courses; year 11 and 14 thinking about next steps; and year 9 considering option choices. As teachers we will do everything, we can to support them, and you, with these.

The Young Minds website also has some excellent guidance on supporting young people to manage changes & transitions: Transitions and change | Mental Health Parent Guide | YoungMinds

Your child's form tutor will be your first point of contact, and the Upper School have a fantastic and very experienced team of tutors:

Year 7:

Mr. Juan Torres juan.torres@frewencollege.co.uk

Miss Claire Beaumont Claire.beaumont@frewencollege.co.uk

Year 8:

Mr. Duncan Sangster duncan.sangster@frewencollege.co.uk

Mrs. Charlene Claasen Charlene.claasen@frewencollege.co.uk

Mrs. Marea Saunders marea.saunders@frewencollege.co.uk

Year 9:

Mrs. Hurford-Jones debbie.hurfordjones@frewencollege.co.uk

Mrs. Lowe rebecca.lowe@frewencollege.co.uk

Ms. Taylor-Wade rachael.taylor-wade@frewencollege.co.uk

Year 10:

Mrs. Herriott Linda.herriott@frewencollege.co.uk

Mr. Wassell scott.wassell@frewencollege.co.uk

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A Message from the Upper School Continued

Year 11:

Mr. Booth steve.booth@frewencollege.co.uk

Mrs. Jackson Claire.jackson@frewencollege.co.uk

Mrs. O'Connor Marianne.oconnor@frewencollege.co.uk

Sixth Form:

I am delighted to welcome Mrs. Hambleton the Sixth Form team. She will be taking on the role of teacher in charge of Sixth Form, overseeing the day to day running of our Sixth Form provision.

Mrs. Hambleton Joanne.Hambleton@frewencollege.co.uk

Ms. Cardinale nina.cardinale@frewencollege.co.uk

Mr. Claasen leon.claasen@frewencollege.co.uk

Wednesday 11th September – Year 11 Next Steps Evening 6.30pm

Thursday 10th October – Settling in meeting for new students, Year 7, Year 10 & Year 12

W/C 4th November - English & Maths resit and Sixth Form Mocks

W/C 18th November – Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 4th December – Sixth Form Christmas dinner (evening)

Thursday 12th December – Christmas lunch

Safeguarding Update:

I am pleased to announce that we have expanded our safeguarding team. The team will be working closely with members of the Senior Leadership Team to look at Attendance, Behaviour and Safeguarding on a weekly basis. This additional capacity will allow us to build on our previous good practice as we support students across the school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Hazel McCalvey

Deputy DS's – Hannah Lewis; Jemma Holt, Claire Jackson, Rachael Taylor-Wade.

If you have a safeguarding concern, please email: DSL@Frewencollege.co.uk

A Message from the Upper School Continued

Top facts about attendance:

- In 2018/19, just 36% of persistently absent children in KS4 got a grade 9-4 in their English and maths, compared with 84% of regular attenders.

But its never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- More than half (54%) of pupil who were persistently absent in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11 passed at least 5 GCSE's.

Attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health & wellbeing.
-

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance **IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL? - NHS (WWW.NHS.UK)** is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

What YOU need to do:

- Telephone or email the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence. **ABSENCE@FREWENCOLLEGE.CO.UK**
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and send a copy appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

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A Message from the Boarding

As a new school year begins, we were delighted to welcome back our boarders into the houses. We were met with cheerful faces, loud voices and lots of news from the students; it was lovely to see and hear how excited they were to be back.

Looking ahead, we have some great activities lined up, as well as getting ready to role out our Independence Programme. Information on both will be sent out to parents shortly.

As well as our full boarding placements, we also offer flexi boarding. This could be for a one-off week or a regular night each week across the term. Students always seem to enjoy themselves and we do see them coming back for more! If this is something of interest to you, please do get into touch at boarding@frewencollege.co.uk and a member of the team will be able to advise you.

We are looking forward to sharing what we get up to in Boarding with you across the year but for now on behalf of the Boarding Team, I wish you all a great start to the new school year.

Miss Hannah Lewis

Head of Boarding

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Dates for the Diary

This term

We will keep you updated with more details prior to the events:

13th September - Prep School Trip to Rye Harbour

24th September - Year 8 teambuilding day

25th September - Year 7 teambuilding day

Student will have the opportunity for an action-packed day. Starting with 2 hours water sports session, bushcraft and making us of our lovely grounds. We are very much looking forward to these days and the opportunity for students to get to know their peers, share experiences and enjoy being outdoors.

12th November - Frewen College Bonfire Night

21st October – 1st November - Half Term Holiday

Parents Evenings:

11th September - Year 11 next steps meeting

10th September - Settling in meeting - for parents and pupils in years 7,10 & 12 also parents of new pupils - an opportunity to meet with teachers and discuss how your child/ young person is settling in.

12th November - Prep parents evening

30th January - Year 11 and 6th form parents evening

27th February - Year 9 parents evening

25th March - Prep School parents evening

27th March - Year 8 parents evening

8th May - Year 7 and 10 parents evening

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Uniform

Uniform Expectations:

At the end of last term we sent out a reminder of our uniform list.

The Frewen College uniform is designed to contain a number of flexible options that allow students to feel comfortable whilst learning. Whilst we will happily make reasonable adjustment where they are necessary, in consultation with parents, it is our expectation that all pupils will be aware of the uniform expectations and come to school looking smart, and ready to learn.

We are working to ensure this list is added to the website and kept up to date.

We also have many good quality preowned items available to purchase. We are also working on publishing these on the website too. In the meantime, please feel free to pop into the front office and ask about items you may require.

PRE-USED SCHOOL UNIFORM	
Blazers	£15
Prep Pinafore	£7
Prep Summer Dress	£5
Shirts/blouses	£1
Jumper/cardigan/pullover/slipover	£3
Skirts/Trousers	£2
Tie	£1
Hooded Sweatshirt	£5
PE Polo Shirt	£3
PE Shorts/Skort	£2
Jogging Top	£2
Jogging Bottoms	£2
Tracksuit Top	£3
Tracksuit Bottoms	£3

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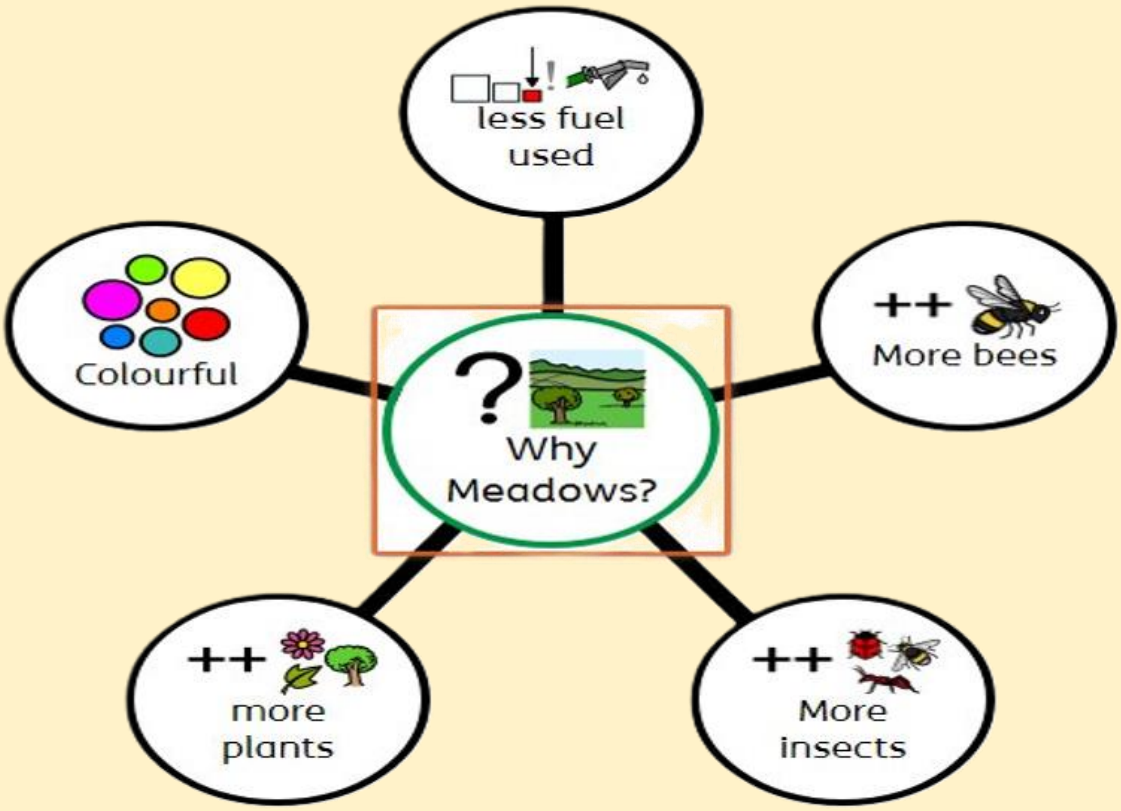
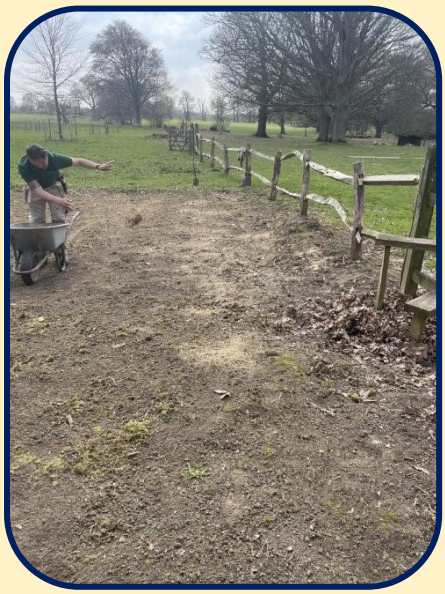
News From the Garden by Daniel Le Cornu (Head Gardener)

Why Meadows are so important?





Garden News Continued

Meadow Creation

The pictures on the previous page illustrate how we created our new meadow.

1. The area needed to be scraped back to remove the fertile topsoil, (the area may need to be sprayed to remove any persistent weeds and grasses).
2. A meadow seed mix is sown in autumn or early spring.
3. So far so good, we hope by next summer this meadow will be teaming with wildlife. We will keep you posted.

Meadow Management

In September meadows are cut back, using a sympathetic approach, some areas are left if still in flower or the plants will provide a source of food (seeds) for birds, namely Knapweed and Teasel.

The meadow in the pictures has taken two years of work to establish.

Wildflower Species to Look Out for

Field Forget-me-not

Ox-eye Daisy

Bird's Foot-trefoil

Yarrow

Sweet Vernal Grass

Red Clover

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Summer Renovations

Although many of us have had a lovely relaxing summer break, some of the staff at Frewen (with a good bit of help from Marc & Graham Morris of Contrast Decorators) have been working tirelessly through the holidays to ensure everything is up to scratch for when the pupils and teaching staff return.

This year has been busier than usual as Frewen underwent some extra special TLC, with our front façade upgrade, and front office & auditorium renovation.

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Façade Renovation

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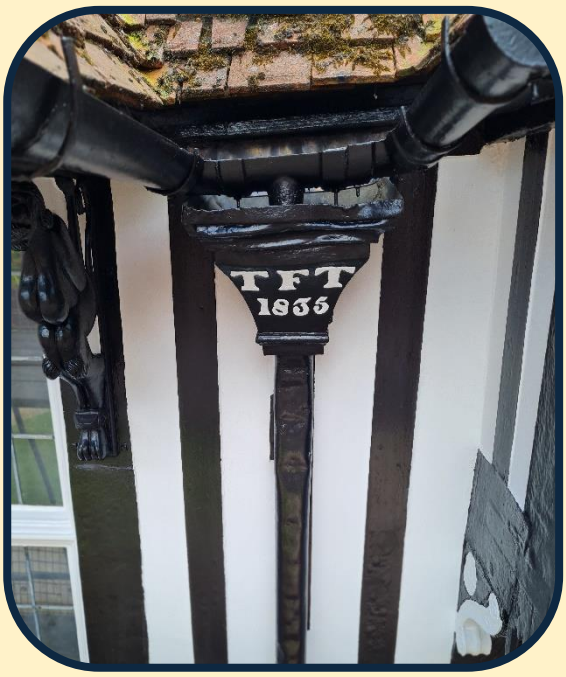
Façade Renovation



While the works were being carried out we managed to grab closer look at some of the more unusual and fascinating details Brickwall House has to offer.

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Façade Renovation

We also managed to capture a bird's eye view of Frewen College.

Front Office Renovation

During the redecoration of the Front Office the maintenance team manged to uncover some extra windows which had been boarded over for years. The Front Office team are so pleased with the results. A much brighter and welcoming environment for parents, pupils and staff to pop in.

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Auditorium Kitchen Upgrade

I think you would agree that the maintenance team and our subcontractors have done an outstanding job of improving our lovely Frewen.

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Finished Product

We hope you agree that Brickwall House now looks even more stunning as you approach via the driveway, thanks to hard work and dedication of our maintenance team and Marc & Graham Morris of Contrast Decorators throughout the summer holidays.