

Frewen College Newsletter

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Welcome to our Newsletter

Dear Frewen Parents

Christmas is almost upon us.

Since the beginning of December, Frewen students have decorated Christmas trees, adorned their classroom doors with highly creative Christmas designs, performed in the annual Prep School and Senior School concerts, enjoyed the traditional staff pantomime, attended the school Carol Service at the church, and enjoyed the ritual Christmas fish and chips lunch to celebrate the end of term.

It's been a long term, and since September they have been working hard at their learning in order to make as much progress as possible. You will see how successful they have been when you read their reports, which, if all goes to plan, will be sent out around the same time as this newsletter.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the students, and also their teachers and all of the support staff for all of their hard work this term. I know that everyone is looking forward to the holidays, and to taking the opportunity to relax and re-charge the batteries.

This term we are saying goodbye to Kath Kirkwood. Kath has been working alongside her husband Nick since September 2014. Nick and Kath were among the first appointments that I made at Frewen, and they have worked tirelessly ever since, at all hours of the day and night, to make the boarding experience the friendly, fun, second home for students that it is today. Kath is leaving us to pursue a career outside of education, and I know that she will be much missed by many of the boarding students, and their parents, to whom she has consistently provided such sensible, consistent, and good-natured support over the last three years. We thank her for her commitment and hard work, and wish her all the best for the future. We will be able to keep in touch, as Kath and Nick will still be living at Frewen, and working alongside our new Joint Head of Boarding, Sarah Medcraft, who we look forward to welcoming in January.

Particular thanks to Kath for enduring an Ofsted boarding inspection – the second one in nine months – in December, just when we thought we had escaped until the new year. Kath, Nick, and all of the relevant staff rose to the occasion as always, and we will learn the outcome in January. Thanks, too, to all of the parents and students who contributed. We look forward to seeing the report in the New year.

This is also the time of year when we say goodbye to our gap students, Ryan, Liam and Cecelia. All three have made invaluable contributions to all parts of the school, and particularly Boarding. There will be full details of this in the Boarding section of this newsletter, but on behalf of everyone at Frewen I would like to sincerely thank all three of them for their hard work and for their positive, cheerful contributions to the school.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing the students back suitably rested and ready to go on Tuesday 9th January.

Nick Goodman
Principal



PREP NEWS by Sally Welch

The Prep school have been enjoying a number of Christmas activities during the last few weeks of term. They worked very hard to rehearse and perform their Christmas play, 'Is It Really Christmas?' All pupils have speaking parts and the pupils even helped write some extra scenes. A highlight was the finale of the play where Santa and his chief elf had a dance off against Chloe and Jake in a hilarious Prep School version of 'Strictly Come Dancing'. This play managed to combine fun and laughter with a clear message about the true meaning of Christmas.

We also greatly enjoyed watching the Prep School's rather painful rendition (to the tune of Jingle Bells) of a song entitled '999'. With many bandages on show, pupils told of all the painful accidents they had endured on the ski slopes whilst celebrating the festive season.

Prep school pupils are now looking forward to the delicious Christmas dinner and exchanging their Secret Santa gifts at their Christmas party. Our term ends with a beautiful church service which brings a thoughtful close to our Christmas celebrations.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

English by Neil Stanley

English KS4

Over recent years, we have added a wide range of courses in English at Key Stage 4. In addition to GCSE English Language and Entry Level English (which prepares students for GCSE), we now offer GCSE English Literature and Level 1 Functional Skills. Functional Skills has a broadly similar difficulty to a 'low' GCSE grade, but with much less workload. Whilst it is not a GCSE itself, achieving Functional Skills has given many of our students the confidence to tackle the full GCSE. In GCSE English Literature, we are able to choose texts that will appeal to our different classes. Mr Claasen's Year 10 group is currently enjoying 'The History Boys' by Alan Bennett.

As a result of our diverse and flexible curriculum, students' achievement in English has risen significantly in recent years. The proportion of Year 11 students who achieved a Level 2 qualification in English rose from 13% in 2015 to 52% in 2017. 52% achieved a Level 1 qualification in 2015; in both 2016 and 2017, this was 100%. Similarly, the proportion who achieved a GCSE in English Language rose from 33% in 2016 to 66% in 2017. This demonstrates the good progress made by students at Frewen College.

English KS3

After Christmas, our KS3 students begin preparing for their Speaking in Public examinations. The exams are awarded by LAMDA, one of the country's top drama schools. In the exams, our students have to prepare and deliver a speech, and engage the examiner in a conversation.

Over the last two years 100% of our students have passed their exams, with the overwhelming majority achieving the higher Merit or Distinction marks. This means that Frewen students' achievement is in line with that seen in independent schools nationally. It has also significantly boosted our students' self confidence.

PREP NEWS by Sally Welch

The Prep School and Year 7 Christmas Play was a great success, as you can see the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and put on a super show. Well done everyone.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Science by Scott Wassell

As Christmas rapidly approaches the Science department have been busy trying to complete topics while around us we have distractions/relief from rehearsals for songs and plays going on.

The Year 10 and 11s who study Entry Level Science recently had their Chemistry 1B Separating mixtures, breaking down substances, acids & metals exam. They all performed admirably under strict exam conditions.

The rest of the Year 11s are busy finishing up the last topic needed to enable them to be ready for the 3 papers they have to do for their mock exams after they return from the holidays. This will be the first cohort to sit the new Science papers.

Arts Faculty by Katie Buckland

This is always the busiest term for the Performing Arts subjects of Drama and Music, as we prepare students for performances in the two end of term concerts, and this year has been no exception.

The Year 7s delivered two items in the combined Prep School and Year 7 concert on Thursday 7th December, demonstrating eloquent reading, memorising and developing acting skills, and showcasing what they have learned following the Creative Curriculum this term. The Music Dept supported the Prep School Christmas play with music and singing from the combined Prep School/Year 7 choir.

On Friday 8th December the school community was once again treated to a smorgasbord of varied acting and musical performances, including The Polar Express performed by Year 8, a devised Silent Movie style story from Year 9, notable Rap performances, some lovely solo items, and a very entertaining Chicken song! All the performers did their absolute best and made us very proud!

In addition, at the end of November, the Ladies Choir visited Bexhill Hospital and delivered a short concert of seasonal songs for the stroke patients in the Irving Unit. This engagement is an annual event and it was very well received by both patients and staff alike.



The Ladies Choir at Bexhill Hospital.

In other news, the Art department has an instagram account, '@frewenart' that parents and students can follow to see more of the amazing work on show, more regularly, so do take a look.

Also, all parents of students from Years 7-9 should have received an email regarding the trip to see "Wicked!" in London, if you have not replied giving your consent, please do so as soon as possible.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Our Senior School students once again provided a fabulous Christmas concert with a great variety of acts and some surprises including the Chicken Song!



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

The Senior School concert...



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Maths by Graeme Rawlings

MATHS ZONE



Homework Club

Monday at 4:15pm

Maths Club

Tuesday at 4:15 pm

Mathematics Mastery

Have you read about the

Concrete Pictorial Abstract (CPA) method?

This idea of teaching and learning through multiple representations – concrete (e.g. a manipulative), pictorial (e.g. a bar model) and abstract (e.g. a numeral or algebraic expression), helps students to cement their knowledge and truly understand what they've learnt.

To enhance students conceptual understanding, the concrete is used side-by-side with formal written methods.

For example: using blocks, students can CPA even algebra.



$$(3a + 2) + (2a + 4) = 5a + 6$$

Maths Challenge 5



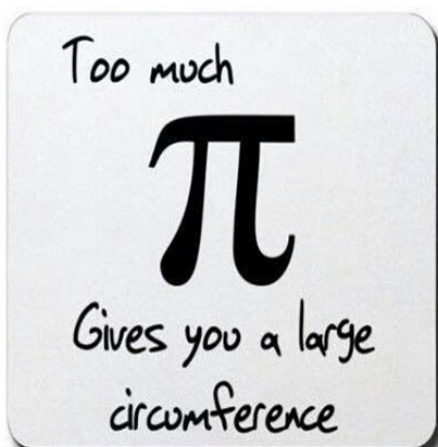
Answer to Maths Challenge 4:

Put the numbers 1 to 8 in the boxes, so no two consecutive numbers are next to each other

horizontally, vertically or diagonally?

There are various solutions .

	2	
6	8	5
4	1	3
	7	



Christmas Maths Facts

US scientists calculated that Santa Claus will have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second.

In the UK, natural Christmas trees outsell artificial Christmas trees by a ratio of 3:1

Last Christmas the UK ate approximately 10 million turkeys.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Humanities by Hazel Lawrence

In early November Year 9 took the train up to London to visit the Imperial War Museum as part of their studies in History & English. A great day was had by all as they found out hands-on how the First World War started and what life was like in the trenches.

One of the Year 9 classes also had the honour of having one of their lessons filmed recently for Patoss (Professional Association for teachers and assessors of students with Specific Learning Difficulties), who approached us through the BDA (British Dyslexia Association) about filming best practise of dyslexia friendly teaching. The BDA will be using the footage in a documentary about how teachers can support people with Dyslexia. They managed to charm the film crew as well as showing off their fantastic knowledge – well done Year 9.



Patoss filming taking place with a Year 8 student

School Council

by Hazel Lawrence

Following on from the success of the Fun Run the school council recently launched their Christmas Appeal with a Christmas Jumper day for staff and students which was held on Friday 8th December, to raise money for UNICEF's Syrian Appeal.

The students discovered that just £2 will buy a hat and gloves for a Syrian child, keeping them warm this winter. A huge thanks to Bea, Cameron and Trinity for helping to organise this.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

The Senior school embraced the usual Christmas tradition of decorating their form group doors for Christmas. We think the results were very creative!



SIXTH FORM AND CAREERS

By Hazel Lawrence

Careers update

In the new term Year 9 will start to turn their thoughts to options and what they would like to do next. To help students with the decision they will have the opportunity to **take part in Careers Discussions** on **Friday 19th January**. These short group sessions will be lead by My Future Starts Here, an independent careers guidance organisation. Further details will be sent home nearer the time.

On Tuesday 9th January Year 10 will be visiting the 'I Can' careers fair in Eastbourne.

Year 12 will also be starting their individual Careers interviews in the New Year.

Sixth Form:

One of the key things we strive to promote in the Sixth Form is the independence of students. To become a more independent learner, students need to be:

- Motivated It is important for students to want to achieve well on their chosen courses. To help students with this over the next two terms all Sixth Form students will have a 1:1 careers interview. The aim is to support students with making their next steps and understanding how their current courses can help them achieve these next steps.
- Resilience Students will meet obstacles and difficulties along the way. At such times it is important that students don't give up. The Sixth Form team are always willing to help students overcome these.
- Manage deadlines it is much easier to stay on top of deadlines rather than allowing work to build up. Students at both Bexhill & Plumpton are able to access assignments and work online. With support from the TAs they should make sure they are using these tools to manage workloads.

All our students have worked well this term, but special mention to the following students:

Grace Mc S – singing in the school concert & carol service

Jessie G – singing in the school concert

Will W – playing drums in the school concert

Alex S, Charlie Bates; Charlie Bonney; Charlie Hughes for serving refreshments at the concert (apparently it was the best tea served at a concert!)

Tom C– filming the school concert

Scott P – leading sessions on life saving as part of the Life Skills lessons.

GAMES AND SPORT

By Jo Hambleton

Four Years at the Top

Well done to our fantastic girls football team who took part in the Brighton and Hove Albion Tournament on Monday 20th November. They worked so hard in every match and won every game. Charlotte who was in Goal did not let anything past her safe hands all tournament.

They met Cedar Centre in the final and won 3-0. All the goals were scored by Faye who really did showcase her skills.

A great day out and the girls should be very proud of their achievements.



Battle Abbey Cross Country

On Friday 24th November we took students to take part in a cross country at Battle Abbey School. It was a tough course and very very muddy! There was over 250 runners taking part and we did very well indeed. Congratulations to everyone on some great performances.



Harry R - 16th

Ollie B - 30th

Jamie Mc - 13th

Danny T - 27th

BOARDING NEWS

By Kath Kirkwood

This half term we have been focussing on Christmassy events. We have been ice-skating, to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in Panto, have done some Christmas baking and for those who felt crafty we made some snow globes. All in all, a good end to 2017.

But as it is the end of the year, we will be saying goodbye to our Gap students. In the past year Liam, Ryan and Cece have contributed to all areas of the school. They have worked at the Prep school, been instrumental in supporting the sports department and in classrooms and boarding. They have been on school trips, activities and done exam invigilation. They have always been reliable and professional, and this experience will begin to show rewards as they move onto move exciting things.

Cece will be studying Human Resource Management at Otago

Ryan will be studying Business and Commerce at Otago

And Liam will be studying Educational Psychology at Wellington

Their contribution to boarding and to the boarders has been invaluable and from all of us, staff and students, we would like to say a HUGE thank you and Good Luck. Liam, Ryan and Cece, you have all been awesome.

SCHOOL EVENTS in January and February



Coming Soon...Dates for your Diary	
Carol Service at St Mary's Church Northiam	11am Friday 15th December
Parents invited to lunch and End of Term	Friday 15th December
Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 9th January
Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams	15th - 25th January
Year 11 Parents Evening	Friday 26th January
6th Form Mock Exams	29th - 31st January
Year 9 Parents Evening	Friday 9th February
Half Term begins	Friday 9th February



Merry
Christmas

