



Frewen College Newsletter

Summer Term - July 2023

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Dear parents

As I write this, preparations are underway for the annual prizegiving ceremony, meaning that the end of the year is almost upon us. Will it take place on the lawn, or in the marquee? By the time you read this, you will know the answer.

The end of year is a time when we celebrate all the successes of the year, and say goodbye to those students and staff who are leaving us.

I would like to wish all students leaving Frewen this year all the very best for the future. I hope you will look back on your time here in years to come, and remember your friends, and the staff who have supported you, and regard it as a happy time, and one which played an important part in helping you on your journey.

We are also saying goodbye to a number of staff - Miss Sharley and Miss Adie from the teaching staff, Gary Parker, Sixth Form TA, and Roberto Sansiviero, Boarding Assistant. We thank them for their commitment to the school and wish them all the best in their lives after Frewen!

The rest of us will be back on 5th September with Boarders arriving the evening before, all ready for the challenges of the new school year.

In the meantime, I wish you all a long and enjoyable summer!



Prep School by Debbie Fraser

We have had a very busy term 6 at Prep. We made two visits to Benenden School for a morning of science and a science fair. It was an amazing opportunity for the children to work together, predict, observe, measure, carry out fair tests and interpret data, in a different environment. We also had the chance to make and launch our own rockets and observed a rocket launch. It was wonderful to witness their awe and wonder.

Some of our pupils decided to enter the 'Colours in science and the natural world' competition. Their interpretations of this theme were amazingly imaginative and informative. From bees to flamingos and trees to rainbows, their creativity shone through. Not only did some of the Prep children win well deserved individual prizes, but collectively the school was awarded 2nd place for such great work. We will enjoy using the microscope and light boxes we won as a result and are grateful for everyone's effort.



Mrs Sharley

After 25 years of teaching we will be saying a very fond farewell to Jane Sharley. Jane joined the Frewen team 15 years ago and her enthusiasm has not once wavered! Loved by pupils and staff alike, Jane has been an inspirational and outstanding teacher, setting her expectations high and enabling her pupils' achievements to be even higher. She has been a very central character at the prep school and we all love her positivity and youthful approach to life. We wish her very well in her retirement and look forward to hearing about her new adventures and, knowing Jane, there will be plenty of those! We would like to formally thank Jane for all she has done for so many over the years. Happy retirement!



Boarding by Hannah Lewis

This term we have been able to make full use of our beautiful grounds and the gorgeous surrounding countryside. We have taken full advantage of the fabulous weather, enjoying weekend activities such as paddleboarding at Rye Watersports, camping in the Frewen Deer Park and braving the plunge at Bewl Water's Inflatable Aqua Park.

National Boarding Week was a hit with the students enjoying a big sleepover in the Auditorium. With heaps of sofa cushions, movies, popcorn and a loud musical wakeup call, fun was had by all!

On behalf of the boarding community, we wish all our boarders who are moving on to the next stage of their journey the best of luck, whether that is starting the GCSE process, moving up into the 6th Form, or leaving us to begin their career path in the big wide world. We hope that you take with you friends for life and fond memories.

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer!

Kind regards,

Hannah



English

by Rebecca Lowe

A Year in Review

It's been an action-packed year in the English Department with lots of exciting and innovative developments.

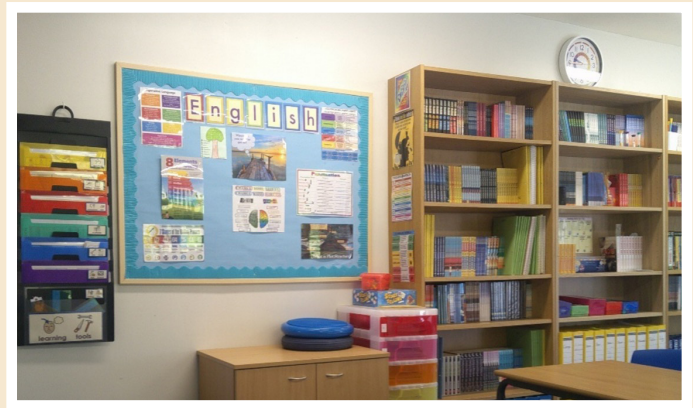
Our classrooms are now all equipped with an accessible and dyslexia friendly set of tools to enhance learning. In addition to our existing technology, this year has seen the introduction of 'That Reading Thing' enabling us to vastly improve the reading of some of our weaker students.

We have benefitted hugely from the talented Miss Parker joining the school and rolled out a new phonics intervention programme.

Over half the secondary school have benefitted from some form of individual intervention in the past year. Earlier in the year, we invested in the online reading programme 'Rapid Plus' which has proved a very popular tool for learning.

We have also established an educational games cupboard and now have a huge and varied selection of games for learners of all abilities. They include games geared to improve phonics, reading, spelling, comprehension and storytelling.

If you have any questions about English and literacy at Frewen College, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



A range of visual and accessible learning aids are now available in all our English classrooms.



Year 8 students engaging in competition with one of our new learning games.

English

by Rebecca Lowe

The London Trip

The trip was meticulously organised – we even had a carriage reserved for us on the train.



On Tuesday 13th March, The English department in collaboration with the history department embarked on a rollercoaster trip to London.

Departing from Battle Station we took the train to London Bridge, giving the students the opportunity to see the Shard. We then took the underground to Elephant and Castle.



Oscar Bracken and Seb Chivers enjoying some sightseeing.

The main purpose of the trip was to visit The Imperial War Museum as many Year 9 students have been studying war poetry in preparation for the Eduqas English Literature GCSE. They have also been studying the two World Wars in history.

The poems they have studied include 'Mametz Wood' by Owen Sheers, 'Dulce Et Decorum Est' by Wilfred Owen and 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke.

Founded in 1917, the museum was originally intended to record the civil and military war effort and sacrifice of the United Kingdom, the Empire and the First World War. The museum's remit has since expanded to include all conflicts in which British or Commonwealth forces have been involved since 1914. The museum houses some incredible artefacts, it has a piece of the Berlin Wall and a small fragment of one of the planes involved in the 9/11 attacks.



Dressing up in military fatigues.

English

by Rebecca Lowe

More from 'The London Trip'...

Our students explored the museum with enthusiasm and maturity taking in exhibits on the trenches, the tanks and machinery of World War Two, the Holocaust Experience and a temporary exhibition on the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Following a brief pause for refreshments, we headed back on the tube to Borough Market. This intriguing market is one of the oldest and largest in London with a market on the site dating back to at least the 10th century. Bustling with city workers and tourists, shops and stalls, the students soaked up the atmosphere buying a range of delicacies from sushi to salami and toffee to tacos.

We finally headed back to London Bridge to take the train home. The students were an absolute credit to Frewen College throughout and a great day was had by all.



Oscar Bracken investing in some heritage cheese.



Delicious Delicacies at Borough Market



Inside the Holocaust Experience



The car of a Celebrity soldier from World War



On the way to The Imperial War Museum

English by Rebecca Lowe



Mrs Jefferson has been working with small groups of students (in collaboration with our Level 7 Dyslexia department) to increase the speed of their literacy development. Here you can see Raicho Evans using a sound board to create sound ladders. Here she discusses some of the strategies she has been using this year:

Our Splendid Spelling Strategies Star!*

by Sarah Jefferson - English Teacher

As we know, spelling can be incredibly tricky for our students due to their dyslexia. At Frewen, we employ a variety of multisensory techniques to enhance our spelling and reading strategies. Where spelling is a particular focus for a group, we assess children, and they are each set 'personalised spellings' from the 100 and next 200 high frequency word lists. These are spellings which they will have been introduced to as far back as year 1 but cannot yet spell / read due to their difficulties. Research demonstrates that if you can read the first 300 high frequency words, then you have good access to a large range of texts. Therefore, it is extremely beneficial for students to focus in on these words if they are appropriate for them.

Within specific focus English sets, each student, following assessment, has set spellings which they definitely cannot spell to learn. They are taught a variety of techniques and they choose which works for them. They are 'checked' informally for progress, to minimise stress with an optional weekly 'check in', rather than a 'test', which is completed on an individual 1:1 basis with the teacher and takes away the stress of spellings. It also ensures students are only working to improve their own spelling and not worrying about comparing themselves to others. Students then choose for themselves, from their own personalised target list, which words they will learn each week. This gives them ownership and improves confidence.

A popular method of learning the spellings, is writing the chosen words out twice each on separate cards and playing a memory game with them, identifying and saying the sounds/ letters when the card is visible and then again when it is turned over. Students look for pairs of words within the card set that they make. They can also play this game with a friend, combining their cards.

One of our students began the year knowing a few of the words from the 100 High frequency words list, which is often the case in Dyslexic students as it is actually very difficult. However, what was extraordinary about this particular student, a Year 8 boy, was just how determined he was to learn as many as he possibly could across the year. He had been asked to try to learn between 4 and 7 words a week. This child, who loves the outdoors, managed to learn to read and spell all 100 High frequency words by March of this year, after beginning them in September. This was impressive enough, but when assessed and set up for the next 200, he was raring to go! Some weeks he was managing to learn and retain 22 spellings! He decided he had set himself what would have seemed an impossible goal at the beginning of the year- he wanted to learn to spell all 300 high frequency words.

He has spent since late March learning them- both at school and at home- asking for 'check ins' as often as 3 times a week!

The amazing thing is, that Sean, from Year 8, has now learned to read and spell ALL 300!! What an amazing achievement!

'I've finally learned all my 300 high Frequency words...I'm really pleased with my spellings- and I've learned them ALL in ONE year!' Said a very proud Sean, when asked to comment.

Science by Scott Wassell

The final newsletter of an eventful year.

The year 7s have finished the year with our physics unit on sound. This involves making lots of noise, which unsurprisingly they excelled at.

The year 8s managed to get physical this term when we looked at the relationship between forces and motion. They had the chance to run, hop and skip to produce distance-time graphs and lifting weights from the gym to calculate work done.

The year 9s finished up their first year of GCSE teaching with how plants photosynthesise and how we can measure plant distribution.

Penultimately, the year 10s were working on energy types and transfers along with renewable and non-renewable energy resources.

We would like to cross our fingers for the year 11s when they receive their results in August.

The science department would like to wish everyone a good summer and we look forward to seeing you in September for a new year.

PE by Jo Hambleton

Sports Day

On a hot Friday afternoon, Navy, Oak and Lions gathered for the hottest event of the year. Sports day. With a variety of track and field events students had signed up to represent their house in different sports varying from netball shoot out, row off, 100m and tug of war to name a few.

The students rose to the Frewen spirits, and it was amazing to see so many students getting involved, cheering and supporting their team and making every point count.

At the end the parents gallantly took on the staff in the much-awaited tug of war! I would lying if I said it was close, well done parents!!!

To wrap up the day Mr Goodman announced the results and unbelievable joint 2nd was Oaks and Navy with 113 points which left Lions in the lead with 193.

Well done to all those involved and thank you to parents for supporting the event.





Overall Interhouse

This year we have launched the interhouse sports throughout the year and the results are as follows

Interhouse Football

KS3- Lions

Ks4- Lions

Interhouse Frisbee

KS3- Lions

Interhouse Basketball

KS4- Oaks

As you can see Lions taking many of the interhouse prizes. We will continue this next year and bring different activities to entice different people to take part.

Well done everyone!



Music

by Debbie Hurford-Jones

This term the Y10 BTEC Music group were lucky enough to work with Morgan Greenhalf, local gallery owner and wildlife expert, and a local recording artist as part of the Lost Words project currently underway at Rye Harbour. The project is focussed around the book 'The Lost Words' which is aimed at reintroducing words that started to be removed from children's dictionaries in 2017. Words like Starling, Heron, Egret and Kingfisher were no longer deemed necessary.

The students went on a nature ramble and were introduced to the beautiful song of the Skylark, the whooping of Oystercatchers and the ambient soundscape of the wind and sea. They made sound recordings and took pictures, and then created maps of the walk they had taken, inspired by the sounds they had heard and recorded. It was wonderful to know that our students are now able to recognise some bird species from their song.

The Y10 BTEC Music group have been working exceptionally hard to organise a gig for parents, staff and students at the end of Activities Week. They have organised everything so far, from promotional material, deciding on the venue, stage plans, running orders, organising rehearsals, choosing and practicing songs and communicating with staff in all areas of the school. I am so proud of what they have done so far, and I'm sure 'SummerTime Crime' will be a roaring success.



Music

by Debbie Hurford-Jones

The Y10 BTEC Music students have worked extremely hard this term to organise, promote and learn pieces for the gig that they laid on for students and parents on Friday afternoon, at the very end of Activities Week. Their programme of music was varied, exciting and they managed to create a great atmosphere. The rain was dealt with, with maturity, and they were able to take it all in their stride. I am so proud of them for overcoming their worries about performing and also for setting everything up and packing it all down again afterwards without complaint. This gig fulfils a unit of work for their course which is usually done in Y11, so a massive congratulations to them all. What a fantastic bunch!

RED HANDED



Design & Technology by Marea Saunders

Y7s have completed their bird feeder, after having the chance to use the battery hand drills to fix the roof to the top. They have also used some of our metal working equipment to cut and shape the metal wire to hold the apple in their feeders.



Y8s have been busy in the workshop using a range of tools and equipment to complete their own marble game which they have designed and planned. Some students have used CAD to design and make using both the 3D printer and laser cutter to make elements of the game.

There has been a wide range of candle holders designed and made by the Y9s, some students have added wooden bases to their designs. The Y9s also got to use spray paint to apply a matt black finish, most of the students enjoyed being let loose with a can of spray paint in the courtyard.

Y10s have just started the coursework design and project which is worth 50% of their GCSE. They are currently deciding on a design problem to work on from the 3 themes the exam board has set for this year's group.



Catering

by David Quye

Another Day-Another year

A hectic Summer term culminated in our biggest day of the year Wednesday. Prize Giving, both stressful but very satisfying. I hope we gave the students and our Frewen team a good send off as we depart for a Summer break.

It's been an enjoyable few weeks, Lots of variety, lots of BBQ's (We like a paper Plate!) and lots of smiling faces.

All that's left to say is have a lovely break and we will see you all for more good food next Term.



News from the Gardens

by Daniel Le Cornu

This is the box leaf caterpillar (*Cydalima perspectalis*) it eats the leaves of the box plant (*Buxus sempervirens*) and can completely decimate a plant overnight! We have found the pest here and have treated it with an organic biological control called XenTari. XenTari is a biological insecticide containing a natural, potent strain of the microorganism *Bacillus Thuringiensis* subspecies *Aizawai* (Bt_a) that controls caterpillar pests. It does not harm any other garden insects.

**MOST WANTED PEST -
REPORT ALL!**



Last summer the garden team created a new garden space, the design is based on a gravel / Mediterranean garden and contains plants that are native to southern Europe making them drought and heat tolerant, it is a relatively low maintenance space, many of the plants will naturalise and self-seed in the gravel. Plants include lavender, rock rose, phlomis, California poppy, lychnis, alliums, and three Italian cypress.



Plant Sale Success!

Plant sales have been a great success this year, we have raised over £250! The money will be put towards renovating the polytunnel, it needs a new cover and plant benches, this will make it a space that all can use safely. The polytunnel project will appear in the September newsletter.

The stall will be in place until the end of term. Thank you to everyone who made a purchase.

News from the Gardens

by Daniel Le Cornu

As promised in the last newsletter we now have common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*) – (Left). Look out for this orchid growing in the meadows and the parkland.

Yellow rattle has also made an appearance, seeds were sown back in October and after all the cold and rain of winter they have successfully germinated. Yellow rattle is a hemiparasitic plant of coarse grasses, which means it feeds from the roots of these grasses and reduces their vigour, leaving more space for wildflowers. This is a common method used in establishing and managing wildflower meadows.



st michael's hospice

open gardens

Tuesday 18th July

10:30am - 4:00pm

Entry £7.50

On Tuesday 18th July, St Michael's Hospice is giving you the chance to visit and explore five gardens in Northiam:

- Westwell House
- Northiam Conservations Society's Orchard and Jubilee Nuttery
- Frewen College
- South Grange
- 44 Cricketers Field.

It's a perfect way to share your passion for gardening and raise money for charity.

Information:

- £7.50 (covers all 5 gardens)
- Parking is available in the field near to South Grange with an overflow car park at Frewen College.

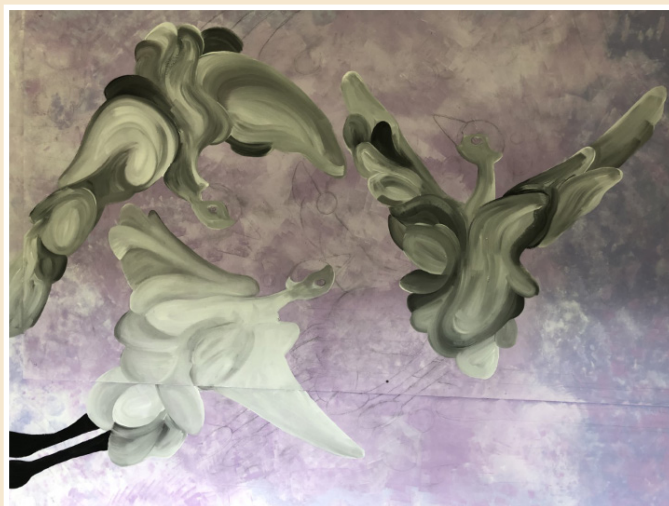
[Click the link and learn more about the five beautiful properties](#)

Sixth Form

by Hazel Lawrence

The summer term is always a term of two halves for Sixth Form. We start with incredible focus (and sometimes stress!) as deadlines for final submissions are due and A level exams are taken. This time is very busy, and everyone feels this.

In the second part of term, as students are 'signed off' and final exams are sat, some will take well-deserved study leave; a chance to relax and restore, a chance to earn some extra money and prepare for the next steps. Others are still in college, starting work on Year 2 studies. We have had a small number of students who have remained in Frewen and taken part in our Social Action week. The Sixth Form Social Action project has focused on re-energizing some of the Sixth Form block. Below are some pictures of the work in progress. We look forward to sharing some details with you after the summer break.



Dates for your diary:

Thursday 17th August – A Level / Level 3 Results Day

Thursday 24th August – GCSE / Level 2 Results Day

6th September – Sixth Form students return and enrolment at Bexhill College at 4.30pm.

7th September – Induction Day at Bexhill for Year 1 students (Level 3 courses)

8th September – Induction Day at Bexhill for Single year students (Level 1 & 2 courses)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMINO



PETS

Amino is a social media platform offering a large group of subcommunities under one digital 'roof'; it was envisaged as the online version of a convention, where fans gather to celebrate a shared interest like comic books or sci-fi, for example. While many such platforms are harmless spaces for devotees of a certain TV show or video game to congregate, there are still some aspects that trusted adults should be aware of. With a focus on sharing user-generated content, the idea of Amino is for users to communicate with like-minded individuals – but even that can create plenty of hazards.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MODERATION GAPS

Amino has a 12+ classification in the App Store and a 'Teen' rating on Google Play. However, certain communities on the platform have little to no moderation in place – increasing the potential for more adult-themed content to reach young users. It's also possible to create an account without proof of age, raising the possibility of even younger children finding their way onto the platform.

UNSAFE CONTENT

The central concept behind Amino is for users to share content, then make and receive comments on these uploads. The level of anonymity that the platform offers (someone's true identity can be completely obscured behind their username, for instance) means that it would be extremely difficult to stop suggestive or outright predatory comments and messages sent to young people.

INAPPROPRIATE IMAGES

Like most social media, Amino offers easy sharing of images. Its community guidelines state that any suggestive photos of under-18s will be removed immediately, but of course this doesn't prevent inappropriate pictures being seen by a young person. Not all of Amino's communities are rigorously moderated, so there's a chance that some unsuitable images could temporarily evade detection.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Amino+ is a premium membership for the platform, offering a bevy of customisation options such as stickers, 'moods' to display and an exclusive profile badge. Users can also purchase one-off cosmetic items including different styles of chat bubble or profile frames. If your child has payment methods available via their device, they could potentially make these in-app purchases without you realising.

REPEATED USAGE

As a social media app, Amino is focused on keeping its communities engaged and coming back for more. Part of this approach is encouraging people to build up 'streaks', as users are awarded 'reputation points' for logging in regularly. This type of mechanism, of course, always carries the risk of young people feeling a compulsion to repeatedly check in with the app, further increasing their screen time.

COMICS & COSPLAY



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT IT

If your child is old enough and chooses to download and use Amino, it's probably wise to remind them of some online safety basics – such as how not everyone in the digital world is who they claim to be, for example, or not to give out personal information online. It might also be a good idea to go into the app's settings and disable incoming chat requests from users that your child doesn't know.

MEMBERSHIP MEDIATION

If your child asks for an Amino+ membership but you're not entirely comfortable with that, be prepared to explain your decision in depth. Young people's sense of injustice can naturally become inflamed when their friends have things that they don't. Parents of older teens, meanwhile, might actually decide to agree to the membership request but continue to monitor their child's activity on the app.

STAY UPDATED

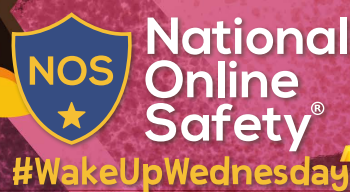
Ensure that your child knows to report any upsetting or worrying online content they might see to you. As much as possible, try to stay aware of which communities they're joining on Amino. Most of these areas are well moderated and full of innocent conversation about common interests, but on any platform of this breadth, there's always the potential for chats to veer off into potentially harmful places.

MONITOR SCREEN TIME

If you haven't already, you might want to consider setting up controls such as Family Sharing (on iOS devices) or Family Link (on Android) so, from your own device, you can keep an eye on how much screen time your child is having – and what apps they're spending it on. This can be extremely useful with regard to platforms such as Amino, which can be quite addictive and reward repeated use.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mum-horrified-after-daughter-10-18773339>