

Frewen College Newsletter

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Welcome to our newsletter

By Nick Goodman, Principal

Dear Parents

Welcome to the second edition of the Frewen College newsletter! This newsletter is just one example of how technology has changed our lives - as recently as 30 years ago we would have had to type each article out on a typewriter, physically cut and paste it all together, photocopy and staple together 150 copies, and send it home with the students. Now we can put it all together on the computer, turn it into a pdf and send it out instantly. PCs, tablets, phones, games consoles and gadgets fill our lives, and provide instant communication and access to more information than we could ever have thought possible.

The young people in our school do not remember, and probably cannot imagine, a world without all of this, and there is no doubt that technology provides wonderful opportunities for their learning, and for their futures.

However, technology also brings risks and dangers that have not existed in the past. As a school we have to be constantly vigilant, and ensure that we have systems in place to keep our students safe when they are online. In spite of this, there are lots of ways in which students can be put at risk, for example online when they are outside school, or through their phones.

With this in mind we have created a new page on our website, with information about online safety, including video clips which are designed to help parents to make sure their children stay safe while benefitting from all the advantages of 21st century technology.

I hope you will find it useful - it can be found on the information page, under "online safety":

<http://www.frewencollege.co.uk/page/?pid=86>

If you have any questions about online safety, or how to keep your child safe, please contact the school office and we will and we will be pleased to put you in touch with the appropriate person.

PREP NEWS by Sally Welch

Discovery

This term we have been launching the new class topics linked into our overall theme of Discovery. Mrs Sharley's group are going to follow the explorations of Sir Ernest Shackleton, whilst Miss Beaumont's group will be exploring the oceans and different climatic zones as Pirates. Miss Carpenter's group will be exploring Icy Worlds. New displays are going up around the school to support learning in class.



Miss Carpenter's class have been learning about penguins this week and are completing an information pamphlet about them.

Mrs Sharley's class have created a wonderful map to show Shackleton's expedition route.

PREP NEWS by Sally Welch (continued..)



Miss Beaumont's class have now finished sewing their eye-patches and are now ready to set sail on a piratical adventure.

WWF fundraising day

Staff and pupils dressed up as animals as a catalyst to learning all about the work of the WWF. This charity was selected by students on the Senior School council as one of the charities Frewen College will be supporting this year.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Science by Scott Wassell

Salutations from everyone at the Science department. It has been a busy new year for all the pupils during this dark and often wet time of year. Much of the focus has been on the Year 11s, who have had two mock papers to sit and are in the midst of completing their final piece of coursework. It is somewhat of a historic moment as they are the final cohort to have practical coursework assessments.

Elsewhere, there has been fun with photosynthesis and light intensity with the Year 10s and very scientific stuff with snowman construction with KS3 during a small covering of snow.



Year 10



Key Stage 3

English by Neil Stanley

Years 7-9 have been preparing for their LAMDA public speaking examinations. LAMDA offer a range of graded examinations, including acting, verse speaking and musical theatre.

Graded examinations 'go up to grade 8', (ballet or music exams are similar). Year 7s will take Entry Level, Year 8's, Grade One and Year 9s, Grade Two. A small number of older students will take some of the higher grades.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

English (Continued...)

Each exam lasts 10 minutes. Firstly, students give a short speech about a book, or an experience. After their speeches, the students will speak with the examiner. The examiner will ask them why they chose their topic and how they prepared their speech. Finally, the students will give the examiner a choice of two topics for a quick discussion.

As usual, our students have been working very hard. They have chosen interesting and often unique subjects. These exams will increase their confidence as speakers and listeners.

Humanities by Hazel Lawrence

On a dark, drizzly January morning the last place you would expect to see a Year 8 Humanities class is the playground with hockey sticks. However, that is exactly what Year 8 did as part of the work on the English Civil War. They learnt how long it took to load the muskets and how difficult it was to fight with Pikes. They also found out ... on "Pain of Death" ... how strict the rules were and how severe the punishments were for Civil War soldiers.

Year 8 have also been trialling a new method to help develop their writing. We are starting to use the "Talk for Writing" method to help students sequence their thoughts. It has been great to see students improve the quality of their writing.

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who took their mocks exams this term.

Maths by Graeme Rawlings

The new Mathematics GCSE (9-1): explaining the changes

In 2013 the DfES announced plans for reforming GCSEs. The first subjects to be reformed are Mathematics and English. Many of the current Year 11 pupils will sit these exams this summer.

Maths Club

Tuesday at 4:15 pm
with Mr Rawlings.
Gain more
confidence with
those awkward GCSE
problems.

Homework Club

Monday at 4:15pm
with Mr Ola. Get that
expert support!

Maths Clinic

1-1 with Y11 students
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday or
Thursday with Mrs
Claasen to sort out
those niggling
mistakes. See Mrs
Claasen for details.

- GCSE Mathematics (9-1) is the government's standard qualification and the aim is for each student to achieve a grade 4 or above.
- A new grading structure has been introduced, from grade 9 to 1, to replace the A* to G grading scale. A Grade 4 is a pass and pupils achieving this are not required to re-sit the exam at college.
- There is now much more subject content. Plus, the demand of that content has increased too, with harder topics introduced. This is true for both Foundation Tier students and Higher Tier students.
- The total time for the examinations has increased to 4 hours. They are now linear and taken only at the end of the 2/3 years course.
- There are fewer marks at the lower grades and more marks at the higher grades at both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier.
- In the exams, there is a greater emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning, with more marks now allocated to these higher-order skills. Students will also be required to memorise formulae.
- However, all is not doom and gloom, as we have been working towards these changes. Many students have worked through some of these new examination papers and questions, and of course, this will continue to be an integral part of their learning.

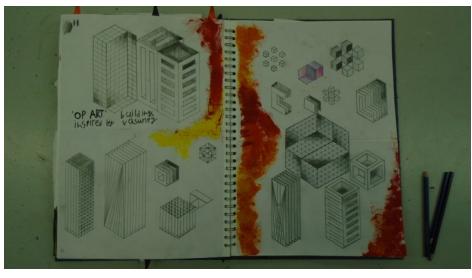
SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Art by Duncan Sangster

Year 10 students are continuing to work towards their personal portfolio for their GCSE in Art and Design. Students have chosen an artist and are responding to them by using various materials and techniques, as well as developing ideas that will conclude as a final piece around Easter. These examples show Ben's mesmerising and almost futuristic 3D drawings inspired by 'Op- Artist' Victor Vasarely. Heidi has been looking at the work of contemporary Australian artist Sally Mustang, by experimenting with different mark making techniques to create interesting textures. Casper has been creating original lino prints from pencil drawings as a response to the detailed drawings of Albrecht Durer.



Look out for some new canvases around the school around Easter!



Design and Technology by Rebecca Forbes- Gower

KEY STAGE 3 - Extended Homework, 2017 Calendar Competition.

Students have been really busy over the Christmas Break preparing their entries for the 2017 DT Calendar competition. All of the calendars were displayed in the reception area, and staff, students, families and visitors enjoyed looking at the wide variety of entries. Design and Technology is a subject which is both creative and practical and the students were able to demonstrate their understanding of how an everyday product like a calendar could work. They applied their creativity to the task with enthusiasm.

There were three overall winners:

ICT produced calendar: Sophia - Year 8. Sophia drew images with an i-pen which reflected the seasons and her individual style.

Photo produced calendar: Poppy - Year 7. Poppy chose relevant and well taken photographs for her entry.

Homemade calendar: Nuri - Year 8. Nuri's calendar idea was innovative with a writing overlay for important entries and many hand drawn images to reflect the progressing year.

There were a large number of runners up and second prizes were also awarded for:

ICT produced calendar : Reggie - Year 7. Homemade calendar : Francesca - Year 7.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

By Amanda Glubb

Sixth Form Life Skills Workshops

As part of the Sixth Form enrichment programme, students in Years 12-14 enjoyed two days of Life Skills workshops at the end of January. With a carousel of six different activities across the two days, students combined practical hands-on activities such as budgeting, shopping and cooking, with the “soft skills” of team working and communication skills. This took the form of a scavenger hunt in Northiam village and a range of traditional games. Students also took part in discussions on current affairs and politics incorporating issues including “fake news” and online safety, and a session on sex and relationships education.



The workshops were extremely successful and proved to be very popular with the students. Many thanks to the sixth form TAs, Ro, Ewa, Jess and Anne, for organising and delivering the sessions.



Sixth Formers were given the task of planning, budgeting and shopping for a main course of their choice. They then worked in pairs to create their dish which included salmon tagliatelle, chicken noodle soup, and lemon chicken couscous.

Volunteers requested to talk in Careers Assemblies

As part of Frewen College's commitment to continuously improving the provision for our students, we have reviewed how we deliver careers education, information advice and guidance at the school, and are starting to put in place a more rigorous approach to this very important aspect of the curriculum.

One of the initiatives we wish to launch is a regular extended assembly on a Monday morning where a guest speaker comes in to talk with the students about the work they do. **I would like to invite you as parents to become involved in this initiative and be those guest speakers!** If you would like to give a short talk at assembly, or know someone who might, or you are interested in sharing your knowledge and experience with the students in another way, please get in touch with me.

New careers bulletin 'Pathways'

Hopefully by now, many of you will have read our new careers bulletin 'Pathways', highlighting relevant career events, activities, taster days etc that students can get involved in out of school. The majority of the events are for the older students ie. Years 9-13, but parents in the Senior School may find this useful too. If you've not seen the email, the bulletin can be downloaded from the website on our Sixth Form page.

GAMES AND SPORT

By Paul Fitzsimmons

Rugby

The senior rugby team played their first match of the year last week against Buckswood. The boys put in a great display of teamwork and developing rugby winning the second half with three tries scored by Max, Jack and Cameron. Jack put in a huge try saving tackle, denying Buckswood the second half win. Tom was relentless at the breakdown achieving many turn over balls. All the boys put in a massive effort and even surprised themselves at how well they played! A few defensive tactics to work on but all are already looking forward to the next game!



Duke of Edinburgh

The Year 11 Silver participants are busy planning their Qualifying Expedition, canoeing along the River Medway carrying all their food and equipment to be completely self sufficient for 3 days. We wish them well.

The Year 10 Bronze participants are similarly planning their Qualifying Expedition, hiking for two days and one night completely self sufficient as well. Best of luck to both groups!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

By Hazel Lawrence

The school Council have been working on a Pupils' Charter ... Based on Human Rights it is to encourage the tolerance and respect within the Frewen Community.



Many thanks to all those students who took part in devising this: Charlie, Greg, Max, Jessie, Bea, Iylie,



By Thea Johnson

FREWEN COLLEGE PTFA - TOGETHER WE IMPROVE AND GROW

We are excited about the enthusiasm and commitment being shown for our PTFA. We'd like to convey a huge thank you to all those who have already stepped forward to volunteer and help in so many ways.

Please keep track of our PTFA page on our school website which has updated information about the latest events and activities.

Any thoughts or ideas you may have about volunteering, events and other activities is always welcome and you should not hesitate to share these with us. Please email PTFA@frewencollege.co.uk.

This is going to be an exciting year with our new PTFA, as we celebrate 400 years of Brickwall history and support our school's future!

BOARDING NEWS

By **Kath Kirkwood**

Nick Kirkwood and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Liam, Ryan and Cecilia as the new gap students for 2017. They are all from New Zealand and are excited to be living in England this year as gap students:

"My name is Cecilia Foster, I have enjoyed meeting and spending time with all the lovely girls and have settled in easily to the friendly boarding community at Frewen."

"I'm Ryan Broadley and I am thoroughly enjoying my time at the college so far. I am excited about the next eleven months, getting to know the students and spending time with them."

"My name is Liam Whitlock. I am enjoying my time at Frewen College, especially in the supportive boarding community. I play football and hope to share my skills with the students."

We look forward to working with Cecilia, Ryan and Liam over the next twelve months.

Coming Soon...Dates for your Diary

Frewen College PTFA General Meeting and Quiz and chip night Friday 10th February

Prep School — Parents Evening Wednesday 8th March

Year 10 — Parents Evening Friday 10th March

Sixth Form Parents Review evening Friday 10th March

Open Morning at Frewen College Saturday 25th March