



# LYNX

2020




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# INTRODUCING LYNX 2020

 **1518** Blubery School. **1574** The Free and Perpetual Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Cranbrook. **1910** Cranbrook School

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**2020 OVERVIEW: DR JOHN WEEDS, HEADMASTER**  
Looking back, 2020 started relatively normally. Teachers had a very constructive INSET day on 6 January, more boarders joined us in January and the Spring Term sports programme got under way successfully. Little did we know! Rumours of a new virus strain causing havoc in far-off Wuhan were not on the agenda in January this year. How things were to change! 23 March will go down as 'L' for 'Lockdown' day in my book – the day everything changed (although in truth the warning signs were there from early in February). Our thought back in the spring that life would be 'back to normal by Christmas' had more than a whiff of September 1914 about it!

I would like to begin this mini-review by thanking everyone in the school community – students, teaching staff, boarding management and MAC teams, and our parents – for their excellent support during this most challenging of times. Without everyone pulling together at such a time of national crisis, we would not have come through in such good shape. And Cranbrook is in very fine fettle as 2020 rolls into 2021. Our results over the last two years, both conventional

and centre-assessed included, are the best in value-added terms they have ever been. Our Sixth Form now numbers well over three hundred students and the range and breadth of our co-curriculum – CCF, DofE, Drama, Music and a host of clubs and societies – is second to none, even though much has moved online and after-school activities have been curbed one way or the other. Last but not least, we were in the unusual position of receiving an Assurance Visit from OFSTED in October, just before Ofsted shut up shop for the second time this year after the October half term. This went very well indeed and you can read inspectors' comments by following this link: [www.cranbrookschool.co.uk/about-us/ofsted/](http://www.cranbrookschool.co.uk/about-us/ofsted/).

And so to the lockdown period itself: in the space of a single week at the end of March, the School moved from a traditional teaching and learning model with some (considerable) IT support to an online model founded on the principle of fully IT-based remote learning as a viable alternative to classroom-based face-to-face lessons. We must never forget what an incredible achievement that was. Whilst the path was never smooth and there have been teething problems, the School is in a position now to flip, almost at will, from traditional to online methods of teaching and learning. This has been absolutely vital in recent weeks and will provide us with an enormously valuable resource for the future. So there have been positive outcomes from the year of the pandemic, despite everything. Our teachers' ability to adapt their teaching repertoire at a moment's notice has been a privilege to behold. Our IT team's ability to service our teaching needs and embed a raft of new technology in the space of a few months has been wondrous. Our governors' wholehearted support for the emergency measures we have had to put in place so frequently through the year – risk assessment, standard operating procedure, centre-assessed grading, the June and September reopening plans, remote learning procedure, boarding risk assessment – has given all of us in leadership huge confidence



## JOURNEY FROM THE ELIZABETHAN TO LYNX

The earliest surviving copy of a Cranbrook School magazine is the handwritten 1879 issue of The Elizabethan, although the publication was started in 1870 by Frederick Marzetti, who sadly died of typhus aged only 17.

By 1882 The Elizabethan had been replaced by the Cranbrook School Magazine, which became The Cranbrookian in 1887 and remained as such until 1962 and the first issue of The Lynx, later just Lynx.

and an enhanced will to carry on. And our significant thanks must go to Tony Bailey, our Estates Manager, who worked tirelessly and alone throughout the furlough to keep our school site safe and functioning.

One of the biggest challenges for the School at the start of the new school year was working out how to get the vast majority of students thorough the dining hall safely distanced and in good time for afternoon school. David Swinburne came to our aid by devising increasingly complex but highly effective rotas and re-designing the layout of tables. In a masterpiece of logistical planning, David ensured that all year groups were fed, boarders included, on schedule of slots through the lunch hour. All had to work like clockwork for the rest of the School not to be disrupted – and it did, with incredible efficiency. Equally invaluable in getting this system to work was Graeme Edmonds our Catering Manager whose excellent kitchen team managed to keep up with a rapid throughput of students – one year group at a time, in and out with no mixing of those vital bubbles. Again, a massively important undertaking.

As I write, we are fine tuning yet another short-term plan – this time to get us through to the end of the Autumn term safely. As the second wave bites and the number of confirmed cases in school rises and as Kent is placed in Tier 3 of the Government's lockdown measures, the School is called upon to respond and keep those twin objectives of safety and educational continuity firmly in its sights. If ever a school needed to be agile – Mr Johnson's keynote word for it – it is now. Under the direction of David Swinburne and with the help and support of all staff, Cranbrook quickly and successfully adapted to working in learning zones and bubbles as it has adapted to numerous challenges in its 500 years.

And so to my own end of year message. On this occasion it's more an end of an era for me. Having begun teaching in September 1987, I have witnessed a fair few changes over the years. The most notable event to happen in my first term as a teacher was the 'Great Storm' in the October of that year. Looking



## PETER ROWE CRANBROOK HEADMASTER 1970–1981

**Lynx would like to share the sad news of the passing of former Headmaster Peter Rowe, aged 92.**

Appointed from some 90 candidates for headship in 1970, Rowe was already an experienced headmaster, having occupied the post for thirteen years at Bishop Stortford College, where he had himself been educated



back, that was small fry compared to the challenges of 2020. It was also the first year of GCSE examinations, one of the very few educational reforms of the last 30 years to have stood the test of time. I have been privileged to work in some of the best schools in the country – six altogether – with Cranbrook the last and best. Despite all the challenges of the last twelve months, the school is set fair to excel further and make an increasingly positive impact on the local and regional educational landscape. I can't wait to hear of the exciting developments to come in the near future. And now for the Mr Chips moment – as a longstanding teacher of classical subjects, it's only proper to sign off once and for all in a properly classical fashion. "ave atque vale".

before obtaining a first class history degree at Cambridge. By some measure the ablest arts academic among twentieth century Cranbrook headmasters, literature and music were no less important to him than history and politics. During his headship, biology labs and a Sixth Form Centre were built, an all-weather pitch in Cornwallis gardens installed, and an extension from the dining hall into the Queens Hall. Rowe's unexpected decision to admit girls in September 1971 led to Scott and Blubery houses being adapted.

Rowe, with his invariable warmth and sympathy towards the young, was always keen to hear their views and meet their wishes when this could reasonably be done; there was ample and uninhibited staff room discussion in what Rowe described to them in October 1974 as 'the gloriously informal way in which things were run at Cranbrook'. Indeed, Rowe ended the virtually compulsory CCF training, compulsory church attendance from boarders in favour of Social Service and the School Council.

After the summer of 1981, Rowe departed for further teaching in America before returning to teach Canterbury Sixth Formers history on a part-time basis until he retired. He had been fortunate to have an exceptionally strong staff, and one of the reasons for the success of his headmastership was his far from riskless willingness to trust them, just as he preferred to trust his pupils. We offer sincere condolences to his wife Bridget and family.

## THANKS TO OUR EDITOR

Cranbrook's thanks go to Danielle Ford (OC and 2020 leaver) for editing Lynx 2020. Danielle has been Cranbrook's first Intern Lynx Editor, a role that she has performed wonderfully under the most challenging of circumstances. We all wish her the best of luck in her future studies and career.

## BLUSH PHOTOGRAPHY

We owe our thanks for so many of the wonderful photographs in this edition to Ali Kittermaster, parent and OC, who generously gives her time free of charge to photograph School events. Ali's galleries of Cranbrook photos, free to download, can be found on the School website under Blush Photography on the Parents tab.

20 May, 1974. Headmaster Peter Rowe greets the Duchess of Kent on her visit marking 400 years since the foundation of the Cranbrook School's charter.



# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



## ...OF LYNX 2020 – DANIELLE FORD 2020 LEAVER HORSLEY

I never thought I would end up sympathising so heavily with a Cranbrook boy from 1946 (see facing page). Having lamented the dearth of student contributions to the school's annual magazine, he asks why such publications had to be 'prefaced with editorial ramblings', and admitted he had 'no material with which to write his editorial and endeavours to fill up 200 words.'

It is Christmas Day, 2020, and I find myself grappling with a similar predicament. I am in tier four of a three-tier system. I have downed my own bodyweight in 23-year-old Schnapps that I unearthed at the back of my parents' alcohol cupboard, and I too have perhaps left this editorial to the last possible moment.

As Clive Jennens explains in his editorial, I also feel as if I am writing while on the edge of a precipice. Not only is the school in the throes of new changes and challenges, it is doing so during a year of social, environmental and political upheaval – and the years ahead look ever more uncertain.

Back in March, the Cranbrook Sixth Form witnessed perhaps one of the most infamous speeches to grace the school in recent years. Channelling his inner Michael Fish, Mr Swinburne pranced onto the Queen's Hall stage, drew himself up, and sternly announced to myself and fellow classmates that whatever happened with this recently- emerging coronavirus, the government and exam boards would do everything in their power to ensure that exams would go ahead. A-Levels are of huge importance, Mr Swinburne informed us, so we had to keep studying in recognition of the fact that exams would be made an absolute priority going forward.

The government's announcement came later that day: Schools shut. Exams cancelled.

It was during the days of idleness that followed that I was approached by the Old Cranbrookian Association (OCA) to help develop an online archive for Old Cranbrookians to access school magazines of their era and compile quiz-style questions for entertainment. Consequently, I ended up exploring the history of Cranbrook from the end of the 19th Century to present day. I will confess now – it was a struggle to find anything particularly 'entertaining' – but Lynx was packed with student content which made it a far better reflection on the school.

A school magazine should be the mouthpiece by which the literary voice of the school may express itself, but Lynx has

frequently failed to do this. The orthodox nature of the magazine has clashed with the student-led work that goes on within the school. Nevertheless, those who denounce banality must acknowledge that they themselves hold the antidote. Lynx, and any other school-related publication for that matter, should not merely be the fruit of a few Sixth Formers' labour, for it is the responsibility of students (and staff) to provide the variety and vibrancy which is invaluable – and ideally not at the last possible moment!

With my new insight into Lynx, I was invited to take on the new position of Cranbrook's first intern editor, having left the school in the summer. Upon agreeing to take on the role, I am sure I did not inspire the greatest confidence; for my first editorial meeting the only useful things I brought were a pen (to write important things down on a notepad I had forgotten to bring) and a KitKat for the arduous 10-minute walk home because I hadn't eaten breakfast. If it had not been for the guidance of past Editors, I likely would have retreated back into the grey, misty indifference from all but emergency responses in my brain.

I sincerely hope that I am not both the first and last student or intern editor. There are students out there who would reap great benefits from this project and do a far better job than myself. The increase in student contributions, I hope, will advocate student editors who can follow in my tentative footsteps. But only time will tell.

I would like to thank Clive Jennens for his editorials, both past and present; all the students, staff and Old Cranbrookians who have contributed to this year's edition; and the OCA for their funding contributions. I would also like to express my gratitude to Honey Barras, who has had the thankless task of producing Lynx for the past few years and whose innovative efforts have breathed fresh life into the magazine. Furthermore, I commend all the Cranbrook teachers and students who, through tumultuous times, have displayed resilience, creativity, and perseverance to keep the Cranbrook spirit alive.

Editing Lynx 2020 has been an enjoyable and productive experience that has gifted me skills I hope to carry forward as I embark on an exciting and daunting future. It will be whatever I make of it. In the words of Clive's Christmas, 1950 editorial: "In the bustle of our little world at Cranbrook, perhaps we lose sight too often of the principal reasons for our being in that world at all". Let us not lose sight of those reasons now.

## ...OF THE CRANBROOKIAN 1950 – CLIVE JENNENS 1946–1951 CORNWALLIS

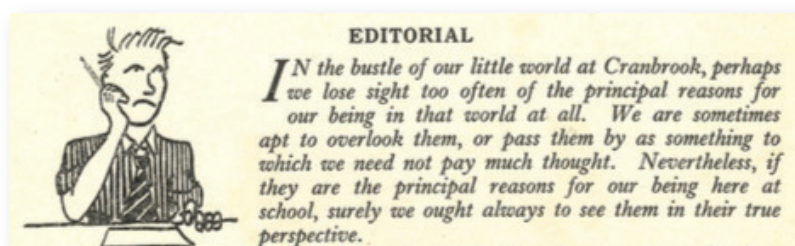
When I was writing the editorial for the Christmas 1950 edition of The Cranbrookian magazine, I had no inkling of the major changes that would slowly unfold over the next 70 years. The school I knew of some 230 boys, with slightly more boarders than day boys, had remained much the same since before the Second World War.

In retrospect I suppose we boys should really have noticed something exciting was in the air, since in the 1946 autumn term, through the enterprise and foresight of Colonel Barham (then Chairman of the School Governors), the school had acquired the adjoining vicarage and its three acres of grounds. As Headmaster Mr Russell Scott reported at the 1947 Speech Day, this was 'a very important event for the school', but I can only describe the visual changes that I have seen over the years as described in school magazines or fund-raising brochures.

I feel the most remarkable change must surely have been the arrival of the first girls in 1971 in what had been a boys only school for some 450 years. Although John Blubery founded his 'frescole howse for all the poeur children of the town of Cranbroke' in those days long ago, this did not include girls or even the sons of the really poor.

The next obvious change has been the huge increase in student numbers to today's 900 or so, with girls accounting for around half and with almost twice as many day pupils as boarders. There must presumably be many more teachers as well. The 1945 school prospectus only names the Headmaster and 15 male teachers and no ladies. However, Mrs Osborne, wife of 'Pop' Osborne, did frequent spells of teaching when the school was short of staff during the war. So, there has been a significant change here too, leading to the appointment of Angela Daly as Head Teacher in 1999.

Neither of the above changes could have happened without the substantial building programme enabled through the acquisition of the Vicarage and its grounds, then Waterloo and Vicarage Meadows in 1954. This was followed by the large neighbouring Police Station site in 1967, thereby extending the school's boundaries to form today's campus. When standing on the opposite side of Waterloo Road to School House and Big School, one cannot see any of the newer buildings behind them, so at first glance little has changed. However, take only a few steps in the direction of Cornwallis House and a different world is now revealed, with the



new Dining Hall and Queen's Hall Theatre, boarding houses, classrooms and sports facilities.

It is interesting to observe that in 1880, Headmaster Charles Crowden was also increasing pupil numbers. In 1877, he funded the construction of a new boarding house opposite School House. In 1881, the school acquired then adjacent vicarage (Glebe House) and its grounds for the new imposing Big School and Dining Hall. Thus the parish church property in Cranbrook has proved to be a very fortunate next-door neighbour, enabling two waves of major school expansion!

A further major change as seen from reports in the school magazine has been the development of numerous overseas trips ranging from sporting, educational and exchange visits to developing countries like Tanzania. There was nothing of this nature during the austerity of the immediate postwar years.

Finally, a major change – at least for me – is the school magazine itself. Seventy years ago The Cranbrookian was produced at the end of each term, with a rather formal layout and the occasional black and white photograph. This changed in 1962 to the annual A4 size production named The Lynx (later just Lynx) with a maroon cover and collection of photos. Rather strangely there does not appear to have been an explanation for the change of name and, not surprisingly, it was felt necessary to add Cranbrook to the cover until 1975. Oddly it still appears from time to time.

In 1976 the front cover began using large black and white photos and an eye-catching change occurred in 1992 when the cover photos started appearing in colour, but it was only in 2002 that a few colour photos appeared with increasingly less formal text inside. These slowly increased until the magazine is now a riot of colour as well as information from cover to cover.



Above, Clive Jennens; below cartoons from The Cranbrookian 1950.





# GOODBYE, DR WEEDS

Below, Dr Weeds anticipating the arrival of Cranbrook's float in the Lord Mayor's Show 2018; bottom, hosting HRH Princess Anne at the new Sixth Form Centre opening 2019.

## CRANBROOK THANKS AND BIDS FAREWELL TO DR WEEDS

When a school has been established for 500 years it puts our own contribution to the on-going history into perspective. All that any of us who feel passionate about Cranbrook can hope to achieve is that the school has grown and developed during our time of tenure. This is demonstrably the case during the time Dr John Weeds has been Headmaster.



In some respects John's time was defined by external forces at the beginning and end of his time here. When he started, online social media was new and intrusive. Like most of society, the School was slow to react to the onslaught of anonymous, personally hurtful and demoralising intrusion into all of our lives. John as Head bore much of the brunt but we quickly became aware of the effect on pupils too. Conversely, technology and the internet has been the saviour of our education system during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through John's leadership we have removed barriers to information about the school, demonstrated accountability, and increased openness at all levels. The school has responded to changes in modern methods of teaching and learning more than it has in any time in its history.

Others will be able to expand on the increases in educational attainment in recent years, but I am grateful to John for his enthusiastic commitment to change in things like the re-instatement of 11+ and the substantial investment in the facilities for sixth formers. John started at Cranbrook at a time of austerity where substantial cost savings had to be made, but I'm grateful to him and all of the teaching staff he has led for his commitment to maintaining the best curriculum we could afford and his determination to gradually restore things to the broad range of subjects our students deserve.



The school has had to physically alter to adopt the new teaching methods required and John has promoted and delivered major projects like the Sixth Form Centre and the creation of the Junior School as well as improvements to sporting facilities and the Cardio Suite in the Gym. I was personally grateful for his untiring efforts in submitting multiple applications to Government for funding to provide the teaching accommodation that was hampering Cranbrook from growing into the sort of school which would have the necessary facilities to serve the needs of the children of the town. His enthusiasm was never diminished when well-argued and supported bids were rejected. Undeterred, lessons were learned and he brought them to bear on the next bidding round.

Mental health and wellbeing has been a particular passion for John whose commitment to setting up the necessary structures for the early detection, monitoring and care for pupils and staff who are vulnerable, has been exemplary. The recent inspection by Ofsted remarked upon not only the high levels of safety felt by pupils, but the extraordinarily high standard of the measures staff and the agencies the school has in place to ensure the highest levels on mental, emotional and physical health.

I've been a Governor for 12 years and only been Chair for two, but during that time I've been able to develop an excellent working relationship with John. I assumed my role following the fantastic 500 years celebrations, so thought it would be a bit quieter, with time to grow things like Years 7 and 8, the sixth form subjects and the wider curriculum – but COVID-19 changed everything. I am enormously grateful to John for the way he has steered the school through these difficult times, particularly the work he undertook over the summer in preparation for the return to school and the work he has done this autumn term, extending his notice period until the arrival of the new Head in January. Without his leadership we would not have been able to achieve the high standard of remote learning we did or justify the increases in exam performance students achieved in the summer.

Finally, I'll end where I started, recognising that we are a short interval in a 500 year history and all any of us can hope for is that we pass the baton on to the next person with the school in better shape than it was when we picked it up – Dr John Weeds can certainly be assured of that.

GORDON YOUNG, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



A Headmaster has many roles. Dr Weeds was always delighted to have the opportunity to personally congratulate student prizewinners throughout the year, as well as to celebrate achievements more formally at Prizegiving. A keen traveller, he enjoyed sharing new sights and experiences with students on school trips to Nepal and India, and closer to home took pride in living at School House and tending a beautiful garden (Dr Weeds is handy with a mower!).

BRIGITTE SANTER,  
PA TO HEADMASTER  
DR WEEDS



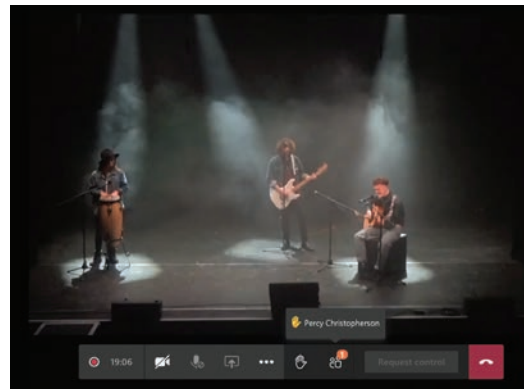
# FOND FAREWELLS FROM OUR 2019-20 SENIOR FOUR



Top, Emma Gledhill;  
above, Tom Hayes.

As Covid restrictions were once again applied across the UK in December, it seemed as though Cranbrook's class of 2020 would be denied the opportunity to formally say goodbye to each other and the School. However, despite social distancing, limited bandwidth and speakers' varying levels of Zoom experience ('you're on mute!'), Mr Swinburne ensured that the show would go on – even if only virtually.

We are pleased and proud to share with you our 2020 Senior Four's departing words to their friends.



## EMMA GLEDILL, 2020 LEAVER SCOTT

When I was in year 9 I looked at Mehala Spencer, the Head Girl of 2015, with admiration and respect as she give her speech in front of the School. She appeared bold and brave, confident and courageous – she knew what she wanted.

Sat freezing cold in the church pew, I knew I wanted to stand where she stood, being brave like she was. It's strange to think, that I am here, five years down the line. Standing, all be it metaphorically (and virtually on Zoom), where she stood, doing the speech that she did. I would never depict myself as brave or bold. However, maybe I'm mistaken. Perhaps Cranbrook has provided me with confidence, just like it did Mehala all those years ago.

As students we have walked the streets of Verona with Shakespeare, argued with Aristotle, multiplied with Pythagoras and painted with Picasso. This is the life of an academic, but only a fraction of the life we led at Cranbrook. From the hot-tempered history teachers to the assured knowledge that chicken will be served at lunch. Cranbrook is undoubtedly a community, a home to a plethora of personalities.

But these personalities we have today, despite varying, are not different or distinct from Cranbrook, rather intrinsically linked. Whether it's the moment I fell off my bunk playing dorm rounders in Scott or achieving an A in Chemistry, every memory we have, however insignificant, plays a part in moulding who we are as adults.

Although we are saying goodbye to merely a chapter of our lives, it could likely be the most significant.

When we were wrenched apart by the pandemic my Dad reassured me that however much time passes, you will always be able to remember the good times. He said, 'You'll meet so many different people at university, they may alter your perspective but you are already an adult. Your school friends are those who have helped define you as you have shared the high a lows of growing up.'

There is no question that the future brings new opportunities and new friendships, but this does not imply that the bonds we have now will simply perish. Even if we drift apart, part of our personalities will remain in others' identity. Therefore, I would like to say thank you. Thank you to the individuals of Cranbrook who helped define me. I think you did a surprisingly okay job.

## TOM HAYES, 2020 LEAVER HORSLEY

I don't know how well the rest of you were sleeping in the first lockdown, but I was having recurring dreams about my physics teacher. Or should I say nightmares: vivid nightmares. You haven't tasted fear until you wake up in cold sweats after being chased down Cranbrook High Street by Dr Lally driving a double decker bus, after an incident in the dining hall involving spears, hospital beds and a whole lot of Hoisin duck.

Don't ask. I think these nightmares were caused by the stress and uncertainty that all those taking exams this year can remember, of not knowing what grades our teachers were going to give us. And I think uncertainties sum up this difficult year – everybody trying to stay positive (but not test positive), trying to get accustomed to new laws on a seemingly weekly basis, and facing moments where nobody really knew what was going on at all. In a way it was a bit like A Level Physics. So I thought it might be useful to reminisce and step back to a more normal time and think not about what Dr Lally has taught me, but what, over the last five years, Cranbrook has taught me.

It taught me to cherish the small things we do with each other – sitting out on the Gym Lawn in the summer, dancing in the squash courts, messing around when the cover teacher didn't turn up, going to town and managing to get a pasty from the hot food shelf in the mini Co-Op before they disappeared, going on the charity walk, 'singing' and cheering people on in House Shout, playing cheat in the Sixth Form Centre, meeting your date before the start of a House ball, celebrating at the end of a sports match, hyping each other up before going onto the Queens' Hall stage. These are the school memories that really matter, and I think now more than ever it's important to look back on these to remind us what we have to look forward to when things inevitably get better – making new memories with the amazing friends we've made here. This leads me on to the most important thing Cranbrook has taught me.

No matter how much of a mess we are in, or how difficult things get, everybody in our year group has always had each other's backs and have always been there for each other. Remember that going into 2021, among all the uncertainty in the world right now, that that will be no different.

## NNAMDI MICHAEL NDUKA-EZE, 2020 LEAVER CORNWALLIS

As we leave Cranbrook we are reflecting on the what is probably the greatest universal gift – time. We are reflecting on the time we spent together. The time we spent making friends and memories, developing our talents and learning new skills, arguing with Mrs Corney about Raegan, listening to Mr Swinburne talk about the Sixth Form Diploma, hanging out in the Sixth Form Centre, or the PAC or even, for some people, skateboarding in town. Time is a great equaliser. We all have the same amount in a day. And how we use our time is one of the most, if not the most, important decisions we make daily. Going forward let us continue to value time, continue to work hard, develop our talents and learn new skills, make new friends and new memories and of course maintain the friends and keep close the memories we have made in Cranbrook.

2020 has been what 2020 has been. A sore bite that stings and swells up. But we are moving to a new year. This year has taught us the importance of friendship and leaning on our friends in times of difficulty. Thankfully because of technology we have not been too far away from each other in the past few months. So, let us look with hope and enthusiasm towards the future. Who knows what next year will bring but let us be strengthened in the fact that we have grown amidst the difficulties of this year and we will keep growing through next year.

Thank you to our teachers who have shepherded us through our years at Cranbrook, to non-teaching members of staff, to the Cornwallis staff and Mr Turner my House Master. To Dr Weeds our headmaster and to our parents, family members and guardians who have

YEAR 13 Leavers - PRIZEWINNERS 2020			
The Acock English Literature Prize: Modern History: The Hartley Geography Prize: Philosophy & Ethics: Economics: Politics: Classical Civilisation The Waghorn Memorial Prize for Modern Languages (French): Single Mathematics: Further Mathematics: The Parr-Dudley Physics Prize: The Parr-Dudley Chemistry Prize: Biology: Psychology: Art:	Elsa Dolg Sam Jenkins Melissa Field Alice Hammond Alexandr Pavelko Danielle Ford Stephanie Harris Anna Stephen Benjamin Giles Marta Mucci George Mandel-Mantello Freddie Todd Lilian McCaffery Clara Pettitt Mathilde Stone	The Hugo Drama Prize: The Johnson Prize for Performing Arts: Music Performance Prize: Work Experience Prize: PE Prizes: The Old Cranbrookian Prize: The Thorne Prize for Extra-Curricular Activities: The Army Leadership Prize: The CCF Sword of Honour:	Tom Hayes Benjamin Greaves-Neal Ellie Young-Min Max Fleming Percy Christopherson & Polly Murphy Sophie Charlesworth, Polly Flanders & Max Chesters Bear Pearse, Taskeen Nasif & Nnamdi Nduka-Eze Abigail Harper William Clark Thomas Tal, Sos Stephens, Peter Booth, Eva Roche, Holly Ford, Milo Baker, Eleanor Young Min, Adam Hsuan, Percy Christopherson, Oluoluwa Dada, James Cowdell, Olympia Anley, Cesar Garcia Cabezon, David Balogun, Lilian McCaffery, Luka Wellman, Jessica Venton

provided for us all these years. And finally, thank you to you – the class of 2020 – for the time we have spent together and the memories we have made, especially the legendary Wallis boys who helped me settle in when I joined Cranbrook two years ago.

I leave you with this – 'This is the opening finale class of 2020, NOT THE END. As the curtains close on this stage they open up to a new stage with new possibilities; with new opportunities... so let's rumble in the jungle'.

## EVA ROCHE, 2020 LEAVER WEBSTER

A lot changed over the five years most of us spent at Cranbrook, from first joining in Year 9 to our unfortunate early departure this year. Over those five years we've endured a lot of turbulence, topped off by what is very likely to be the most chaotic year we've experienced in our lifetimes. In junior school we saw the budget cuts and subject changes that happened in year 10, and we were the guinea-pig year for most subjects on the new 1–9 grading system. We've seen the introduction of the Year 7s and 8s, and the building of a new Sixth Form Centre. Staff and students have come and gone, and, who could forget, we're living through a pandemic.

Although at times we've struggled, overcoming all of these obstacles together has strengthened what were already solid bonds between our year. Nowhere else have I seen closer and more meaningful friendships than the ones we have with each other. Neither have I seen groups of friends as large as the ones we have here. I think Cranbrook students, our year group in particular, are unique in our ability to get on with such a variety of different people – in Sixth Form especially, even between groups we all get along, students and teachers alike.

Now we're all in very different places under very different circumstances, but I'm sure all of us, at some point since leaving Cranbrook, have felt uncertain about the situations we've found ourselves in. As we're flung all over the country, to unfamiliar places, with unfamiliar people, and with the world in the state that it's in, it's comforting to remember that Cranbrook will always be here; that when we return home we'll be greeted by familiar faces, people that we've shared so many experiences with. Old friends, new friends, unexpected friends, even friends we've lost, they'll always be a part of Cranbrook. Even when we venture out further into the world, putting more and more distance between us, we'll all still have had this shared experience, and the friendships we've made here won't be broken easily.



Top, Nnamdi Nduka-Eze;  
above, Eva Roche.

Mr Gordon Young, Chair of Governors introduced the event to Year 13 Leavers and was joined by Dr John Weeds, Headmaster and Mr Swinburne, Assistant Head Sixth Form. We were also delighted to be joined by the current Chief Executive of England Hockey, Nick Pink (OC) as guest speaker who shared his life experiences.



# EXTRA CURRICULAR

## DON'T BE CONTENT TO JUST WATCH TV!

Television skills are the modern language of communication and every child will find them useful in some way when they enter the world of work.

The first TV show I ever made was at my own school during a 'co-curricular' week and it's been my job for 30 years now.

When my children started at Cranbrook I was disappointed to find that there were no opportunities to learn and develop television skills and so having failed to find anyone able to run a club at the school I took a deep breath and agreed to run it myself.

A fellow parent Mike Martin (designer and film director) and I have loved the appetite for learning and creativity we have seen in our students whilst running the club

– and we were really delighted with their end results. Sometimes we had people in to give a short talk on their part of the industry, sometimes we were filming or learning to edit, and some club members went on to help with the filming of the school play, Blood Brothers.

We hope to continue to run this club and believe it could become a really useful resource for the school. If you have professional skills that you could share with students through a club, whether in person or virtually via zoom (so 2020!), then I'd urge you to contact Mr Benford to see how you can get involved – you won't regret it.

ANN BOOTH-CLIBBORN  
PARENT AND CLUB LEADER

## ASPIRING ANIMATORS

When I joined Cranbrook in Year 7, there was an overwhelming choice of clubs and societies available for us to participate in. One that I definitely didn't want to miss was film club, run by Ann Booth-Clibborn, which many students from all year groups enjoyed taking part in.

A lot was crammed in to the months before lockdown, including filming a music video for the school reggae band and interviewing the band members. We also went to the Cranbrook Apple Fayre where we filmed a short documentary, interviewing members of the public, stall-holders and even a friendly Viking! We rotated between three roles: introducing ourselves and asking for permission to film, interviewing and recording the interview.

Several industry professionals came in to talk to us about a wide range of techniques, including stop-motion animation and green screening, as well as exploring sound effects, music and editing.

Over the Christmas holidays, we were set the challenge of creating our own stop-motion animation, using all the techniques we had learnt, and thus my first stop-motion animation, A Mouse House Birthday, was

born! It was an amazing experience, and I'd like to thank everyone who gave up their time to help us.

**Gemma was too modest to tell you that her stop-motion animation film was the winner of this year's competition with her film A Mouse House Birthday. Congratulations also go to Joseph Ashby, Year 8 Sellers, for Return of Yoda and to Scott Binnendijk, Year 11 Horsley, for 4 Seasons.**

GEMMA BRASSLEY, 8N SELLERS



Congratulations to Gemma Brassley, Year 8 Sellers, the winner of the Film-Makers' Club stop-motion animation competition and well done to Archie Bunch, Year 10 Horsley for making it to second place!



## CRANBROOK'S SOUND AND VISION

Take a minute if you can to visit our School's website to enjoy a fantastic music video featuring the Jazz Band playing The Tide is High, that was put together by the Film Club. It is absolutely wonderful and a great testament to the achievements of the junior school members and the Sixth Form band.

<https://www.cranbrookschool.co.uk/film-club-music-video-the-tide-is-high/>

The video took two weeks to film. In the first week the Film Club captured the main performance and in the second week all of the extra shots. Camilla Hastings was fantastic finding spaces for filming and corralling the Jazz Band to ensure everyone was



where they needed to be on time. Each small team worked on their own edit over three weeks and the musicians recorded a 'clean' track in the studio to set the visuals to.

None of the students from Year 7, 9 and 10 had done any filming before and the band was a new Jazz band put together by Ben Griens-Nelson, 2020 Leaver Rammell. Alex Ford, 2020 Leaver Horsley, was a huge help during this project and for the next two terms he helped handle the huge numbers of students and had editing and shooting knowledge to share.

We are grateful to all of the Sixth Formers who generously give their time and skills to run clubs for younger students.

## FROM SPECIALIST HELP TO SPECIAL EFFECTS

In April of this year I was at a friend's house helping their son with an IT problem. He needed help in fixing a hard drive. His mum was into IT and used to help some of the people in the village, but she wanted a second opinion on her son's issue. I was able to easily solve the problem so my friend's mum said 'Oli, you know so much more than me about IT, why don't you take over my customers?'.

It was then that KINGY TECH was born...

Mum helped me with the initial advert, and I joined several local village Facebook sites to start advertising. I started to get a few calls from friends and people in my village, gradually news started to spread. I replaced screens, fixed email issues and hard drives, fixed a driver problem with a gaming PC. With the lockdown people were relying on their laptops and PC's much more so I felt it was a good time offer my help.

I have dyslexia so I am not very confident in writing or reading but I have always had an interest in 3D modelling, visual effects and finding out how things work. I started to watch tutorials to teach myself cinema4D for Computer Generated Imagery, and I invested in a 3D printer (which is currently broken due to too much use!) and VFX effects and game development in Unity (a game development software) I am currently creating my first virtual reality game demo.

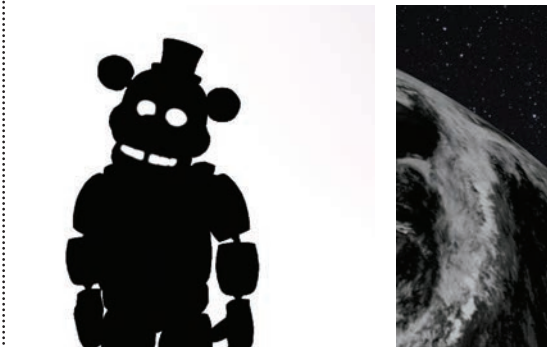
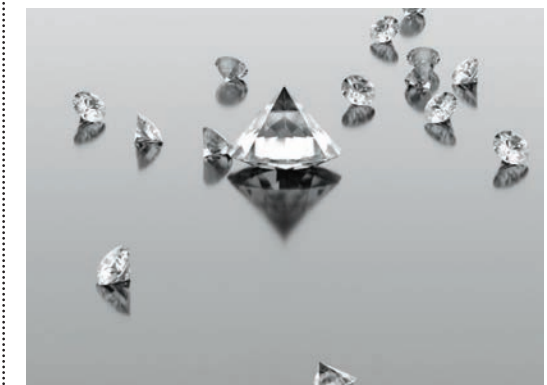
I use the money I earn from KINGY TECH (and washing up in the kitchen at the local pub!) to put towards software and upgrades for my PC and VR set up. Thus allowing me to expand my knowledge further.

I decided to use Cinema-4D to create a piece of work for one of my final GCSE Art pieces. We were asked to take all the artists we had worked on and create a piece to reflect our favourite artist's work, Edouard Manet – mystery and reflections in facial expression.

Vanitas – meaning behind objects, Chiaros Curo – drama with a single point of light, shadows etc... This is what I have so created so far but I still have quite a few more hours to go to get it exactly how I want it.

I am hoping to go into the Sixth Form at Cranbrook and take Physics, Maths and Computer Science. And then go on to University to do a Visual effects and CGI degree. I would love to be able to do virtual reality effects used in either film and TV or game design.

OILIVER KING, YEAR 11 ALLAN





# IF YOU DO WHAT YOU LOVE, YOU'LL NEVER WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE

## CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Congratulations to Freddie Todd, 2020 Leaver Lynx and Sos Stevens, 2020 Leaver Blubery, who both achieved a silver award in the Chemistry Olympiad. This is a very difficult challenge that usually only the most competent chemistry students in the country attempt.

*'While the Olympiad was difficult, I found it enjoyable to see what higher level chemistry is like. I decided to enter the Olympiad this year because I wanted to challenge my ability in chemistry. I didn't expect to do as well as get silver, but it made the experience worthwhile. The Olympiad has given me an insight into how the chemistry I learnt at A-Level can be applied to degree-level chemistry and real-life situations'.*  
Freddie

No one sets out to win a Nobel Peace Prize, but for a minute and generally very humble few, it just happens. This is the case for Jerry Smith OC who 'failed to mention' the award when we interviewed him about his career working in the field of chemical weapons.

Jerry worked for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 for its work over a 20 year period. At the time Jerry said the award was a 'pleasant surprise' but that his and his team's priority had been to finish their task to observe the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons production capability.



## JERRY SMITH, 1981–1986 CORNWALLIS

I began my career in the army as a Royal Engineer and went into bomb disposal, then joined Porton Down as a civil servant in 2001. I wanted to work with chemical weapons and you can only do that by going into a Government service. With the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office I worked with foreign scientists who could potentially become involved in creating chemical weapons, steering them towards more meaningful projects. In Iraq and former Soviet states these projects included investigating diseases endemic to the country to help it prepare for future outbreaks.

From there, I was in the UN system for seven years as a weapons inspector, inspecting countries that still had chemical weapons like the United States, India, Russia. This role called on a wide range of skills from the science to management and diplomacy, all to ensure that you're not only being fair to the country, but also being seen to be fair.

In 2012, Syria was moving into a civil war and it was thought that the UN would get involved in peace-keeping operations. I was asked to develop a plan of how the OPCW would verify Syria's chemical weapons under the banner of the UN (United Nations). Sadly UN peacekeeping in Syria didn't happen. After chemical attacks in 2013, President Obama discussed military action against Syria but David Cameron's vote on airstrikes failed to pass through Parliament and so the United States' strike didn't go ahead. The Syrian government was told that no military action would be taken if they joined the Chemical Weapons Convention and allowed inspectors in. They agreed and so I went in to Syria in October 2013.

Working with people in different countries you have to understand that they are governed by their history and geography just as much as we are, so you have to make compromises. But there are standards that you don't go beyond, for example, the collection of evidence and how you maintain that evidence. There are two key elements of evidence: physical evidence and witness statements, and you try to bring this evidence together similar to a police investigation. There will be powers and countries that don't want you to succeed but you just have to stick to best practice, doing what you know is right and needs to be done.

Most countries have signed up to not using chemical weapons. Chemical weapons need to be consigned to the dustbin of history, but sadly they won't ever go away. However, we must continue to push for scientists around the world to develop things for good rather than evil.



Josh Powell is a Conservation Biologist and National Geographic Explorer. With a lifelong interest in politics, Josh is keen to utilise the capacity of political action to create real-world change for human society and the natural world. He was named a 'Leader of Tomorrow' in 2016 by the St. Gallen Symposium, in Switzerland, and in 2018 became a member of the Queen's Young Leaders community, representing the UK. Josh is one of the faces of #WWFVoices for WWF.

## JOSH POWELL, 2006–2011 HORSLEY

I've always been interested in the natural world and what we can do to protect it. Cranbrook provided a great opportunity for me to try to improve the school's environmental performance. When it came to picking a university degree, I was interested in environmental policy and the science of conservation and that was why I had a split at A-Levels between science, geography and politics, and I've used all of them in my career. For my undergraduate dissertation, I went to Gibraltar, Japan and Hong Kong to study how macaques interact with humans. I also volunteered for a Slovak Wildlife Society project tracking lynx and wolf populations in the Tatra Mountains, and that was something I got funding to do while I was at Cranbrook.

I then got a scholarship to study at the University of Pennsylvania and when I came back to the UK I got a Churchill Fellowship which was learning about what New Zealand does well in island conservation and applying it to the UK. I was also interested in the work of wildlife rangers so myself and a friend set up Rangers Without Borders, a conservation research project that focused on central Asia and eastern Europe because there was little understanding of the work rangers were doing there. So far, we have worked in six countries for that project and we provide consulting services for them.

If you want the themes we work around, it is: 'seeking to better understand the challenges faced by wildlife rangers, their anti-poaching capacity, and evaluation of opportunities and challenges for trans-boundary cooperation.'

Why are we interested in doing this work? Because we believe that the global conservation community can only better support the work of wildlife rangers if we understand the challenges that rangers face on the ground in specific geographical locations – which are diverse and varied (and many of which are largely overlooked).

Why is this important, why am I interested in the work of wildlife rangers? Because wildlife rangers are the individuals involved in the practical management of the world's protected areas, these sites of global significance for biodiversity conservation. They are hugely important in efforts to tackle the illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss and wildlife crime – and they are also the public face of conservation for local communities, so their work with those communities is also crucially important. But their work is incredibly dangerous (it's one of the world's most dangerous civilian jobs) and rangers are all too often poorly paid, equipped or trained.

Conservation is all about working with people and incorporating local team members was hugely important to allowing that work to go ahead. Other useful skills are statistics, linguistics, and communicating your findings through public speaking, photography, and filmmaking.

Presenting #WWFVoices for WWF International has been one of my biggest career highlights. #WWFVoices is a



Josh at work with wildlife rangers in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Above photo credit, Elizabeth Streeter/Rangers Without Borders.  
Left photo credit, Stephanie Foote/Rangers Without Borders.

## CRANBROOK FUTURES

2020 has been particularly difficult for the 'Futures' department. 'Futures' is the name of the department in the school offering students information on careers education, careers advice and guidance, including apprenticeships and work related learning. Students in Year 11 who had work experience placements for the summer had to abandon their plans, Year 12s wanting to visit university campuses had to do so on line and our annual on-site autumn careers fair for all year groups didn't happen.

But careers guidance continued and the students were still able to access a vast array of information and expert advice. Advice from our independent careers advisor, Chris Targett, continued during the summer lockdown with students taking part in telephone consultations and face to face appointments re-started at the end of September in a Covid secure environment.

Each year students are emailed the weekly 'Futures' bulletin which contains details of online courses, lectures, competitions, taster days, open days, work experience (virtual off course) and independent learning opportunities. The bulletin is also sent to tutors and included in the parent newsletter at the end of each school week. Going forward we are looking to organise a virtual careers fair in the spring term of 2021.



# CHARITY AND COMMUNITY



## RAMMELL BOYS BUILD A VISITORS' BOOTH FOR HARTLEY CARE HOME

Paula Stranford the manager of Hartley Care Home put out an appeal on social media asking for help to enable their residents' families to continue Covid-safe visits during the lockdown. I was happy to offer my time and DIY skills and knew that some of the students would be happy to help too.

I popped down to the care home to measure up and discussed what it was they wanted, then contacted Rammell House to see if any students would like to help with a community project – I knew the boys were struggling with finding new things to do during the lockdown.

I then drew up the designs that first evening, got up early Saturday to track down materials which wasn't easy as there are supply chain problems (much like loo roll) and that afternoon the boys from Rammell and I spent the next 6 hours building a flat pack shelter to install in the care home on the Sunday morning. All in all we had the project finished in two and a half days over the weekend from start to finish, and of course residents, their families and the home's staff were all very grateful.

My thanks go to Mason Bull – Year 10, Rhys Ho – Year 12, Byron Tam – Year 11, Jia Ming Eow – Year 10 of Rammell for their willing help.

MR KESTER HULLAN-RUMLEY, QUEENS HALL THEATRE TECHNICAL MANAGER



I've just been to see my Mum and I wanted to say a huge thank you for coming to Paula's aid and with the help of some of your students building the visitors pod – it's just excellent. Mum amazingly at age 95 has all her faculties but is hard of hearing now so having to wear a mask made the whole visit experience really frustrating for the both of us. Today she was able to hear me and chat away so apart from the fact I still can't kiss or hug her we had a lovely time. She wanted to know all about it so fortunately Paula was on hand to explain how it came about and she kept saying "oh this is so much better!"

Please thank the boys who took part – theirs and your hard work has made a huge difference.

With very best wishes

Lisa Panting

“It was a really fun experience, and not only did we help families see each other again but I've also learnt some really cool skills.

RHYS HO, YEAR 10 RAMMELL

## AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR

During the lockdown and School closure, a lone badger was discovered on the lawn in front of the Performing Arts Centre and Folly Wildlife Rescue were called to the rescue! We were pleased to make a donation to this very worthy cause for the great work that they do.



## CRANBROOK IN THE COMMUNITY

In September 2019 'Cranbrook in the Community' was launched. This involves sixth form students visiting the elderly in and around the Cranbrook area to forge friendships and help combat loneliness amongst the older population in the community.

'It was something that the school had done many years ago', says Christine Newman, who organised the scheme with the help of school parents, local care homes, GPs and social prescribers. 'And the time had come to re-instate it. My mother became house bound in Cranbrook and I visited her often but what she enjoyed most was visits by her granddaughters, the younger generation who had so much to talk about and such an interest in her past life. Many elderly folk in the town don't have the luxury of grandchildren close by so the school was able to step in and help', continues Christine.

Many friendships were formed over the months from September to March 2020 with students visiting their regular elderly buddies either weekly or fortnightly to simply chat and share tea and biscuits, to help with some housework, shopping or dog walking. In addition, three Cranbrook students regularly helped with the Memory Lane Café, based at Evernden House, Cranbrook, with their events such as outings to a hop farm and the coast and Christmas activities.

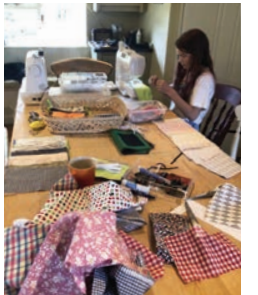
With the pandemic, unfortunately face to face contact had to be stopped. Some of the students were able to keep in touch via phone and email and post but unfortunately some problems with expectations over lockdown meant that the scheme had to be put on hold.

We look forward to being able to reinstate this valuable community project as soon as we can.

## FLOSSIE SEWS FOR OUR NHS HEROES

I have been making face masks during the lockdown and donating the money to NHS care packages which my cousin is involved in. We will have raised well over £400 when we have completed and sold all of them. I needed to sew 170 to complete all of our orders!

FLOSSIE WEBSTER, YEAR 8 SELLERS



## ANA'S AMAZING RESCUE

What started out as an early Sunday morning surf for Ana Glubb and two friends, quickly turned into a dramatic sea rescue of four swimmers who had got into difficulties in a North Sea rip tide at Tynemouth. A third-year medical student at Newcastle University, Ana (2018 Horsley and centre in the photo below) had recently become a keen surfer. Little did she know that her new-found hobby would end up saving lives.

Ana acted quickly and bravely entering the rip to help the fatigued swimmers onto their boards, giving enough time for the RNLI to reach them and administer first aid. Ana and her friends have been put forward for a bravery award by the local search and rescue team and Ana has received recognition for her actions from the NHS Trust where she is currently doing her medical placement.



03 December 2020

Reference 22735

Ms Karen Radford  
Cranbrook School  
Waterloo Rd,  
Cranbrook  
Tonbridge  
Kent  
TN17 3JD

Dear Karen,

**Helping those who may not live a long life, to live a full life.**

A huge thank you to everyone at Cranbrook School for your wonderful donation of £1,250. Your support really means a lot to us particularly at such a difficult time. Did you know that to date, Cranbrook School have raised an incredible **£21,712.37** for Demelza. This is an incredible figure and we simply couldn't have continued to provide care for children and their families for over 21 years without people like you.

To give you an idea of the impact of your support, here's a few things that £21,000 could fund;


- 25 x overnight stays for a child or young person's overnight stay at one of our specialist hospices
- 361 hours of music or art therapy for a child or their sibling
- 149 months' worth of toilet roll for our hospices
- 217 support groups for a child with a terminal condition and a member of their family

As you can see, Cranbrook School's support to Demelza has had a huge impact over the years and this year your support means more than ever. Thank you for thinking of us.

On behalf of everyone at Demelza, thank you.

Yours sincerely

Claire Battersby, Community Fundraising Executive  
T: 01795 845200 M: 07825 094777 E: [claire.battersby@demelza.org.uk](mailto:claire.battersby@demelza.org.uk)

 @Demelza\_ClaireB

[www.demelza.org.uk](http://www.demelza.org.uk) [info@demelza.org.uk](mailto:info@demelza.org.uk)

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Fax: 01323 446462





 [www.facebook.com/demelzahospice](https://www.facebook.com/demelzahospice)

 @demelzahospice



Demelza House Children's Hospice is a company limited by guarantee  
Company No. 2948500. Registered Charity No. 1039451





 [www.facebook.com/demelzahospice](https://www.facebook.com/demelzahospice)

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FUNDRAISING  
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# MUSIC

ELLIE YOUNG MIN, 2020 LEAVER ALLAN  
"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to go to Buckingham Palace and play for such an important charity. I will always remember it as one of my favourite and most bragged about Cranbrook memories."

ANNA STEPHEN, 2020 LEAVER HORSLEY  
"We had rehearsed some classical pieces like Mozart and Kleiner but also more informal things like Moon River, which we performed as the guests came in. Afterwards we went into an adjoining room and Kate chatted to us about the group and how long we'd been playing together (which obviously wasn't long). It was a fantastic experience".

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE WAS THE PLACE2BE

**What an experience! Following a request from Dr Weeds to provide, if possible, some music for a reception for VIPs, 'but I can't say more than that about it and I can't tell you where, or even when at the moment', I asked Ms Karen Demmel (our Violin/Viola peripatetic teacher) if she could run rehearsals for a string quintet to perform somewhere, and clearly somewhere rather special. After asking Anna Stephen (Cello), Ellie Young Min (Violin), Chloe Wong (Violin) and Paula Hinojosa-Berroc (Violin), to join Ms Demmel in making up a quintet, lots of rehearsals later we could tell them where we were taking them to perform!**

We had been invited to provide the music at The Place2Be evening Reception at Buckingham Palace. It was a wonderful experience, from a private tour of the State Apartments (and a few other rooms that the public don't see) given by one of the Queen's footmen, the quintet set up in the Green Drawing Room with an amazing view of the Grand Staircase and arriving guests.

We all practised our curtsies and had the honour of being presented to HRH The Duchess of Cambridge in the White Drawing Room. An over-riding memory is the endless whirr of cameras clicking – the paparazzi were there too in force!

It was a wonderful evening and very rewarding to be able to be part of such an incredible opportunity to see and hear four very talented girls playing so beautifully.

MRS CAMILLA HASTINGS, MUSIC DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR



When we first found out how we would be performing in an important event, we were quite curious and excited at the same time. It wasn't until a week before the event that we were informed we would be playing in Buckingham Palace, with the presence of the Duchess of Cambridge as the Royal patron of Place2Be. I remembered all of us were so excited and we jumped and screamed because it isn't a common thing to meet members of the monarchy. When we entered the back of the palace, we went through some administration and finally got into the palace. It was dazzling with a mixture of white and golden tones, with elegant carvings and beautiful statues and paintings hung all over the palace.

We were given the opportunity to have a free tour in the palace before we performed in the reception. We went into the reception with the gorgeous spinning stairs lined with red and gold carpet, the Green Room, the White Room, and the huge garden with lots of ducks, and the huge community area. Then we had the best fish and chips for dinner (unfortunately, the pudding was served when we were about to go, and it looked very delicious). Then we performed in the reception for half an hour which was quite scary at the beginning as people are coming in. But I think we got used to it and were more confident gradually. It was a really good performance because we practised a lot for it with the great help of Mrs Hastings and Ms Demmel. After that, we were introduced to the Duchess of Cambridge in the Green Room. We were just lining up there not knowing when she will turn up in that opened secret door that was supposed to be a mirror. We were nervous and finally, after a long wait she turned up in a sparkly, long, blue dress. She came over to shake our hands and I was so nervous that I forgot to curtsy. I really have been regretting that for a long time.

Finally, we were leaving with the souvenir that the palace gave us which is a cup with the palace on it. We were talking about it the whole time on the train and we were all very grateful and pleased with the experience.

I have been learning the violin since I was four and I am doing my diploma exam next Thursday. I really enjoy playing the violin and I really like the satisfaction after I play a piece well. In the future, I want to participate in a larger orchestra, and I will continue playing in the future.

CHLOE WONG, YEAR 11 SCOTT

*Chloe has passed her Violin Performance Diploma – Distinction. This is a qualification taken after all ABRSM grades have been passed and is a huge achievement.*

## GABBY OPENS PLACE2BE'S VIRTUAL CAROL CONCERT

In December, Gabriella Gwilliam Year 10 Webster recorded a solo of Once in Royal David's City to open Place2Be's virtual Christmas Carol Concert. Laura Wright, the well known soprano opera singer asked that Gabby provide the solo having heard her sing.

I had the amazing opportunity to do a recording for a charity online carol concert. The charity Place2Be is a mental health charity for young children. I was lucky enough to be chosen by a very talented singer – Laura Wright to perform for them. This meant so much to me because as you will all relate to, this year has been a particularly tough one, and in times where we would normally have events like this it was lovely to have still have one.

Celebrities and children coming together for a really important cause is a lovely thing to be part of. Mental health is something definitely to be remembered and thought about. I started singing when I was about 10 years old, and I have been performing for a few years now. I was given lots of opportunities at my previous school that I'm very grateful for. I've done carol concerts in the past and I really enjoy doing them as well as other types of performances. Singing will always be something I will do, because in doing it I'm able to entertain others and be part of something which I think is quite special. Stay safe everyone!

GABBY GWILLIAM, YEAR 10 WEBSTER



## BBC RADIO 1'S BEST NEW POP

Erin Bloomer, 2020 Leaver Scott, released the third single from her EP, Second Best, early in 2020. It went on to hit Spotify's New Music Friday playlist, as well as being played on BBC Radio 1's Best New Pop on Friday morning, presented by Mollie King. She has also produced some of the 'Power Intros' that you hear on, Radio 1' before a song. So next time you're listening, you might hear Erin.

Second Best topped 300K streams and made the Top 20 on two radio stations in Canada and USA, and her single Right Love, Wrong Time reached more than a quarter of a million streams on Spotify and was added to the US Top 20 FM playlist.

Erin is one of 46 acts nationwide, awarded financial support from Help Musicians UK due to Covid-19 so they can continue to be creative during these uncertain times.



## INNOCENT BLOOD WINS ELISE AN INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Elise Neal, Year 9 Allan, won an international song writing competition with her song Innocent Blood, having been entered by her Year 7 teacher Mrs Barrett. The Never Such Innocence International Poetry, Art, Speech and Song Competition attracted 4,000 entries worldwide on the theme 'the impact of war/conflict upon communities'. Elise's outstanding piece is featured in an annual book of winners.

On hearing about her achievement, Elise said: "...Oh wow! It feels fantastic to get that news, I feel really good considering how many entries there were. I didn't imagine for a second that I would win anything. I was just happy to enter!... It was a good theme – a big topic(!) – it made me think about how other children felt around the world and what their experiences of conflict might be and how they might differ from mine... when I am writing the tune and the lyrics for a song, it makes me feel free and is a distraction from everything else going on in the world... it is like reading a book... you get lost in it. I think about expressing my thoughts which are then recorded on paper and then they are there forever... you wouldn't even need to speak the same language, you could just listen to the music and get a feeling of your own... music: playing piano, singing and writing songs makes me confident..."



Claudia Mason, Year 7 Sellers, achieved a Distinction in her Grade 4 Singing exam, whilst Lucy Lugnarain, Year 8 Sellers, gained a merit in her singing and Joel Briffa, Year 8 Sellers, a merit in his Saxophone exam.

Milos Foy, Year 9 Allan, and Music Scholar has passed his ABRSM Grade 6 Classical Guitar with Distinction – another great result for him on top of his ARSM Piano Performance Diploma in March of this year. This is the Diploma that students who have completed Grade 8 Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) can take and is a purely performance based Diploma. Candidates perform a 30 minute programme where they are assessed on their musical communication skills, interpretation and technical delivery. Students who have passed become an Associate of the Royal School of Music.



# VISUAL ARTS

Blood Brothers gave us a chance to explore issues that remain relevant today, the most prevalent being social divide. The students paid tribute to the characters and performed wonderfully with the heart that this piece needed.

The decision to add our own music, performed by the School band, was the finishing touch needed, reflective of the time with lyrics to suit the moment, the music aided the emotional journey the piece takes you on. The finale song 'Let It Be' was a real 'hair stand up on your arm moment', it was a magical and moving ending to a show.

As ever, our students are what made it so special.

JADE DEEBLE,  
HEAD OF DRAMA

## DRAMA – BLOOD BROTHERS

Blood Brothers is a musical with book, lyrics, and music by Willy Russell. The story is a contemporary nature versus nurture plot, revolving around fraternal twins Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one subsequently being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family. The different environments take the twins to opposite ends of the social spectrum, one becoming a councillor, and the other unemployed and in prison. They both fall in love with the same girl, causing a rift in their friendship and leading to the tragic death of both brothers.

Society tells us that we all differ in appearance and behaviour. So when we encounter two people who look and act so much alike, it challenges our belief in the way that the world works.

And now that the twin birth rate is on the rise, the topic of twins is becoming an important area of study. Not only are they considered something of a biological novelty – they have become a powerful tool for understanding genetic and environmental influences on human behaviour. This is made evident in the Willy Russell play, Blood Brothers, in which audiences observe twin brothers Mickey and Eddie being separated and raised in contradicting environments before reuniting in a tragic finale of Shakespearean proportions.

The play explores the classic nature vs nurture debate and is an interesting take on the development of fraternal

twins. Being a fraternal twin myself, I can often relate to the brothers' desperate need for individuality while being forcibly drawn together.

Although we are genetically no different from normal siblings, society has always assumed myself and my sister's collectiveness. The infuriating words 'special bond' pop up in any new conversation, and people seem to almost take personal offence upon discovering that my sister and I are totally different.

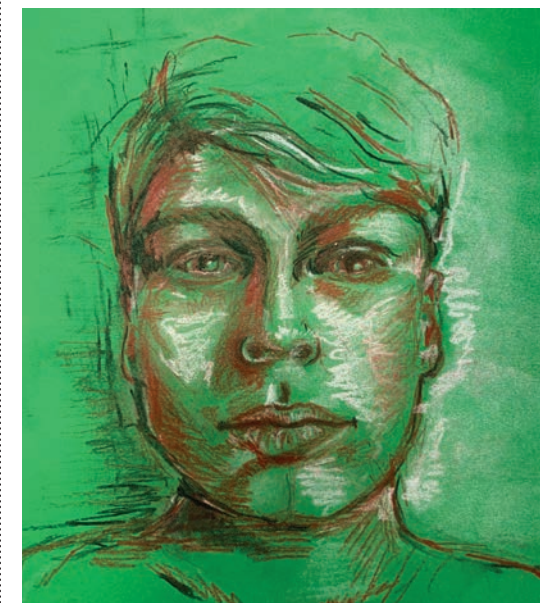
People like to view twins as clones because it makes it easier for them to understand how two human beings can be created and born at the same time. But we are not clones. Rather, we have a stronger sense of individual identity because of our need for differentiation – we have had to purposefully build ourselves. This process is not only unnatural but can be deeply challenging in an environment which pushes us together while we desperately seek to establish how we are perceived as individuals. We have to persuade society to see beyond the label.

If my twin sister was the author of this piece, I am certain she would agree with my polemic while still managing to contradict everything I've said. We will be attending separate universities, doing separate courses, and leading separate lives. Hopefully unlike the Blood Brothers, we will both experience equality of opportunity – and avoid shooting each other. Fingers crossed.

DANIELLE FORD, 2020 LEAVER HORSLEY



## A LEVEL ARTWORKS



Top left, Guy and Alfie Pryke, 2020 Leavers Horsley; top right, Isla Anderson, Year 12 Allan; left, Flora Roberts, Year 13 Allan; far left, Georgia Robb, Year 13 Webster; bottom left, Alfie Pryke, 2020 Leaver Horsley; bottom right, Lucy Saunders, 2020 Leaver Lynx.



# PHOTOGRAPHY

## RSPCA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Felix Maidment (Year 8 Sellers) who came runner up in the Picture Perfect Pets category of the RSPCA Young Photographer of the Year Awards 2020, with his stunning photo 'Miso – the bat-like kitten'.

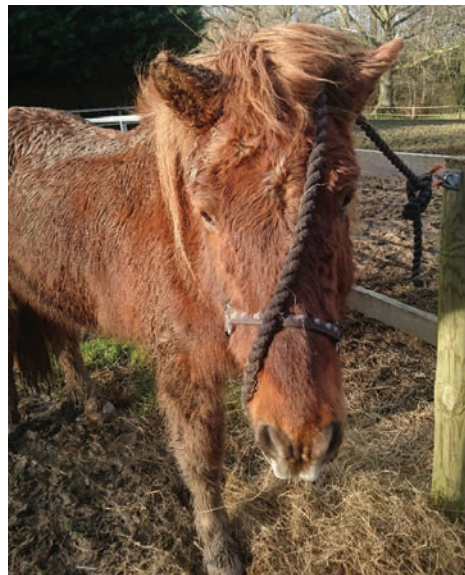
Felix said 'I took this photo of my new kitten Miso using an iPhone 6. It was taken on Miso's first day with our family, as he settled into his new home. He was just eight weeks old, and snuggled right up next to me on the sofa to sleep. He has the most enormous ears, and I thought he looked just like a bat so I took this photo from above. I took the photo in colour and converted it to black and white'.

Chris Packham, RSPCA Head judge and naturalist, nature photographer and television presenter said 'In September my fellow judges and I met up over Zoom and carefully considered the 187 photos shortlisted across nine categories from many thousands of entries. It's never easy to reach a decision, but the stunning images we selected as our finalists showcase a hugely talented group of young photographers and tell some wonderful stories about our natural world.

When announcing Felix's runners up award in the virtual awards ceremony that you can watch on YouTube, Chris Packham said, 'What an amazing shot to start with, because it is a bat-like kitten. Look at those extraordinary ears and the way that its eyes are closed and its nose is pointed there. It's a very unusual looking kitten but its also a tremendous photograph. Look at the way the light is focussed on those ears with a little bit of light on the animals back and the way the animal is turning to one side. Do you know if I had taken that photograph I would have been extraordinarily pleased, cracking photo Felix. Top work'.



Thank you to Sophie Platt, Year 8 Sellers (cat), Rommy Wheeler, Year 8 Sellers (pony) and Joel Briffa Year 8 Sellers (mouse on bird feeder) for the great lockdown photos below.



## PHOTOGRAPHY – 2020 VISION

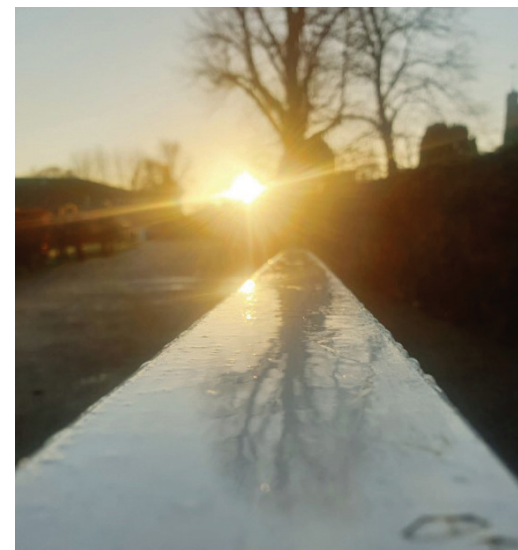
We are delighted to showcase the winners of our 2020 Vision competition, that gave students the chance to share an image that best encapsulates or celebrates the unusual 2020 they have had. In no particular order, our winners are:

**Levi Hockney, Year 8 Sellers, with a photograph of the school that none of us expected, having been taken from a light aircraft this summer. Levi has shared this account of his unusual photo shoot with us:**

On the 28 July I went up in my dad's light aircraft. It is a Robin. Robins have a maximum speed of 160 miles an hour but its recommended to fly at 120 mph which is about twice the speed of a regular car. I had never been up in my dad's airplane before and I was taking a flight over Cranbrook because I wanted to see my school from up in the sky. I am interested in looking at things from a different perspective, and I dream of being a commercial pilot.

I took the photo myself using a camera that was given to me on my birthday and ever since then I have had a love for photography. Taking this photo was a big task because the school was quite far away so I had to zoom in which then makes the camera lose focus and the glass was reflecting slightly.

I hope that more people have the opportunity and bravery to go up and take more amazing shots.

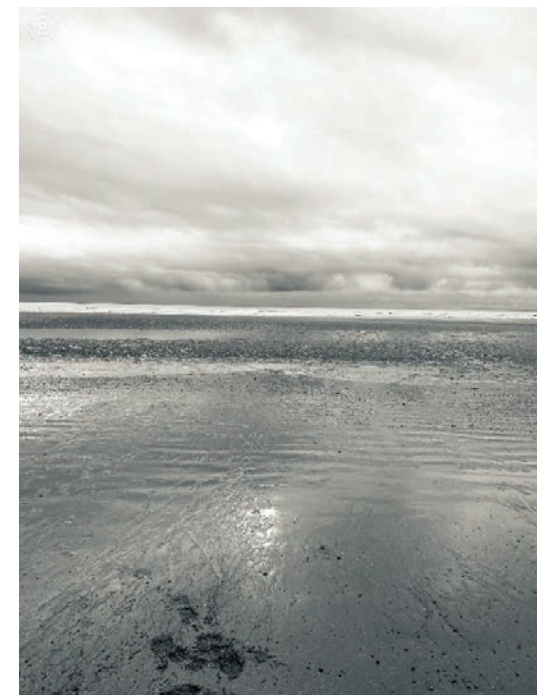


Tom Parsley, Year 9 Allan, with a wonderfully evocative photo that he took on Cranbrook school grounds between the Sixth Form Centre and the wall to the churchyard. It is said that a picture paints a thousand words, but the judges were particularly impressed by the words Tom used to explain his photograph:

I believe that the tree is the year we were all expecting (majestic, beautiful) and the murky, rippled reflection is the year we all received.



Bea Martin, Year 11 Webster, with her portrait of her grandmother. Bea has used a photo that she took to create a wonderful pencil portrait. Whilst she might have intended the photo to simply be a tool to help her drawing, the judges felt the two images together worked wonderfully as a juxtaposition of artistic styles. The image also served as a reminder of the human connection and relationships that so many of us have missed in 2020.



And lastly but by no means least, Ollie Anderson-Frogley, Year 8 Sellers, with his wonderful picture of the point where the sand meets the sea meets the sky. This photo is on the one hand quite calming, whilst on the other almost forboding with the weather to come. It is truly beautiful and plays tricks on your mind.

## 1920s VISION

1920s Masters, 1920s School Hall, 1920s CCF and 1920s Cricket.





# SELLERS HIDDEN FIGURES COMPETITION WINNERS

Students were asked to write a letter to someone who has inspired them but who may not have been fully recognised by the wider world.

## OLIVER ASHBY YEAR 8 SELLERS

**Dear Nellie Bly, (American journalist who embarked on a record-breaking trip around the world and worked undercover to report on a mental asylum).**

Recently I have started secondary school and we have just started working on our hidden figures project. I searched through the internet to find one but when I read about you, I chose you. The reason for this is that you did something I could never imagine doing and that was going into an asylum to expose the abuse that people were experiencing.

I could not imagine the pain people were going through and must have changed their feelings and mental state. How did people act towards you when you were there and were they aggressive towards people?

After your expedition into the depths of the asylum, what did you feel? Did you feel angry and inflamed, happy and joyful, or sad and depressed? Why were they treated so horribly and what was going through your mind when you were there?

Since you did your expedition to the asylum, in the future we are more healthy strong, and there's a lot less abuse.

Yours Sincerely,  
Oliver Ashby

## HELENA HAZELLS YEAR 7 SELLERS

**To Rosalind Franklin, (Chemist who worked on the structures of DNA, viruses and graphite).**

I very much admire your work. It has inspired me and opened a new door into the world of chemistry! There is no justice for what Watson and Crick did to you, as they stole your life's work; they then published YOUR work with no mention of you under it and they went down in history as the people who discovered the Double Helix.

As a woman in the 20th century, you did incredibly well to even be accepted into schools in such a sexist time. You broke through the barriers and went ahead to work hard with your talent and continued to break through barriers until you discovered the Double Helix. It was a breakthrough in chemistry overall and in discovering DNA, you must have been so delighted when you discovered it. I have to ask: What did it feel like discovering such an amazing thing?

Watson and Crick were working on finding out about DNA in the same area as you and both them and you started writing a book at the same time but they stole your work! What were you thinking when they stole it and what specific part did they steal? Your book was pushed away from being published because you were a woman. This still happens in 2020, but less often but how did that feel after being denied fame just because you were female.

The way Watson and Crick slyly stole your work and published it under their own name is appalling but the fact that they are still credited for discovering the Double Helix when you found it all and you worked your life to discover such a thing. Would you really want that fame though, or would you just want justice to be given and you were rightly credited for your work? I hope you can answer and we can finally get justice for you.

Yours sincerely,  
Helena Hazells

## CONNIE HITCH YEAR 8 SELLERS

**Dear WWII SOE agents, especially Vera Atkins, (Special Operations Executive – a secret British intelligence organisation during WWII).**

I admire your service to Britain in WWII endlessly; the bravery and selflessness you acquired were an asset and vital to our country's successes in the war. Although you may not have known it at the time, your actions have made a substantial impact even 75 years later.

The skills you had to accumulate astound me; you had to learn a number of different codes, gain physical strength, and not only learn many different languages but also get the accent perfect.

Your incredible determination allowed you to trace the missing cases of 117 of the 118 missing F-Section agents – even after the war had ended. Another admirable attribute of yours was that you never gave up working hard, starting as a secretary in the French section of the SOE and then eventually becoming F-Section's intelligence officer.

Arguably, one of your greatest achievements was successfully moving Polish code breakers across the border, therefore enabling them to make significant progress in breaking the enigma code.

Kind Regards,  
Connie Hitch

## ARCHIE SCOTT YEAR 7 SELLERS

**Dear Marcus Rashford, (Footballer and social campaigner for food poverty).**

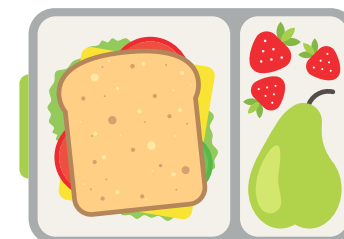
I am writing to you to ask you on some questions. Recently I have started my secondary school and currently we are working on a Hidden Figure project and I choose you as my Hidden Figure. The reason for this is because you have made some extraordinary donations towards a food charity to help young children like me have a healthy good-sized diet.

I am extremely into football myself and I have always wondered what it is like to score a goal in front of thousands, you are an incredible professional footballer so when you score one of your many goals what do you feel like? Is there adrenaline rushing through your body, do you feel proud or do you just feel... normal?

Presently there has been big campaigns and protest about racism 'Black Lives Matter'. What is your opinion on this? Do you agree with this? In your childhood did you have bad experiences with racism or did you not experience it as a child. Has this effected your career? Has racism ever held you down as a footballer or in general?

I can tell that you are generous and a thoughtful person. Few people are altruistic these days and what your donation showed was an act of kindness and courage. Just remember that you are a great person,

Yours Sincerely,  
Archie Scott



## ROSIE WEBB YEAR 8 SELLERS

**To Chuck Cooper, (One of the first African-American NBA players in 1950).**

How you did it, I don't know. But, I think what you did was truly great. You went against all odds to be the first black NBA (National Basketball Association) player. In 1950, the civil rights movement was not even in place, making it hard for anyone of colour or different religion to be given credit for anything, this made it so difficult for black people to keep their family in good health. Although, you fought for your rights and to let your amazing talent shine through.

In my opinion, you deserved so much more recognition in the NBA community because you were so amazing, powerful and important to the African-American basketball players. Without you, the NBA would be so unlike, as it is practically equal as black people, along with other races and religions, are getting exactly the appreciation they correctly deserve. Black players may have stayed in the dark about their talent and the whole sports society also still could have been white-dominated.

You must have been so strong and so stubborn to make sure all others that didn't want to play with you or against you didn't bring you down and crush your confidence. At just 24 years old, you did this all, not only making your life that much more substantial and joyful, but did that for millions and millions, young, old, black, white people across the country. So, if you don't mind, what do you think to yourself when people try to bring you down? How do you feel about making such a massive difference in the sporting world? What did you do to make yourself that much better to overcome thoughts on your race?

Lastly, if you're reading this, thank you so much. I am so truly honoured.

Many thanks,  
Rosie Webb

## GEMMA BRASSLEY YEAR 8 SELLERS

**Dear Mary Anning, (Fossil collector and palaeontologist).**

I am thrilled to inform you of an exciting new feature that will soon be coming to your picturesque hometown of Lyme Regis, Dorset. This new feature is a statue in recognition of your wonderful discoveries. This recognition, in my opinion, is long overdue. The fossilised remains you found on the cliffs of Lyme Regis were revolutionary! If you had not discovered these remains, much less would be known about evolution, and extinction. I think it was extremely unfair for the Geological Society of London to reject women; not allowing women to join as members, or even attend meetings or lectures as guests.

I am glad to inform you that today, discrimination against women, although not completely eradicated, is less frequent. Despite the fact you knew much more about the fossils you discovered, your work was plagiarised by the male palaeontologists of the day.

Now, a dedicated charity, Mary Anning Rocks, is ensuring your name is as well-known as these men. Your name will no longer be missed out of the history books. I hope this brightens your day as much as it did mine when I heard the amazing news.

Yours Sincerely,  
Gemma Brassley



# HISTORY



Above, Winston Churchill's statue Parliament Square; below, Christopher Columbus; right, portrait of Christine Newman by Georgia Robb, Year 13 Webster; far right, Big School.

## ELLA BRADY, YEAR 13 WEBSTER, WINS NATIONAL HISTORICAL DEBATE COMPETITION

In January 2020 I took part in a regional debate held by the Historical Association and was extremely honoured to win and be granted a place in the final, which was due to happen at Windsor Castle in March – before, of course, Covid-19 made this impossible. Although as I write it is still unknown what will happen regarding the final, I am glad that I had the experience in the regional round.

The regional heat that I attended, as a representative of Cranbrook, was at Pimlico Academy in London. I was up against fifteen representatives of different schools, who were tough competition.

The question we had been asked to tackle was: **'Should we judge historical figures by the morals of today?'**. This question seems ever the more relevant considering recent events to do with the Black Lives Matter movement, including the taking down of the statue of Edward Colston, a 17th century slave merchant, and discussions surrounding the destructive racism of Winston Churchill that often gets brushed over when talking about the Prime Minister of the past. It was beneficial and educational to attend this debate and listen to the other candidates brandishing facts about people in history that I had never heard about and to listen to diverse perspectives on the meaning of morality.

Recently, when the topic of the Oxford University statue of Cecil Rhodes\* came up in conversation, I found myself armed with the knowledge of why Rhodes should not be glorified and celebrated with a statue, all due to attending the debate, as another participant had used Cecil Rhodes as their chief example. In recent times especially, I have realised the value and importance in actually asking these questions about morality. Sometimes we have to put our feet in others shoes and consider 'What does this message send to a person of colour attending Oxford to know that there is the brooding statue, built in respect and celebration of an active and destructive racist that the student has to walk past every day?'

\* Cecil Rhodes was an imperialist who played a large role in colonising large parts of Africa and who, as Prime Minister of the Cape Colony, restricted the rights of black Africans.

This competition was a memorable and stimulating experience, which I was both surprised and honoured to win. If the event is to happen again in 2021, I would definitely advise future Year 12 History students to take part.

## SHOULD WE JUDGE HISTORICAL FIGURES BASED OFF THE MORALS OF TODAY?

The key phrase is 'morals of today': what are the morals of today?

We have different ideas of morality based on different circumstances, like our environment, religion or family. This is the same for historical figures; their morality and actions weren't simply a consequence of the era that they were living in:

*Woodrow Wilson, President of the USA in the early 20th century – One of the first pieces of legislation he passed was segregation in the federal workplace. Wilson, it should be noted, was a descendant of confederate soldiers and grew up in Virginia – contributing massively to his ideas surrounding race.*

The point is, morality is not absolute within a time period, it's relative, and so is the answer to this question, and I'll explain why.

**The danger of answering the question with a decisive 'no', allows for anybody's actions to be excused on account for the era that they were living in:**

*It is widely known that anti-semitism existed in Europe before the Nazis came to power, dating back even to the Middle Ages in Europe: Jews were blamed for sabotaging the unification of Germany in the 1800s, for when Germany had recessions or trade slumps, for sabotaging the WW1 war effort. Hitler grew up surrounded by anti-semitism, it was ingrained into his upbringing but it is wrong to suggest that this in any way excuses the genocide of six million human beings.*

**However, there are also problems with saying that we should judge historical figures by the morals of today, since we like to classify historical figures, and people in general, as purely good or evil:**

*The controversy surrounding Christopher Columbus (below) frames him as either the intelligent hero who 'discovered' America or the villainous coloniser who sold nine year old girls into sexual slavery. People are keen to categorise him as either a hero or a villain.*



**We cannot often accept people as having done both good and bad:**

*Winston Churchill did defeat Nazi fascism and saved the free world, but he also let three million Bengalis starve and blamed them for 'breeding like rabbits'.*

The good and bad should be able to coincide and should be accepted.

**When excusing a person's actions with popular opinion of the time, it must not in the process cause the effects of the said action to be downplayed and normalised.**

Going back to why we cannot judge historical figures by the morals today, an example can be seen more recently in Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988, that banned the 'promotion' of homosexuality by local authorities and in Britain's schools:

*It was passed in 1988 under Margaret Thatcher – who further stated that 'children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have inalienable right to be gay'. It was a time when 75% of the British population believed homosexuality was mostly or always wrong, but this does not take away from its participation in legitimising and reinforcing homophobia, the demonisation of LGBT+ people and bullying that we still see in place today, causing further issues such as suicide rates in LGBT youth to be significantly higher than their straight counterparts.*

**Another issue in judging historical figures by the morals of today is that it allows more scope for not only people to single out a persons good or bad side but for it to be taken further with misappropriation:**

*Christine de Pizan was the first woman professional author of the Middle Ages. She is often cited as being a defender of women in her literature. However, despite her being praised today as a revolutionary feminist writer she still shared many beliefs that would be seen as controversial and un-feminist, for example believing that women should be limited to the traditional roles that the patriarchal structure put them in. Pizan arguably was a pioneer of woman's rights and did set change in motion and for that we should celebrate her, but this does not mean her other views should be ignored- as that would be essentially deeming them as acceptable.*

In the few examples I have been able to discuss, we can see a variety of completely different situations. I could have easily reversed the argument of each example, solidifying my point about the complexity and ambiguity surrounding history. Simply to bundle all of history together and then come to a conclusion to this question would be unjust and nonsensical. Plus, we have to consider why we study history and if it's even relevant to judge historical figures. However, I believe that remaining neutral when analysing history is impossible and unsuitable when, universally, human beings are not amoral. Instead cases must be examined, with all causations and consequences taken into account with all perspectives of those of different ethnicities, religions etc. in how they view the said person considered, in order to judge history fairly and accurately.



## SPARE A THOUGHT FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Sir Thomas Graham Jackson, (21 December 1835 – 7 November 1924), distinguished English architect, best remembered for his work at Oxford Military College as well as the University, notably: The Examination Schools, most of Hertford College (including the Bridge of Sighs over New College Lane), much of Brasenose College, ranges at Trinity College and Somerville College. Much of his career was devoted to the architecture of educational buildings including Giggleswick and his own alma mater Brighton College. He also worked on many parish churches and the college chapel at the University of Wales, Lampeter as well as the chapel at Radley College. A life spent devoted to the architecture of educational buildings. The man was a genius!

Sir Thomas Graham Jackson was the architect of 'Big School', Cranbrook, (1884) otherwise known as The Library to the generations of Cranbrook School pupils from 1977 onwards.

Majestic and wooden beamed, immense tiled high roof complete with lantern cupola – he made me truly magnificent! Cavernous and cathedral like, the jewel in the crown, the centre of culture and learning. How the prospective parents gasped and the potential new pupils' eyes widened when they were led in to see me on their visits. A proper school library they said, with books they said. What fantastic surroundings to study in they whispered after the librarian had sshhed them with a finger to her lips so as not to disturb the hard working, independently studying, sixth formers. Can we come here before school and at break and lunchtime the little ones asked. And after school the parents added. The librarian, in hushed tones of course, explained that the library was open for everyone, all day and every day and that its catalogue of 12,575 books was free for all to borrow and read and read and read...

I wonder what Sir Thomas would think of me in 2020? His lesser known educational creation loved by generations of Cranbrook students; first a school hall with masters in gowns and prefects perched in the gallery then a study centre for diligent students to get their heads down and the perfect warm, safe, cosy reading retreat. I've been empty for over a year now, devoid of students, my lovely books choking on dust. After my poor, tired and aging ceiling dropped its plaster onto the desks and chairs below (scaring the life out of the librarian), I was deemed unsafe for students. So I was closed for repair, the hole in my ceiling waiting for workmen to lovingly restore me. But then came the beastly virus and the whole School was closed to staff and students. So I waited, patiently. In September I could hear happy feet on the stairs again, but still no students came. My books were dusted and sent out in lidded boxes to the classrooms so reading could continue, however it's not the same!

I hope they'll all be back to see me soon; the Year 7s and 8s eager to share their love of books and stories with me, the older students searching my shelves for new reading experiences and the Sixth Formers with heads down deep into their silent studying. Hurry, hurry, I miss you all!

CHRISTINE NEWMAN, LIBRARIAN



# CREATIVE WRITING

## GUEST JUDGE SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION

**Marcus Sedgwick is the author of Floodland and Midwinterblood.**

Marcus was born in East Kent and worked as a bookseller and at a children's publishing company before becoming a full-time author, illustrator and musician. He has written bookreviews for the Times newspaper as well as being 'Author-in-Residence' at Bath Spa University for three years. Marcus has judged many book awards including the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize.



## YEAR 9/10/11 WINNER MAGPIE, ANALISE IBRU, SCOTT

Stunning, pale blue sky ran for miles above the magpie. It was a never-ending space for him to glide through, and because he loved to feel the cold of the white cotton strips while he fluttered through them, he had decided to take a different route from his usual. On a normal day, the warm water called to the magpie from below. Every time, he would be tempted beyond belief to swoop down through the sharp branches and stare at his reflection, considering his short life. He hoped his death would bring would bring beauty to the forest when it came, and the impulsive desire to drown himself in the river, in effort to be born one with nature and die in the same way often consumed him. He could imagine laying in the water as it closed around his soft dark feathers. He could create the image in his tiny magpie mind; the blooms that grew a gorgeous pink in winter would stretch towards him, trees would curl their branches in joy. For one single second, everything would be harmonious as the circle of life was complete. But then again, the magpie could imagine a lot of things, and dreaming would not get him his food. The early magpie gets the early worm, He reminded himself, and so he would ruffle his wings under his beak and soar off through the hills to the quiet song of the wrens.

Unlike those days, a feeling had slipped over him this morning. A chill had settled into his hollow bones, and his nest felt less like a cosy home and more like a jail of sharp, jagged bark. Now, as he once again soared over the expanse, he found himself unconsciously taking sharper and sharper digs towards the ground. He was suddenly lurched back by a sudden wind and found himself hitting a patch of rough soil near the water. A loud crack shook the sky above him, and it felt like the world had turned a bitter grey. Fortunately, this would not deter the magpie, because of course, the early magpie got the early worm. And so, he shook his legs and rose, searching for a fat pink worm.

The soil was hard and unforgiving today. Frightening bolts of light seemed to only illuminate the feared beauty of the darkening sky, clouds lit up and ready to start a burning fire. He had only witnessed it once before, near his nest, where a shocking flame had burnt the beauty of the forest to a crisp. Blades of grass reduced to black ash, flaking towards the water. Plants reaped of their leaves, crying out with their long stalks. It left the magpie with an unsettling feeling in his stomach, a sense of mourning slowly sinking in when a loud thump shook a bush near him.

[DISCOVER ANALISE'S FINAL TWIST AT CRANBROOKSCHOOL.CO.UK/NEWS/NEWSLETTERS/](https://cranbrookschool.co.uk/news/newsletters/)

## YEAR 7/8 WINNER THE GIRL AT NUMBER THREE, GEMMA BRASSLEY, SELLERS

As she pushes open the door of the café, the girl jumps at the jangling of the bell announcing her arrival. A cacophony of sounds rushes to meet her; families bickering, children laughing, elderly ladies gossiping. She orders a cinnamon bun, dusted with sugar and a hot chocolate piled high with fluffy whipped cream and marshmallows and carries them carefully towards the only free table next to the window until the lady behind the counter appears with a 'Reserved' sign and points her to the table in the corner where there is a boy with tousled chestnut hair drawing in a sketchbook, a look of intense concentration on his face. She walks over and smiles apologetically at him before sitting down opposite him. He smiles back, before running his hand through his hair and reaching across the table to retrieve his drawings.

The boy jumps at the jangling of the bell announcing the arrival of a new customer. He glances up and sees a girl of around his age at the counter. He returns to his drawings. He is glad to be away from the constant interruptions of his household, from his much younger half-brothers and sisters. His coffee cup is empty. He's been here for a while. The girl heads in his direction and smiles apologetically, he smiles sheepishly back at her. She looks tired. She sits down, unwinds the scarf from around her neck and pulls off her woollen gloves.

As the boy retrieves his sketches from the far side of the table, the girl fails to stifle a giggle as she sees his portrayal of the two old ladies gossiping in the corner, eyebrows raised in mock horror. It is the first time she's laughed in weeks. He grins back at her, "They've been there for ages," he whispers conspiratorially, "apparently the new people at Number Three haven't put out their recycling bins this week!"

The girl explains that her parents have just got divorced, that her mother is working full time in the City. As the flaky spiced pastry melts in her mouth, she relaxes into the chair, as he tells her of his parents' divorce and the ever-increasing number of half-siblings.

[READ ALL OF GEMMA'S STORY AT CRANBROOKSCHOOL.CO.UK/NEWS/NEWSLETTERS/](https://cranbrookschool.co.uk/news/newsletters/)



## YEAR12/13 WINNER SOON THE SUN IS GOING TO SHINE, ELLA BRADY, WEBSTER

It would come randomly and fugitively: walking home from school; in my room, watching YouTube at 3am; or on the bus to my grandma's. Random.

I would feel warm and cold at the same time, like both the moon and sun were shining on me. I felt singular and alone, like I was the only being in the Universe. My mind would be clear. My heart would swell. My body was light, almost gone but not gone: it existed, but I was not limited by it.

On one occasion when I was walking home, I think I remember, I danced. I danced on air. My eyes were closed and I envisioned a world of both light and dark. I danced in this world. I felt fully light and fully free. Nothing mattered. Nothing was there. But it did matter. It mattered how beautiful this world of light and dark was. And it mattered that I was dancing and I was free. I moved upwards towards the open sky, towards the singing stars, towards the mother moon. Emptiness enveloped me in an embrace, comforting my loneliness with nothing but a void of human existence. Loneliness was impossible when I was granted such a feeling of serenity by something from the great unknown.

I can not remember what pulled me back down to earth, probably the sounds of laughter forcing themselves into my consciousness. The one that seemed to be inescapable at that age was the belief that all eyes were constant and onlooking on me, when in reality

## YEAR12/13 RUNNER-UP ANNABELLE-ESQUE, ELOISE BULL, WEBSTER

As a child, he had been told that dolls were for girls; that their laced dresses and long, flowing hair were too feminine for the male mind to perceive. His parents were on a constant scouting for anything suspicious hidden in and around the boy's room, and routinely searched there in hope to find at least something to shout at him about. Little did they, and the boy in fact, know that these same dolls that were stuffed in a box on top of the highest shelf above the eyeline of his parents, were the start of an unexpected and somewhat painful journey.

Being raised in a botched up 1980s' Britain was, arguably, the worst childhood this boy could have. His parents didn't help the situation either; always arguing, shouting, yelling slurs either at him or each other. But, alas, he soldiered on, coping with situations at home by marching a quarter of a mile to the nearest park, armed with bits of slightly mouldy bread he found in the outside bin – a somewhat lovely meal for the resident ducks at the serene pond he sits by. Having friends was a luxury a boy like him he couldn't have, which is why he resulted in taming the mallards and the geese, and on occasion even some of the swans. He believed that nature held its own unique beauty that no friendship could obtain. Being without friends, however, brought its difficulties; eating alone at lunch was a normal occurrence, but having no one to back you up when finding yourself in a physical fight with the biggest kid in the year was when he felt truly alone. Not one classmate was brave enough to step in, not one teacher even saw the fight, and not one kind word was uttered by his parents when the boy trudged home in the rain all bloody and beaten.

Each night held the same routine: silent dinner, quick shower, in bed by nine. This was all he knew, until one night after yet another neglected beat-up at school,

nobody cared at all about what I was doing because my existence did not provide a big enough dent in their world. So much time wasted on such thoughts.

Again, I retract myself from my head and look up to the sky. The light envelops me in a warm and loving embrace, blessing my face with a golden glow. The colours of the leaves cover the ground in a carpet of colours. The barebones of the tress reach up to the sky, in a symbolic gesture of praise for whatever is up there.

And as I see all this, I want to honour that small child who was so trapped by her thoughts, caged in like a panicked fluttering bird trying desperately to find freedom from herself. So I put in my headphones.

"Ground Control to Major Tom."

I am in my Rocket Ship. There is a pad of buttons laid out in front of me; a heavy helmet compresses my head. I am surrounded by quivering metal, bracing itself to break through the sky. A cartoon astronomical adventure.

"5, 4, 3 – check ignition and may God's love be with you 2, 1... Lift off."

And I dance. I dance in the natural golden spotlight of the sun. I dance to my sole onlookers of bark and leaves. I spin, I jump, I laugh. And that feeling of freedom, that used to feel so rare and unreachable, takes over – like some sort of contradiction to the noisy scribbles of terror that used to possess me.

[YOU CAN EXPERIENCE ALL OF ELLA'S NARRATIVE AT CRANBROOKSCHOOL.CO.UK/NEWS/NEWSLETTERS/](https://cranbrookschool.co.uk/news/newsletters/)

the boy smirked as he slowly built up the motivation to face the barricade of hatred and pain that laid waiting for his arrival. In the morning he woke up with a grin (an unusual awakening but a significant one nonetheless), finished breakfast, and got dressed. Looking in the mirror the boy felt the same disgust and hatred for his reflection as any other day, yet still he tightened his tie and straightened his tiny flower pin attached to his lapel that got crooked in the brawl yesterday. He kissed one of his many dolls on the forehead and walked out the front door with a sweaty brow and a flustered heart. Today was, as he expected, going to be a significant day.

This was a time of political change, and this kid was not going to be a little boy forever.

[FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BOY IN ELOISE'S STORY AT CRANBROOKSCHOOL.CO.UK/NEWS/NEWSLETTERS/](https://cranbrookschool.co.uk/news/newsletters/)





# SPORT



The U14's reach National Tier 2 Finals.

## ACADEMY GIRLS

Kitty Cochrane (Year 7, JDC)  
Honor Marlow-Barham (Year 7, JDC)  
Rosie Webb (Year 8, JDC)  
Kayla Brown (Year 9, County)  
Lily Slack (Year 9, County)  
Mae Millbank (Year 9, County)  
Amelia McCarthy (Year 9, County)  
Sophie Slack (Year 10, County)  
Greta Shannon (Year 10, County)  
Polly Brownlow (Year 10, Performance Centre)

Esme Burge, England and Great Britain midfielder, generously made time in a busy schedule to speak to our Academy girls as part of their coaching program.



## MRS LIZ COLEMAN, HEAD OF SPORT

**The season for the girl's netball and boy's hockey sadly ended early and abruptly due to the Government's decision to close schools as a preventative measure to combat the spread of Covid 19. This was particularly disappointing for our 1st teams (especially our Year 13 leavers) as they didn't finish in the usual celebratory fashion.**

I am very grateful for the below summary boy's hockey reports, following the shortened season, which were compiled by Craig Morton our lead hockey coach before he travelled home to Scotland. We all wish him well in his new post as Director of Hockey at Radner House School from September. He has enjoyed his two years at Cranbrook and has certainly made an impact. In addition to coaching students from Year 7–13 he has worked with staff and gap students to develop their coaching knowledge which has been much appreciated. Craig has really enjoyed the year with the girls and boy's team's. However, I know that the success he enjoyed with the U14 girls competing at the Tier 2 National Finals in Reading in March was a real highlight and these girls and Craig I'm sure will never forget this experience. A day enjoyed by students, coaches and parents alike, including our wonderful governor Tommo pictured below.



## GIRLS HOCKEY ACADEMY QUIZ GB'S ESME BURGE – MR CHILDS

Hockey is a truly unifying sport at Cranbrook. The school has a long and illustrious hockey history boasting two Olympians and a national coach (See Lynx 2019) and is played passionately by both boys and girls. In fact, during the covid restrictions of the autumn term our first team boys and girls trained together to the benefit of both teams due to the differences in their style of play. Hockey is also encouraged at every level. Our Year 7s and 9s generally join us with little if any experience and everyone is encouraged to get involved for the joy of the game. But for those who have the potential for a career in the sport Cranbrook is now going that extra mile.

Our Hockey Academy is a new offering where selected players get the opportunity for mindset mentoring from high-level hockey players and additional summer training. This is to support them more fully in developing their hockey potential and balancing it with other aspects of life. A Boys Hockey Academy will be starting shortly with the same aim.

In early December the Girls Hockey Academy was lucky enough to be able to have an online Q&A session with GB Hockey Player Esme Burge. Esme played all England junior age groups before debuting for the senior team in June 2019 and is currently a full-time athlete in the central GB Programme. Outside of her hockey Esme is also an outstanding role model, with a strong academic background (she is currently studying for a psychology degree at the University of Nottingham), as well as being a powerful voice for diversity in the hockey community and female empowerment.

In the Q&A with Esme the girls were able to ask personal and specific questions about hockey, mindset and general life. Esme was a dynamic and compelling guest, who answered the questions in depth and gave the girls a first-hand insight into the mindset and life of an elite athlete. The questions were wide-ranging. Esme shared about how to improve your man to man marking, balancing hockey and academic life, achieving robust mental health, recovering from setbacks, what her weekly schedule looks like, how to improve your confidence and much more.

The girls shared their experience below...

'I really enjoyed the session with Esme. The three key things that I learnt were confidence is key, play to your super strengths and don't let setbacks dishearten you.' (Polly Brownlow)

'It was so interesting to see the mindset from a successful sports woman's point of view. It was great to have some personal and specific questions answered about hockey, fitness, and general life.' (Rosie Webb)

'I found the online academy session very inspiring. It was amazing to have the opportunity to actually talk to a GB hockey player. One of the main things that



I picked up on was that your ambition and work ethic is just, if not more, important than your natural talent.' (Kayla Brown)

'Esme Burge was so genuine. She has a busy schedule, so to take the time to meet us and answer our questions in so much depth and consideration was very generous. She shared her set backs and achievements with very useful experiences and advice that I will use both on and off the pitch.' (Greta Shannon)

Esme shared a good luck message for the girls with Mr Childs after the event.

'Wishing you all the best of luck for your futures on and off the pitch. Remember to call upon your super strengths, stick to your values and do everything with a smile on your face!'

Mr Childs commented, 'It was great to have Esme join us to share her incredible depth of experience with the girls. Going forward I want girls hockey at Cranbrook to thrive, with regular appearances at National Finals and multiple girls in Performance Centres. This is a complimentary aim alongside our main objective of creating an enjoyable and rewarding hockey experience for all Cranbrook students, encompassing all playing abilities and hockey aims.'

## BOYS HOCKEY JUNIOR ROUND-UP – MR CRAIG MORTON

### YEAR 7

Unfortunately, our final few matches had to be cancelled but this year has all been about development for Cranbrook School hockey. Our Year 7s have shown they have the potential to be a very strong squad going forward. We had A and B team fixtures against Marlborough House and Skinners. The A team have very competitive games unfortunately just losing out 0–1 and 2–3 respectively. The margin for the B team was a little wider but they showed big improvement between the games.

Players to watch  
Jesse Fisho (GK) and George De Daranyi.

### YEAR 8

The Year 8 teams have shown great promise for the future of boy's hockey at Cranbrook. Our Year 8A team started the season off with a tremendous 3–3 draw against powerhouse Langley Park School for Boys. They followed this up with a comfortable 3–0 win against Marlborough House and a close 2–3 loss to Skinners. Next up for the A team was a trip to Canterbury Hockey club for the U13 Maylam Cup. The boys were not at their best unfortunately, but came away winning three games, drawing two and losing two tough games. The Year 8B team had some strong outing against some strong squads. They lost out to Langley Park 1–4 and a very close game to Marlborough House 2–3.

## 1ST TEAM GIRLS HOCKEY SPECIAL REPORT

Having won the County Championships as U14 and progressed to the Regional finals and repeated this performance as U16's and as a young U18 team last year there were high hopes for their final season. However, like many events due to Covid it was not to be. They've been a feisty and energetic team throughout their five years at school, were a delight to take on tour to South Africa in 2019 and within the squad have many talented players, many of who have represented their county and regional teams outside of school. I'm sure many of them will continue to play hockey at university and beyond and we wish them every success and look forward to their return as OC's.



Mrs Coleman, Head of Sport, shared 'I am delighted that Jack Childs has joined us at Cranbrook this year. Despite starting in the middle of a pandemic, Jack successfully provided this additional and inspiring opportunity for the Academy members. They have clearly gained hugely from the experience and I look forward with much anticipation to future innovations to further develop the hockey for all at Cranbrook.'

Players to watch  
Alec Stephen and Felix Hutchings.

### YEAR 9

Our Year 9A team have had a tough time in terms of results, but the ability and talent of the squad deserves more. They have played the best hockey in almost all of the games, created the most chances but just missed out on the results. I have no doubt this team will continue to improve and be one of the strongest teams in Cranbrook for years to come. This was highlighted in our last game against a strong hockey school in Eltham College. Due to illness we only had 10 players up against a full-strength Eltham. Our boys ran until they couldn't run anymore and in the second half created five/six great opportunities to score/equalise the game. It was by far the best performance of the season.

Players to watch  
Wilf Ross (GK), Cody Walsh and Nick Herbert.

Our Year 9B team have had a tremendous season. They won four of their six games with one draw and a tight 1–0 loss. Scoring goals was not a problem when at full strength shown in a 6–0 and a 7–1 win. The B team had a perfect balance of solid structured hockey with some Spanish flair thrown in from the School Lodge boys. The strength of the B team highlights the depth of talent for hockey we have in this year group.

Players to watch  
Reni Aigbogun (GK), Roger Busquets and William Forder.

## GIRLS HOCKEY COLOURS

Issy Delahaye (Captain)  
Sasha Glubb (Vice Captain)  
Emma Coleman  
Evie Duncan  
Kiana Gollam  
Issy Marshall  
Maisie Mileham  
Flora Roberts  
Jess Farmer  
Olivia Keene  
Georgia Wood  
Elysia Wright  
Eva Wright



# SPORT CONTINUED

### BOYS HOCKEY COLOURS

#### 1st team full colours for commitment and high performance

Ben Errington  
Percy Christopherson  
Ollie Addis  
Bear Pearse  
Anthony Williams  
Jacob Holroyd

#### 2nd team half colours for commitment and performance

Ben Booth-Glibbon  
Giacomo Masiello

### YEAR 10

Our Year 10A team have had a mixed season of results. They played against probably the strongest age group of some of the strongest hockey schools around. This led to some games where the score line is wider than it should be due to the clinical nature of the stronger sides. Still there were good wins for the boys against Ashford, Kings Rochester and Skinners. This is a good learning experience for this squad to compete against the best around and it has shown in their improved play.

Players to watch  
Hayden Sands (GK), Tom Errington and Ethan Mathers.

Our Year 10B has been much improved from last year and boasts two wins and a few very close defeats. The team have a small squad but have worked well together. The stand-out game was an amazing 8–0 v St Lawrence. It is always nice to beat St Lawrence but 8–0 is even sweeter.

Players to watch  
Max Turnbull and Oscar Claridge.



### BOYS SENIOR HOCKEY ROUND UP – MR CRAIG MORTON

#### 1ST TEAM

The first XI started the season with a very poor first half against Skinners. We implemented new ideas and had several players playing their 1st team debut. We were 3–0 down at half time. After regaining some composure got back to 3–2 and had chances to equalise. It was a disappointing loss, but we learned our lessons in defeat. The next game we played a great game vs hockey powerhouse Langley Park School for Boys resulting in a 3–2 win. The boys then swept aside Eastbourne 2nd XI 6–0. This brought the squad to the big event the Frank Mason competition. In a tough group against Kent College and SV the boys finished second which led to a quarter final against a strong St Lawrence team. We held them out for all but the last two minutes crashing out of the cup 1–0. We finished the season out strong with a string of good performances against Judd, SV and Eltham.

Sadly, we were unable to present awards for the year but there will be a presentation at some point in the future.

Player of the year – Ben Errington

Players player of the year – Olly Addis

Most improved – Max Bright.

Also wishing all our leavers the very best for the future and I hope you keep playing hockey!

#### 2ND TEAM

The second XI has had a difficult season to say the least. Our squad predominantly made up of Year 11s faced many older and more experienced teams. They have been on the wrong end of some big score lines, but the players have continued to be positive and use it as a valuable learning experience. The highlight of the season was a brilliant 2–1 win against Skinners with Bertie Barwick scoring a screamer against his brother in the Skinners team.

Player of the year – Will Henley

Players player of the year – Benji Bignall

Most improved – Harry Kittermaster.

### RUGBY 7'S

#### U14 – MR TOM HILLIER

The U14's sevens team can be very proud of putting on an excellent performance getting to the quarter finals at the Kent Schools Festival. The weather was bright and sunny and the pitches at Dartford College were in great condition.

Cranbrook got off to a superb start running in five tries to beat Kings School Canterbury in their opening pool match 27–5. The performance was hard to believe considering the squad had had only one training session all together beforehand and for most this was their first ever sevens rugby. Tries were had by Ola Oloko, Nathan Fisho, Cody Walsh, Wedge, and Ed Morgan and a drop goal conversion by Archie Parsons. Next up were Chis & Sid who had gone down five tries to nil in their first match to Judd and looked very beatable. Cranbrook mistakenly went into the game

with a 'we'll easily win this' attitude (and possibly too many snacks from Baxter's sweet emporium) and found themselves two tries down at half time with a real challenge on their hands. Fantastic tries though from Ollie Doubell and Cody drew Cranbrook level and a sweetly struck goal kick conversion from Ed put Cranbrook in the lead by two points with one minute to go. Chis & Sid received and somehow their rapid winger got the ball and managed to pass three Cranbrook tacklers and touch down taking the lead back. Unbelievable! The final 30 seconds saw Chis & Sid score another. A devastating 12–20 loss for the Cranbrook team! However, lessons in 'not to be complacent' learnt, their final pool match saw them play superbly against the tournament's eventual champions, Judd. Despite losing 0–17, three tries to nil, Cranbrook made Judd work hard for each score and came close themselves several times. It was then down to Chis & Sid v Kings to see which team went through to the QF's. Cranbrook lined the touchline cheering on Kings and in a thrilling match Kings beat Chis & Sid meaning three teams now had one win and two losses – it would be tries scored as to who went through. A tense 10 mins passed and then the team got the great news, they were through to the QF's against Ravens Wood! Ravens Wood were a quality team at 15's getting to the county final so the Cranbrook team warmed up well and were fully pumped up for the match. An Archie try got Cranbrook off to a great start and at half time it was one try each and nothing in it. In the second half possession swung between the teams but the strong Ravens Wood side nudged ahead with a second try to take them 12–5 up. Cranbrook came close but Ravenswood held on to the final whistle. The eventual final was between Judd and Ravens Wood, Judd won.

So, Cranbrook played the best sevens teams in the county and ran them close, a splendid performance and great signs for the future. Macdonald's stop on the way back to school was fully deserved. Very well done everyone from Mr Hillier and Mr Knight.

#### U15 – MR TOM HILLIER

Unfortunately, the U15's tournament was cut short by the torrential rain and the pitches becoming unplayable. However, the Cranbrook U15 team managed to get in three out of their four pool matches before everything was abandoned and put in a very solid showing.

The first match was against Colfes and Cranbrook played their best rugby of the day with great tries from Dayo Oyerinde and Fred Hamlyn and a converted drop goal from Wilf Quinlan. Playing conditions were very tough on the steeply sloping, already boggy, pitch and icy cold rain and wind but Cranbrook showed some quality rugby. Support play was excellent and they fully deserved the 12–5 win. Next up was a much tougher Langley Park side with some big, physical players. Cranbrook played really well and matched the opposition for most of the game but Langley Park just had the upper hand and scored twice. Cranbrook fought one try back through Dayo but it wasn't quite enough and the score stayed 12–5. By now the conditions were worsening and without any nice warm changing rooms to take shelter from the freezing wind and rain Cranbrook huddled in a building entrance for cover but with injuries to Tom Landry (back) and Tom West (frozen fingers) the boys' enthusiasm for the next match understandably was disappearing fast. Hayes School were next and were just more 'up for it'. They won quite easily 20–0. The organisers then announced the tournament couldn't continue and with cheers from the players we ran back to the minibs and departed to warm up and dry up



in McDonald's. The tournament might be re-run but if not Cranbrook U15's can be proud they put in two great performances.

#### U18 – MR J McCONNOCHIE

The U18s sevens squad enjoyed a rare day of sunny weather at the picturesque Gravesend Rugby Club for Annual Kent Rugby Sevens Tournament. Although training time had been hard to come by due to the squad being predominantly made up of hockey players, the boys can be very proud of some solid performances. The team started fast out of the blocks with a hard-fought win over Hayes School. Accuracy and patience in defence led to turnover opportunities, and with that, space to attack. The next two matches against Rochester Maths and Gravesend Grammar resulted in two rare draws. They boys were unlucky to lose grip on two early leads. A loss against Maidstone Grammar in the final pool game saw Cranbrook finish second in their group and progress through to the Plate Semi-Finals against a strong Ravenswood side. Through no lack of effort and character, a tired Cranbrook squad finally succumbed to the physical exertions of the day. Ravenswood were convincing and worthy winners on this occasion.

Special mentions must go to Percy Christopherson for his reliability and leadership on the pitch. The boys represented the school admirably and provided a fitting conclusion to this year's rugby calendar.

### 1ST TEAM RUGBY SPECIAL REPORT

As our Year 13 rugby players leave behind the joys of Big Side to go forth and play on fresh paddocks, it is only fitting that they receive the tribute they wholeheartedly deserve. I remember well, the very first games session they had as fresh faced Year 9s, they were as keen to play then as they are today. It is this unbridled enthusiasm that has made this year group such a genuine pleasure to know and coach throughout the years. The love and passion they have for the game is contagious and Cranbrook rugby has been, and will continue to be a richer place for it. They leave behind them a legacy of monumental victories over the likes of Judd, Dartford Grammar and Eltham College, a winning tour to the rugby heartland of South Africa and most importantly a culture of positivity, resilience and brotherhood. We will miss you boys, go well and good luck.



### RUGBY COLOURS

#### Full colours

Paddy Haggart  
Piers Townsend  
Rupert Terry  
Sam Ward  
Cameron Cummings  
Max Bright  
Joey Leckie  
Tristan Sommerville  
Harry Barron Read  
Jack Borowski  
Max Anderson

#### Half colours

George Kite  
Max Flemming  
Rory Cooper  
Huw Mathers  
James Hammond  
Sam Smith  
Ali Nard  
Fin Nadin  
Boniface Lukosi  
Justin Parker



# SPORT CONTINUED

## NETBALL

### U12A

MIP (Most improved player)  
Phoebe Steward

MVP (Most valuable player)  
Verity Lees

### U12B

MIP Eva Garnsey  
MVP Katie Harris

### U13A

MIP Chloe Russell  
MVP Ogochukwu Madu

### U13B

MIP Sophia McPhillips  
MVP Minnie Aldridge/  
Freya Butcher

### U14A

MVP Georgie Andrew  
MIP Freya Roberts

### U14B

MVP Connie Soan/  
Millie Vinton  
MIP Alanis Nwadike

### U15A

MIP Maddy Clarke  
MVP Tabby Webster

### U15B

MIP Abigail Sewing  
MVP Theresa Chan/  
Grace Barras

## NETBALL – MRS LIZ COLEMAN

### U12

An enthusiastic group of girls all keen to play and improve their skills. Attendance at training on Thursday nights has been excellent from the majority of A and B team players and both individual and team progress has been made. Competition has been tough, but the girls have always tried their best and improved their play each quarter which is all we can ask.

### U13

Building on the progress made last season both the U13A and U13B team have enjoyed a mixed bag of wins and losses. The U13A have gelled well and been a tight team of seven. The many girls wishing to play in the U13B have all been given opportunities and have been unfortunate to mostly face much taller and robust opposition.

### U14

The U14A have the second highest win rate of the school. Played nine, won six, drew one, lost only two. Miss Scott has really enjoyed coaching this delightful group of girls and has provided stimulating and well thought through sessions to help them develop as individuals and as a team.



Miss Scott voted the following achievements at the end of the season.

Special mention to Chloe Jones who has been voted player of the match by the opposition most weeks demonstrating her advanced skills. She has balanced school, club and county commitments admirably. Chloe also helped at U12/U13 practice after school which we thank her for.

The U14B did not fare so well in terms of results but have much potential and due to that there has been quite a bit of movement between teams. Evie Langham and Hazel Roderick moved to the A squad after a couple of outstanding games for the B team and Alanis Nwadike was invited to join the A team towards the end of the season for the Kings tournament.

U14C also saw movement of players and Elsa Williams Osborne (MIP) played for both the C and B team as an excellent and reliable shooter. Sophie Lock was also a reliable shooter and gained MVP for being reliable, committed and adaptable to a change in position on the court as required.

Special mention must go to all the Spanish boarders who attended practice religiously and learnt a new game for them very quickly. They all played matches as representatives of the D and C teams and even for Olga Garcia Calvo a spot in the U14B's.

### U15A

It is fair to say that I hit the jackpot this year for the U15A when we recruited their coach Miss Durr. Being a stalwart hockey group of girls and after a tough netball season in Year 9 I knew that the right leadership would be key.

Miss Durr and the girls very quickly gelled, and they valued her youth, work ethic and knowledge of the game. They have been totally committed and although there have been many frustrating losses, they have learnt more every game and become stronger and tighter as a team and will reap the benefits in future seasons.

### U15B

The B team took a little longer to settle but once a regular team was established, they started to gel and made steady progress throughout the season. Their effort and commitment could not be faulted but wins were, it has to be said, hard to come by.

### U15C

This team varied but every player was committed and keen to play whenever they could. Amaris Ilamah Henry made progress into the B's so gains MIP for the C team. MVP is a difficult one to award as only two matches played sadly due to weather and Covid-19 however we would also like to award an additional MIP to Chloe Wong for her commitment to training and progress this season.

### U16A

Apart from Ardingly who they were smashed (literally) by in the first game of the season all the games this season were competitive and close, and the U16A enjoyed three satisfying wins out of seven – should have been four as the SVS game was so close – such a shame as girls played brilliantly and deserved to win.

Led admirably by Atlanta Anley, the large squad rotated fairly and huge improvement was witnessed.

MVP – awarded to Korede Majekodunmi for her versatility of position when required, her consistent shooting and availability to receive a variety of feeds to keep her opponents on their toes!

MIP – awarded to Orla Reid for her confidence feeding the D and for always being keen to take on board advice and respond positively on court.

Players Player – the girls also voted for Korede.

Special mention from me to Atlanta for playing up for the 2nd's as well as for the U16A when required as an excellent defender.

### U16B

The U16B only played three games as sadly three were cancelled at the end of the season but they did win two! Led by ever enthusiastic Jess Beach these girls were a delight to coach and many saw a stint in the U16A as their progress shone through. Erin Olliver became an extra shooter for the A's, Grace Parsley stepped up to GK towards the end of the season admirably and Jess Beech would have played up more but with already an abundance of centre court players this opportunity did not often arise.

MVP – would have to be Jess Beech for her unstoppable energy and commitment to the team.

MIP – Molly Sanderson who quietly worked away as a shooter and secured her place as a regular player.

## 2ND TEAM

The 2nd team had the best season for the School in terms of results with a seven wins out of eight. They smashed Bedes and comfortably beat KC Pembury, Ardingly and Colfes to name a few. They lost to Kings in a relentless battle with a reduced squad due to injury at the start of the season which was frustrating for all. Led by new addition Charley Brown this is a team with much talent and great consistency.

MVP – Charley Brown for her versatility and high level of skill from playing club netball alongside school netball which we are delighted she has brought to Cranbrook.

MIP – Holly Humphrey for switching from a GS to a GK and learning how to play this position quickly and with much success.



## 1ST TEAM NETBALL SPECIAL REPORT

Although the 1st team have found wins difficult to come by, they have enjoyed a great, albeit shortened final season. This group of girls have been 'netball loyal' since Year 9 and they have always been a strong unit. They played in the Tonbridge ladies league last summer and won Division 2. They toured in South Africa last summer and are a team that I am most proud of. Belle and Jess Withnall as Captain and Vice-Captain both played for the 1st team last year with Belle playing every match as GD and their passion and indeed the rest of the teams for netball is unequivocal. I will miss all these girls and sincerely wish that we had finished the season and enjoyed the end of term celebration that was planned. However, we will look to organise a future date to celebrate and present awards and colours when life gets back to 'normal'.

MVP – Belle Withnall as she has worked tirelessly in defence and maintained her motivation and leadership despite the lack of wins.

MIP – Olympia Anley who has always been a most coachable player, progressing steadily and undeniably the fittest one on the court.



## NETBALL COLOURS

1st team full colours for demonstrating commitment and dedication to improving individual and team performance.

Belle Withnall (Captain)  
Jess Withnall (Vice Captain)  
Lara Batson  
Molly Gransbury  
Sophia Govett  
Polly Murphy  
Erin Bloomer  
Olympia Anley



# SPORT CONTINUED



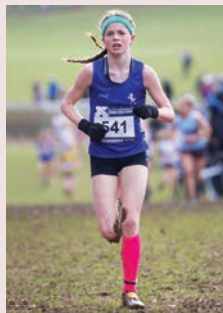
## EQUESTRIAN

The Cranbrook School Equestrian Team looked well turned out at the first National Schools Equestrian Association event of the year on Saturday 19 September at Petley Wood Equestrian Centre. The dressage team came second in the prelim qualifiers with an individual place for Year 12 Mia Waterman. Other members of the team are: Year 12 Millie Seymour, Year 10 Hope Rutter, Year 9 Floss Shimmin and Year 7 Clara Shimmin.



Congratulations to OC Ruaridh McConnochie who produced two classy finishes to help Bath become victorious 41-27 against Harlequins on Saturday 5 September. The test game was the first to be held at the Twickenham Stoop since the Covid-19 pandemic halted play.

It was McConnochie who delivered the killer blow with Eddie Jones watching from the stands and England's head coach can only have been impressed by his clinical touch. Picked as a bolter for the 2019 World Cup, the 28 year old Olympic silver medallist suffered a drop in form upon his return from Japan but his post-lockdown haul of five tries in four games propels him into contention for the autumn.



## SWIMMING

Congratulations to student Hayden Annan, Year 9 Horsley, whose performance at the Kent County Swimming Championships in London on Saturday 18 January 2020 earned him gold in the 200m fly, silver in the 800m and 1500m freestyle and fifth finalist medal in the 100m fly in the age 13 category.

Hayden has been selected to the Swim England national development camp, a fantastic achievement. He also joined the Swim England national volunteer programme for young aquatic leaders.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Running around BigSide is not always the idea of fun for many of our senior students, but after weeks of lockdown and a summer of 'the rule of six', these photos of our 2020-21 Years 12 and 13 show a glimpse of the joy Cranbrook students felt to be reunited with friends again.



## LILY ACHIEVES UK BEST

Lily Slack, Year 9 Lynx, who not only set a new record for the Cranbrook 3K Cross Country without any competition, smashed the UK record for 3000m by an Under 15, after competing for Tonbridge Athletic Club at an Open Meeting in Bromley on Sunday 11 October. She ran 10.12.37, improving her best by seven seconds and jumping from sixth all the way to first on the ranking list.



## BASKETBALL YEAR 13 REPORT

Sadly, no matches were played this season but there are some passionate and skilful boys that have played basketball throughout school and continued to train when they could this season. I hope that they continue to develop as players and enjoy playing at university and beyond.

## BASKETBALL COLOURS

Max Anderson

Ade Amure

Michael De Souza

James Hammond

Jack Jacobs

Thanks also to Coach Nadine for her continued enthusiasm and great coaching. We wish her every success in her new career as an engineer in the RAF.

## BUBBLING UP

With students returning to School in September only allowed to mix in year group bubbles, and with no inter-school competitive sport possible, the perfect opportunity for mixed house sporting competitions presented itself.

Year 9 girls and boys enjoyed a lively inter-house netball competition in which the boys learnt that there was much more to netball than they had previously credited.



## SUPER SATURDAY

Thank you to Mrs Coleman and her team of teachers who went the extra mile to provide some fun competitive sport for all year groups on two Super Saturdays in October. Across the two weekends students were able to compete for the houses within their years groups in football, hockey, netball, rugby, tennis and basketball.

House pride and competition was high and there were winners of course, but everyone was a winner on Super Saturday.





# 2020 CRICKET

Cricket has been played on Bigside since the middle of the 17th Century and was used for a match between Kent and an All England XI in 1851. Bigside itself has changed little since then but just as the large 1960s scoreboard (operated by junior boys known as ‘tallywags’) has been replaced, cricket at Cranbrook is now having to adapt to meet the demands of today’s students and the academic curriculum.

**James Hamilton feels there is an appetite to put cricket back on the map and increase participation rates.**

Students may know Mr Hamilton as an Economics teacher, but he is also a passionate cricketer having played for Rye CC since a junior, then with Bath CC at University and for Hastings Priory in 2011 when they won the Sussex Premier League. He is now working alongside Liz Coleman to reinvigorate Cricket at Cranbrook.



## FINDING THE CRICKET SQUARE

STEVEN HOOPER, GROUNDS MAN

It’s been a strange year. Back in March we had just started to mow down the square, do a light scarify and begun rolling when we were sent home for the start of the first lockdown. With the school closed the grounds staff were put into furlough and the sports fields through the summer became meadow fields.

In September a local farmer helped to remove our hay supply to give us a chance to get sports fields available for the new term. So after getting the rugby pitches set up we turned our attention to finding the cricket square once again.



## MR JAMES HAMILTON MASTER IN CHARGE OF CRICKET

Cricket in the UK is struggling, there’s no doubt; the game isn’t on free to air TV, the Government hasn’t made sport a priority in state schools and young people have so many options open to them today in terms of entertainment.

I’m sure the ECB are concerned about participation and Covid-19 this summer really didn’t help. However, in School we’re keen to overcome these hurdles and open up cricket to as many young people as possible. T20 is one form of the game we hope students may be interested in, and the Hundred may also re-invigorate an appetite amongst young people.

There is a strong appetite here to see cricket flourish. Liz Coleman and I see the main priority being participation. We feel that students engaging in sport is absolutely essential to a well-rounded education and want to see the 1st XI succeed on the field. In order for this to happen we need a strong programme through the school, from U13 through to the 1st XI.

Our plan for the future is to introduce a cricket academy as a pilot scheme in partnership with Rye CC and Aspire cricket coaching. Dan Stickels of Aspire has an excellent pedigree as a player and a coach, having played for Kent Academy and Kent 2nd XI and won the Kent Premier league with Hartley Country Club several times. Aspire are responsible for the talent development for Kent CCC so clearly having someone of Dan’s knowledge and experience is excellent for our young players.

The academy will be open to both boys and girls. It’s been so exciting to see how the women’s game has progressed in recent years. There is no doubt that it’s one of cricket’s growth areas and is rightly a priority for Cranbrook. We want to support any and all students through a pathway to become a full time professional if that’s their dream.

Cricket has long played an important role in education, providing a release from the stresses of summer term workloads and exposing students to the time honoured values of competitive sport and team spirit and long may that continue.

## CRANBROOK CRICKET’S RETURN TO FORM JEREMY BARHAM, OC 1952–1960 CROWDEN

In 1882 William Carr (the Cranbrook Vicar’s son) joined the school as a 10 year old Founder. Twenty seven years later he was selected to bowl (googlies) against Australia at the Oval. However, he is not the only Cranbrookian to have taken their cricket experience at the school to highest levels. Cranbrook proudly boasts Philip Edmonds (H 1969) – England; the late John Bluett (R 1948) – Kent; Dan Furnival (R 1998) – England Under 19, Matt Bennet (R 2000) – England Under 18 and, of course, Izzy Cloke (A 2018) – England Under 19 Ladies.

In his 1936 book entitled Now I’m Sixteen, Douglas Pope, OC, described how boys would play cricket from four o’clock to six o’clock each afternoon and from lunchtime on a Saturday but, over the following decades competing sports and the school’s changing academic priorities have meant cricket has inevitably experienced periods of highs and lows.

The school’s reputation and prowess were certainly in the ascendancy in the 1940s when Peter West, OC and BBC sports commentator from 1947 to 1972, introduced an annual fixture against an MCC team – quite a coup for a state grammar school and a fixture still running today. Some famous names played on Bigside in those games including Denis Compton, Peter May and Colin Cowdrey.

Until the 1960s school matches were played in the traditional declaration format. There was only limited participation in alternative summer sports and the whole school (about 220 boys) would often be expected to watch from the boundary edge. Visitors to Bigside enjoyed playing on a wicket of high quality, carefully maintained by groundsmen, whose loyalty lasted for decades. No one dedicated more to Cranbrook’s cricket than Frank Evans, or ‘Joe’, and countless OCs will remember his disciplined coaching and critical



## LYNXES CRICKET

From 1947 onwards those who loved their cricket at School have been given the opportunity to return to their alma mater and relive their earlier performances on Bigside. In that year Lynxes cricket was started when a team of OCs played the inaugural match against the Old Suttonians. A cricket week was traditionally held in August with players enjoying post-match socialising in the Windmill Inn and accommodation in the boarding houses. Cranbrook cricket was given a higher profile

post-match appraisals. It was Joe that led the fundraising to build the current Bigside Pavilion that he proudly opened in 1963 and which was refurbished in 2018.

In the 70s, as the school numbers grew from 450 to 750 and became co-educational, successive Headmasters (John Kendall-Carpenter and Peter Rowe), realised that a wider range of physical education was essential. David Firminger (Cranbrook’s first ever qualified Physical Education Master) introduced athletics and other activities in the summer term, however, cricket was still offered to students as first choice. At this time the scope of cricket within the school developed with leagues and matches for students who previously would have been consigned to the outmoded, lower level ‘set cricket’.

In 1991 school cricket became the responsibility of Alex Presnell. For more than two decades he oversaw much change as the time students needed for academic studies remorselessly increased. In 1995 fixtures were still mainly played on a time basis with matches every Saturday but gradually the fixture list was revised as the School played more limited over cricket against other Kent schools and by 2005 the concept of drawn matches had largely disappeared. Attacking cricket suited many generations of good players whose enthusiasm was actively encouraged by good coaching (including in the Sports Hall in winter months) and overseas tours to Barbados, Grenada and South Africa. But continued success on the field was not guaranteed. Alex led a drive to revitalise cricket again in 2010 and for the next five years good performances returned throughout the age groups and with more 20 over a side matches in the programme. The School’s reputation was once more enhanced as several county competitions were won.

On behalf of those of us who love our cricket and Cranbrook, I must say that we are delighted that cricket at Cranbrook is preparing for a return to form.

## BOY’S FINE CATCH GETS COWDREY LOCAL PAPER 1962

Far from the tense atmosphere of test cricket, Colin Cowdrey, Kent and England batsman, had a fitness trial on Friday.

Donning flannels for the first time in nearly two weeks after his recent bout of tonsillitis, the Kent skipper appeared at Cranbrook School, where he played for an MCC side captained by television commentator (and Old Cranbrookian) Peter West, against the School XI.

Cranbrook Captain of Cricket Michael Hollis won the toss and elected to bat. The School side made a disastrous start losing a wicket off the first ball, but Hollis batting at No. 3 played a real captains role to become top scorer with 40 out of his side’s total of 171. In an unusual role, Cowdrey sent down three overs and conceded 26 runs in the process.

Batting provided an inconclusive test for Cowdrey, who scored only 8 before being dismissed by a brilliant catch on the leg side by Hollis, Cranbrook wicket-keeper, off the bowling of Gunter. MCC had made 145 for 5 when stumps were drawn.



## MAISIE WRIGHT, YEAR 11 WEBSTER, KENT CRICKET

Women’s cricket continues to excel and is now the main summer term sport for most schools across the country, raising standards and involvement. I’m excited to be part of the future of girls cricket at Cranbrook.





# REMEMBERING VE DAY 75 YEARS ON

## THE HISTORY OF THE DRUMHEAD ALTAR

On the eve of battle, many British soldiers looked to their faith to steady them for the difficulties ahead. Because of the issues posed by transporting men to churches during wartime, Regimental Padres were forced to conduct church services in the field. In need of a platform upon which the bible and other equipment could be rested, the regimental drums were pressed into service as an altar by stacking them together and draping the regimental colours over them – thus serving as a temporary ‘drumhead altar.’

The first recorded use of the drumhead altar was in the 1700’s, and since then it has become a firm military tradition. Notably, the drumhead altar was also used on the home front in World War I in an especially fitting way to commemorate the sacrifices of the men at the front. It is these same sacrifices that Cranbrook remembered in our own drumhead altar ceremony on the 11 November.

JOE MATHERS,  
YEAR 13 HORSLEY



In 2018 our school proudly commemorated the sacrifice of the Old Cranbrookians and Masters who lost their lives 100 years earlier in WWI. Sadly in 2020, on the 75th anniversary of VE Day, lockdown meant that we were unable to come together to afford our WWII dead the same recognition, but we could not let the day go unmarked. A small group of students, OCs and staff collaborated virtually to research the stories of Cranbrook’s WWII fallen to produce a special VE Day edition of Lynx and a video roll of honour that we were able to share via social media.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RccmFljaAoI>



Above right, Colour Sergeant Roberts, Sergeant Latham and Sergeant Harper; right, service held on gym lawn; far right, Dr Weeds.

None of us could have predicted that in November 2020 we would still be unable to meet in St Dunstan’s church for our annual Remembrance service. However, Cranbrook School was honoured to host a small, outdoor and socially distanced act of Remembrance on behalf of the entire community. Representatives of local community groups and the armed services laid their customary wreaths against the arch of the Sixth Form Centre, beneath the School’s crest and war memorial. The site of this unconventional service was particularly poignant given that the Sixth Form Centre was originally built as a gymnasium as a memorial to the alumni and master who gave their lives in the Second World War.

Cranbrook’s cadets were represented by Colour Sergeant Roberts, Sergeant Latham and Sergeant Harper who carried the Combined Cadet Force colours and laid them on a drum altar during the two minute silence.

## DR WEEDS

For the first time in my lifetime, the lens of Remembrance has narrowed its focus from events between 75 and 100 years to the here, now, today. For one long year Covid has wrought havoc and led to casualties which have frequently been measured in thousands per day.

‘Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down His life for his friends’ – which is, in essence, what those more than a million ordinary folk were doing in the world wars and continue to do in this dangerous year of the pandemic. This is truly a war without the fighting.



## CHARLES MILNE SKEPPER MBE

Charles spent much of his early life in France before studying at Cranbrook. He was highly intelligent, a gifted linguist (in German, Spanish, Chinese and French), left-wing and a self-described atheist. After leaving Cranbrook he studied at the London School of Economics, earning a First in the BSc (Econ), special subject sociology, before a brief period as an assistant teacher of sociology.

Charles was in China at the outbreak of WWII. He volunteered for military service and was appointed to run the propaganda broadcasting station of the British Ministry of Information in Shanghai. When the Japanese invaded, he evaded internment and spent time operating with Chinese guerrillas until he was captured, accused of helping four American marines to escape, and sentenced to four years in prison for anti-Japanese activities. He was repatriated when an exchange of diplomats between the United Kingdom and Japan took place in December 1941.

In 1942, he applied to join the Special Operations Executive (SOE). Charles was parachuted into France in 1943 to work with the French Resistance operating in the Marseilles region. He organised



Thank you to Grace Barras, Year 11 Horsley, for researching Cranbrook’s WWII fallen and for the stories in this section.

many acts of sabotage but was betrayed to the Gestapo and arrested in March 1944. He was arrested, interrogated and tortured by the Gestapo, and likely sent to Germany. His fate has never been fully known. After much inconclusive research, Charles’s death was officially recognised by the War Office in 1946, where it was recorded as ‘Presumed died while in enemy hands on, or shortly after, 1 April 1944’. Charles’s military file ends with a document dated 10 February 1948, with his final rank as Captain. He was awarded a posthumous MBE and a posthumous Croix de Guerre avec Palme medal by the French government.



## THEY DIED TOGETHER

Peter Waghorn and Peter Kennett were at Cranbrook together, although a school year apart. They may have played in the same sports teams in their senior years, before serving and dying together in WWII.

Peter Waghorn was called up on 1 September 1939 and completed his training probably flying Harts and Airspeed Oxfords, then joining No. 111 Squadron in 1940 as an Airman U/T Pilot (pilot under training). He would go on to become a Battle of Britain pilot soon afterwards, despite his relatively short flying experience.

Peter Kennet was a member of the Officer Training Corps at Cranbrook. He joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in June 1939, also as an Airman U/T Pilot. Having completed his training he was commissioned in 1940 and flew in various scrambles, before being posted to No. 17 Squadron.

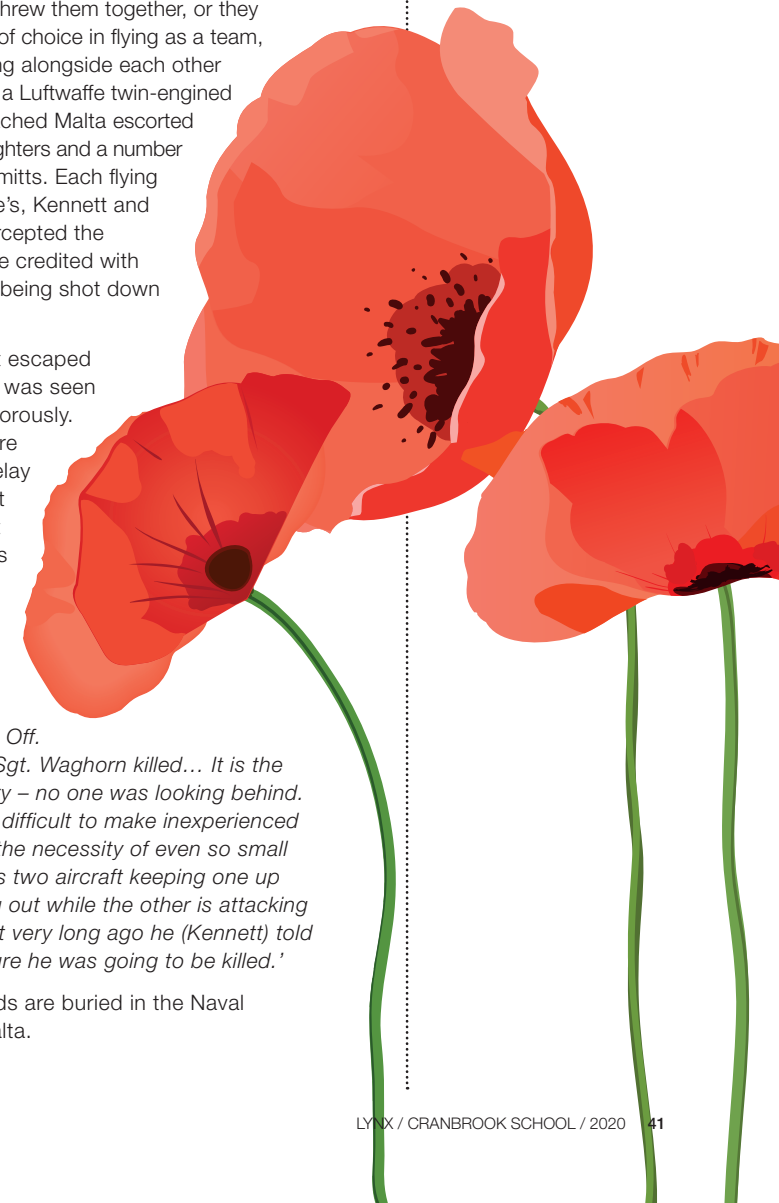
It is unknown whether the young men kept in touch during those early years of the war, but in late March, 1941 both Peter Kennett and Peter Waghorn sailed on the carrier HMS Ark Royal for Malta, where they flew missions off the carrier.

Whether fate threw them together, or they had a degree of choice in flying as a team, they were flying alongside each other in 1943 when a Luftwaffe twin-engined fighter approached Malta escorted by 12 Italian fighters and a number of Messerschmitts. Each flying new Hurricane’s, Kennett and Waghorn intercepted the Ju88 and were credited with destroying it, being shot down into the sea.

Peter Kennett escaped his plane and was seen swimming vigorously. Tragically, there was a long delay in sending out a rescue boat and Peter was dead when eventually picked up.

That evening an officer recorded ‘Plt. Off. Kennett and Sgt. Waghorn killed... It is the same old story – no one was looking behind. It is frightfully difficult to make inexperienced pilots realise the necessity of even so small a formation as two aircraft keeping one up above looking out while the other is attacking the Hun... Not very long ago he (Kennett) told me he was sure he was going to be killed.’

The two friends are buried in the Naval Cemetery, Malta.





# REMEMBERING VE DAY 75 YEARS ON CONTINUED

## JOHN HORNSBY MAX

In June of 1940, John Hornsby Max completed his basic training a year and a half later qualified as a Military Parachutist. By the time of the Normandy landings he had become Captain John Max, serving as General Staff Officer Grade III (Intelligence) in the 6th Airborne Division Headquarters.

John played a role in Operation Overload, more commonly known as D-Day. Many men were killed or injured and captured whilst parachuting, which sustained an exceedingly high injury rate due to heavy kit that shattered leg bones on impact. Sadly, Captain Max was one of those that crash landed, dying aged 25.



## THE 'THOUSAND-BOMBER' RAIDS

The term 'thousand-bomber raid' was used to describe three particular night bombing raids on German cities by the RAF in 1942. The term was a propaganda device to demonstrate the RAF's growing power. Old Cranbrookian Pilot Officer Observer Cyril Ian Andrew Sandland was killed in one of these raids on Essen some years before schoolboy Michael Sealy, watched a similar swarm of bombers head off on their flight to Germany.

Cyril was part of the crew of a Handley Page Hampden Bomber, often referred to by aircrews as the 'Flying Suitcase' because of its cramped crew conditions.

At 22:58 on the evening of 2 June 1942, Cyril's plane took off from RAF Balderton in Nottinghamshire to take part in the second 'thousand-bomber raid' on Essen. The ground was covered in a haze of low cloud that night, resulting in very scattered bombing. Reports from Essen stated that 11 houses were destroyed, 184 damaged and a prisoner of war camp was burnt out. The raid also took its toll on the bomber force with 35 aircraft lost and a total of 140 aircrew killed and 47 captured and made prisoners of war. Cyril died aged 21 and is buried at Amersfoort General Cemetery in the Netherlands.

## DUDLEY TREVOR JAY

Dudley T. Jay joined the Royal Air Force in March of 1939, two months before his eighteenth birthday. By June 1940, Pilot Officer Dudley T. Jay was stationed at RAF Exeter in Squadron No.87.

On the 24 October of the same year, Dudley Jay flew in his Hurricane P3404 on a routine patrol. His plane collided with the tail of another Hurricane that was struggling with engine problems. That plane managed to land at Exeter, but Dudley lost his prop blades in the minor collision and had to bale out at 1,800ft. Tragically, he struck the tail of his plane, killing him at the age of 19.

Throughout his career he damaged or took down four Heinkel, two Messerschmitt, three Junkers and one unknown plane. He now rests at Exeter Higher Cemetery.



**Killed**  
SECOND-LIEUTENANT J. M. VOKES

**Second-Lieutenant J. M. Vokes**

News has reached Northampton that Second-Lieutenant J. M. Vokes has been killed in action in the Iran campaign. He was 25.

Second-Lieutenant Vokes, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Vokes, 19, Lynton Avenue, Northampton, was educated at Waynflete House School and Cranbrook, where he was a keen member of the O.T.C. and represented his school at Bisley.

On leaving school in 1934 he went to Ceylon to learn tea planting, and was assistant on a tea estate until he volunteered for the Indian Army.

During his stay in Ceylon he played for the "Up Country" Rugby XV in several games against the "Low Country."

He was also a member of the Planters' Volunteer Rifle Corps and was N.C.O. instructor of the Corps at the time he left Ceylon to join an officers' training school in Bombay Presidency.

He was commissioned and posted to a battalion in Northern India.

Following the inspection of his company by the C-in-C. in India, Lieutenant Vokes was presented to the Viceroy.

“Towards the end of the war I was sitting alone one afternoon, looking out over the fields and feeling lonely and homesick as boarders can. I heard a faint humming sound as of angry bees, then more like far away thunder rolling, then an approaching mighty roaring wave of noise and suddenly from behind me appeared maybe twenty RAF bombers flying low overhead and twenty more behind to left and right and more to left again until the whole sky was full of flying machines in an endless swarm and a deafening wall of sound. I put my head down and covered my ears for what seemed an age and then suddenly the sky was clear and became calm as the horde receded towards the East. Later I read that I had probably witnessed one of the “thousand bombers raids” on its way to Germany.

Forty years later I was sitting at the top of my garden, looking over the valley of the river Lee, West of Cork City, towards the sunset. I noticed to my left a flock of starlings flying in formation towards the sun and another to my right. But instead of flying onwards they wheeled to join with each other and flew upwards just as a huge flock flew over my head and joined them.

Then I watched in awe one of the most magical of Nature's sights as thousands of birds swooped and soared and wheeled in a perfectly coordinated series of patterns in the sky – without a sound or obvious direction. At one point it seemed as if they acknowledged my presence as the whole flock suddenly swooped down about thirty feet over my head with a great rushing of a thousand wings. And then the sky was clear as they all dived to roost in a stand of larch trees – and immediately started a loud conversation, no doubt about the evening's performance!

I sat on and dwelt on Nature's amazing power to create such beauty and then the memory came to me of that childhood experience of watching Man's power to create a thousand flying machines bent on destruction.

MICHAEL J.O.N. SEALY, 1952–1956 CORNWALLIS



# HOUSE NEWS

## ALLAN

2020 has been a difficult and strange year for everyone. Despite this, the House charity event, 'Allantines', were as usual a huge success for the House raising lots of money. We were also lucky to have the Allan dinner the week before the first lockdown which was a huge success due to the excellent outfits from students and teachers alike that matched The Great Gatsby theme.

Over lockdown the whole House showed continued to participate in time weekly with many different activities taking place such as bingo, quizzes, and guess the close-up photo. Allan students were disappointed with the lack of House Shout, especially since excesses of testosterone usually dissipated in this house event. There was also no Allan soirée and year group segregation means that Allan is not as cohesive as it was in its glory days.



However, since the start of school in September the House has thrived under the difficult circumstances and the Allan spirit has been clear to see. To add to this, we have had lots of involvement in all sports across the year groups with others supporting those who are playing.

Allan sport has had phenomenal year despite the cancellation of events due to Covid. Thanks to Mrs Coleman, house competitions began again after the summer holidays with Allan winning house football and tennis and coming runners up in-house hockey and cross country. Shout outs to Players of the match over the last year: Y13 football – George Kite in goal, Y13 Tennis – Emma Coleman and Alex Turner. Y13 X country – (girls) 1st Leonora Lynn and 2nd Alex Turner and (boys) Will Henley 4th. Will Henley was also Player of the match for Y13 hockey. A special mention to Anna Lane, Charlie Drew, Sophie Shenton, Felix O'Neil, Will Ross, Polly Brownlow for stepping up as sports captains and helping us organise teams for Super Saturdays events.

The House and Sports Captains have been amazing in keeping the House spirit alive and helping to lighten up the mood by presenting assemblies, quizzes and more via zoom. They have also been great in supporting the tutors and staff by organising events. Special mention goes to social captain George Timlin who is always enthusiastic towards Allan and never lets the house down in providing amazing house spirit.

The senior four want to thank Mr Knight on behalf of Allan for his smooth takeover as head of house following Mrs Sutton's exciting news meaning she is off on maternity leave. He has done a brilliant job in continuing house assemblies over zoom amongst the pandemic and ensuring the House community continues to thrive. Huge thanks also goes to the tutors of each year group who have ensured that tutor times are enjoyable for students with quizzes, presentations and notices.

We hope that the iconic Allan house events including Allan dinner and Allantines will be able to go ahead next year amidst the pandemic. Furthermore, we aim to maintain the multiple successes amongst both academics and extra-curricular activities that Allan have displayed this year.

EMMA COLEMAN AND GEORGE KITE,  
HOUSE CAPTAINS 2020-21



## HORSLEY

Earlier this year, the Year 13s organised a Horsley Sixth Form dinner that was a big success, with both years enjoying each other's company and the good food. A big thank you to the year 13s who organised the dinner and to the previous House Captains for all their hard work! Their bubbly characters made the House feel welcoming and an all-round fun place to be. We wish Taskeen and Dom all the best for the future!

During lockdown, House Time had to adapt a lot. Even without the personal contact, Zoom allowed the House to meet up, which helped bring some sense of normality back. Horsley House Huzzahs were always a highlight, with great commitment from the House showing up to join in and watch some house members showing magic tricks or rebus puzzles. A special mention must be given to Rosie Scott for blending a full English breakfast on Zoom – it successfully put off a good majority of people for a while! Grace Tyrie and Jack Borowski led an interesting yoga session over lockdown, and Jack also made a TikTok for everyone to watch in the Horsley House Huzzahs, which was something no one had done before.

A huge thank you must be given to Mrs Homewood for organising the Horsley House Huzzahs! It was a highlight for the House, with Mrs Homewood organising a scavenger hunt on one occasion that was particularly manic, but thoroughly enjoyable.

Individual tutor groups have also had to step up more than ever with the removal of inter-year mingling, with each year managing to form their own teams for sport activities. Even though the House has been more separated than ever, the Horsley house spirit has still stayed strong, as seen in the House Sports results:

Cross country: 3rd boys and girls Year 10, 2nd girls and 3rd boys Year 11

Football: 1st boys Year 12

Hockey: 1st Year 13 (mixed)

Tennis: 2nd Year 12 and Year 13

Netball: Year 9 4th

Rugby: Year 11 4th

In addition to this, there have been some great academic achievements in Year 13, with Rory Cooper, Grace Tyrie and Joseph Mathers getting interviews for Oxbridge.

Achieving a house community is tougher than ever before. With the inability to meet younger years, a very palpable loss of community has been felt. This is something that we can hopefully change next year, as it is an important part of being in the house. Adapting to the circumstances this year has not been easy, but everyone has managed to do just that.

We are looking forward to next year and hope to organise another house dinner and charity events if the circumstances change. Our aims are to keep the tradition of a biscuit assembly and keep the House community going. Inter-House competitions are always memorable and they are a highlight for everyone, so we want to ensure that there are always good turn outs to house sport events.

Well done for everyone's hard work this year (in and out of the House!) Hopefully we will start to see some normality in 2021 and try and do more as a House, whether it be virtually or in person.

HUW MATHERS AND YSABELLE DELAHAYE,  
HOUSE CAPTAINS 2020-21





# HOUSE NEWS CONTINUED



## RAMMELL

The challenges faced this year were like no other. Despite this, the atmosphere in Rammell has remained vibrant and there really is nowhere else quite like it. The enthusiasm the boys have shown throughout reflects the true nature of the Green Army. The strong leadership by Sam Jenkins gave the House great momentum to succeed in every aspect throughout the year.

Rammell has always been a house that has taken great pride in its sports. This year followed the trend of an increasing popularity of basketball within the House and was shown with a strong result in Inter-House Basketball. The boys also never miss a sports hall night where competition thrives whether its football, basketball or rugby. Running has also remained prevalent in the House, this year four of the year 12s placing in the top 10 this year in the Inter-House Cross Country. However, competition does not just thrive in the sports hall or on a rugby field. Weekend activities such as pool



tournaments and table tennis competitions have served to create many highlights and showcase the exciting competitive nature of the boys in the House. It has also been great to see more and more boys turn up to our gym nights. The culture of being active and staying healthy is a very important one, and its pleasing to see that this is reflected in all year groups.

This year has been yet another where the House has had many fantastic achievements. Outstanding GCSE results from Tunji Soetan and Gabriel Hossenboccus to name just two from the array of fantastic academic successes. The Year 13s were raised the bar evening higher achieving amazing results this summer at A Level. George Mandel-Mantello, Sam Jenkins and Thomas Tai are examples of those who achieved a perfect set of results. Furthermore, Dayo Oyerinde's talents on the rugby pitch granted him a place at Saracens and Kent County Rugby.

This year has posed many obstacles for everyone. The unfortunate closure of the school in March made staying in contact extremely difficult. However, once again the Green Army didn't back down. Quizzes and frequent meetings on zoom allowed the house to keep its spirits high over an undeniably difficult time. As for the next years aim, the Year 13s and I are keen to keep traditions going. An integral part of Rammell for many years has been to include as many boys as possible in all house events and activities and I am pleased to say this tradition is as strong now as it has ever been.

Finally, it goes without saying that none of the amazing activities the House has been able to enjoy over this past year would be possible without the fantastic staff that keep the House running. The leadership of Mr Crews has been fundamental in keeping the House running so well over an undeniably difficult time. The whole House thanks him and all the Rammell staff and look forward to another year as the mighty GREEN ARMY!

JACK JACOBS, HOUSE CAPTAIN 2020-21



## WEBSTER

We have faced many challenges throughout the last year. Schools closing in March, exams being cancelled last year, which caused joy to some, but sadly sorrow to others. Webster came through this with the use of online lessons and virtual house and tutor meetings weekly, which was great in keeping togetherness within the House. This term, new challenges have come about through uncertainty of next year's GCSE and A Level examinations, however, teachers and the fantastic Webster tutors, as well as Mr Maimi as Head of House, have helped ease this anxiety and uncertainty for those concerned Year 13 and Year 11 students.

It is obvious that a Covid-19 world is full of challenges for everyone. Students and staff have had to learn how to educate themselves with online learning and for many it was detrimental to their learning process. Students have learned the discipline of self-motivation and independent learning. It has been difficult not being able to meet with the younger years in the House – we had lots of tutorial ideas to bring the year groups together which we haven't been able to implement due to the distanced year groups. It would be lovely to find creative and fun ways to interact more with younger years.

However, throughout the lockdown period we had successful House meetings and presentations from students. Our tutor times have had many brilliant presentations about people's passions and interests for the future which creates a great opportunity to learn about areas we aren't all necessarily interested in. One of the great successes we have seen has been the great House pride and endeavour at the Inter-House events. One particular success was the Year 13 win against Horsley in mixed hockey. In a game in which we were the underdogs we defended valiantly and finished the chances we had to perfection. This victory was fuelled by the great support we received not only from Webster students but also other houses. Will Clark and Eva Wright get a special mention for their hockey: Will's enthusiasm was much appreciated and Eva really held the team; despite a head injury in the first match she was our star player. Ella Aitken led the support from the side-lines, as well as playing which kept the morale high for the players. Other successes include last year's students getting their A Level and GCSE grades. In Year 13 we have a student, Emilia, with an Oxford interview!



Mr Maimi is a fantastic Head of House for Webster. His commitment to the House, as well as his friendliness really helps make the House have such a friendly feel to it. He is always willing to help any student any way he can and he always does his best to make students feel as settled as possible at school. It was his suggestion to make a video for the younger years which we really enjoyed doing and it helped create a sense of community.

Polly and Blaise were also great house Captains. They led by example and showed great leadership in their roles that set a great legacy for Max and Georgia to follow in their footsteps. Our advice to future House Captains would be to get people involved, inspire an ethos of pride and endeavour throughout the house and finally enjoy it.

While 2020 has not been the year we would have hoped for, the togetherness of the staff, students, and school to return to a level of normality when returning in September has been admirable. We can only look forward with hope towards 2021 where hopefully we can finally return to normality.

GEORGIA WOOD AND MAX FLEMMING,  
HOUSE CAPTAINS 2020-21





# HOUSE NEWS CONTINUED



## CORNWALLIS

Cornwallis has been the best years of my life, and although my time is coming to an end, it has been a memorable experience. Despite the abrupt closure of the school due to the pandemic, I'm sure each and every Year 13 will reminisce about some of the great times we've all shared together as a House.

Coupled with a burgeoning House Tradition of weekend cooking, the boys enjoyed the luxuries of many House activities like Manhunt, daily Football on the astro, House trips from Thai Buffets to the usual tutor trip to Nandos or McDonalds, and barbecue's in the garden.

The year also featured the introduction of social groups to encourage the boys to get to know each other better. Upholding Cornwallis' reputation for producing the smartest of boys, our own Luke Meynell was awarded House Colours for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

On the sports front, Cornwallis maintained a reputation for widespread participation in Inter-House activities like Cross Country, and secured second place in Inter-House Rugby. As well as this, one of the greatest achievements of the year, was devastating Rammel in the final for Inter-House Basketball, making us winners two years running.

Cornwallis has always been a family, and to add to our family, this year we welcomed the arrival of Piggles the Hedgehog. The Cornwallis Spirit is embodied in each and every one of the boys, as they hold their chins up high and represent the House with honour, they radiate the House spirit across the school. Behind the scenes, Anita our Matron, the cleaners, and all the staff involved in the maintenance of the House have been amazing in their efforts to ensure the House is safe, clean and filled with positivity. The staff in the House play a key role in the moulding of the young men, and for this we appreciate their countless efforts.

Despite the abrupt ending of school in second term due to Covid-19, we managed to make the most of the time we had together, and have as much fun as possible together as a House. I'm proud to have been a part of something much bigger than just a Boarding House, but although it's going to be an emotional goodbye, we look forwards to a new chapter in September 2020.

AYO AWONIYI, HOUSE CAPTAIN 2019-2020



## SCOTT

This year has been a year like no other in Scott. Everyone found it hard leaving in March at such short notice, as well as being away from the House for so long. It was a shock for everyone coming back in September, with new approaches to boarding. Yet everyone adapted well and settled back into Scott. It has also been challenging to not have several of Scott's traditions able to happen this year, such as the Christmas sketches and the yearly theatre trip.

Regardless, September started with two action-packed weekends. Scott welcomed new students to the House with a BBQ on the first evening which was followed by tutor group activities such as Year 9 and 10 bowling, Year 12 pizza night, Year 11 visit to an escape room and Year 13 trip to Cranbrook's 'Hive'. We also had quizzes, rounders, house movies and a Halloween party. A House highlight would have to be the water fight in early September. It was extremely amusing to see everyone get so drenched as well as the surprise visit from the ice cream van. Sixth Form also designed pancakes, which was an entertaining way to get everyone together. This year has brought changes to Scott, which otherwise may not have been implemented. The new approach to staying in for the first two weekends in September was successful due to it helping everyone settle down better and integrate far quicker.

Scott always produces outstanding academic results. This year's GCSE and A Level results did not disappoint, with all securing a brilliant set of results. Stand out results coming from Audrey Kong with 99 points at GCSE and Marta Mucci gaining four A\*s at A Level.

Despite not always placing high, Scott always brings a vast amount of House spirit to every house competition. Congratulations to Alex scoring the only goal in the Under 15 Hockey Nationals. Well done to Charlotte and Maame in Year 13 who placed third in house tennis. Also, congratulations to all the girls who have competed in house events this term. Stand-out students include Sport and Social Captain Charlotte Packer, who has been a great help organising house events. Paulina in Year 9 has always been so cheerful and lovely to everyone as well as getting so involved in the house. Congratulations to Analise who won Cranbrook's short story competition!



Scott must also pay tribute to Mrs Burnett, who consistently brings laughter to the House. All the girls thoroughly enjoyed her singing on Scott's karaoke machine! Thank you to Mrs Burnett and all the other staff in Scott for all their hard work this year. Sadly, Mrs Payne will also be leaving Cranbrook. All the girls in the House, particularly her Year 13 tutor group, wish her all the best. She, as well as all the food she makes us, will be truly missed.

Many thanks also go out to Tilde for all the work she put into Scott last year. She has paved the way to make Scott full of excitement and house spirit with the numerous house events that she put on. I would advise future House Captains to encourage the girls in the house to get involved in everything that there is on offer and to ensure that there are plenty of opportunities to bring the House together in order to make Scott the most enjoyable for all.

Next year Scott aims to have even more successes and more opportunities to get the House together. With lots of house events waiting to happen, 2021 is an exciting year for Scott.

JESSICA FARMER, HOUSE CAPTAIN 2020-21





# HOUSE NEWS CONTINUED



## LYNX

As House Captains, we are incredibly proud of Lynx House's achievements during 2020. It has been a disjointed academic year due to Covid-19, and sadly the pandemic has prevented most of our inter-year sporting tournaments, charity events and house socials from happening. However, we have still managed to participate in other sporting events organised by Mrs Coleman and Mr McConnochie and also fun inter-house challenges, namely the screen-time challenge and the kilometre challenge. It has been instances like these where students have put in the extra effort that has resulted in a great sense of House spirit.

At the turn of the new year, Lynx House enjoyed its fresh beginnings as a new house with regular House assemblies in which students could gather and watch presentations – something we would come to miss dearly. A huge thank you must go to last year's House Captains Harvey Thrower and Olympia Anley, as without their devotion to Lynx House we would not have had the brilliant start that we did.

The emergence of Covid-19 led to the closure of schools in March. The stress of online learning would consume every student – but not in Lynx House! Whether it be the games, competitions or presentations, Lynx House Zoom times managed to provide a social element that we were all lacking. After an exciting summer, the start of the academic year saw the House unite and find our own way round new obstacles.



With the Year 9 girls coming third in House Netball, the Year 10 boys coming second in House Rugby and Cross Country, and Year 12 boys winning House Rugby (with a little help from Cornwallis), it's been a great year for sporting achievement in the House! Stand-out pupils have been Lily Slack in Year 9 and Charlie Ellison in Year 10 for their recordbreaking cross-country efforts! Year 13 managed to come second in House Football – narrowly missing out on penalties in the final. Special mention goes to Henry Laver for his great performance in goal. Consistent attendance to all house sports was commendable, particularly with Sam Fisher who played in goal both times for House Hockey. Lynx also managed to get three finishers in the top 20 for House Cross Country with Freddie Dear coming 4th! A huge well done to all members of Lynx House for managing to participate in every house event.

This Autumn term has been an extraordinary term, but also a term of much progress and effort. We would like to pay tribute to all of the Lynx House Tutors for their support and give a massive thank you to Mr McConnochie for being a hugely positive Head of House. Thanks to him we were all excited, driven, and proud to be part of Lynx House.

Coming in to Christmas we can confidently say that 2020 has proved to have been a positive year for Lynx House – we would like to say thank you and well done to every single member of the House, we know it has been a difficult year but everyone should be proud of where we are and the obstacles we have overcome.

Alice Fraser and Joseph Pullman,  
House Captains 2020–21



## SELLERS

Over this term, Sellers has had many personal achievements and shown good qualities, from music to sport to charity.

We are all stars in Sellers, but here are just a few examples of the achievements from this term:

Lucy J, 8S – achieved a merit in her Grade 4 singing exam  
Joel B, 8N – achieved a merit in his Grade 3 saxophone exam

Phoebe S, 8S – achieved a merit in her Grade 6 oboe exam and a distinction in her Grade 5 percussion exam  
Oliver B, 8S – achieved his 2nd Kyu Brown Belt and got a merit in the grading

Gemma B, 8N – won the short story competition in first place

Amy M, 8N – received second prize in the short story competition

Felix M, 8N – won the runner-up in the 2020 RSPCA photography competition out of 11,000 entries in his category

Grace H, 8S – is learning sign language

Elsa C, 8S – for her perseverance and amazing example of courage

Katie H, 8S – for showing charity and kindness by taking in a half-starved abandoned kitten and looking after it.

It can be boring being stuck in the same room all day – so we thought we would bring some Christmas cheer to the classroom! All the classes in Year 7 and 8 had a competition to see who could make their classroom the most Christmassy. This brought us all together as a community and most people got involved and had lots of fun. The 8N was announced as the winning class on 16 December since they had the most decorations. All the other classes did their best too – special thanks to Mrs Rahtz for thinking of this idea and giving us a creative thing to keep us busy.

We also did a music video for All I Want For Christmas by Mariah Carey which was exciting. We had singers from each class on the backing track and some dancers at the front. This was another fun activity we did, and it lifted our spirits. Sellers also did a Secret Santa that was organised by the Form Captains of each class and went very well! Everyone took part!



On behalf of Sellers, we would like to say thank you to the teachers for their hard work and dedication throughout this challenging time. 2020 has been unlike any other year and the way the teachers have adapted to the circumstances has been exceptional. Without their continued support and dynamic approach in providing us with consistent education, we would not be in the position we are today. A special thanks to Mrs Rahtz and the form tutors of 8S, 8N, 7S and 7N. We look forward to making 2021 an even bigger success.

Austen Sansom, Eliza Briffa, Henry Jones  
and Sophie Platt



Far left, Alfie Everitt, John Campbell, Miles Worsley – Cross Country winners. Left, Poppy Hensey, Andrea Ross, Phoebe Hart – Cross Country winners. Below, Jennifer Senior's photo depicting a scene from the film Matilda, when she is trying to make the glass tip over. Bottom left, Sellers assembly in more normal times. Bottom right, Check mate.



# HOUSE NEWS CONTINUED

## CROWDEN

This year has been impossible to predict. With so many twists and turns, the House has had to learn to adapt quickly and effectively. However, even with numerous challenges, this year in Crowden has been one to remember for positive reasons. From entertainment provided through online house times to house football in the sports hall, the House ethos has remained alive and stronger than ever.

We had a strong Year 12 at the start of the year, who have now become the leaders of the House. CR13 have helped shape the atmosphere in the House, creating a supporting yet humorous ambience. We were joined by new Year 10s in September, who have seamlessly slotted into the House. Well done to Clayton Tang for a strong academic record and to Tein Karibi-Whyte, for his involvement in drama and music. We are also grateful for Alex Pavelko and Rupert Lunn, who always aimed to make the weekends in Crowden more entertaining by creating 'Movie Night' on Saturdays.



Crowden has upheld its image of being one of, if not the most, driven house when it comes to school competitions. We pride ourselves on our team spirit, and our ability to get such strong representation despite being a comparably small house. Unfortunately, sport this year has not been the same. However, Crowden demonstrated power and speed in House Rugby at the start of the year, as well as in House Basketball.

We have to thank last year's leadership group for organising activities early on in a year that was sadly cut short. Particular thanks go to Jacob Holroyd, who always got the House to unite together with his competitive spirit on the rugby field. This year would not have been the same without the support of our Housemaster, Mr Watts. We, as a House, appreciate the time and effort Mr Watts has put in to help us overcome unforeseen circumstances.

After such a long period out of school, getting all the boys back into the house in September was a special feeling. With everyone staying in for the first two weekends, we were able to enjoy activities as a complete House, starting with Mini Golf in Hastings. In March, we were fortunate to have our House Dinner, which was the last night the Year 13s had before they moved on. The most outstanding academic achievements last year were from the Upper Sixth Form: Alex Pavelko, obtained three A\*'s, and Ceasar Garcia got two A\*'s and an A.

Being House Captain is an amazing opportunity to learn how to deal with certain responsibilities, all while being at the front of the House image. This position further allows you to tighten the bonds you have with the students of the house, but also with the staff you work alongside, expanding the mutual respect that is already in place. I don't believe there is a set way that a house should be run, or specific qualities that must be demonstrated: everyone will run their house differently, bringing a unique aspect to the house.

We are confident that we will continue on the right path going into next year, aiming to improve our rankings in inter-house competitions. We aspire to keep our distinctive house atmosphere throughout the coming year, keeping moral high while dealing with any challenges that come our way.

FINLAY NADIN, HOUSE CAPTAIN 2020-21



## SCHOOL LODGE

**School Lodge is always a great year for our new Boarders. The first year in boarding is full of excitement, exploration and development, as the boys get to know their new school and home.**

When they first arrive, though some may have met in their previous schools, for most it is a completely fresh start and the first weeks are filled with forming new friendships, learning the rules and settling into a new way of life. The staff in the house are always amazed by their energy and enthusiasm as those first weeks fly by.

Of course, this year has been particularly challenging. For the boys, they were moving into this next chapter with the on-going pressure of COVID rules to learn and think about. This made for an unusual start and sadly meant that the boys didn't experience the normal winter or spring terms. For the parents likewise, it has also added a distance between them and the school and house staff that normally wouldn't exist. We're all very much looking forward to the relaxation of the national picture so that things can slowly start to return to normal.

Nonetheless, I have been so proud of the boys this year for their resilience, their perseverance and their general good humour, coping with a boarding program that has been so unusual compared to normal. I have no doubt that this will set them in very good stead for the future.

Thinking about the year to date, there have been many highlights. Saturdays in particular have been very enjoyable. With weekend exeat's being temporarily suspended during lockdown, this pushed the House back in time to a period where the whole population



who were in, remained for an extended period. While you might think this would be a really tough journey for them, they responded with promise and worked with the staff to establish a program that worked. To such an extent that as we move out of lockdown (there's light at the end of the tunnel there somewhere, I'm sure), there are no doubt elements of this program which we will keep for having been so successful. All-in-all it's brought the boarding family closer together. While it no doubt had challenges, as always, Cranbrookians respond perfectly!

I'm sure we'll look back on this period hoping to never again experience boarding with lockdown. Nonetheless, it's been a great learning experience for the boys and I'm confident that they'll be stronger for it. Here's to a great end of Year 9 and a very successful start to Year 10.

PETER ROGERS, HOUSEMASTER





## HOUSE NEWS CONTINUED

### BLUBERY

Blubery is home-away-from-home. Having joined in Year 9, I have had the honour of meeting many amazing characters who have created the fun and loving Blubery ambiance. Our 2020 Year 13s had to leave suddenly, and we also said goodbye to our Head of House, Mrs Hills. She will be missed for her caring persona and her contribution to Blubery since 2016. We welcomed Mrs Pack as our Head of House with open arms. She has done an exceptional job at picking up this role at a time like this.

The autumn term started with Covid restrictions in place, but it didn't take long for us to get used to the new systems. We welcomed our new girls and met Mrs Pack and her family at the Welcome BBQ and played teambuilding games ranging from spaghetti towers to feminist sculpture in Play-Doh. Due to Covid restrictions, the whole House stayed at Blubery for the first two weeks and the weekends were filled with activities to get to know each other including paddle boarding at Bewl Water and chocolate making at Temper Temper.



We managed to squeeze in a few tutor group trips before lockdown in November and going to the cinema in a mask was certainly different! A highlight was the House weekend trip to Laser-Tag and, although we didn't know it at the time, it was to be our last opportunity to go out as a House for quite some time. There was something cathartic about running around at the end of a tense term shooting your housemates!

Blubery girls are known to love a party and we wondered whether this would continue with our new Head of House, but we were suitably reassured by an epic Halloween party that upheld the Blubery Broomstick Run.

Blubery may not have the most athletic individuals, however the girls managed to pull it out the bag and give the sport Super Saturdays their best shot. Congratulations to the year 12s that teamed up with Cornwallis and won the inter-house netball and well done to Kiana, Abigail and Larissa for being the only girls to show up for inter-house basketball. A special mention goes to Teresa Chan in for her sterling efforts in all sports competitions.

Abigail Harper is the 2002–21 Head Boarding Girl as one of the Senior Four. She has truly stepped up to ensure the smooth running of our school and Blubery cannot be more proud to have such an amazing character in our House. Korede Majekodunmi has been exceptional in creating a safe space and environment where everyone has a voice. Through the creation of Blend – a society that addresses racism within the Cranbrook community and worldwide – she has helped bring topics that need to be discussed to the table. Thank you to our Social Captain and Deputy House Captain Tierney and Millie for organising exciting events that have helped bring us a smile during strange times.

Blubery owes Mrs Pack a massive thank you for ensuring we have had as much fun as possible whilst staying safe. It must be stressful managing 46 girls in a pandemic, yet she carries on like a trooper.

LARISSA ALDRIDGE AND ORO OYO,  
JOINT HOUSE CAPTAINS 2020–21



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

**I signed up to do the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DofE) in year 9. There were lots of us who were up for it and had been told by our parents that it would be good for our CVs, so we went along.**

Looking back and having completed my Bronze, there were two main things that were great about it.

Firstly, you can use hobbies and things that you are already doing to help you get the qualification.

The requirements at Bronze level are that you have to learn a skill, do physical activity and also volunteer. I already had several activities going on both in and outside of school that I could use – basketball, tennis and CCF volunteering – so, as long as I went along every week, it could all count. For your Bronze award you only have to complete two of the activities for three months and continue the other one for six months to qualify.

I worked with my sports coaches and CCF Leader to set goals that were entered into the Duke of Edinburgh Award online system, and at the end of the period they signed off my improvement or achievement to be submitted. Pretty easy.

Secondly, it is a lot of fun doing it all with your friends.

As part of my basketball team, there was a lot of banter and plenty of attempts to 'dunk'. And in CCF, it took a bunch of us quite a few attempts to pass the raffle-handling test, but we had a lot of fun doing it. The highlight was probably the expedition that was two days of pure hard work and a lot of walking, but we had a nice portion of carbonara at the end of the day together.

I'm preparing for my silver award and am planning to improve my basketball further, play guitar for my skill (which I do anyway) and help coach younger kids in tennis for my volunteering. As for the expedition, my brother recently got home soaked and gale-battered after three days in the rain on the South Downs doing his silver. I'm not looking forward to that bit much, so I'm hoping for good weather and I know it will be a laugh with my mates.

Would I recommend DofE? If you are already doing lots of activities, of course I would recommend it. If you are not but are up for a bit of a challenge, why not give it a go? You'll learn a lot and it's pretty good fun.

It's good to see Bronze DofE listed on my CV. Maybe my parents were right after all.

RAFAEL GARCIA, YEAR 11 HORSLEY





# OLD CRANBROOKIANS' ASSOCIATION

## WE HAVE A NEW OCA WEBSITE!

As Covid restrictions started to hit in the spring of 2020, communities around the UK looked towards those in need of help and support. Volunteer groups sprang up to deliver prescriptions, pubs and restaurants turned themselves into community shops and neighbors walked the dogs of previous strangers, soon to be friends.

As Cranbrook closed to pupils and teachers got to grips with teaching via Zoom, the OCA remembered its own community. Although there was little we could do to practically support each other, an email was sent out to our older alumni offering help to anyone who needed support in contacting their local volunteer service. This brief email brought us back into contact with OCs across the UK and as far afield as South Africa, Canada, Florida, France and Spain.

OCs told us of their deep affection for their Cranbrook days, and shared stories with us that we knew their contemporaries, and others, would love to hear. So from that simple email sprang the idea for a new OCA website and on-line archive to help reconnect old friends and give OCs a peek back at their youth.

The new website and fledgling archive was created during the UK's first lockdown and launched in the early summer. Since the School and its tangible archive were closed, building the online archive meant having to 'make do' with what we could lay our hands on at home and even now we still have much to do in terms of improving the resolution of our images (we can only do once the School archive is accessible again). However, with the help of OCs including Clive Jennens, 1945–1951 Cornwallis, Pat Manwaring, 1955–1962 Rammell, Jeremy Barham, 1952–1960 Crowden, Tim Spelling, 1966–1972 Horsley, and many others we feel we've made a good start.

Do take a look at <https://www.oldcranbrookians.com>

We have a News section and sections for each of our clubs and societies. There's an Events page where you will be able to book places on up-coming events (once the world is back to normal), as well as galleries and exhibitions to entertain for those of you who are too distanced to visit.

Copies of all School magazines back to 1944 are available to read (earlier issues to follow) as well as all of our whole School photos. Please bear with us until we are able to improve their resolution in 2021. You can read the shared memories of your contemporaries and learn about the achievements of some of our more well know OCs in our OC Achievements section. We would love to hear from you about others whose achievements should be shared.

Possibly most significantly, the website now enables you to search for and message your lost friends direct through the website (as long as we have their contact details) and the more OCs who log onto the site and update their details the more friends we'll be able to reunite.

We would be delighted to receive your stories and photos to help expand our archive, so please take a look at <https://www.oldcranbrookians.com> and then pull out that box of memories from the loft. Your classmates would love to hear of you.

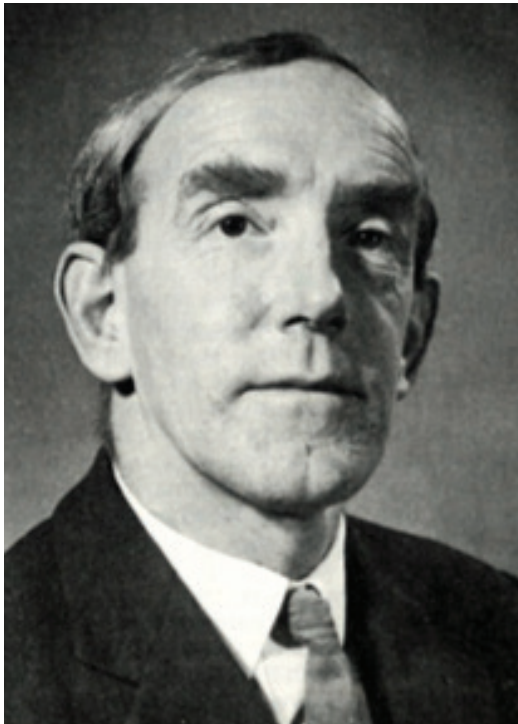




# HALCYON DAYS

*'Peter was generous and welcoming. He always had a small on his face and dedicated his life to improve schools. He reformed Cranbrook and made it more inclusive. He will be missed not just for his contributions to Cranbrook School, but also a gentle and kind man who never turned down an opportunity to help his pupils.'*

Larissa Aldridge (Year 13, Blubery) met and established a friendship with ex Headmaster Peter Rowe and his wife through our school's Cranbrook in the Community project in which senior students befriend and regularly visit elderly members of our local community.



**Peter Rowe was in tune with the 1970s Zeitgeist although, horror of horrors, he had only represented his college at hockey!**

The early '70s was a period of intense social change and Cranbrook wasn't immune. The school had a policy of headmasters changing every 12 years – why, I don't know, but it was a good policy because it meant the school had the chance to reinvent itself every decade or so. JK-C left at the end of my third year to be replaced by Peter Rowe. They were very different; JK-C was a big man who had played rugby for England in the 1960s and believed in cold showers, sport and bridge. We had very little to do with him but, looking back on it, he was probably an alpha male who enjoyed being in charge. After Cranbrook he went to Eastbourne College where, allegedly, he told all the boys 'to get a haircut' at his first assembly – and it didn't go down too well.

Peter Rowe was more in tune with the Zeitgeist although, horror of horrors, he had only represented his college at hockey! He was more academic and almost intellectual, and certainly the right personality to preside over a period of change; his approach was quite laissez faire and willing to expose us to new ideas. Under JK-C there was a pretty strict dress code (brown sports jackets, white shirt and tie, dark trousers and black shoes – jackets to have the middle button done up at all times). The announcement that middle buttons need no longer to be done up was met with delirious pleasure!

CHRIS ROBINSON, 1967–1974 CROWDEN

**This extract is taken from Douglas's book Now I am Sixteen published in 1937 on leaving Cranbrook School.**

The tuckshop was rather a lovely place, with its biscuit tins and boxes of sweets giving colour. It was in a way the happiest part of the school where everybody ate and drank what they wanted (if they had the money) and told jokes and tales about the masters. Orders such as these would suddenly break through the general buzz of talk: 'Mars, please', 'I say, Bourne, can you get me some biscuits, a pennyworth?', 'Cream strawberry, Harvey.'

It was a strangely free atmosphere that hung over the place, quite different to that of the classrooms. It had warmth and a feeling of humanity about it. Masters didn't go near it and thus kept away any feelings of restriction and learning. It was the antidote to school life.

DOUGLAS POPE, 1935



**I have fond memories of our CCF field exercises.**

Most boys joined the Junior Training Corps as many of their fathers or elder brothers had fought in World War II. National Service commenced in 1949 and this added to the feeling that we needed to train and be ready for any future eventuality.

The CCF always had a Field Exercise day and in the 1950 Autumn term this was held on Hocker Edge farm and involved a skirmish between one part of the army section and another. The defending section took up their position well hidden in a wood, but placed to be able to see any advancing enemy.

Suddenly there was an ear-splitting roar as four Meteor jet fighters came over at treetop level. We boys knew all about Hurricanes and Spitfires, but jet fighters – this was something new! In great excitement the defenders rushed out of the cover and stared transfixed as the jets roared over again and again. Suddenly there was a loud shout as one of the referees, Capt. Pike (a master) came striding up to tell us to get back under cover as we were under attack from the air! We later learned that this had been arranged with the help of an O.C., Flight Lt. Barnicoat who was then stationed at nearby RAF West Malling.

CLIVE JENNENS, 1946–1951 CORNWALLIS



**The boys in Crowden started in two dorms on the top floor of School House.**

School House housed the Headmaster and his family. His daughter was at boarding school (I had the pleasure of sleeping in her room when the sick room was full).

Every Thursday night all 12 of us boys would collect in Matron's room around the radio to listen to ITMA, the popular comedy programme featuring Tommy Handley. We certainly had worrying nights, although I cannot remember being overly scared, when doodle bugs started coming over. Sometimes, during the 'chase' their engines would cut out early and we waited to see if they exploded. They never fell on the actual town area, thank goodness. I remember one day one of them flew quite high above me and a fighter dived onto it and hit it. It did not explode but broke up. The bits must have landed some distance away. I also saw the AA guns on Bigside have a success. We were on our way from School to our afternoon cricket and had to walk just below the guns' position and they opened up at a doodle bug, the shells whistling just overhead. They actually hit it and it exploded in a large ball of fire somewhere over Angley Woods.

BRIAN GROSE, 1942–1949 CROWDEN

**Simon Tudor was the person who really got the music scene going 1971–72, along with Pete Cullen.**

They were involved with the booking of bands such as Genesis (oh, those early days!) A few of the guys in Genesis were out of Charterhouse school, so gave us a deal.

My memory of the Genesis gig is being backstage when two of the main plugs for the guitars came out of the wall because the guys were moving around too much, and someone yelled to me to hold them in place (the plugs, not the band) the whole time! I'm a bit nervous around electricity, so I was convinced I'd be zapped because the power strips were completely overloaded!

Simon and Pete Cullen also had a band and they were generally the warm up act. They used to practice in Simon's back garden. Simon had a Fender bass guitar and Pete had a flashy brand new Gibson Les Paul, and would boast a bit about the gold pickups! I think Tim Smit was on piano/keyboards. I remember us being in a pub in Goudhurst where Tim started playing the piano and everyone in the pub gathered round. Real honky-tonk stuff.

JACKIE WINSPEAR, 1971–1973 HORSLEY



**Two things stick in my mind about our 1954 production of The Duke in Darkness.**

My costume had a name tape reading 'Hugh Burden', who I found out was the actor who played my character, Voulain, in the original London production! In the play, the Duke was imprisoned in a room high up in a tower of the castle. When Gribaud went mad we had to get rid of the body by throwing him out of the window. As the body fell to the ground I had to say something along the lines of 'alas poor Yorrick, I knew him well'. The body (Nick Clarke) was thrown onto a pile of mattresses on the floor and as I looked down to say my lines all I saw was Nick looking up at me pulling outrageous faces!

MICHAEL J.O.N. SEALY, 1952–1956 CORNWALLIS

**Come rain, come shine (and once there came snow), we weekly were forced to swim.**

It was an open air pool, filled at the beginning of the summer term and not treated until it was ladled out like thick broth at the end of term. The water was such a dirty brown that you could not see the frogs, newts and rats we shared it with. One day a grass snake ploughed a beautiful pattern across this putrid rectangle of liquid disease.

And yet most of us enjoyed swimming. Another summer a friend and I agreed to meet at the pool for a midnight swim. We were in separate boarding houses and each had to slip out of his dormitory unobserved. The relief at finding my friend at that ghostly, night time pool, the delicious sensation of swimming naked in the velvet water that the moon seemed to have washed clean, and the feeling of freedom, were nothing compared with the mounting sense of defiance and triumph. Before we got out we stood a few feet apart facing one another and shook hands. Such was our shared emotion that we held on for a fraction of a second before hurriedly releasing the lingering grasp. I got out, pulled my clothes over my wet body and fifteen minutes later was pleased to find the fire escape still unlocked. I sunk into bed exultant.

My friend was less fortunate. He arrived back at his house to find all the dormitory lights blazing. That very night of all nights his housemaster had called a fire practice. With great presence of mind he tried to join the roll call but he was spotted. Under interrogation he confessed he had been to the pool. He said he had been there alone. I was grateful for this act of loyalty, but we both knew he was saving his own skin as well as mine. We should never have lived down the scandal had it been known we had bathed naked together under the moonlight.

WILLIAM WOOD, 1954–1962 CORNWALLIS