

The Lower Quad



LANCING COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL AT HOVE



A Brief Look at 2019-2020



A very different Year...

Reflecting on this academic year brings about all manner of clichés regarding a game of two halves. There were the two terms up to Easter where we carried on as normal. We played around 300 matches, winning more than losing, and frequently received praise for the sportsmanlike conduct of our players. We went on trips to take our learning out of the classroom, some nearby and some a little further afield – and I was proud when teachers returned with reports from members of the public that sharing space with children from this school is a pleasure, and they couldn't have been more impressed with their conduct. We entered teams and individuals for national competitions in Science, History, Mathematics and Memory skills. We had in-school events to broaden our minds and horizons, and carried on with our determination to be a force for good in the world, supporting our chosen charities and enjoying another *Make a Difference Day*.

And then ... we stopped playing matches and we stopped going on trips, and we felt a little less like ourselves, but we found ways to make it fun. The staff versus pupils matches, cheered on by the whole school, were probably my favourite fixtures in all my years of teaching. The world had changed but we found ways to make it work and ways to make positives where we could so easily have seen negatives. In March we were told our school, like all schools, would close two days later. And so we made our end of term happen – we recorded our music and drama concerts and posted them on the VLE. They weren't rehearsed but they were wonderful. We recorded our Pre-Prep Mothers' Day celebrations and virtual concerts to send to every mummy's inbox to watch and share on Mothering Sunday itself.

In lockdown, our teachers adapted how they teach and our children adapted how they learn. We have looked for and found positives. We developed new skills, fast. The VLE was transformed and the staff learned how to use Teams over the Easter holiday. With a can-do mindset, within three weeks every teacher was delivering live teaching from home and every class was working to a new timetable written to include screen breaks. My thanks to every member of staff for working tirelessly to fathom how to be the best teacher they can in a very different way. Special thanks go to Mr Ames, Mrs Beard and Miss Bunn who kept the school open during lockdown for the children of Key Workers.

As a school community, we are taking forward the lessons learnt so that we emerge as better people in future. Firstly, we can remember to focus on something bigger than ourselves. Secondly, we can all aim to be the most hopeful person in the room - finding positives rather than negatives. We can remember to do the small things well - we got the whole school back in the summer term because each person played their part. We can take responsibility for our own learning, progress and actions, including not being afraid to ask for help and to reach out to help others. Above all we should try not to worry about having to be right but rather be brave in making mistakes.

Reflecting on how the whole school dealt with school life from Easter to the end of the academic year, I asked staff and pupils to take the time congratulate themselves on how they've done well and to think about how they might do some things differently in the future. Above all, I asked them to make sure they were reflecting on **how** they did it, not **what** they did.

Whatever the next academic year brings, I know our school family is equipped to face it with optimism, flexibility and a whole lot of our Lancing Prep Hove trademarked enthusiasm. And I can't wait!



Kirsty Keep
Kirsty Keep
Head Mistress

Autumn Term 2019

This year, it wasn't just the children who had donned something new; the building had itself undergone another transformation. In the main school house, the old kitchen space had become a collection of unused, dusty rooms. Over the summer, it was transformed into our new Pre-School, offering a beautiful new space and plentiful opportunities for the Pre-School teachers and children to work alongside Reception, bringing the Early Years Foundation Stage together. From the first day, having our youngest children in the very heart of the school was a joy, and they became proudly central members of the school community.

The new Music School, housed in the old Nursery, also offered new opportunities. A little further away from the main house, music could still be heard but no longer had to be shushed when it was in danger of interrupting daily school life. As well as making plentiful tuneful noise when in lessons, the children now had the opportunity to spend free time in the Music School so that they could form informal groups or practise their

instruments. A couple of burgeoning garage bands were found gathered at break times, adding to the growing number of ensembles and choirs who gathered each week.

Added to this, the PTA funded the creation of a new Science Garden. The old pond was in need of renewal and in its place arrived a new pond with an expansive deck area for dipping, and a full sensory garden which rapidly attracted plentiful wildlife and offered seating areas for the children. This revitalised space added another dimension to the School Garden and Forest School and provided another space for children of all ages to engage in outdoor learning.

A school is made up of so much more than its buildings, and it is still the people inside LPH who make it such a special place to be. Still, just as the new uniform at the start of the year made a statement of intent, so our new learning spaces – indoor and out – made a similar statement, and helped make the first term rather special.



Pre-Prep Nativity



New Reception pupils enjoying Forest School



Prep Forest School Club



Year 2s' London's Burning History Project



Pre-School enjoying their new outdoor space



School Garden Lunchtime Club



Fr Richard blessing our new Science Garden



The new Music School teaching and performance space



One of our new Music School practice rooms

Spring Term 2020

Without doubt, we had the strangest end to a term I've experienced in my many years of teaching, and we knew we would have to start the Summer Term in an equally altered 'new normal'. However, before the world was turned entirely upside down, there were days in school this term that I would like to look back on.

It seems an age ago now that our Pre-school and Reception children were out in Wilderness Woods, foraging, following trails, not to mention hunting the Gruffalo. It was a fabulous trip on a rather dreary January day but the children were enthralled by their exploration of the woods. We celebrated Chinese New Year in a splash of colour with posters made by the children adorning the Laurent Hall and a super Chinese-themed meal prepared by our chef, eaten with child-friendly chopsticks, courtesy of Wagamama in Brighton.

Other highlights this term included **World Book Day**, which this year had the theme of The Magic of Reading. Pupils and staff pulled out all the stops and came to school decked out as storybook characters from every genre of novel imaginable. Yes, we had our usual forest of wands, but we also had Horrid Henrys, Fantastic Mr Foxes, fairy-tale characters and a healthy contingent from the works of Roald Dahl and a Dahl-themed lunch to go with it. Mud meatballs and worm spaghetti will live on in the collective school memory.

The pupils were already outward-looking early in the term. Back in the Autumn Term, Year 2 had collected the apples on the trees on our lower field. Ringden Farm in Kent then pressed and bottled the juice. The children suggested selling it to raise money to help people affected by what was dominating the headlines, the Australian bushfires. There was an amazing response to this and we hope to be back collecting this year's apple crop in the autumn.

This term, our scholarship candidates in Year 8 and Year 6 were put through their paces and I reminded them constantly that scholarship is more about the journey than the end result. It is a competitive process and even to have sat for a scholarship is worthy of high praise. I am proud of all children who sat for an award, but special congratulations this year go to those pictured right.

Science week was superb, with a plethora of activities for all year groups. COVID-19 was already beginning to dominate our lives, and the message about washing hands frequently was clearly communicated – from our youngest children in Pre-School using different coloured glitter on their hands to show how germs are spread from one person to another to our post-exam Year 8 scholars growing all manner of hideous-looking organisms in petri dishes to investigate the range of efficacy of various methods of handwashing.

The final week of term is always crammed full of events. There are usually concerts and House competitions and end of term treats. This term, of course, the end of term in a physical sense was forced on us earlier than expected without time for everything we intended to do. As much as possible was crammed into the final 48 hours we were in school together. We managed to film a Year 6 Drama showcase and a variety of musical performances in lieu of the planned Spring Concert to share with everyone who would have been there, but could not be. The Pre-Prep children sang for their mothers, and the heart-melting films of that were sent on Mothering Sunday so that the lucky mummies could see their children's performance while enjoying their breakfast in bed.

On the last day of term, the PTA still managed to get us an Easter egg for every child and this year's 'Earn Your Egg' challenge was a little different to usual. Inspired by our Head Boy Paddy who suggested that we do something kind for our neighbours, each child created a 'Positive Poster' which was put up on our school fence to greet passers-by with colourful and hopeful messages. These remained in place and although the streets outside Lancing Prep Hove were argely deserted, passers-by still regularly stopped to read them and to take selfies next to them.

These were strange times and I hoped that our school community would all look back on the end of this term and feel the strength of community spirit to sustain them through the coming days and weeks. Few of us would go on to have the Easter break we expected, as we continued to navigate our way through this strange 'new normal', at least for a while.



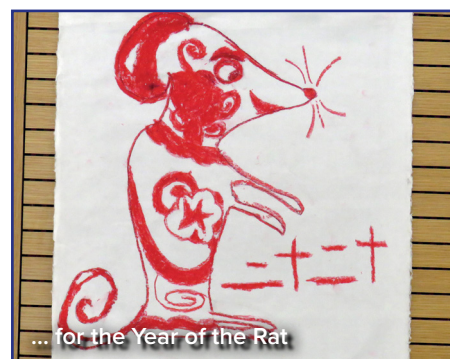
Our 2020 scholars:
Amber H, Paddy J, Isabelle K, Eamon R, James W, Kian Z to Lancing College;
Ethan R to Bede's; Kit B, Daria J, Toby R, Alex V to Brighton College
and Huggie B to Hurstpierpoint College.



Learning to wash hands well using
'glitter germs'



Enjoying a Chinese New Year feast ...



... for the Year of the Rat



Apple picking ...



... for LPH juice



Performers in our Year 6 Drama showcase



The LPH Music showcase



'Positivity Wall' poster display for our neighbours line The Droveway

Summer Term 2020

In one important way, we reached the end of the school year much as we would any other. We were all back at school together and, thanks to the generosity of our site, we had the physical space to enjoy each other's company at a time when few schools were able to do so. Strangely normal, too, was the fact that we ceased academic studies a few days before term ended and used the time instead to be a little freer, a little more creative and lot more talkative. This year, it was rather forced on us, but we did what we would normally do, just in a slightly different way.

This term, the LPH community tackled that challenge the same way we tackled the final weeks of the Spring Term: we have looked for, and found, positives.

We had remained open for children of Key Worker families over the Easter break and once term was underway, they joined those at home in remote learning. Using Microsoft Teams proved to be invaluable in maintaining a sense of class camaraderie and connection to each other, despite not all being in school together.

As term progressed, we held two online Mindfulness Days, where we went completely off timetable with days planned around activities under headings including Be Active, Be Creative, Be Mindful, Be Kind and Be Connected. Children, and their families, tried their hands at all manner of things, from learning how to plant a herb garden, keeping fit with a Zumba session led by Mr Price that will linger long in our collective memories, to solving a Rubik's Cube and learning calming techniques. The Gratitude Scavenger Hunt was an object lesson in finding positives and things to feel grateful for. The staff all pitched in with an array of hitherto unknown talents and we all felt the better for it.

We missed an important pupil recruitment event in May, as we could not hold our Open Morning.

We therefore set about creating a Virtual Open Morning to share with enquirers over the Summer Term and the Summer break. This was centred around two impromptu tours of the school, filmed on mobile phones by staff. Two Year 6 pupils were co-opted without notice and gamely provided a look around the school on the day we closed in March and I led a rather haphazard tour during lockdown when we were open for the children of our Key Worker families. The films received many compliments about authenticity, showing the reality of a school in action, rather than the slick, polished, 'best bib and tucker', impression that a formal Open Morning or a school film generally offer. Interest in places at the school has certainly continued over these Summer Term weeks which is heartening.

On Prize-Giving Day, another virtual experience for everyone as we were not able to celebrate in our normal fashion, I told each member of the LPH community to take the time to congratulate themselves on how well they had done. How they responded to everything this year is more important than what they did. Did they see a way to embrace a new way of working, or did they pine for the old? Did they need someone by their side or did they find their independence? Did they reach out when they needed help, or did they stay quiet? If aiming for perfection, and living in fear of mistakes, we clip our own wings. To take flight as a human being, we need to park our concerns about being right. By being willing to fail, we will succeed.

Finally, I thanked the pupils for making sure that our school did not once feel remote or distant this term.

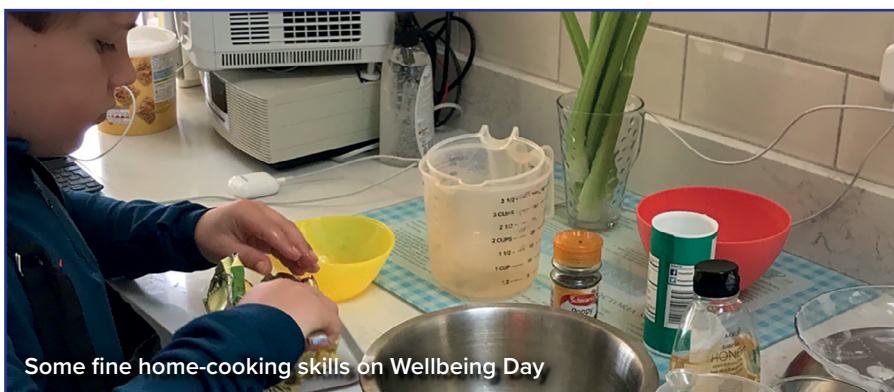
More so than ever, they have made me very proud and whatever the next year brings, I know that I, they and their teachers, are all equipped to face it.



The best place for lunch on a hot day



Mr Price leads a Zumba class on our first Wellbeing Day



Some fine home-cooking skills on Wellbeing Day



Be Creative
Making a
Herb Garden
with Mrs Shaw

Mrs Shaw demonstrates planting a
Herb Garden on Wellbeing Day



Our returning Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed
a socially distanced lolly



Year 1 get used to their new classroom layout



Year 6 pupils are so happy to be back at school



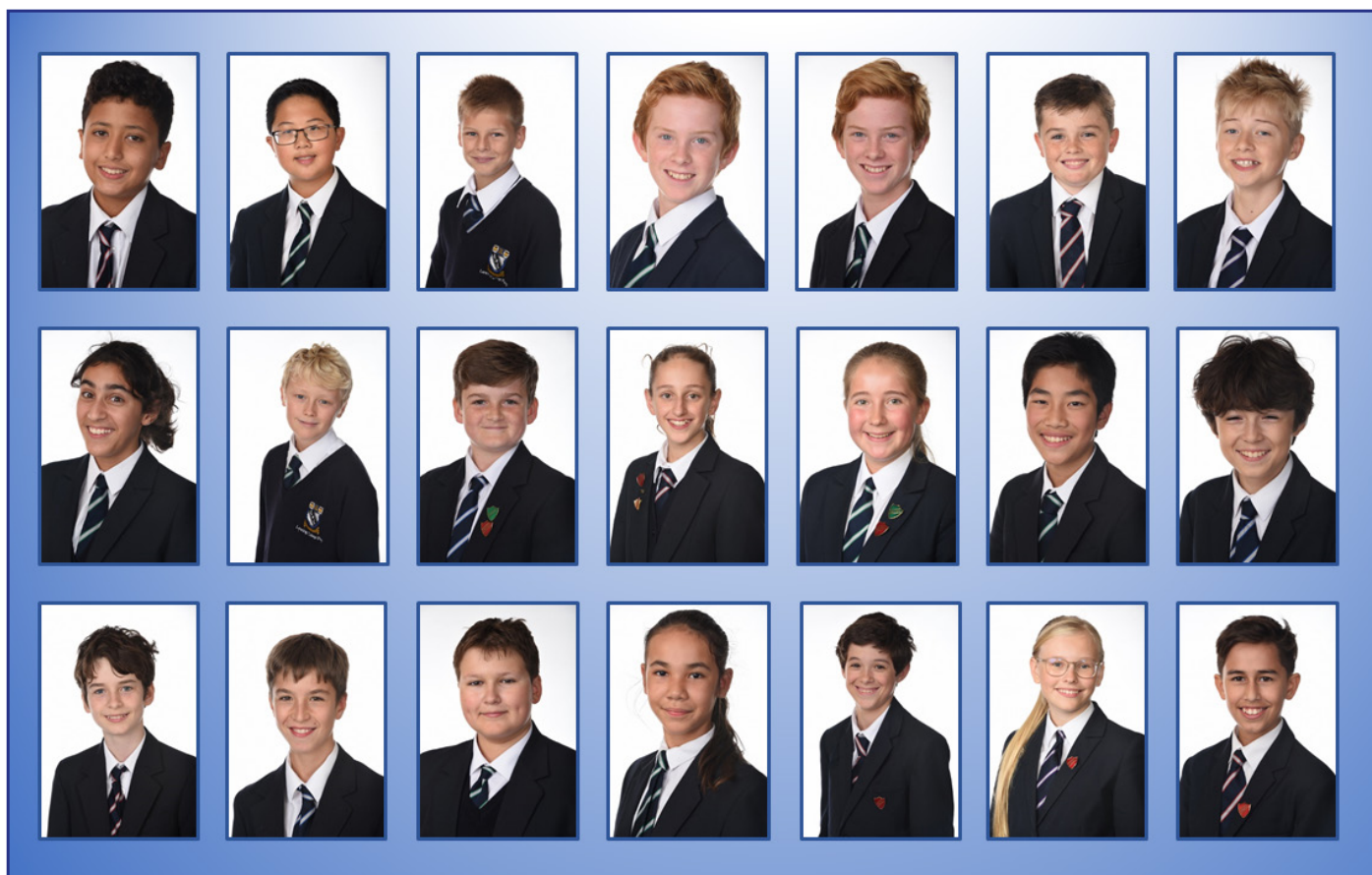
Taking learning outside as often as possible



Finishing a PE lesson with a 'dance-off'



Year 3 dressing as characters who inspire them



Our Year 8 pupils leave us well-prepared and ready for their senior schools. We thank them wholeheartedly for their contribution to our school and wish them every success and happiness in the future:

- Kyrillos A – Shoreham College
- Ryan C – Independent school in Singapore
- Harrison D – Eastbourne College
- Alexander D-L – Lancing College
- Frederick D-L – Lancing College
- William E - Lancing College
- Ethan H - Lancing College
- Amber H – Bedales
- Horatio H – Bede's
- Patrick J – Lancing College – Academic Scholarship and Ken Shearwood Award
- Bethany K – Lancing College – Ken Shearwood Award
- Isabelle K – Lancing College – Academic Scholarship
- Aywin L – Lancing College
- Albert L – Lancing College
- Christopher M – Lancing College
- Ethan R – Culford School
- Eamon R – Lancing College – Academic Exhibition
- Lilian W G – Lancing College
- Nika Y – Lancing College
- Kian Z – Lancing College – Academic Exhibition



Staff Farewells

We bade farewell to those colleagues who were leaving Lancing Prep Hove this summer. We wished Mrs Butler the best of luck as she moves to St Swithuns to return to senior school teaching. The girls in her boarding house and in her lessons will be very lucky to have her.

We also said goodbye to Mrs Coleridge and Miss Bunn, both of whom left to earn their teaching qualifications. Both were already teachers in all-but certification, and we hope we might see them back at LPH in the near future. The future of the teaching profession looks bright with teachers such as these ladies coming through.

Be inspired
Be brilliant
Be you

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