

The Lower Quad



LANCING COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL AT HOVE



A Brief Overview of 2020-2021

A most unusual Year...

I read recently an editorial about what a tough year this has been for optimists. The thinking went something like this: if you have high hopes, they've been repeatedly dashed. If your expectations are low, you're less likely to be disappointed. And yet I still continue to say, that anyone who works in a school has no choice but to be an optimist. Our job is to work with the wonderful young people who have a world waiting for them to discover and shape – how can you possibly work in a school and see the aspirations and dreams of our children and not be optimistic for the future?



Reflecting on another school year, I find myself looking back at a year that has been different but not one that has given me cause to come over all “Eeyore”. There have been many activities, events and achievements that have happened because we've all had the will to make them happen. It's all been a little different, but there's been so much we have been able to do in spite of it all.

Of course, the real achievements can't be listed or adorned with a trophy. There are children who have learnt to bowl a ball, children who have learnt to swim a width, children who have overcome their fear of getting a Maths sum wrong or spelling a word wrong. There are children who have learnt how to make up with a friend after falling out, and children who have reached out to someone when they saw they needed help. For every cheery good morning on arrival at school, every door held open for the person behind them, every mistake recognised as a moment of learning not a moment of failure – those are the biggest achievements and each and every pupil will know for themselves what theirs has been, and I can guarantee it will rarely be something that warrants a grade or a medal.

Undoubtedly, there has been some sorrow in knowing what we've missed this year; but in spite of lockdowns and roadmaps, LPH is an optimistic school with so much cause to feel positive about the future. We've had hope in the moment, and have certainty of affection for what will come next. As we look back in these pages over the year that has past, we move forward with plenty of hope today and love for what comes tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsty Keep".

Kirsty Keep, Head Mistress

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Autumn Term 2020

This term, things were simultaneously very different and wonderfully familiar

The school community adapted to the many small but necessary changes in our routines. New joiners quickly settled in and the daily joyful hubbub of LPH continued unabated.

With overnight trips off the agenda, Year 7s went on a team-building day. As we couldn't play matches, some of the older pupils visited Yellowwave Sports Club in Brighton for beach volleyball. Similarly, the Year 2 children were the very first school to visit London Zoo in September and they had a truly memorable day. The Zoo had thought through its visitor protocols carefully and our children were wonderful

ambassadors for the school, with their excellent behaviour being much remarked upon. Getting off site brings enormous benefits to our pupils, however wonderful our campus is!

At school, every available moment was spent outdoors, in play, outdoor learning and sports sessions. Clad in hoodies, waterproofs, warm coats, wellies or sports boots, the children charged about and the pitches were quickly churned up. It has always been a secret source of pride for Mrs Keep that this school is frequently caked in mud; it tells its own story of time spent outdoors and a childhood full of play. This year, though, it

meant more than ever, and none of us take the space and freedom the children here have for granted.

Our PTA applied some lateral thinking to the Macmillan coffee morning and created a 'Virtual Bake-Off' competition while the children enjoyed hot chocolate at school.

The children also showed inspired fund-raising: two entrepreneurial Year 6 pupils sold donated hand sanitiser within their bubble to raise money for Macmillan. The YMCA Sleep Easy clearly ignited young imaginations and all manner of brilliant pictures arrived of children asleep in unusual settings.

After Half Term, much





outside of school changed and distancing became an essential act of kindness to others. In school, staff and senior pupils donned masks in communal areas. The whole school community respected the 2 minute silence on 11 November, grateful to the weather enabling the whole school to stand together – something only possible outside - with five pupils playing the ‘Last Post’ and ‘Reveille’ We held our annual

charity election, where the pupils nominated, campaigned and voted for charities to be supported. The children participated joyfully in the democratic process in a spirit that might have appeared somewhat lacking in another election across the Atlantic.

Throughout, we found ways to keep learning fun and dynamic, and children brought enthusiasm and determination to everything on offer. It was such an energising contrast

with the world beyond the school gates, and we all appreciated how fortunate we were. As Christmas drew closer, the children were as excited as ever but events took place in bubbles. We shared films of nativities, concerts and events with parents, as we remained unable to welcome them to school for any of the festivities. As a community, we all missed this greatly but at least we all had the films to keep as a memento of 2020.



Autumn Term Photo Gallery



Autumn Term Year Photo Gallery



Spring Term 2021

Here we go again ...

We started term back in lockdown and closed to most pupils. Teaching, learning and pastoral care swiftly moved online and there was a feeling of déjà vu as the ringtone of an incoming Teams call became more audible than the sound of children's voices.

This time, however, much felt very different. Although we all wished we weren't doing it again, the teachers understood how best to use the technology and adapted their teaching, and the children understood how to adapt the way they engaged to get the most out of lessons too. Last year we learnt this from scratch; this time, the starting point was much higher. The

timetables ensured that screen breaks were included, with a healthy dose of fresh air outside. Suggested PE activities and recorded lessons were accessible at any time.

We arranged a hot chocolate treat in school one morning break and many joined in from home, sharing photographs with us. Weekly house challenges were enthusiastically taken on. We used social media to celebrate such events, as one of the ways of seeing each other while having to remain distant. Small groups of parents were invited to online informal coffee breaks with staff, as we, and they, miss our interactions at the start and end of the

school day.

We encouraged the pupils to take a proper screen break during half term and our 'Keep Moving Forwards' challenge gave everyone, Mrs Keep included, a reason to don trainers and head outdoors.

The two weeks of remote learning after half term included World Book Day. We had doors 'dressed' as book covers, reading dens and plenty of costumes to admire, mainly on Teams but also in school. Reception worked as junior detectives on the mysterious appearance of eggs in their outdoor play area. Year 3 had a super 'Break Out' day primed by mysterious envelopes before





half term with strict instructions not to open them early. They completed puzzles and challenges and it was literally a breath of fresh air, so well received that they repeated it the following week.

In March, with testing in place, we welcomed everyone back. Our focus was primarily on catching up on what had been missed. We had delivered academic lessons by adapting our curricula and the children had kept going brilliantly. So our emphasis

shifted to giving the children time to socialise, to laugh and to play. They had lessons as normal, of course, but wherever possible we included opportunities for social interaction. We also made sure the children were heading outdoors as much as possible, whatever the weather threw at us. Our 'Express Yourself' day dressed in bright house colours lifted everyone's spirits.

In the midst of all this, our Year 8 pupils were working

hard for their academic and non-academic scholarships. See page x to find out more

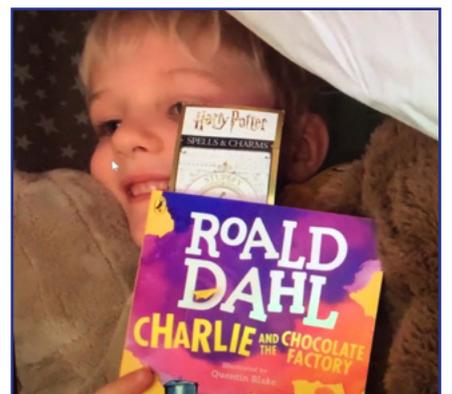
It was a tonic to hear so many parents expressing the view that the teachers not only kept the children entertained but also the wider family. Some might miss the sounds of the teachers and fellow pupils being broadcast from their child's computer but we were all glad that the children returned safely and happily to school.



Busy in the Science and School Gardens



World Book Day



Summer Term 2021

The Summer Term is always a game of two halves ...

The first half of term is rather quiet as exams loom into view. The second half of the term is more relaxed as the year comes to a close and this year was jam-packed with 'good things' for the children to enjoy.

As the second half of term hurtled into view, we hurtled through it! The STEAM week was visibly and audibly a great success, particularly with the younger pupils, who were excited to be introduced to the world of whizzes, bangs and combustion that is Chemistry. Our Head of Science, Mrs Gardener, carried out open air demos of various chemical reactions to a rapt audience in a manner not out of place at Hogwarts!

Thereafter, we packed Years

7 and 8 off together to Dorset. The Year 8s whirled through a plethora of adventure activities, such as coasteering (a kind of extreme rockpooling), exploring the delights of the Jurassic coast. They took to the water too, with windsurfing and highly competitive canoeing sessions. Year 7 enjoyed similar adventures, also squeezing in some Geography fieldwork on the beaches of Purbeck. Year 5 embarked on their outdoor activity break at Ferny Crofts, with the annual raft-building competition a highlight. The children returned exhausted but happy and it was heart-warming to see the pile of thank-you cards the children created for the staff after their

return. Good manners are still firmly on the LPH agenda!

For the other year groups, Curriculum Collapse week was an even greater enterprise this year – a week off-timetable to go full-tilt on outdoor learning and having fun. Year 6, unable to venture over the Channel for their MFL residential trip, headed off to Chessington World of Adventures for some thrill-seeking rides and spent an idyllic day at Bedgebury Forest in Kent, learning about the importance of trees to our eco-systems followed by mountain biking around the sunlit forest trails.

Back at school we had eye-catching graffiti art workshops



Building positive childhood memories is such an important part of growing up and this summer at LPH, the children have undoubtedly created memories that will stay with them for a long time!



and Greek dancing sessions amongst other activities. With some trepidation, we set up tents outside for our overnight camps. Our plan to wear the Year 6s out over the week had clearly worked as they were, to the relief of staff overseeing the camp, all fast asleep in their tents not long past 10pm. The repeat exercise for the Years 3 & 4 children proved very different. Excited by the prospect

of the overnight camp well in advance, and having retreated indoors from the rain and wind, they became veritable night owls and it was not until the small hours that the staff (and I) could slump somewhat bleary-eyed from our supervisory duties.

Sports day events had to be scaled down and we finished with Giving Back Week – Year 8 organised a host of fundraising

activities, washing staff cars in the car park, a day-long summer fete, as the PTA again could not hold their event, and the spectacular Colour Run which turned the pupils and the school fields into a rainbow cloud of pastel shades. Year 6 had an entrepreneurial challenge to raise funds alongside Year 8, with lemonade stands, raffles galore and ‘beat the goalie’ competitions.



Curriculum Collapse Week



Residential Trips Return!



Year 8 Play in a Week 'Beauty is a Beast'



Valete



The Class of 2021

Lancing College:

Henry A E
Luca B - Academic Exhibition
Emma B - Drama Exhibition
Ethan B
Felix B
Oscar B
Joshua C-J - Drama Exhibition
Toby D-P
George G - Sports Scholarship
Isabella H - Sports Scholarship
Alex L - Head Master's Award
Jakob L -Lancing College
Leia P - Academic Scholarship
Ava S
Max S

Brighton College

Sol G

Hurstpierpoint College

James R
Kate W - Academic Scholarship

Bede's

Benji B
Henry G - Sports Award
Jimmy L - Sports Award
Michael T - Sports Award
Theo W - Sports Award

Roedean

Mia H - Sports Scholarship & Headmaster's Award

Lewes Old Grammar

George K

Shoreham College

Hugo S

Tring Park School for the Performing Arts

Zak S

Overseas

Max A

Giving Back Week



Be Inspired
Be Brilliant
Be You

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